

**Germanic Responses to negative assertions (English, Dutch, Swedish and German): more different than you think** (Sophie Repp, A. Marlijn Meijer, Nathalie Scherf, Berry Claus)

We present results from our cross-linguistic investigation of the use of response particles (yes, no) in four Germanic languages: English, Dutch, Swedish and German. We present data from four translation-equivalent experiments which show that the four languages differ considerably in the acceptability of the two basic particles when used as affirmations or rejections of negative assertions. Maybe surprisingly, the presence or absence of a dedicated rejecting particle (like 'doch' in German) is not a good predictor for the acceptability patterns. Furthermore, the languages show differences with respect to if, and in what contexts (affirmations/rejections), there is significant inter-individual variation within the language. We discuss the results against the background of current theories of response particles.