

## Reflexes of dative constructions in Pennsylvania Dutch

The loss of the dative case has been observed in many German-American dialects. In most cases, the loss of the dative is found in moribund dialects. Examples include Texas German (Boas 2009), New Ulm German (Schwarz 2019), Michigan German (Born 2003), and Kansas Volga German (Keel 1994). In contrast, in Pennsylvania Dutch the dative case is much more robust in nonsectarian communities where the language is moribund, whereas the dative has been lost in the Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities where language maintenance is robust and the number of speakers is actually growing (Huffines 1988). This paper investigates the reflexes of dative constructions in Pennsylvania Dutch. There is some variation in the reflexes of dative constructions in PD, English, and Dutch, three Germanic dialects that have lost the dative case. Some examples are given in (1)-(4).

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| 1. Mir ist kalt. (German)<br>Ik heb het koud. (Dutch)<br>I am cold. (English)<br>Ich bin kalt. (PD)                | 3. Das Buch wurde mir gegeben. (German)<br>Het boek is aan mij gegeven worden.<br>The book was given to me. (English)<br>Das buch iss zu mich kewwe warre. (PD) |
| 2. Mir wurde geholfen (German)<br>Ik word geholpen. (Dutch)<br>I am being helped (English)<br>Ich watt kolfe. (PD) | 4. *Ich wurde das Buch gegeben. (German)<br>*Ik werd het book gegeven. (Dutch)<br>I was given the book. (English)<br>*Ich bin das buch kewwe warre. (PD)        |

In examples (2) and (3), the reflexes of dative constructions in English, Dutch and PD are equivalent. In (1) the Pennsylvania Dutch construction aligns with English whereas the English passive construction in (4) is not permissible in either PD or Dutch. Thus, the reflexes of dative constructions in PD do not always coincide with their English counterparts. This paper will provide a systematic overview of the PD reflexes of a wide-range of dative constructions and compare them to analogous constructions in English and other Germanic languages. It will show that the reflexes of dative constructions in PD are based on the subcategorization frame of the verb and are independent of English.

### References

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