

**INSTITUT FÜR PHONETIK UND
DIGITALE SPRACHVERARBEITUNG
UNIVERSITÄT KIEL**

**Arbeitsberichte
(AIPUK)**

**herausgegeben von
K. J. Kohler**

Nr. 35 November 2001

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Sound Patterns in German Read and
Spontaneous Speech
Symbolic Structures and Gestural Dynamics

edited by
Klaus J. Kohler

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Institut für Phonetik und
digitale Sprachverarbeitung
Universität Kiel

D-24098 Kiel
Germany

ISSN 0172-8156

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Foreword

This volume of *AIPUK* continues the research reports on *Phrase-level Phonetics and Phonology of German*, which were started in *AIPUK 34*. Further data descriptions of articulatory reduction in utterances of German read and spontaneous speech are presented and, by way of explanation, are related to situationally and contextually adjusted global speech production patterns. The research was carried out within the German Research Council (DFG) project ‘Sound patterns of spontaneous German – symbolic structures and temporal processes’ (Ko 331/22-1).

The paper by K. J. Kohler *Variability of opening and closing gestures in speech communication* gives an overview of place assimilation, lenition of plosives and fricatives, nasalization of plosives and vowels, lateral and geminate reduction, and their frequency distributions in the Kiel corpora of German read and spontaneous speech. The contribution by K. J. Kohler and J. Rodgers *Schwa deletion in German read and spontaneous speech* reports on schwa deletion as a special case of the realization of vowels in the two databases. The paper by T. Wesener *Aspects of ‘cliticization’ and style in German function words* looks at the influences of position in morphological structure and of speaking style on function word reduction.

The introductory paper by K. J. Kohler *The investigation of connected speech processes - theory, method, hypotheses and empirical data* develops a theoretical framework for phrase-level phonetics into which the empirical data presented in this volume and in *AIPUK 34* are integrated. It outlines the development of theory and methodology in the phonetic study of speaking styles at *IPDS Kiel* over three decades, as a basis for a set of hypotheses, on which the large corpus investigations under the renewed German Research Council funding were conducted. The further advance of the theory of phrase-level phonetics and the descriptions of many di-

verse individual languages based on this theory are seen as major tasks of future investigations into speech.

Again the financial support from the German Research Council for this basic research is gratefully acknowledged. I would also like to give very special thanks to Dr Horst Pütz from the German Department of Kiel University, who helped us immensely with his profound knowledge of LaTeX in the preparation of this report for printing.

K. J. Kohler

Kiel, November 2001