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## **Everyday discourse in East Germany**

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### Abstract

This paper reflects an early stage of my research in an attempt to trace the non-official language usage in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR, East Germany), which has provided some challenges for linguistic research. I will discuss whether the official language regulation in the former GDR had an impact on individual language usage, and whether a kind of code-switching could be observed. I shall also explore to what extent, for example, lexical items and their specific semantic connotations are still underlying language usage, including misunderstandings, today. I will explore in what way lexical items show specific GDR-imprinted semantic connotations and can be regarded as East German words. However, I argue against the classification of the language usage in the former East Germany a distinct language variety. In this regard, I will outline some fallacies of research in this field.