31st Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference

(GLAC-31)

May 1-3, 2025

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Prepared by Nicole Petersen

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Wi-Fi

The Wi-fi visitor's login credentials will be issued inside the attendee's nametag. The accounts are individual.

Visiting Denton

On campus, we recommend participants to visit the Union Art Gallery, located in the Union building. The objectives of the Union Art Gallery is to showcase the creative endeavors and artistic output of the UNT student body as well as an opportunity for meaningful encounters with the visual arts. *BFA Printmaking Senior Exhibition* by BFA Printmaking Seniors will be on display during the conference.


Located approximately a mile from UNT, Historic Downtown Denton represents the Denton community and hosts locally owned shops, cafes and restaurants. Highlights include Denton County Courthouse-on-the Square Museum, Denton County African American Museum, Beth Marie's Old Fashioned Ice Cream, Recycled Books, Brew City Denton, and more!

Conference Location

GLAC-31 will take place at University Gateway Center at 801 N Texas Blvd, Denton, TX 76201. Attached is the suggested route from SpringHill Suites (1434 Centre Place Drive, Denton, TX 76205) to University Gateway Center.
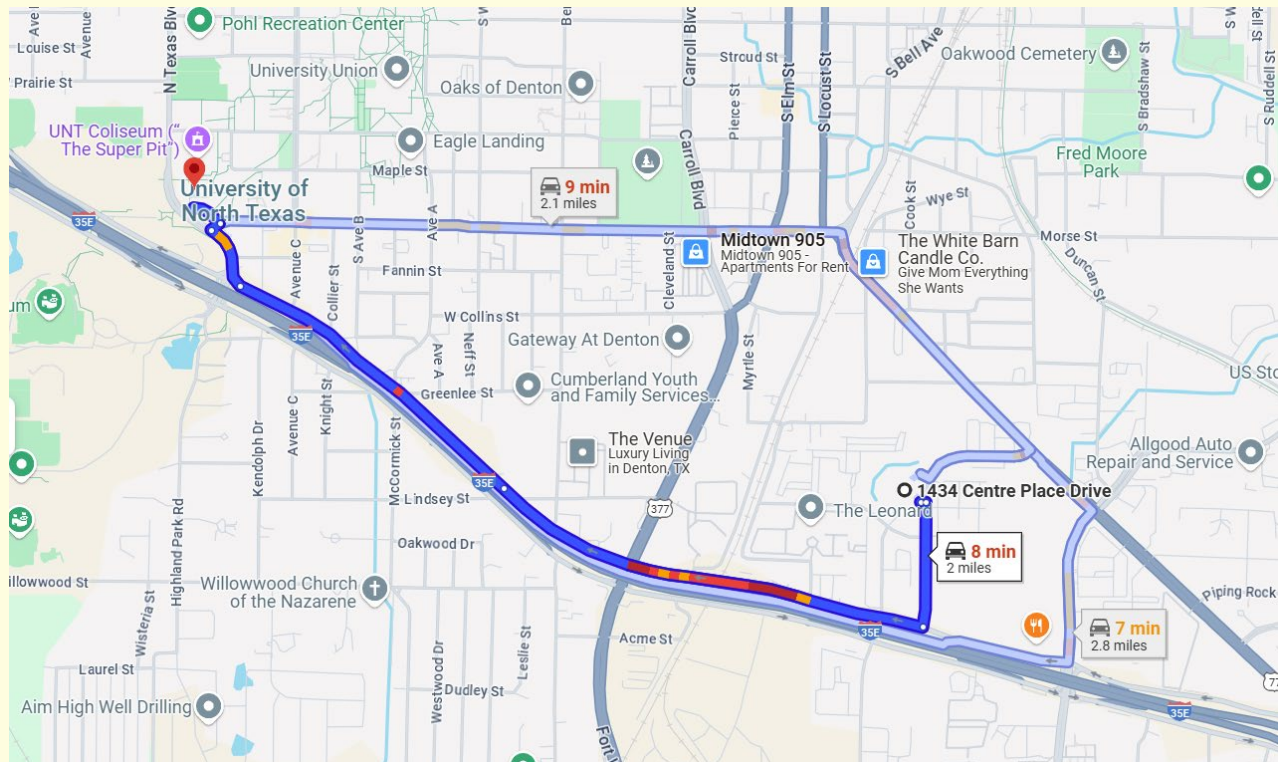
Parking: With a UNT permit, you can park at the lots indicated with a red dot (the green dot shows the Gateway Center).
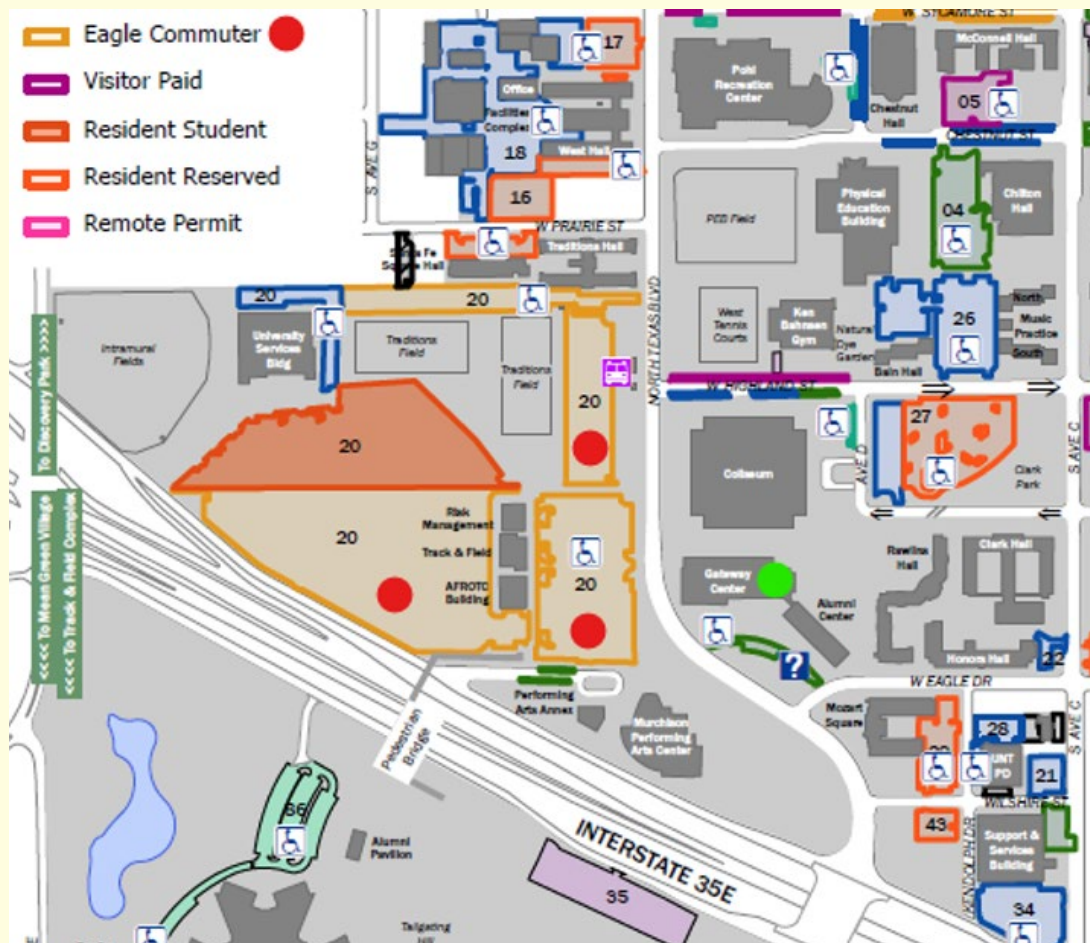
Dining Within the University of North Texas

The University of North Texas has food options for every dietary need and preference! If you would like to eat on or near campus, check out our recommendations.

Dining Hall

Eagles Landing – Our Favorite
1416 Maple, Denton, TX 76201

Friday
10 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

4 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Saturday
10 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Retail Restaurants

The Market at G.A.B (General Academic Building)
at the General Academic Building

Monday – Thursday
7:30 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The Market by Clark Bakery
on the northwest corner of Eagle Landing

Monday – Thursday
7:30 a.m. — 9 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Union Retail Restaurants

Avesta
Level 2

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Chick-fil-A
Level 1

Monday – Thursday
7:30 a.m. — 11 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Saturday
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Fuzzy's Taco Shop
Level 2

Monday – Friday
11 a.m. — 12 a.m.

Saturday
12 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Dining Near UNT

Chipotle Mexican Grill
1224 W Hickory St, Denton, TX 76201

Friday – Saturday
10:45 a.m. — 11:00 p.m.

Aura Coffee
1306 W Hickory St, Denton, TX 76201

Friday – Saturday
7 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Schedule

Schedule for *Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference 31*

Friday, May 2, morning

8:00 – 12:00	Registration, Gateway Center 42 and 43/47	
8:00 – 9:00	Refreshments, Gateway Center 43/47	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks, Gateway Center 43/47	
9:15 – 10:45	**Linguistics of Poetry** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Chris Sapp	**Early Germanic Phonology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Laura Smith
	Figures of Three in the Development of Skaldic Poetry **Mary Gilbert**	Intonation as a hidden hand in shaping Early Germanic phonology **Björn Köhnlein & Ian S. Cameron**
	Oodles of Droodles: Germanic Kennings as Inverted Riddles **Carsten P. Haas**	Laryngeal contrasts in Germanic: The history of competing analyses **Joseph Salmons**
	Hwæt wisnes was? -- Wisdom Styles in Germanic Poetry **Price L. Lassahn-Worrell**	Glide Epenthesis in Gothic and Old High German **Marc Pierce**
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	**Language Acquisition and Pedagogy** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Katie Crowder	**Phonology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Björn Köhnlein

	A Critical Review of Translanguaging Pedagogical Practice to Facilitate Learner Motivation and Comprehension in German Second Language Acquisition **Lizanne Thornton**	Door het bos de bomen: A variationist perspective on laryngeal contrast in Dutch fricatives **Charlotte Vanhecke**
	Writing to be read: Authentic creative writing for language skills and motivation **John H. G. Scott & Roswita Dressler**	On the Phonemic Status of /ɬ/l̥/ɬ̬/ɬ/ in Some North Germanic Languages **Øyvind Bjøru**
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch break	

Friday, May 2, afternoon

1:30 – 3:00	**Applied and Socio-linguistics** Gateway Center 42 Chair: John H. G. Scott	**Early Germanic Morphology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Konstantia Kapetangianni
	Explicit Instruction and First (Pro)noun Principle: A conceptual replication of VanPatten & Borst (2012) **Bradley Barr, Utpal Pandey & Nick Henry**	Die Halbstarken: Verbs that combine strong with weak forms in English, German, and Dutch **David Fertig**
	The Effect of Metalinguistic Awareness on the Production of Subject-Verb Inversion by Naïve Learners of German **Nafal Ossandón Hostens**	More heads are better than one: Deriving deverbal nominals in Gothic **Erin Noelliste & Michael T. Putnam**
	Multilingual practices in Australia and New Zealand - comparing the status and function of English varieties in two changing postcolonial spaces **Andreas Jäger**	The Evolution of Comparative Constructions in German Bible Translations **Ilaria Martignoni**
3:00 – 3:15	Coffee break	
3:15 – 4:45	**Early Germanic Morpho-syntax** Gateway Center 42 Chair: David Fertig	**Phonology and SGL workshop** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Erin Noelliste
	Exceptional noun gender assignment from a diachronic perspective **Andrew Kraiss**	Pennsylvania Dutch Liquid allophones: A case of Liquid Polarization? **David Bolter & Rose Fisher**

