How does my Serbian change?

Language is a live organism, that changes throughout the time, develops and adjusts to it speakers. One cannot simply dismiss the variations of any everyday spoken language, and claim that a language is by itself a homogeneous creation. Every person’s way of expressing themselves is different, but can we really take one individual’s personal utterance in order to provide a wider picture of the way a language changes, when used in different social circumstances as well as in conversations with diverse co-speakers? This is exactly what I did in my study.

 By analysing my personal conversations, both in electronic form (chat, e-mails, comments on social media), as well as recorded, live conversations with various people, I was able to determinate how age, our relationship, mutual language(s), their origin, as well as our/their current place of living impacted the way I express myself during these conversations. Since variations of Serbian, in combinations with other (Slavic) languages, can particularly differ from one another, I was determined to present how a single person can influence a whole system of someone’s speech by just engaging in a conversation with him/her. The analysis that was carried out, by comparing various materials, helped me provide an answer to the question - how and why, to be more precise, what is the key element which impacts my way of expressing myself? I was hoping to show that, even though a certain person comes from a certain place and grows up in a certain environment, they can express themselves in diverse ways, just by being among different people.