

Different codeswitching patterns in North American and Argentine Danish

A comparative approach from a
usage-based perspective

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What is this poster about?

- different CS patterns in the speech of US American and Argentina Danes
- identical CS patterns in the speech of US Danish immigrant and heritage speakers
- how can we explain these results?

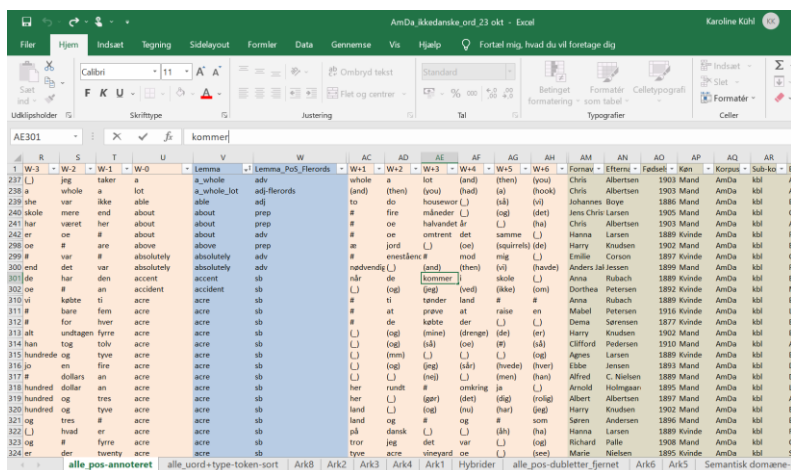
Data: The Corpus of American Danish

1.6 million transcribed tokens

approx. 350 speakers

2 types of speakers/types of language

- **immigrant Danish** spoken by Danish **immigrants** in the US and Canada
- **heritage Danish** spoken by **descendants** of Danish immigrants in the US and Canada
- **heritage Danish** spoken by **descendants** of Danish immigrants in Argentina



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a header row containing various grammatical categories and a list of Danish words in the rows below. The header row includes: 1, W-3, W-2, W-1, W-0, Lemma, Lemma_Pos_Fleords, W+1, W+2, W+3, W+4, W+5, W+6, Fornavn, Efternavn, Fødsels, Køn, Korpus, Sub-ko, B. The rows contain words like 'whole', 'taker', 'ikke', 'mere', 'var', 'er', 'are', 'above', 'det', 'har', 'den', 'accent', 'at', 'bare', 'for', 'hver', 'undtagen', 'han', 'alt', 'hundrede', 'og', 'fire', 'en', 'dollars', 'hundred', 'og', 'tres', 'og', 'hoved', 'er', 'tyve', 'er', 'alle pos-annoteret'.

Argentine data
recorded 2014-2015

North American data
recorded 1963-1990

Differences in codeswitching patterns:

Argentina Danish

- few switches to Spanish: 0.7%
- switches mainly nouns and discourse words
- a lot of cultural loans: 30%
- switches often framed by flagging: 18.5%
- and/or preceded by hesitation: 30%

careful, conservative switchers

US American Danish

- more switches to English: 2.6%
- switches from all word classes
- switches include few cultural loans: 14%
- switches rarely flagged: 2%
- not so often preceded by hesitation: 19%

fluent switchers

Explanations

Sociological differences between US American and Argentine Danes

- tight-knitted networks until 1970s among the Argentine Danes
- high awareness of cultural and ethnic differences among the Argentine Danes
- quick assimilation among the US American Danes

Kühl & Heegård Petersen (to appear)

Language-typological factor: Similarity

- Danish and English closely related Germanic languages
- historical language contact adds to the amount of lexical cognates > similarity in form and meaning e.g. *skole-school, hus-house, vel-well*
- few obstacles for switching between Danish and English

Weinreich 1968, Muysken 2000, Clyne 2003, Sebba 2009, Lipski 2009

Use and social acceptance

- Argentine Danes: flagging and hesitation imply low degree of social acceptance of CS
- US Danes: CS is widely used and seems to be socially accepted > little flagging and hesitation

Intergenerational CS patterns in US Danish



Patterns

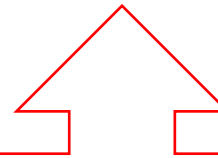
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Immigrant speakers

