

“KIEZDEUTSCH GOES SCHOOL” – A MULTI-ETHNIC VARIETY OF GERMAN FROM AN EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract:

This article presents linguistic features of and educational approaches to a new variety of German that has emerged in multi-ethnic urban areas in Germany: Kiezdeutsch ('Hood German'). From a linguistic point of view, Kiezdeutsch is very interesting, as it is a multi-ethnolect that combines features of a youth language with those of a contact language. We will present examples that illustrate the grammatical productivity and innovative potential of this variety. From an educational perspective, Kiezdeutsch has also a high potential in many respects: school projects can help enrich intercultural communication and weaken derogatory attitudes. In grammar lessons, Kiezdeutsch can be a means to enhance linguistic competence by having the adolescents analyse their own language.

Keywords: German; Kiezdeutsch; Multi-ethnolect; Migrants' language; Language change; Educational proposals.