	Determiner and Adjective Gender Agreement Over Time in Wisconsin Heritage and Immigrant Dutch **Rachyl Hietpas**	Reversing alleged typological universals: vowel-consonant interactions across German dialects **Björn Köhnlein, Phuong Dang & Tianyi Ni**
	What does 'do' do: Periphrastic tüen in Gottscheer(isch) Literature **Andrew Hoffman**	SGL workshop #1: Graduate Student Professional Development: Preparing for the Job Market **David Bolter, Nick Henry, Rose Fisher, Nick Ott & Maike Rocker**
4:45 – 5:00	Coffee break	
5:00 – 6:15	**Plenary, Isaac L. Bleaman** Social Dimensions of Variation in Yiddish: Historical Perspectives and New Insights Gateway Center 43/47	
6:30 – 8:45	**Reception** Gateway Center 43/47	

Saturday, May 3, morning

8:00 – 12:00	Registration, Gateway Center 42 and 43/47	
8:00 – 9:00	Refreshments, Gateway Center 43/47	
9:00 – 10:30	**Early Germanic Syntax** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Maike Rocker	**Meaning and Grammaticalization** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Joshua Bousquette
	Double Genitives of Medieval German Nominalizations **Elliott Evans**	Tracking Semantic Specificity of Anglicized Adjectives in German YouTube Videos (2014-2024) **Marlene Burtscher & John D. Sundquist**
	Expanding Neural Part-of-Speech Analysis of Historical Germanic Languages **Carter Smith**	NPIs in Middle High German: Past, present, and future **Elaine Dalida**
	Split genitives and extraposition in medieval German **Elliott Evans, Christopher Sapp & Rex Sprouse**	Social Meaning and Pragmatic Implicatures in Texas English **William Salmon**
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:15	**Applied and Socio-linguistics** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Nafal Ossandón Hostens	**Morphology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: William Salmon
		Testing the role of prosody in the realization of grammatical NUMBER in contemporary Pennsylvania Dutch **Rose Fisher, Emmeline Wilson, Matthew T. Carlson, Michael**

		T. Putnam, Nicholas Wensel, Lenore Williams
	All Monolinguals are not the same: What we can learn about domain- specific language use from (self- reported) monolinguals **Joshua Bousquette**	Interindividual Differences in the Plural Allomorphy of German Nonwords in First-Year L2 German Learners and L1 German Speakers **Katharina S. Schuhmann & Laura C. Smith**
	The Other Side of Accommodation: Expanding Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) to Include Avoidance Behaviors **Nick Ott**	A Third-Wave Sociolinguistic Investigation of Old Norse Definiteness **Kaitlin Young & Brenna Byrd**
12:15 – 1:30	Lunch break (EC luncheon, Gateway Center 43/47)	

Saturday, May 3, afternoon

1:30 – 2:30	**Syntax** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Elliott Evans	**Early Germanic Phonology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: Marc Pierce
	Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs across German and Icelandic **Joren Somers, Gard B. Jenset & Jóhanna Barðdal**	The High German Consonant Shift and the Hildebrandslied: An Analysis of the Impact of Early Literacy on Medieval Phonological Awareness **Robin Cummins**
	Similar developments in separate communities? The case of verb placement variation in American Low German in Iowa and Illinois **Maike Rocker**	How the PIE Perfect Can Explain the Weak Preterit **David L. White**
2:30 – 2:45	Coffee break	
2:45 – 3:45	**Syntax and SGL Workshop** Gateway Center 42 Chair: Elliott Evans	**Early Germanic Phonology** Gateway Center 43/47 Chair: David Bolter
	A preliminary investigation of oblique subjecthood in Dutch **Joren Somers**	Breaking in Old Norse and Old English: A Diachronic Optimality Theory Approach **Liv Paglia & Noah Brandon**
	SGL Workshop #2: Pre-tenure workshop for junior faculty and post- docs: Getting the help you need to thrive and arrive at your professional goals **Nick Henry, Björn Köhnlein, Chris Sapp & Laura Catharine Smith**	A new Formalization of Notker's Anlautgesetz utilizing Optimality Theory **Bradley Weiss**
3:45 – 4:00	Coffee break	

4:00 – 5:15	**Plenary, Theresa Biberauer** What You Can Learn from Imperatives: the Case of Afrikaans Gateway Center 43/47
5:15 – 6:15	**Society for Germanic Linguistics Business Meeting** Gateway Center 43/47
6:30 – 8:45	**Conference dinner** Gateway Center 43/47

Capstone Presentations, Friday 12:00 — 2:00, Gateway Center

Name	Title
Carter Smith	Neural Part-of-Speech Analysis of Historical Germanic Languages
Angelina Cruz	Floating Quantifiers with Numerals in German
John Buckles	A Biblioinetric Study of AI and Law.
Alejandro Garza-Lainez	What the ¡¿X?!: Is 'Latinx' a Label of Political Progress or Cultural Controversy?
Alyssa Montalvo	Parallel Corpora as a means for Heritage Language Preservation
Reya Babu	Accent and character correlations in Star Wars
Paloma Estrada	Evaluating Duolingo as a Language Learning Tool
Jared Collier	A Single-User Evaluation of Memrise for Language Acquisition
Kennedy Madkins	The Connotation of LGBT+ Self-Identifying Terms
Jacob Zubaty	Discriminatory Language towards Asians on Social Media
Chase Eckles	AI's strengths and weaknesses when handling ambiguous language
Matthieu Huynh	Evaluation of Noun Town for Language Learning
Cody Ireland	Analog Game Based Language Learning: A meta-analysis
Davis Wynn	Vowel Mergers in Texas English
Qiu Saldana	Eye-Contact as a Regulator of Turn-Taking in American Sign Language

Society for Germanic Linguistics Workshops

Friday, 4:15-4:45pm

Title: Graduate Student Professional Development: Preparing for the Job Market

Panelists: David Bolter, Rose Fisher, Nick Henry, Nick Ott, and Maike Rocker

In this workshop geared towards those going on the job market, panelists will discuss how to prepare for the job market (including post-doc positions). Overview of topics to be discussed include:

1. How participants can make sure they're in a good position before they start applying (i.e., how they can prepare themselves during their grad studies, etc.)
2. What and how to prepare in terms of
    a. materials;
    b. interviews; and
    c. on-campus visits
3. How participants can strategize in their first post-grad position (if a post-doc or visiting position) for applying for other positions, and how does your application change your first/second year out.
4. What are members of hiring committees looking for from applicants? What helps candidates stand out in their applications and during the interview?

Panelists include those who have recently graduated and landed academic positions and post-docs as well as a faculty member who has recently served on a hiring committee.

Saturday, 3:15-3:45pm

Title: Pre-tenure workshop for junior faculty and post-docs: Getting the help you need to thrive and arrive at your professional goals

Panelists: Nick Henry, Björn Köhnlein, Chris Sapp, and Laura Catharine Smith

This workshop for newly minted PhDs who are pre-tenure (e.g., in faculty or post-doc positions) is a first step in providing mentoring to those in their early careers. The workshop will be two- pronged. First, the panel will discuss suggestions for participants to be successful in their early career in terms of teaching, research and publishing, citizenship, networking, getting help at their institutions, and trying to balance a personal life. Second, we'll discuss what support participants have at their institutions and what additional support they could benefit from, e.g., mentors, support meetings, etc. Our hope is to use this discussion to 1) help connect those interested with mentors from within the society and 2) plan additional programming over this coming year to give participants the support they need to thrive in their early careers.

Invited Speakers

Isaac L. Bleaman
University of California, Berkeley

Social Dimensions of Variation in Yiddish: Historical Perspectives and New Insights

Yiddish contributed significantly to the development of sociolinguistics and language contact, particularly through the pioneering work of Uriel Weinreich and Joshua Fishman. However, very little quantitative variationist research has been conducted on either contemporary or historical varieties of the language. In this talk, I will present my findings on the social significance of variation in New York-based communities that are committed to language maintenance in Yiddish.

The results show how differences in communities' maintenance practices and ideologies (e.g., whether to prioritize language dominance; whether to standardize the language) have contributed to inter-community differences in the quantitative patterning of two variables: voice onset time and number agreement. At the end of the talk, I will preview the resources available in the Corpus of Spoken Yiddish in Europe (CSYE), which is now being developed through a National Science Foundation CAREER grant. Among other applications in research and language revitalization, the CSYE will provide the data necessary to address questions related to the social meaning of variation and the direction of language change in the pre-Holocaust period.

Theresa Biberauer

University of Cambridge, Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape, and CRISSP, KU Leuven

What you can learn from imperatives: the case of Afrikaans

Grammatically speaking, Afrikaans is a peculiar mix of the conservative and the innovative. On the one hand, it retains the characteristic West Germanic word-order properties of Verb Second and OV, and verb clusters, and it has separable and non-separable particle verbs, modal particles, and even some scrambling. On the other hand, there are phenomena like "quirky V2" (Vandag loop koop ons pannekoek, lit: today walk buy we pancake, i.e. 'Today, we're going to go and buy pancakes.'), negative concord involving a clause-final concord element (Die pannekoek is nie duur nie, lit. the pancake is not expensive neg, i.e. 'The pancake isn't expensive.'), and Differential Object Marking (Ek sien dit en ek sien vir jou, lit: I see it and I see for you, i.e. 'I see it and I see you.'), none of which are replicated in other Germanic varieties.

The purpose of this talk is to make the case for the idea that a further innovation – Afrikaans's distinctive moenie (must.not)-containing negative imperative – plays a key role in signaling to acquirers of the language both its conservative and its innovative properties. I highlight evidence from Southern African German varieties (Namibian and Kroondal German) and from South African English in support of this proposal.

Abstracts

Explicit Instruction and First (Pro)noun Principle: A conceptual replication of VanPatten & Borst (2012)

Bradley Barr, Utpal Pandey, and Nick Henry; University of Texas at Austin

A key question in the study of second language (L2) acquisition concerns the degree to which explicit information (EI) helps learners process grammatical structures online (see e.g., Henry, 2024). Some research has also begun to explore whether any effects of EI are moderated by language aptitude (i.e., grammatical sensitivity). For example, VanPatten & Borst (2012) investigated whether EI helps learners overcome a subject-first bias when processing nominative and accusative case markers in German, which signal subject-first and object-first word orders as in (1) below:

(1)   a. Die Katze hört <u>den Hund</u>. (subject-first)
        b. <u>Den Hund</u> hört die Katze. (object-first)
           'The cat hears the dog.'

VanPatten & Borst (2012) established that there was a positive effect of EI in sentence processing, but no correlation between grammatical sensitivity and processing was observed. This result supports those from similar studies conducted with L2 German (e.g., Henry et al., 2009; Henry et al., 2017), but clashes with studies like Fernández (2008), who found no role for EI in the processing of case- marked clitic pronouns. One possible reason for this difference is that case-marked articles are less likely to be processed than are pronouns, as they are not content words. Thus, the present study aims to explore this possibility through a conceptual replication of VanPatten & Borst (2012), exploring the outcomes of Processing Instruction (PI) trainings that focus on pronouns rather than on case- marked articles.

