

## Grammatical gender in Luxemburgish - small language, big issue

Luxemburgish is peculiar with respect to grammatical gender in several respects. This talk presents three cases of peculiar behaviour:

- the role of gender in the nominal system with special regard to number allomorphy and differences in productivity between the three genders
- the preservation of base gender in diminutives (*den Auto* - *den Autochen*) with diminutive suffixes behaving as non-heads
- the development of a third person respect distinction in the feminine singular slot of personal pronoun paradigms (*hatt* vs. *si*).

The discussion focusses on the theoretical implications of these peculiarities and on the question to what extent they are linked to the status of Luxemburgish as a „small language“.

### References (selection)

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