Getting a bad start

A study of children's language attitudes using multiple linear regression

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In this paper I present the method and some of the results from my study of the language attitudes among children in grade 0, 2, 4, and 6, in order to present the model for multiple linear regression as a tool for statistical analysis. I have carried out a verbal guise study at three different elementary schools in Denmark and studied the respondents' covert attitudes to the late modern urban youth style (also known as multiethnolect) and to young standard Copenhagen. In this article I focus on the effect of the variables concerning gender and grade in order to emphasize the advantage of multiple linear regression as a statistical method.

The model for multiple linear regression makes it possible for me to separate the effects of the different variables such as the speaker's gender, the respondent's gender, the grade etc. Thereby I can identify some relationships between gender and grade, and show that in general the respondents prefer their own gender, i.e. they rate speakers of their own gender more favourably, but in some cases both genders become increasingly more negative toward the male speakers.