The present study follows that of VanPatten & Borst (2012) with three major changes: (1) changing the target form as described above, (2) utilizing offline interpretation and production tests, and (3) employing a different language aptitude test. Participants were recruited from beginning and intermediate level L2 German courses and were divided into two groups: a +EI group, who received information about on object-first word order and case-marked pronouns, and a –EI group, who did not. Participants first completed a written interpretation and production pretest. During the PI training, participants heard a subject- or object-first sentence and matched it to one of two pictures representing the subject- or object-first interpretation of the sentence. After training, they completed the written posttest. After an interval of 4 weeks, a delayed posttest was administered as well as a grammatical sensitivity test and a debriefing questionnaire that elicited the strategies that participants employed during the study.

Data collection is ongoing, but results from a pilot experiment indicate that the +EI group processed OVS sentences correctly sooner than the –EI group. Preliminary results for the grammatical sensitivity indicate that there is no significant correlation between grammatical sensitivity and processing. Results will be discussed with reference to current work on EI, individual differences, and input processing.

On the Phonemic Status of /ɬ/ɭ̊/ʎ̥/ɫ/ in Some North Germanic Languages

Øyvind Bjøru, University of Texas at Austin

Some North Germanic varieties are particularly rich in lateral phonemes, e.g., Trøndersk (in Norway), Jemtsk (in Sweden), Elfdalian, and Estonian Swedish. Others generate typologically rare allophones in certain environments, e.g., Reykjavík Icelandic syllable-final /l̥/ (Dehé, 2014).

It is not always clear which phonetic expressions should be considered allophones of which phonemes, and while a few minimal pairs can be identified, the status of some of these distinctions falls into what Kathleen Hall has called "intermediate phonological relationships" (Hall, 2013), somewhere between full contrast and distributive allophony.

This paper has four concentric goals: 1) to map out the phonetic nuances of laterals in certain North Germanic varieties; 2) to identify the handful of minimal pairs that historical and synchronic processes involving laterals have produced in these languages; 3) to contribute data to the discussion in general phonetics around whether voiceless approximants are categorically distinct from voiceless fricatives (Asu et al., 2015; Maddieson and Emmorey 1984); 4) to discuss how these findings relate to methodological discussions around marginal phonemic status.

References

Asu, Eva Liina, Francis Nolan, and Susanne Schötz. 2015. "Comparative study of Estonian Swedish voiceless laterals: Are voiceless approximants fricatives?" In *The 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. University of Glasgow.

Dehé, Nicole. 2014. "Final Devoicing of /l/ in Reykjavík Icelandic". In *Proceedings of the 7th international Conference on Speech Prosody,* pp. 757–761. Dublin: Ireland.

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Maddieson, Ian, and Karen Emmorey. 1984. "Is There a Valid Distinction Between Voiceless Lateral Approximants and Fricatives?" *Phonetica* 41(4), pp. 181–190.

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Pennsylvania Dutch Liquid allophones: A case of Liquid Polarization?

David Bolter (Denison University) & Rose Fisher (Penn State University)

As an American variety of German, Pennsylvania Dutch (PD) has been spoken in contact with American English for much of its history. Nonetheless, many properties of its grammar and sound system clearly derive from its origin in Palatinate German. In this paper, we present preliminary results on an investigation of /l/ and /r/ allophones in two sub-varieties of PD, namely the Ohio variety and the Pennsylvania variety.

It has been recognized in the literature that certain lateral realizations pair well with certain rhotic realizations, a phenomenon known as LIQUID POLARIZATION (cf. Carter & Local 2007, Bolter 2022). This is particularly relevant when the language in question has only one lateral and one rhotic phoneme, as is the case for varieties of both English and German. Regarding European German (EG), although there is considerable variation in local varieties, a typical pattern of liquids is to have light realizations (i.e. non-velarized realizations) of /l/ along with uvular realizations of /r/, which could be classified as dark in the sense that the latter exhibits comparatively lower values for F2-F1. On the other hand, American English most commonly has dark or velarized realizations of /l/ paired with low F3 approximant realizations of /r/ with either a retroflex or a bunched articulation. Due to its history and current location, PD might be expected to exist between these two liquid realization profiles.

This leads to the following fundamental research question: Are liquids in varieties of PD polarized across one or more acoustic parameters? On this matter, previous literature (Keiser 2012) has reported that Pennsylvania PD shows more velarized /l/ and approximant /r/ while Ohio PD has largely retained clear /l/ and tapped /r/.

To evaluate these research questions, preliminary data have been collected from eight speakers of Pennsylvania Dutch, four originating in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and four from Holmes County, Ohio. These naturalistic recordings were collected during fieldwork in Ohio in 2018 and in Pennsylvania in 2019, where participants told stories based on the picture book "Frog, Where are You?" by Mercer Mayer (1969). In those eight recordings, realizations of /l/ and /r/ were manually segmented and formant values (F1 – F4) were extracted in PRAAT.

Initial results reveal that the most important acoustic measurements for the contrast between /l/ and /r/ are F1 and F3, respectively. Pooling the Ohio and Pennsylvania samples together, /r/ is associated with higher F1 values and lower F3 values than /l/. F2, as it turns out, was not shown to be a good predictor of phonemic identity as /l/ or /r/. The finding that F3, rather than F2, is more directly relevant to the contrast between /l/ and /r/ in this variety represents a specific difference with other papers in the LP paradigm e.g. Carter & Local (2007). Furthermore, our initial results show that the Pennsylvania speakers have slightly higher values for all formants in /l/ and lower values for F1-F3 for /r/ as compared to Ohio speakers.

References

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Carter, Paul & John Local. 2007. F2 variation in Newcastle and Leeds English liquid systems. Journal of the International Phonetic Association 37(2), 183–199.

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All Monolinguals are not the same: What we can learn about domain-specific language use from (self-reported) monolinguals.

Joshua Bousquette, University of Georgia

This presentation analyzes the social demographics of self-reported heritage language (HL) monolinguals in the Upper Midwest of the United States, in order to derive domain-specific language use in the early 20th century. In 1930, the US Census enumerator for Randolph Township, Wisconsin, recorded 278 monolinguals – almost all of them West Frisian-speaking children – in a community of only 1192 total individuals – or a monolingualism rate of about 23% (Bousquette & Natvig 2022). While there are comparable rates of reported monolingualism in 1910 in Hustisford, WI (24%, Wilkerson & Salmons 2012) and Kiel, WI (28%, Frey 2013), the 1930 data from Friesland, WI is unique in that the census enumerator recorded the language proficiency of children under the age of 10, contrary to the direction of the US Census. These data therefore provide the single most comprehensive and empirical evidence of HL use in the home domain within a single community; and also help us to visibilize proficient bilingual Frisian-English parents – some of who were Wisconsin-born – who otherwise report English proficiency to the Census enumerator. In broader terms, we must therefore acknowledge that HL proficiency across the Upper Midwest must have been higher than previously thought, particularly in areas where we typically have gaps in the data, e.g. regarding language acquisition and use among children in HL communities. And we must also note that high rates of HL monolingual children reveal domain-specific language use in the domestic sphere, which is not something we can ascertain from adult HL monolinguals, whose social networks and domains of language use are very different.

The mere presence of monolinguals tells us much more about the domain-specific language use, since every domain in which a monolingual operates must – at least when this person is present – have some flexibility to accommodate to the individual monolingual, making these domains HL-speaking, even if temporarily. At the same time, not all monolinguals have the same social networks or patterns of interaction within a community: aged in-laws would suggest that the HL is spoken in the home domain, *some* of the time, between *some* speakers (Wilkerson & Salmons 2012). Working-age monolinguals with front-facing labor, commerce, or skilled labor positions suggest that exchanges – including those in the supply chain of production-distribution-consumption – were monolingual domains, faciltated by HL-English bilinguals (Wilkerson & Salmons 2008, etc.). Previous literature has built on Theresa G. Labov's (1998) method of mining US census records for self-reported language proficiency. In addition to tallying the sum of self-reported monolingual speakers and first-generation immigrants who emigrated as adults, notably Wilkerson & Salmons (2008, 2012) have derived a system for extrapolating data to further identify: 1) bilingual speakers who are proficient in English and also the heritage variety; and also for deriving the likelihood that the HL is spoken within a given household. For instance, a household of self-reported monolinguals is certain to speak only the HL, and this can be assumed with a high degree of certainty. However, a household comprised of bilinguals may speak one or the other language, with unknown frequency of use of either language. Still, Child monolinguals suggest that the home domain was uniformly a heritage language domain, such that the children in the home acquired *only* the heritage language (Bousquette & Natvig 2020); by extension, the language of education – if it was the language of the majority – did not immediately or effectively create an environment where English was sufficiently acquired, even

in cases where English was the language of instruction in public education (cf. Bousquette & Ehresmann 2010).

References

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Tracking Semantic Specificity of Anglicized Adjectives in German YouTube Videos (2014-2024)

Marlene Burtscher & John D. Sundquist, Purdue University

This study examines the semantic development of anglicized adjectives in German YouTube videos from 2014 to 2024, emphasizing changes in entropy scores as a measure of semantic specificity. While previous research has explored anglicisms in formal print media and written digital contexts (e.g., Onysko, 2007; Eisenberg, 2013; Baeskow, 2017; Coats, 2019), the dynamics of informal, spoken digital discourse remains underexamined. Anglicized adjectives such as *cool*, *nice*, and *smart* are particularly revealing due to their adaptability and cultural resonance (Nefedova, 2019), yet their integration into the German lexicon through borrowing has received limited attention. By examining the contextual variability of anglicized adjectives, this research highlights shifts in their semantic specificity and adaptation across video categories and over time. The analysis draws on a self-developed corpus, GYST (German YouTube Speech Transcripts), comprising 196 million words of German spoken digital discourse on YouTube. The corpus is stratified into sub-corpora based on upload year (2014-2024) and video categories (e.g., Gaming, Entertainment, People & Blogs), enabling a multifaceted exploration of linguistic trends across time and content types. Anglicisms were identified using computational methods, leveraging predefined anglicism lists such as the *Anglizismenindex* (Verein Deutsche Sprache, 2023), and the *Wörterbuch überflüssiger Anglizismen* (Bartzsch et al., 2003). Regular expressions accounted for morphological variation, capturing suffix modifications and declensions, while stop
lists eliminated false positives, such as homographs (e.g., *war* and *man*).
The study is framed by Backus' (2001) Specificity Hypothesis, which suggests that borrowings initially fill precise lexical gaps, and Nefedova's (2019) concept of eurysemy, which posits that semantic vagueness enhances the adaptability and persistence of borrowed terms. To operationalize these frameworks, entropy scores were calculated using a 50-lexical-word context window (Serigos, 2017), with high entropy scores indicating broader adaptability (eurysemy) and low entropy scores reflecting lexical precision (specificity).
Results for anglicized adjectives in the GYST corpus show a steady rise in entropy scores from 2014 to 2021, peaking at 18.71, followed by a slight decline through 2024 (17.15). This overall trend reflects increasing contextual dispersion across German YouTube content. Categories such as Gaming (14.39 to 15.53), Entertainment (14.06 to 16.83), and How-To & Style (14.62 to 16.11) consistently display high entropy, indicating widespread and flexible use of adjectives like *cool*, *fit*, and *special*. In contrast, Education shows a lower and more gradual rise (11.30 to 15.28), while Science & Technology peaks slightly earlier in 2018 (15.79) before declining. Adjectives like *lucky* remain contextually limited, while *sexy* and *okay* demonstrate stable high entropy across years. These findings align with Nefedova's (2019) concept of eurysemy, demonstrating how semantic flexibility enables anglicized adjectives to expand into new contexts and maintain their relevance in German digital discourse.
Overall, this study offers new insights into the role of anglicized adjectives, highlighting their shift from semantic specificity to broader contextual flexibility. Entropy scores and genre patterns show that semantic breadth and adaptability support their persistence. The study underscores the influence of digital platforms like YouTube in shaping language change and promoting innovative usage in contemporary German discourse.

