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1 Introduction

The present work is an empirical analysis of syntactic variation inspired by the sociocultural theory of the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. Bourdieu is no unknown among sociolinguists. There has been continuous discussion on the concepts of linguistic market, habitus, and practice (e.g., Sankoff and Lagoye 1978, Hasan 1998, Bucholtz 1999, Fainleough 2003, Stenroos 2004, Hodsworth 2006).

¹ The author was affiliated with the University of Hamburg at the time of the first submission and with the University of Paderborn at the time of the submission of the revised version.