The grammaticalization of *geben* 'to give' in German
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In Standard German, *geben* 'to give' has several functions. Aside from its function as a full verb, *geben* is found in various constructions, in particular those with existential or predicative meaning. (e.g., *Es gibt Menschen, die ...* 'There are people who...'; *Es gibt Regen* 'It will be raining')

In some regional varieties (e.g. Moselle Franconian in the Eifel Mountains and in Luxembourg), *geben* can also assume the lexical/syntactical functions performed by *werden* 'to get; to become' in Standard German. In these varieties, *geven* can fulfill a passive auxiliary and a copula role.

In this paper, the functions of *geben* in different German Varieties are examined and their linguistic dynamics (variation and change) are analyzed. Historical, dialectological, and sociolinguistic aspects of this phenomenon will be considered.

Natural speech material drawn form speakers in the Moselle Franconian area provides the empirical background to the discussion. The results of a questionnaire are also presented. With an eye to the region in which their primary socialisation occurred, 320 native speakers of German were asked to evaluate the acceptability of different *geben* constructions in colloquial language.

The paper's central hypothesis is that both natural speech and native speaker acceptability hierarchies mirror the different stages of a grammaticalization process which may apply to *geben*, from a full verb to a passive auxiliary.