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The High German Consonant Shift and the *Hildebrandslied*:
An Analysis of the Impact of Early Literacy on Medieval Phonological Awareness

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Germanic linguists have debated aspects of the High German consonant shift for decades (see, for a recent example, Peters 2024), yet little has been written about the challenges this sound change posed for the first attempts at writing in early medieval German. Even research that analyzes the orthographic representation of these sounds (such as Seiler 2014), tends to represent the writing process more simplistically as a speaker finding graphemes to match the phones of their spoken language or dialect. However, corrections and variance in consonants in early German manuscripts demonstrate that scribes were at least somewhat aware of the phonological differences between German dialects caused by the High German consonant shift. This presentation argues that the process of writing in the vernacular forced German speakers to recognize and adapt to this phonological diversity in the monasteries where they worked and that the *Hildebrandslied* showcases this phenomenon.

The *Hildebrandslied* contains a peculiar mix of vocabulary from both Old High German and Old Saxon, alongside several words with elements of both varieties (see Lühr 151-6 for an overview). The early portion of the text, which was partially and erroneously translated into a northern German variety, shows more examples of unshifted consonants, such as the first word of the text, "ik" (see Bostock and Lühr). Because of this, Rosemarie Lühr writes that one can "only speak of a superficial Saxon influence" (156, translation my own).

This presentation argues that this "superficial Saxon influence" is more specifically a *phonological* influence brought about by the introduction of literacy in German. Many of the forms found in the text that are unattested elsewhere and that reflect Old Saxon phonetic forms can be converted to southern and central forms by simply reversing sound changes like the High German consonant shift. For example, the text's form *heittu,* which in Old Saxon would be *hētu*, corresponds more closely to the Old High German form *heizzu* (Bostock 76). To make this form more Saxon-like, the translator(s) of the text recognized the phonological difference between the two varieties caused by the High German consonant shift and changed the <zz> to a <tt> rather than a <t>. The ability of a person to use this method for translation of the *Hildebrandslied* points toward the impact of literacy on early German speakers' metalinguistic awareness. Writing using an alphabet required German speakers to think of their language in units of sound, enabling them to notice phonological differences in varieties spoken at their monasteries and to decide how to represent them in writing.

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NPIs in Middle High German: Past, present, and future

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Negative polarity items are generally defined as words or phrases that are only licensed in the scope of negation. Examples are given in (1):

(1)   English *any, ever*
        There's not any cake left./*There is any cake left.
        No one has ever seen Bigfoot./*Someone has ever seen Bigfoot.

NPIs are interesting for historical reasons because they tend to be prone to instability, since their close association with negation puts them in a state of semantic flux as non-NPIs develop into NPIs and vice versa. This paper investigates the NPIs of Middle High German to determine whether they follow typical historical trajectories for NPIs;

NPIs may derive from a variety of sources, the most commonly examined being the so-called minimizer NPIs. These derive from words for very small quantities, such as *any* (etymologically derived from *one*), *a red cent, a wink, a bit*, and so on. Another common type is the class of generalizer NPIs, which derive from words describing the most general properties, including *a soul* (as in *not a soul was there*) or *way, shape or form* (as in *in no way, shape or form*). The most well-known examples are English *not* and German *nicht*, which passed from words denoting general properties, to NPIs licensed by a negation particle, to forms integrating and then replacing the negation particle to become classical negators, in a process now known as Jespersen's cycle (Breitbarth et al 2013: 2-6).

When examining the etymologies of MHG NPIs, they are found to share the semantic origins expected for NPIs. In addition to minimizer- and generalizer-type words, they also included some less-well-studied but interesting NPI triggers, such as genitive markers and items that invoke alternatives (Eckardt 2012). As with the *not* and *nicht* examples, none of the MHG NPIs retained their NPI functions in NHG, either. However, the most interesting property of MHG NPIs is that they frequently appear in clauses without negation. But this is not entirely unexpected: Giannakidou (2011) considers nonveridicality to be a key component of NPI licensing. The licensing of NPIs in MHG in contexts such as generalizing relative clauses, hypotheticals and conditionals, and interrogatives can be explained by the fact that these clause types are nonveridical.

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Double Genitives of Medieval German Nominalizations

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Nominalizations of verbs can express their arguments. In broad strokes, MSG nominalizations express the object as a genitive and the subject with *durch*, (1a) from Demske (2001:239).

(1)   a.   *die Präsentation [des   Films] [durch   den Regisseur]*
               the presentation   the-gen film   through the director
               'the presentation of the film by the director'
        b.   **die Präsentation [des   Films] [des   Regisseurs]*
                the presentation   the-gen film   the-gen director

Little attention has been given to the fact that in Medieval and ENHG, both arguments could be expressed as adnominal genitives, with either the D-N-Gen-Gen (2) or Gen-N-Gen (3) order.

(2)   *die gaabe [Gottes] [des   einigen wahren Glaubens]*
        the gift   God-gen the-gen single   true   faith
        'the gift of God of the single true faith'   (*Concordia* 206 [1583])

(3)   *[vnsers heren] gezeuog [seiner   marter]*
        our-gen Lord   witness   his-gen passion
        'our Lord's witness of his passion'   (*Klosterneuburger* 493 [1340])

Assuming n/N along the lines of Laron's (1988) v/V, I posit the base generation of the subjective genitive in Spec-n and the objective in Comp-N. Movement of N(-to-n)-to-Num (Roehrs 2020) gives the surface order of (4) for (2).

(4)   [$_{NumP}$ [$_N$ gaabe]$_t$ [$_{nP}$ [$_{DPgen}$ Gottes] [$_{NP}$ t [$_{DPgen}$ des ... Glaubens]]]]

However, this order of two adnominal genitives occurs only when the nominalization has overt D. The absence of D triggers movement of one genitive argument, and in line with Grimshaw's (1990) prominence relations, the highest argument is targeted for Gen-to-D, resulting in (3). Note that this stage of the language has a superficially similar structure, namely D-(Adj)-Gen-N (5), from Demske (2001:226).

(5)   *die anderen [des   graffen] diener*
        the other   the-gen count   servants
        'the other servants of the servants'

This has been analyzed as movement of Gen to a spec-position between D and N (Sapp et al 2024). Based on the data above (2,3), I argue that (5) has a different distribution and posit that (5) is not possible when Gen is the argument of a deverbal N because prenominal argument genitives are in complementary distribution with D.

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Split genitives and extraposition in medieval German

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Medieval and Early Modern German attest the 'split genitive', in which a pre-nominal genitive is modified by a post-nominal constituent, usually a PP (1) or relative clause (2-3):

(1)   *… nam Agnes,* [[DPgen *Landtgraff Albrechts t*PP] *Tochter* [PP *zu Dueringen*]]
          took Agnes   Count   Albrecht-gen daughter   to Thuringia
          '…took Agnes, Count Albrecht of Thuringia's daughter'   (*ThurChron* 930, 1599)

Although the split genitive has been noticed (i.a. Demske 2001), only Bošković (2002) has attempted an analysis. We examine a corpus of historical German, identifying the conditions on extracting sub-parts of a genitive DP to shed light on what kind of movement this is.
    First, while Kayne's (1994) Antisymmetry hypothesis allows only leftward movement, we never find a modifier of the genitive DP appearing to its left (**zu Dueringen Landtgraff Albrechts Tochter). Thus there is no direct evidence for an analysis in which the extracted phrase left-adjoins to DP, followed by leftward movement of the remnant DP.
    Second, we find topicalization of the entire DP, including the split phrase (2a), but not topicalization of just the remnant DP (2b). In other words, the movement that yields the split DP creates a constituent:

(2)   a.   *vnd* [[DPgen *der t*CP] *hende* [CP *die in   pinigitin*]] **wurdin   duorre...**
                  and   those-gen hands   rel him tortured   became dry
                  'and the hands of them who tortured him because dry'   (*Martyrol.* 468, 1250)
          b.   ** *vnd* [[DPgen *der t*CP] *hende*] **wurdin** *duorre* [CP *die in pinigitin*] *…*

Third, such a phrase can be extracted from a subject and appear in the post-field (3). This cannot be derived by remnant movement to the left (as the subject cannot be underlyingly to the right of the non-finite verb), and so appearance in the post-field must be, at least in these cases, derived by rightward movement, whether in the narrow syntax or at PF.

(3)   *also* **sol** *auch* [[DPgen *aller chramer t*CP] *gloett*] **sein** [CP *di   saffran … hin   gebent*]
          thus shall also   all   sellers   weight be   rel saffron ... there give
          'The weight of all sellers who bring saffron etc. should also be thus' (*Freising* 206, 1328)

    Finally, while different kinds of modifiers may be extracted from a pre-nominal genitive, their distributions are not equal. PPs may or may not split, and when they do, they tend to occur linearly adjacent to the DP (1). In contrast, relative clauses rarely occur *in situ* to the right of the head N, but tend to surface at a distance from the DP, often in the post-field (3).
We propose that two types of extraction are needed to account for the split genitive. First, a PP or relative clause may right-adjoin to the DP that contains it (1,2). Secondly, a PP or relative clause may right-adjoin to a TP, thus appearing in the post-field. Because this second type is especially frequent with relative clauses, and relative clauses are generally longer than PPs, a PF account in which rightward movement is driven by prosodic weight is attractive.

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***Die Halbstarken*: Verbs that combine strong with weak forms in English, German, and Dutch**

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Although most verbs in the West Germanic languages are either entirely strong (ablauting) or weak ("dental" suffix in the preterite and past participle), modern English, German, and Dutch each have some verbs with either a weak preterite alongside a strong participle (*-(e)n* suffix) or – less often – vice versa. These verbs have arisen historically either through partial weakening of originally strong verbs (German *mahlen–mahlte– gemahl**en*** 'grind'; Dutch *lachen–lach**te**–gelach**en*** 'laugh') or partial strengthening of originally weak verbs (English *show–show**ed**–show**n***; Dutch *vragen–**vroeg**–gevraag**d***).

I first consider what implicative word-and-paradigm theories of morphology have to say about these half-strong verbs (Bittner 1996; Blevins 2016), and in particular the following related questions: Is a half-strong verb more regular than a fully strong verb? Does the historical weakening of just one form in a paradigm represent a (partial) regularization? The answer to these questions has implications for predictions about the role of token frequency in such developments. De Smet and van de Velde (2020) argue that the historical weakening in the preterite but not the participle of several Dutch verbs such as *lachen* and *bakken* 'bake' is attributable to the relatively low token frequency of the Dutch preterite in the wake of the historical rise of the periphrastic auxiliary+past participle construction to express past tense. Dammel et al. (2010) make similar arguments for German and Dutch. But whereas the connection between low token frequency and regularization is intuitively straightforward in cases of complete regularization, things are less clear where regular forms emerge in only some parts of an item's paradigm. Before the emergence of any half-strong verbs, learning that either the preterite or the participle of a given verb was strong would have licensed the prediction that the other form would also be strong, making a mixed pattern presumably harder to learn, and in this sense more irregular, than an entirely strong pattern.