145 speakers born in Denmark: emigration to USA well after puberty

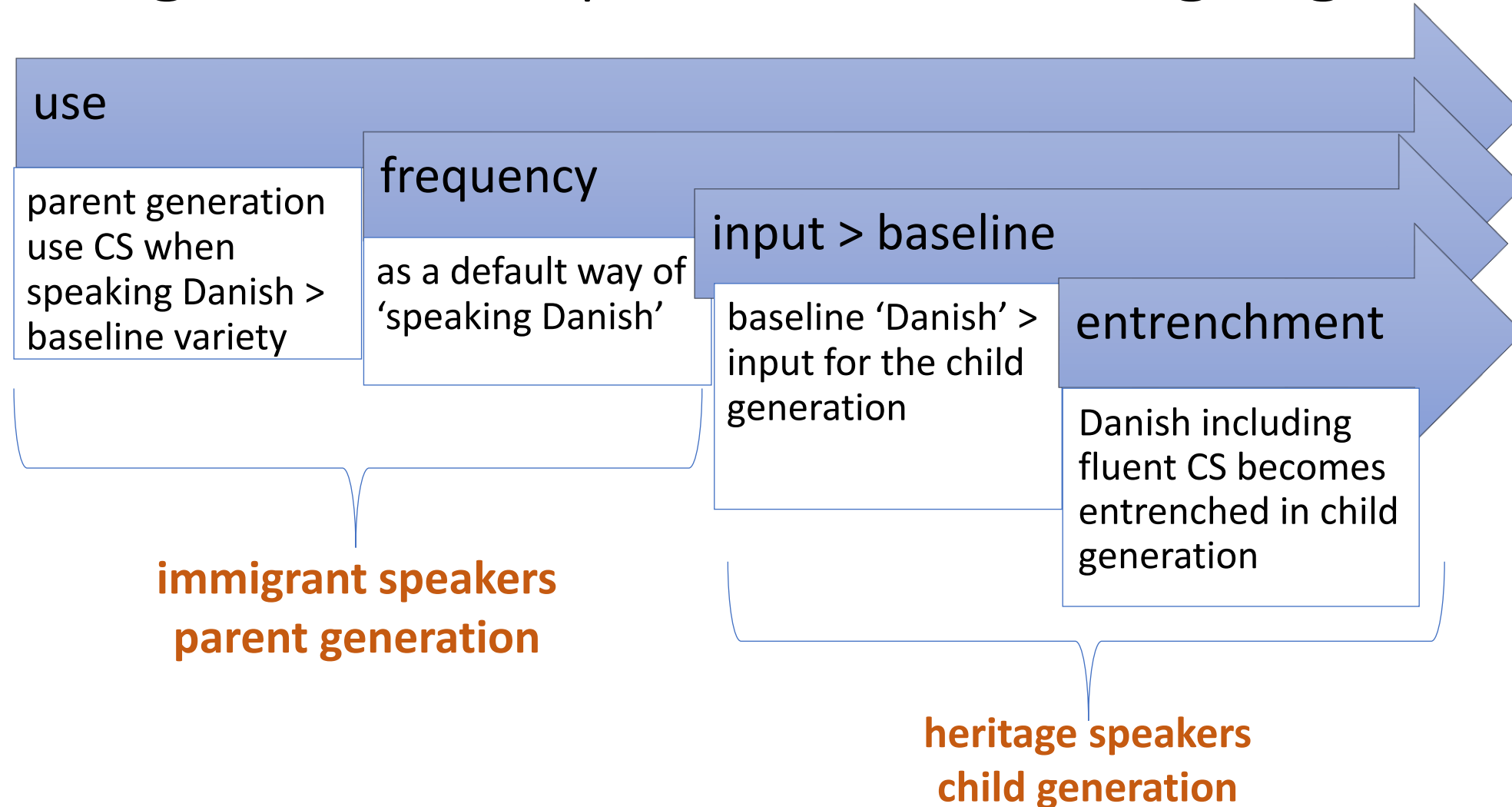
Heritage speakers

86 speakers born in USA



*No difference between generations:
Immigrant and heritage speakers show the
same codeswitching patterns.*

Usage-based explanations in language acquisition



Conclusion

Comparative approaches to explaining codeswitching patterns in immigrant/heritage languages in the Americas:

1. **Explanatory factors: Combination of sociological and typological causes**
2. **Explanatory factors:**



entrenchment

Danish including fluent CS becomes entrenched in child generation

As a consequence, the 'Danish incl. codeswitching'-speech produced by the heritage speakers **should not be considered switching between codes.**

Follow-up question: **What is it then?**

Results call for an **inclusion of the baseline** in order to be able to assess the speech of heritage speakers.

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