# Between process and product: regional reduction strategies in German 'standard-in-use'-varieties

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To achieve 'correct' pronunciation of a standard variety is barely possible for the majority of a speech community. Nevertheless, there is an increasing part of the community using a variety converging to this idealized norm, resulting in new regional varieties based on regional pronunciation features. For German, this was already shown by König (1989) and had been confirmed by current research (cf. Kleiner 2015, Schmidt/Herrgen 2011). This talk addresses a research area that is widely uninvestigated up to now: region-specific reduction strategies in 'standard-in-use'-varieties while simultaneously considering speech tempo. My database (cf. Kleiner 2015) are 180 manually segmented and annotated recordings of the German version of 'The Northwind and the Sun' (90 locations, 1 male speaker each, 2 tempi). Local high-school graduates from 167 cities in the whole German speaking area were asked to read the text twice, in a 'normal' and a 'fast' tempo.

Phonetic reductions like elision, lenition or assimilation are generally treated as articulation processes or options of stylistic variation within a variety (cf. Kohler 1995, Krech et al. 2009). Contrarily, especially lenitions are considered regionally based in some German vernaculars (cf. Simmler 1983). Hahn/Siebenhaar 2016 show that there is a clear regional distribution of the general elision rate in German 'standard-in-use'-varieties. Nevertheless, to detect region-specific reduction strategies it is necessary to distinguish the origins of lookalike results. Due to this, the questions addressed in this field are a) which reduction forms are related more to region than to speech tempo and b) whether speech tempo itself is related to regional varieties (cf. Kendal 2013). Considering that, it is absolutely necessary to distinguish between articulation processes (i.e. *reductions*) and regional established products in relation to the standard pronunciation (i.e. *reducts*). To empirically test and support this distinction a comparison of the spatial distributions of the two-speed material operates as the methodological basis.