I then explore the potential relevance of the different functions of the past participle to the emergence and maintenance of the weak-preterite + strong-participle pattern.

Starting with cases where an otherwise obsolete strong past participle survives as a lexicalized adjective, as in English *molten*, I examine corpus evidence of correlations between strong–weak variation and different past-participle functions, including the perfect, the passive, and predicate and attributive adjectives.

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Testing the role of prosody in the realization of grammatical number in contemporary Pennsylvania Dutch

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Pennsylvania Dutch (PD), a German variety spoken in the US for over 300 years, differs from other (European) German varieties in many ways, raising interesting questions about the maintenance of German linguistic features. We explore whether plural allomorphy, which has been considered in previous research (e.g., Reed 1948), maintains an association between plural formation and prosody. Thus far, this topic has only been explored by Fisher et al. (2022), whose speakers came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Specifically, the trochaic foot structure – defined by Wiese (2009: 145) as "a binary syllabic structure with the stress pattern strong-weak" – has been shown to condition plural allomorphy in Standard German and in some (but not all) non-standard German dialects (e.g., Wiese 2009). Our research question is: To what extent does the trochaic template condition plural formation in contemporary PD?

We examine the effects of the trochaic template on plural morphology in PD using two experimental tasks: a Wug task (Gleason 1958) and an acceptability judgment task, which were completed by 16 Amish PD speakers (mostly from Holmes County, Ohio). Both tasks employ 50 nonce words, modeled on PD phonotactics. In the former, participants are presented the 50 (ostensibly singular) nonce words and asked to give the plural form. In the latter, participants are presented with 50 different singular-nonce-word/pluralized-nonce-word pairs in a carrier phrase and are asked to rate on a Likert scale of 1-10 how well-formed the pluralized nonce word is. Five of the six plural allomorphs ({-e}, {-er}, {-s}, {-ø}, and umlaut) are represented in the acceptability judgment task. {-e} and {-er}, when attached to monosyllabic singular forms, create trochaic plurals, while {-s}, {-ø}, and umlaut create non-trochaic plurals unless they are applied to disyllabic singular forms.

The Wug test produced many plural forms including some that are not typically found in PD. However, in this talk, we focus primarily on adherence to the trochaic template, so all elicited forms except those that are real words are included in our analysis. Of 583 elicited plural nonce words, 82.5% were trochaic. In response to the non-trochaic singular stimuli, which made up the majority of the stimuli, 79.95% (of $n=394$) were pluralized with a trochaic form. In the acceptability judgment task, the median rating across all participants for trochaic plural forms ($n=289$) was 8 and for non-trochaic plural forms ($n=354$) was 3. Interestingly, umlauted non-trochaic plural forms had a higher median rating (5) than the other non-trochaic plural suffixes, {-s} and null {-ø}, both of which had a median rating of 3.

We conclude that plural morphology in PD is largely conditioned by the trochaic template and that prosody does play a role in plural declension even in non-terrestrial German varieties like PD. Furthermore, umlaut is potentially even more salient as a plural exponent than {-s} since its use even in non-trochaic plural forms is more acceptable to speakers.

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Figures of Three in the Development of Skaldic Poetry

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This paper focuses on two topics in the structural development of skaldic poetry from Germanic alliterative verse (GAV). Firstly, there is the innovation of "mora counting" meters. Secondly, there are alterations to the length of the poetic long line: expansion (the *dróttkvætt* cadence) and catalexis (the *kviðuháttr* three-position on-verse), cascading into complex poetic syntax. I connect these seemingly disparate developments into a theory of a skaldic figure of three, augmenting the GAV basis of 2+2 figures.

In the classic GAV half-line, there are four positions, 2 lifts (able to alliterate) and 2 dips or half-lifts. In the long line (two half-lines) there are thus four lifts: so, a 2+2 figure. In the "mora-counting" meters, lifts are heavy or light; a heavy lift requires 3+ moras. Yet syllable boundaries are ignored: the *onset* of one syllable counts with the *coda* of a previous syllable for the moras of a lift (Gade 1995:29-34). So *landi* [lan.di], "land"-n.dat.sg. seems to be *land-i* where the first syllable counts as heavy (trimoraic) instead of light (bimoraic), as *lan-di*, with onset-maximalization, would. How could a phonological rule have developed in poetry contrary to the phonology of the language? I will root the origin of the trimoraic heavy lift in a poetic imitation and systematized expansion of marginal phonological possibilities, like overheavy initial feet and glide syllabification. Mimesis of potentialities in the bimoraic condition give rise to trimoraic increase.

The abstract poetic figure of three extend to the line's architecture. The *dróttkvætt* line is a long line + cadence of 2 positions, lift and dip, 2+2+2. The first half-line of the *kviðuháttr* long line deletes its final dip, leaving a half-line of only three positions. Such catalexis not only has syntactic consequences, limiting placement of the finite verb so severely as to increase the number of connectives allowed to trigger bound clause word order, and obscures stanzaic structure (Gade 2005). Such creation looks curious, limiting. However, even catalexis means expansion of linguistic possibility, formed into a set of three.

Poetry and meter are mimetic of speech – imitative, but stylized – capable of clashing with language norms, but needing to be anchored in communicative comprehension between poet and audience. This paper broadens and refines the dynamic reciprocity between language, poetry, and meter.

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Oodles of Droodles: Germanic Kennings as Inverted Riddles

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One of the most salient features of Old Norse and, to a lesser extent, Old English poetry is the kenning. A kenning is a poetic structure consisting of at least two nouns (often far more), which together indicate another, unspoken concept. Examples include the Old English *hronrad* ("whale-riding"), a kenning for SEA, or the Old Norse *blóðgögl* ("blood-geese"), a kenning for RAVENS. Because kennings ask audience members to intuit an unspoken concept (e.g., SEA or RAVENS) from a seemingly unrelated compound (e.g., "whale-riding" or "blood-geese"), these structures have often been viewed as a sort of condensed riddle. But while this comparison is an appropriate one from a structural standpoint, it seems to misrepresent the ways in which kennings might have been solved. Old Norse *dróttkvætt* poetry often presents multiple high-complexity kennings, each consisting of three to four nouns, in a single, eight-line stanza. Furthermore, these kennings are often expressed using syntax that ranges from atypical to arguably ungrammatical. Accordingly, it is difficult to imagine how audience members could have puzzled out these little "riddles" in the midst of a poetic performance.

      This presentation argues that the process of solving a kenning would have looked very different from the process of solving a riddle. Rather than carefully analyzing each word of a kenning in order to come to a logical solution, I suggest that audiences could have intuited a complex kenning's meaning even without hearing it in its entirety. Using data from a corpus of over 800 kennings, I identify several linguistic strategies that early Germanic audiences might have used to rapidly interpret kennings, such as gender matching and a focus on agentives. I also identify ways that early Germanic poets seem to have structured their kennings for ease of comprehension, such as contextual priming and intentional redundancy. Taken together, these conclusions suggest that kennings might have represented a kind of "reverse riddle" – instead of puzzling out the "clues" of a kenning in order to guess the answer, audiences may have first guessed the answer, then enjoyed the process of figuring out how the kenning's "clues" could lead one to that answer. Strange though this interpretive process may seem, it is one that has modern analogues, including crossword solutions, certain joke structures, and so-called "droodles," all of which will be discussed as well.

Determiner and Adjective Gender Agreement Over Time in Wisconsin Heritage and Immigrant Dutch

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I examine stability and change over time in gender marking in Wisconsin Heritage Dutch, an understudied heritage language. Gender is often vulnerable in Germanic (Kürschner 2020) with one example being Dutch's historical reduction of the Proto-Germanic three-gender system to two. For definite determiners: *de* occurs before common gender (merged masculine and feminine) and plural nouns and *het* occurs before neuter singular nouns. For adjective declension, only adjectives in indefinite neuter contexts are undeclined, while adjectives in all other environments (definite, plural, or common gender) are declined (e.g., *een klein-ø jongetje* 'INDF small-INDF.N boy.N' versus *de klein-e hond* 'DEF.C small-C dog.C').

Additionally, heritage languages frequently exhibit irregular gender usage and overgeneralization of one gender (e.g., Lohndal & Westergaard 2016; Polinsky 2008). The only study related to gender in American Heritage Dutch (Smits 1996) found that adjective declension was maintained in 1966 but lost 30 years later in 1989. However, studies also highlight significant stability in heritage speakers' gender systems (e.g., Heritage German: Boas 2006 and Nützel 2009; Heritage Argentine Danish: Heegård Petersen & Kühl 2021). Consequently, more work is needed on how Dutch heritage speakers realize gender and how it changes over time.

I analyze recordings from 27 speakers (11 from 1966 and 16 from 2018) across three generations providing real-time data to examine community-level change. The speakers resided in the Fox Valley of Wisconsin, a region with substantial Dutch immigration from 1848 through the 1960s (Swierenga & Krabbendam 2011). I make comparisons between immigrant and heritage speakers and across generations, reflecting findings in heritage studies that first-generation speakers may differ from homeland speakers and that generational differences often occur (e.g., Polinsky 2018; Nagy 2014).

The 1966 data reveal a relatively stable gender agreement system, with nearly all speakers, including the lone 4th- and 2/4 2nd-generation speakers, using the neuter definite determiner *het* and both declined and undeclined adjectives. Additionally, *het* is (mostly) used with historically neuter nouns. However, signs of change are evident: *de* is used with some historically neuter nouns and there is some unexpected adjective declension (e.g., undeclined adjectives in definite or common contexts and declined adjectives in indefinite, neuter contexts).

By 2018, the gender agreement system shows a significant shift. Less than half of speakers use *het* (nearly all 1st generation), while *de* is increasingly applied to historically neuter nouns, including diminutives that are neuter in all homeland Dutch dialects. Additionally, speakers predominantly use *either* declined or undeclined adjectives, unlike in 1966, where both forms were used. This suggests a delinking of adjective declension from gender. However, adjective data was limited for some speakers and bears future study. Nevertheless, some stability persists: *het* continues to be used mostly with historically neuter nouns, and English loanwords are consistently preceded by *de*, mirroring homeland patterns.

These findings demonstrate a marked shift in gender agreement in the community, but not one that is entirely unexpected. Changes parallel those that have happened or are currently happening in the homeland: historical reduction in the number of classes and shift towards common gender (i.e., in loanword gender and multiethnolectal speaker determiner usage). These changes are much farther along in the heritage language with the changes likely accelerated by language

contact (Silva-Corvalán 1986). Consequently, this study addresses a gap in research on gender agreement in an understudied Germanic heritage language, offering insights into change over time in a heritage language community.

What does 'do' do: Periphrastic *tüən* in Gottscheer(isch) Literature
Andrew D. Hoffman – Penn State University

Periphrastic *do* (aka *do*-support, auxiliary *do*) is a widespread phenomenon in (West) Germanic languages, with a range of variety-specific uses and functions. While such constructions have been stigmatized in (Standard) German since the 17th century, *do*-periphrasis is historically quite common and remains a prevalent feature of dialectal speech, as well as of child(-directed) speech. It has even been claimed that this construction with *do* is the more general, natural, unmarked type compared to other (e.g., standard) alternatives. In Gottscheerisch (Bavarian Sprachinsel dialect of Slovenia), periphrastic *tüən* 'do' is pervasive, and despite previous academic accounts, it remains relatively ill-described, manifesting in a wide range of morphosyntactic and semantic contexts. Since initial colonization at the end of the Middle High German period (ca. 1350), Gottscheerisch developed more or less independently of the rest of continental German, being therefore largely immune to the sociolinguistic stigmatization of periphrastic *do* at play in other varieties.

