

Non-canonical clauses in Shetland Dialect

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This talk is concerned with variation and change in verbal morphosyntax in Scots as a descendent of Northern English and in Shetland Dialect (SD), a variety of Scots. The focus is on basic word order as attested in the older stages of the languages together with a study of later changes in, for example, inversion structures, the development of *do*-support in SD, and auxiliary usage. SD is unique among extant varieties of Scots/English in that it exhibits verb raising in interrogatives, albeit now restricted to a small class of lexical verbs. Further, SD can be shown to be much more residual-V2-like than Scots/English in various construction types: imperatives, topicalization, quotative inversion, and embedded inversion. These phenomena are discussed in the light of the history of the variety and its development as a result of language shift from Norn to Scots on Shetland.