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## Extending in time and space: General extenders in Danish

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General extenders (GEs), such as Eng. *and stuff like that, or something*, are generally described as a feature of youth speech (e.g. Dubois 1992, Stubbe & Holmes 1995, Cheshire 2007, Tagliamonte & Denis 2010, Pichler & Levey 2011). Most studies build on apparent time-data, though, and thus cannot distinguish unequivocally between age grading and communal change, and none have data to study geographical diffusion over time. In this paper, we present the results of a large-scale study of GEs in Danish, based on data from the LANCHART corpus, encompassing speech from three age cohorts, of which two have been recorded twice (in the 1980s and again in the 2000s), and from four localities in Denmark, including the capital, Copenhagen.

All GEs occurring in the data have been coded for a number of linguistic and contextual variables based on findings of previous studies, e.g. category and number of the referents in the extended phrase (to test for (lack of) agreement between GE type and referent type), and co-speakers' treatment of the utterance with respect to conversational turn taking (to test for function as a turn-completor). This coding allows us to follow grammaticalisation processes of the different GE types based on distributional and mixed models analyses.

A marked difference between Danish and English is the fact that very few variants in Danish are headed by a generic noun, such as Eng. *thing* or *stuff* (cf. Hansen & Heltoft 2011 who argue that Danish NPs are headed by the determiner, not the noun) as witnessed by the fact that the most widespread GE type we find is *og sådan noget* 'and such some(thing)'. This highly abstract way of referring to previously mentioned list members suggests a high degree of grammaticalisation of Danish GEs, which is corroborated by analyses of agreement tendencies over time.

Regarding the social factors, our data support the general finding that GEs are more frequent in youth speech. Adolescents have the highest relative frequency of GEs, and speakers tend to decrease their GE use during their life span, whilst participating in community changes regarding the use of the different GE types. An interesting aspect of the results, which may be connected to this, is that real time change with respect to the use of the different GE variants cannot be predicted from apparent time results: in Copenhagen, variants with *sådan (noget)* are losing ground over time while being preferred both in the 1980s and the 2000s by the youngest speakers.

In our paper, we will detail the real time changes in the use of Danish GEs in Danish, and evaluate them with respect to prevailing assumptions about the relationship between lifespan and community-wide change (Sankoff 2005, Sankoff 2006, Sankoff 2013) as well as to hypotheses regarding the diffusion of language change (Maegaard, Jensen, Kristiansen and Jørgensen 2013).