The current study aims to address the historical development and use of periphrastic *tüən* in Gottscheerisch. To this end, the following research questions are considered: 1) To what extent has the use of periphrastic *do* changed from MHG to Gottscheerisch?, 2) How is *do* used in Gottscheerisch-language texts?, and 3) How is *do* used in German-language texts by Gottscheers? A small corpus of Gottscheerisch-language texts from 1895-1941 (n=68) is used for this purpose, with text types ranging from poems and folk songs to a play and short stories. Additionally, the first two chapters of a German-language novel written by a Gottscheer about Gottschee are considered in order to answer RQ3. In each of these texts, instances of *tüən* are categorized as lexical (ex. 1) or periphrastic (ex. 2), with additional considerations for text type, sentence type, tense, mood, etc.

1. Lexical *tüən*

   (a) *S tət m'r giət.*
       it does me good
       'It does me good.'

   (b) *A groasai shintə hon i gətuən.*
       a great sin   have I done
       'I've committed a grave sin.'

   (c) *Shie tuănót a Schprung ibern   Zaun.*
       she do.SBJV a jump   over.the fence
       'She would jump over the fence.'

2. Periphrastic *tüən*

   (a) *Wêglain tuənt schean shingən.*
       birds   do   nice   sing.INF
       'Birds sing nicely.'

   (b) *...tüə et   in də Barlt gean.*
       do.IMP NEG in the world go.INF
       '...don't go (off) into the world.'

   (c) *Ar tet's   alai uənshagn.*
       he do.SBJV=it just look_at.INF
       'He'd just look at it.'

The results from this study show that the use of periphrastic *tüən* is more prevalent in Gottscheerisch than in (Bavarian varieties of) Middle High German, although its functions remain largely the same, with the exception of its extended use in Gottscheerisch imperatives (see 2b). Retained functions include marking aspectual distinctions, emphasis, and the subjunctive. Unlike many other Bavarian varieties, however, this latter function of periphrastic *tüən* is not particularly common in Gottscheerisch, as the dialect maintains a robust synthetic subjunctive form for all verbs. In the Gottscheerisch-language texts analyzed here, there is no evidence of stigma associated with the use of periphrastic *tüən*. In fact, the construction is used to positively signal Gottscheer identity in the German-language novel of this study, with Gottscheer characters frequently using the construction among themselves in dialogue, but with courtly (High German) figures barely using it, and non-German characters not using it at all. This suggests that the construction is not only a key aspect of the grammar, but also one which is salient to community members themselves and which can be used to communicate in-group solidarity.

This study and its findings enrich our understanding of Germanic *do* periphrasis in a typological sense and underscore the importance of non-standard varieties in historical (socio-)linguistic work. Additionally it serves as a springboard for further, more focused investigation of contemporary Gottscheerisch usage, e.g., by Gottscheers in diaspora (in Austria and the US/Canada), where both language contact and attrition effects are possible.

The Effect of Metalinguistic Awareness on the Production of Subject-Verb Inversion by Naïve Learners of German

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The distinction between implicit and explicit knowledge has been a core interest in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) research from the discipline's early beginnings (Ellis, 2005). Research has established that learners must attend to a form for it to be acquired, however theories differ in the emphasis placed on implicit and explicit processes. Theories such as the Noticing Hypothesis (Schmidt, 1993) have strongly emphasized *conscious*, aware noticing, while others have focused on the role of attention and learners' ability to use linguistic forms for comprehension (VanPatten, 2020). The distinction between *attention* and *awareness* and how they influence the acquisition process has, however, yet to be fully disentangled and studied empirically with online methods. Moreover, research on L2 input processing has mostly focused on relatively salient and meaningful structures, neglecting structures that are of less communicative value, especially those that do not involve morphology. The extent to which the same mechanisms drive the acquisition of these forms thus remains to be further studied.

In this project, I analyze how naïve learners process subject-verb inversion in German when confronted with this form for the first time and how this affects their acquisition of the structure. I trained three groups with different degrees of implicitness regarding the target structure: one group received explicit metalinguistic information about the V2 (verb in the second position) constraint and subject-verb inversion, a second group was actively prompted to look for patterns in the stimuli, and a third group received no further instruction. One week later, they completed a second training session and a picture description task that elicited the production of the target structure. A delayed posttest was carried out three weeks after the second session.

The findings suggest that, although instruction did not seem to enhance learners' processing when comprehending, it did seem to contribute to learning durability. All three groups showed some degree of learning, measured by accurate production rates of the target structure. However, gains were maintained to a larger degree over time by the explicit instruction group, followed by the intentional, prompted group. These findings contribute to the literature on the role of explicit information in SLA, and they have implications for the design and implementation of teaching materials and approaches, especially those dedicated to novice learners.

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Multilingual practices in Australia and New Zealand - comparing the status and function of English varieties in two changing postcolonial spaces

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Distinct varieties of English have emerged in both Australia and New Zealand since the end of the colonial period, which are not only different from those of the colonial centre Great Britain, but in recent times also increasingly from each other. As such each national variety serves as the standard language for a large portion of their respective populations. Multilingualism is a central feature of postcolonial societies. The continuous contact between diverse speaker groups characterized by extremely uneven distribution of power during the colonial period shows long-term effects in the modern, postcolonial societies of today through co-existence of a multitude of linguistic codes. A comparison of Australia and New Zealand, two neighboring postcolonial nations, will serve as the basis for exploring conceptions of the national varieties as World Englishes and their role in decolonization.

The contact scenarios between English and indigenous languages during the early colonial period are quite diverse in these two countries, which helps to explain not only the emergence and development of different types of contact varieties, but also differences in language policy, also with respect to current linguistic superdiversity. Australian as well as New Zealand English can be understood as parts of multilingual repertoires (cf. Schneider 2007; Blommaert 2010; Androutsopoulos 2018; Matras 2020) that prevail in the two colonial spaces compared. In the light of language contact and social indexicality contradictions arise between the reality of fluid repertoires and dominant monolithic concept of single languages (see Fischer/Jäger/Patzelt/Warnke 2023).

I will discuss these issues against the background of different initial situations during colonization regarding linguistic diversity, intensity of language contact between English and indigenous languages as well as power asymmetries between colonizers and colonized. I will investigate the current status of English as the majority language in the two countries with respect to the establishment of new linguistic norms serving as the basis for the evaluation of contact-induced linguistic practices. I intend to show that decolonization shows itself primarily in appropriation, adaption and diversification of English under the premise of a recent shift towards endonormativity, where British English is no longer the benchmark. Both national Englishes have developed into maximally prestigious standard varieties of their own after the end of the colonial period.

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Intonation as a hidden hand in shaping Early Germanic phonology

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The issue. Devine & Stephens (1994: vii) observe that "[t]he reconstruction of the prosody of a dead language, particularly those aspects for which the orthography provides no evidence, is prima facie an almost impossible undertaking." While this certainly rings true for older stages of Germanic, we argue that the comparative method can nonetheless provide a window into Early Germanic intonational tone: specifically, we reconstruct a rising-falling (L*HL) prominence melody (the rise being the most crucial element), and then discuss potential implications of these claims for our understanding of i. certain typologically unusual phonological changes in Germanic and ii. the origins of Germanic level stress more generally.

Why L*H(L)? Evidence for reconstructing a rising-falling melody for Early Germanic comes from at least three directions. **i.** Some scenarios for origin and typology of tonal accent in North Germanic (Meyer 1937) and West Germanic (Köhnlein 2013) assume rising-falling contours as the original realizations for Accent 1 (earlier rise) and Accent 2 (later rise). Since these phenomena likely arose independently, it is notable that dialectal variation in these geographically distinct areas can be traced back to the same original melodies (though plausible alternatives exist, such as Riad 1992, Bye forthcoming for North Germanic). **ii.** While reconstructing the phonetics of Proto-Indo-European (PIE) accent is challenging, scholars have proposed rising-falling melodies from the accented syllable onwards for Vedic Sanskrit (e.g., Lubotsky 1988, Beguš 2016), and rising contours have been identified for the continuants of PIE accent in Balto-Slavic (e.g., Jasanoff 2017) and Ancient Greek (e.g., Allen 1967). As such, Germanic may well have inherited rising-falling contours from PIE. **iii.** Scattered throughout the West Germanic area, some modern varieties use rises to signal default phrasal prominence (Köhnlein 2013 for examples). Given the prevalence of falling statement contours in modern West Germanic varieties (e.g., Gussenhoven 2004), (some of) these cases may well be archaisms.

Possible implications for Germanic phonology. Earlier stages of Germanic have seen some typologically rather unusual changes where we find unexpectedly strong second positions following a metrical head, which in turn are followed by potentially weak third positions. For reasons of space, we restrict ourselves here to a few illustrative examples:

(1) a. Old English high vowel syncope: "[h]igh vowels delete after a heavy syllable or after two light syllables if they are themselves in an open syllable" (Dresher & Lahiri 1991) → strong second mora, weak third mora

b. Old Frisian/North Germanic vowel balance: centralize high vowels after a heavy syllable or two light syllables (after Smith 2024) → strong second mora, weak third mora

(1a) and (1b) can be treated metrically by either postulating a 'double-headed' Germanic foot (Dresher & Lahiri 1991), or by assuming that being parsed by a bimoraic trochee blocks reduction, as in Goering (2016) for (1a) or Smith (2024) for (1b). Since second positions in trochees are dependents and typically weak, the question remains how speakers would arrive at such typologically unusual metrical configurations in the first place, whatever the 'correct' synchronic analysis. We argue that the reconstructed L*HL melody may have acted as a hidden hand in shaping these structures: relevant varieties associated L* with the first mora that had *dynamic accent* (intensity and/or duration), H went to the second mora, where it added *melodic accent* (terms after, e.g., Brugmann 1904); the third mora received neither and was thus non-prominent and subject to reduction. This reconstruction may also help us better understand the

origins of *level stress*, a prevalent phenomenon in the history of Germanic (e.g., Riad 1992, Roberts 2003, Kristoffersen 2008): the perception of level stress may indeed arise from a mismatch between dynamic and melodic properties, which can then influence the development of relevant phonological systems, with consequences such as those exemplified in (1).

Reversing alleged typological universals: vowel-consonant interactions across German dialects

Björn Köhnlein, Phuong Dang & Tianyi Ni, Ohio State University

Issue. Interactions of vowel duration and consonant voicing are phonetically reversed in two varieties of German, Aachen (Franconian) and Leer (Low German). We provide a diachronic account of this typologically unusual reversal and show that synchronically, the patterns in both varieties can be modelled with the same representational machinery – two types of feet, with durational differences arising from diverse lengthening processes.

Data. Our fieldwork shows that despite having similar origins, Aachen and Leer systematically differ in their vowel-consonant interactions: long vowels in Leer are *longer* before voiced obstruents (some now final after apocope, partially devoiced) than before their voiceless counterparts, which is typologically expected (Lehiste 1970). In Aachen, however, long vowels before voiceless obstruents are longer than vowels before voiced obstruents (some now final after apocope, devoiced), which is unexpected (Scheer 2017:139 refers to this pattern as "unheard of"). This is shown in Table 1 for present-day monosyllables (Rows 1 and 2) and disyllables (Rows 3 and 4); indicated durational differences are statistically significant.

Table 1. Leer data versus Aachen data (superscripts indicate accent class); predecessor columns show approximate realizations of items from earlier stages of the varieties.

Row	Dialect	Predecessor	Overlong vowel	Predecessor	Long vowel
1	Leer	*rî*[z]*e*	[ri::z̥] 'giant'	*rîs*	[ri:s] 'rice'
2	Aachen	*rîs*	[ri::s^2] 'rice'	*rî*[z]*e*	[ri:s^1] 'giant'
3	Leer	*rîden*	[ri::dən] 'to ride'	*rîten*	[ri:tən] 'to pull'
4	Aachen	*rîfen*	[ri::^{2}fən] 'to ripen'	*rîven*	[ri:^{1}vən] 'to rub'

Analysis. *Diachrony*: We argue that the typologically unexpected Aachen patterns have developed naturally under the influence of two tonal accents (as described for Aachen in, e.g., Welter 1938, though our data suggest that the tonal opposition is now largely neutralized). Following a model of tone-induced durational change in Köhnlein (2015), phonologically long vowels with level tones (Accent 2 before originally voiceless consonants) tend to lengthen and those with moving tones (Accent 1 before originally voiced consonants) tend to shorten, ultimately overriding typologically expected original durations. In Leer, the contrast may have always been predominantly durational, so no tone-based change was ever initiated. *Synchrony*: For Franconian, some foot-based analyses treat Accent 1 as a disyllabic trochee (with a vocalic or empty-headed second syllable) and Accent 2 as a monosyllabic, moraic trochee (Iosad 2024 for overview). Informed by Prince (1980) for Estonian, Köhnlein & Cameron (2024) propose foot-final lengthening for Accent 2, where the whole duration of a foot is expressed in the accent syllable (1b,d = overlength); since Accent 1 is disyllabic, the foot duration is only partially expressed in the accent syllable (1a,c = normal length); unfooted syllables link directly to a PW node (omitted). We extend the foot-based approach to Leer: Overlength stems from vowel lengthening in an open syllable of a disyllabic foot before a (sometimes partially devoiced) obstruent (1e,g; onset status of final consonant in 1e supported by incomplete devoicing). Normal length corresponds to a moraic trochee where the vowel occurs before a voiceless consonant, which always blocks lengthening (as in 1f,h). Notably, the contrast cannot be derived from voicing alone since the opposition is also found before sonorants, as in monosyllabic [(ʃviːn)] 'pig' vs. disyllabic [(ʃviː:.n)] 'pig.pl' (with an empty-headed σ in our analysis).

(1) Representations for Aachen (a-d) and Leer (e-h).

a. 'giant'	b. 'rice'	c. 'to rub'	d. 'to ripen'	e. 'giant'	f. 'rice'	g. 'to ride'	h. 'to pull'

r iː sˡ   r iːː s²   r iːˡ v ə n   r iːː² f ə n   r iːː z̧   r iː s   r iːː d ə n   r iː t ə n
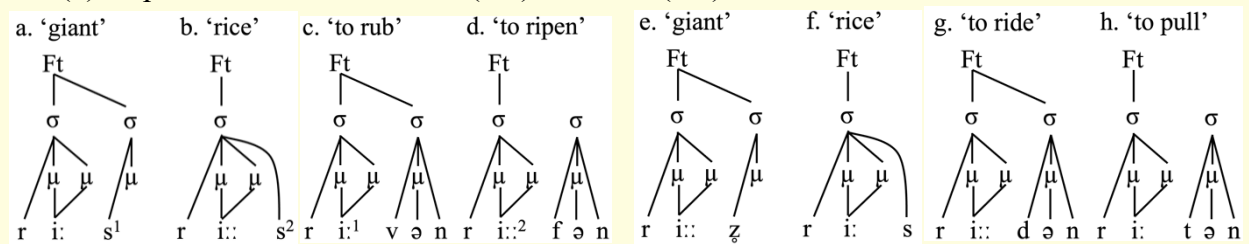
Exceptional noun gender assignment from a diachronic perspective.

Andrew Kraiss, Independent Scholar

German noun gender assignment has been an object of study since the 1980s. Early research was naturally focused on establishing a set of rules and how to apply them (e.g., Köpke & Zubin 1984, Steinmetz 1986, Zubin & Köpke 1984). Later research has shifted to assessing the validity of the rules (Enger 2009) and testing them in terms of Optimality Theory (Rice 2006, Corteen 2018). Previous research however has generally not focused on resolving the problem of exceptional noun genders or why certain nouns do not show the gender that a proposed gender rule should predict even when more than one rule applies. Some exceptions are Salmons (1992) and Steinmetz (2001, 2006) which began an historical analysis and offer a jumping off point for the present study.

I propose that exceptions can generally be explained by examining the history of gender assignment. Language change does not occur instantly but rather gradually as e. g., analogical change through language learning (Bybee 2015). And so a new gender rule comes into existence and is applied to the less frequently used nouns to which it can apply, later to the most frequently used nouns which therefore retain their older assignment for an indefinite amount of time as a relic form. The phenomenon can be compared to the most frequently used strong verbs retaining their older, ablaut morphology despite the newer dental suffix rule for verb formation. And so as a new gender rule spreads through a speech community, we find exceptional gender assignments that reflect an older system.

In this paper I will explore the diachrony of gender rule establishment and with it exceptional noun genders within one small but instructive group of nouns: the historical neuter n-stems. I will compare the Germanic cognates in this noun class to show how new gender assignments came about but also created gender assignment exceptions.

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Hwæt wisnes was? -- Wisdom Styles in Germanic Poetry

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Wisdom literature, an early form of writing and existing across many cultures, is found in diverse contexts, such as the Judeo-Christian Bible, the writings of the Greek philosopher Hesiod, and the *sebayt* ('teaching') of the Middle Kingdom of Egypt. There is, however, a particular sub-genre of wisdom literature called gnomic wisdom, well-attested in Anglo-Saxon poetry in texts such as "The Gifts of Men" and the "Fortunes of Men". This sub-genre, which has been assumed to have been used solely by Anglo-Saxon authors, is the subject of ongoing debate regarding Old English poems. Paul Cavill's "gnomic formula" (1999) serves well to identify discrete gnomes, but there is contention surrounding gnomic discourse strategies and little-to-no discussion using linguistic analysis to identify gnomic wisdom. Through utilizing Cavill's "gnomic formula" to identify the existence of gnomes and applying text type analysis which includes the use of linguistic features, it is found that there are indeed discrete, quantifiable, and describable features used in Old English gnomic wisdom poems. Identifying these features allows for the creation of a gnomic prototype which demonstrates that Old English gnomic wisdom texts:
1. are "framed" at the beginning and end of major thematic sections (or whole poems) with gnomes, as are defined both structurally and thematically,
2. avoid the use of axiomata (natural truths), and
3. employ descriptive superordinal and expository subordinal text types, as defined by Tuija Virtanen.
Using this prototype on Old Norse wisdom poetry, it is found that in the poem "Gestaþáttr" from *Hávamál*, identical features are found as in the gnomic poems of Old English, though the gnomes do not frame the text in the same way. However, this raises the question: are there a certain set of shared features or an underlying prototype in early medieval Germanic wisdom literature in general, and what variations exist in the different wisdom literature styles in particular?
This study is an attempt to identify a broader "gnomic wisdom" convention across early Germanic works using sections of the Old Saxon work *Heliand* and comparing them with Old English and Old Norse features. What is found is that the only sentences that held to the gnomic prototype followed the exact syntax of the original Greek and Latin texts and do not always frame larger thematic sections of the text. Additionally, the text types used are primarily argumentative, with each of the other types being roughly equal. When compared with Old English and Old Norse, there appears to be no intentional strategy on the parts of the original scribes throughout the North Sea area of the Germanic world for gnomic wisdom. However, there are other commonalities, such as the use of frame and the addition of text to older compositions that expose either Christian or Germanic ideologies, the use of exposition, and the minimal use of axiomata.

The Evolution of Comparative Constructions in German Bible Translations

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This study investigates the diachronic evolution of comparative constructions, i.e., comparative comparisons (e.g., "grösser als"), grad-equatives (e.g., "so gross wie"), and non-grad-equatives (e.g., "gleich wie"), in a specific genre – biblical texts. Specifically, three versions of the Gospel of Matthew printed in Zurich, Switzerland, serves as the primary sources for this analysis: *Die gantze Bibel getrucket zuo Zürich* (1530), *Das Neue Testament unsers Herren und Heilands* (1687), and *Das Neue Testament unsers Herrn und Heilandes Jesu Christi* (1860).

The study addresses two research questions: 1. whether the syntactic patterns of comparison in these texts evolved; 2. if they do evolve, in what way. All instances of the constructions mentioned above were identified in the source texts, classified according to their syntactic properties, and sorted into categories of comparative and equative constructions, following Jäger's (2018) classification.

Findings indicate a gradual but significant shift in comparative markers. The 1530 text predominantly employs "dan(n)" as the standard for comparative constructions, with little presence of "als". By 1687, "als" begins to emerge as an alternative, though "dan(n)" remains prevalent. By 1860, "als" has fully supplanted "dan(n)", reflecting broader shifts in Early New High German toward Modern German norms. A similar transition is observed in equative constructions, where "wie" gradually replaces "als" in both grad- and non-grad-equatives. This confirms previous research suggesting that "wie" first gained traction in non-grad-equatives before extending to grad-equatives (Jäger, 2018).

Additionally, the study identifies a consistent use of dative-based comparison structures across all three texts, particularly following the adjective "gleich". This persistence suggests a conservative tendency in biblical translations, possibly due to Latin influence from Vulgate texts, where the ablative case was frequently used for comparisons (Behaghel, 1923–1932).

Of course these are only three Bible texts and they might not reflect neither spoken language nor the whole evolution of comparative forms in German, but the findings underscore the relatively slow pace of syntactic change in religious texts compared to other genres. Future research could further explore the impact of regional dialects and translation practices on the retention or adaptation of archaic comparative structures.

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More heads are better than one: Deriving deverbal nominals in Gothic

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Introduction. In this presentation, we take a closer look at the deverbal nominals of weak and strong verbs in Gothic. We adopt a late-insertion approach to the syntax-morphology interface;
namely, *Distributed Morphology* (DM, Bobaljik 2017), demonstrating its usefulness in analyzing
historical data (cf. Calabrese & Grestenberger 2024). In our analysis, we make the case for the multifunctionality of different flavors of categorizing nominal head (i.e., *n*), especially in connection with our treatment of deverbal nominals derived from strong verbs.

Data. Our presentation investigates the underlying structure of deverbal nominals in Gothic originating from both weak and strong verbs. Gothic weak verbs consist of four classes, each defined by the presence of a particular theme vowel, i.e., Class 1 *-j-*, Class 2 *-ō-*, Class 3 *-a-/-ái-*, and Class 4 *-n-*. Gothic verbs have an infinitival suffix *-(a)n*; thus, a Class 1 weak verb is typically identified by the suffix *-jan* (cf. Wright 1958: 149–161). In our treatment of these elements, we hypothesize that the *-jan* suffix is composed of two separate exponents; namely, *-j-* and *-an*. This impacts our analysis of deverbal nominals with a weak verb base as follows: the infinitive *nas-j- an* 'to save' shifts to *nas-ei-n-s* 'salvation'. See (1) for additional examples of feminine *i-* declension nominalizations of weak verbs (Class 1, 2, 3).

(1)　　Class 1　　*lais-j-an* 'to teach (INF)'　　　　*lais-ei-n-s* 'teaching (F)'
　　　　Class 2　　*salb-ō-n* 'to anoint (INF)'　　*salb-ō-n-s* 'ointment (F)'
　　　　Class 3　　*þul-a-n* 'to endure (INF)'　　*þul-ai-n-s* 'patience (F)'

Gothic strong verb nominalizations, in contrast, behave in similar fashion to those found in other Germanic languages, sometimes showing paradigmatic reflexes of ablaut, while in other instances they do not (cf. (2a) & (2b)).

(2)　　a. *giban* 'to give (INF)'　　*giba* 'gift (F)'　　　　[no ablaut]
　　　　b. *wrikan* 'to persecute (INF)'　*wraks* 'persecutor (M)'　　[ablaut]

As such, deverbal nominalizations based on strong verbs in Gothic are far less predictable and consistent when compared with those derived from weak verbs.

Analysis. Our treatment of deverbal nominals that originate from weak and strong verbs receives a unified analysis. A key factor of our analysis is that we place the locus of variation not on individual √roots, or classes of √roots, via some version of indexation. Rather, we house declension and idiosyncratic information on categorizing heads; i.e., in this case through 'flavors of *v* and *n*' (Folli & Harley 2005; Embick 2015; Kramer 2015). This proposal allows √roots to remain as 'syntactic elements', free of selection and idiosyncratic information. Finally, we speculate on how the analysis stands to have wider implications on analyses of nominalizations in early Germanic languages.

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The Other Side of Accommodation: Expanding Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) to Include Avoidance Behaviors

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Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT; Giles & Ogay, 2007) has long been used to examine how speakers adjust their communication behaviors in cross-linguistic and intercultural contexts in German-speaking contexts and beyond. While CAT models convergence (i.e., reducing social distance) and divergence (i.e., increasing social distance) through modified language-use behaviors (LUBs), its scope is limited. Specifically, CAT focuses only on the modulation of social distance through modifications perceived as 'desirable', whereas it neglects the role of potential avoidance behaviors, i.e., the deliberate omission of 'undesirable modifications. This narrow conceptualization limits CAT's explanatory power in second language acquisition (SLA), where learners' perceptions of a variety of LUBs–such as the avoidance of sarcasm, figurative language, or cultural references–also shape their interactional experiences.

To assess the viability of expanding CAT, this study analyzed survey responses from eleven sojourning U.S. intermediate learners of German at two timepoints, e.g., at the beginning (Timepoint 1) and end of (Timepoint 2) their first semester abroad. Participants first rated 29 modified LUBs on a bipolar scale (0–100) in terms of condescension vs. accommodation; they then used a second 0-100 scale to evaluate how native speakers of German employed these LUBs in conversation between two oppositional descriptors (e.g., *speaks extremely softly* [0] *vs. loudly* [100]). When these ratings were juxtaposed, two types of accommodation emerged and are operationalized in this study: positive compliance, i.e., instances in which positively-connoted modifications were perceived to be executed, and negative compliance, i.e., instances in which negatively-connoted modifications were not thought to be executed. Overall, by Timepoint 2, sojourners perceived native speakers of German to engage in negative compliance at least 50% more frequently than positive compliance. Additionally, across both timepoints, they considered twice as many LUBs to be 'accommodative' rather than 'condescending'.

This study provides evidence to support that negative compliance and positive compliance are discrete yet complementary concepts, challenging the present conceptualization of 'accommodation'. Further, given the discrepancy in scope and scale of positive vs. negative compliance, it seems that learners may, despite their varying degrees of pedagogical training, project their expectations of teachers of German onto native speakers of German. Ultimately, by focusing solely on enacted modifications that actively reduce or increase social distance, CAT overlooks the strategic omission of certain LUBs—an omission that can be just as influential in shaping social interactions. In sum, expanding CAT to include avoidance behaviors offers a more comprehensive framework for understanding how communicative strategies shape social belonging and intercultural exchange in German-speaking contexts.

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Breaking in Old Norse and Old English: A Diachronic Optimality Theory Approach

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Within historical Germanic linguistics, the two phenomena known as breaking and back- umlaut have been observed to result in similar diphthongs. This is particularly evident in the early Germanic languages of Old Norse and Old English. In both languages, front vowels positioned in accented syllables often 'broke' into falling diphthongs due to varied phonological triggers. The bulk of scholarly work on this topic has suggested that the underlying motivations for these phonological developments differ between the two languages. Specifically, it has been posited that breaking in Old English is primarily associated with the influence of velar consonants. In contrast, Old Norse's breaking phenomenon is thought to have been motivated by the back vowels /ɑ, u/ in unaccented syllables. Furthermore, the process of back umlaut observed in Old English has typically been treated as a distinct and separate phonological process.

However, by employing a diachronic OT framework and incorporating concepts such as vowel harmony and diphthong optimality, we present an alternative analysis that challenges these previous assertions. Our research demonstrates that, contrary to earlier theories, back-umlaut in Old English should not be considered an isolated process but is, in fact, a continuation of the earlier breaking phenomenon. Moreover, our findings indicate that breaking in Old Norse encompasses both vocalic and consonantal influences, suggesting a more complex interaction than previously acknowledged. Furthermore, we establish a connection between the breaking processes occurring in Old Norse and those in Old English, revealing that the motivations behind these phenomena are not fundamentally different. Rather, the driving force for these changes can be attributed to the ease of articulation, as stressed front vowels are shown to harmonize with different phonetic segments within the phonological word.

In the context of Old Norse, we adhere to the theoretical framework established by Flom (1937) and Dyvik (1978). Their research posits that the phenomenon of Old Norse breaking does not occur due to the unaccented back vowel /ɑ/. Instead, they argue that Old Norse breaking took place before velar consonants and the back vowel /u/. This interpretation aligns Old Norse breaking with the earlier breaking and back-umlaut processes observed in Old English; the former exhibiting the diphthongization of accented front vowels when preceding the consonants /r, ɫ, x/ and the latter when an unaccented back vowel occurs in the proceeding syllable. The trigging consonants in both languages are typically classified as being either velarized or pharyngealized, both being characterized by the distinctive feature [+back]. After the initial diphthongization occurred, the diphthongs that emerged underwent additional developments influenced by the principles of vowel harmony and diphthong optimization. The initial stages of breaking as well as these additional changes will be depicted diachronically using OT tableaux and the reranking of a series of proposed constraints that balance the opposing forces of input faithfulness and markedness reduction.

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Glide Epenthesis in Gothic and Old High German

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Gothic and Old High German (OHG) both exhibit a sporadic process of intervocalic glide epenthesis, yielding forms like Gothic *sijum* 'we are' and *fijands* 'enemy' (alongside *sium* and *fiands*, respectively) and OHG *fīiant* 'enemy' (alongside *fiant*) and *hīwen* 'to marry' (alongside *hien*). Previous research has treated the Gothic and OHG developments separately and has labeled this development a sporadic sound change (Barrack 1997), linked it to rule ordering and rule extension (Armborst 1979), or connected it to the influence of the Onset Principle (Szczepaniak 2014). Here I build on Szczepaniak's approach, synthesizing it with the Prosodic Change Hypothesis (PCH) of Page (1999). I first present data illustrating the problem, give an overview of previous research, and describe Page's PCH, before offering my own solution. Page (1999) argues for a distinction between sound change and prosodic change. In his view, sound change "affects only the phonetic features of a segment, whereas prosodic change consists of a change in the rhythmic structure of a language." In this case, then, a prosodic change took place in Gothic and OHG, specifically the emergence of the Onset Principle. Glide epenthesis in Gothic and OHG can therefore be characterized as a response to this prosodic change, in that glide epenthesis provided onsets for otherwise onsetless syllables, *à la* the approach to OHG taken in Szczepaniak (2014). The apparent irregularity of glide epenthesis then falls out from the distinction between sound change and prosodic change: because prosodic change is "phonetically abrupt but lexically gradual" (Page 1999), it can result in "irregular changes on the segmental level" (Page 1999). In this case, the "irregular change on the segmental level" is reflected in the unpredictable occurrence of glide epenthesis, as illustrated by the existence of forms like Gothic *fiands* 'enemy' alongside *fijands* mentioned above.

The analysis developed here improves upon earlier solutions in a number of ways. First, it provides a unified account of the Gothic and OHG material. Second, it provides a more principled account of the irregularity of the change, rather than just labeling it sporadic as Barrack (1997) does, or not considering its irregularity, as Szczepaniak (2014) does. Finally, it is more straightforward than the somewhat convoluted approach of Armborst (1979).

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Similar developments in separate communities? The case of verb placement variation in American Low German in Iowa and Illinois

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A growing body of research shows that verb placement in Germanic languages is more variable than traditionally assumed. In particular, structures where the conjugated verb occurs in third position (V3) rather than the canonical second position (V2) have been found among speakers of contact varieties (e.g., Sewell 2015, Wiese et al. 2016). Building on these findings, this study examines verb placement variation in two American Low German communities—one in Iowa and one in Illinois—to determine whether similar language change developments have occurred independently in both groups.

The first study analyzes verb placement variation in data collected from heritage Low German speakers in Grundy County, Iowa. An analysis of 664 main clauses with sentence-initial adverbials reveals that 27% exhibit V3 placement. The use of V3 structures increased from 19% in data collected in 1998 to 34% in data collected in 2018. A logistic regression model shows that V3 placement is not random but is conditioned by linguistic factors, including prosody, tense, and verb complexity. Temporal adverbials introducing sentences are often followed by a slight rise or fall in intonation, which suggests a prosodic motivation for V3 placement. Additionally, verb placement patterns show a clear generational shift: speakers born before 1925 rarely use V3 structures, while those born after 1925 are significantly more likely to do so.

A second study examines data recorded in 2021 from heritage Low German speakers in Flatville, Illinois. This community, known as the "mother settlement" of all East Frisian settlements in the U.S. (Frizzel 1992), shares a similar sociocultural history and language shift trajectory with the Iowa community. Although some historical ties between the two groups exist, they are unlikely to have been strong enough to facilitate a direct spreading of emerging grammatical variants from one community to the other. Therefore, if similar rates of V3 placement and comparable sociolinguistic conditioning are found in the Illinois data, this would provide a compelling case of parallel language change in two independent communities. Preliminary results confirm the presence of V3 structures, though data extraction, coding, and analysis are ongoing.

This study underscores the importance of comparing speech communities using the same variety to better understand the linguistic and sociolinguistic factors influencing syntactic variation. Furthermore, if the Illinois data patterns similarly to the Iowa data, the findings could offer broader insights into verb position variation in other Germanic languages. In particular, the interaction of syntax, prosody, and information structure warrants further investigation to refine our understanding of Germanic verb placement.

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Social Meaning and Pragmatic Implicatures in Texas English

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Sociolinguists have for decades discussed *social meanings* associated with given linguistic forms. This is meaning related to social or demographic qualities of the speaker, ideologies, interpersonal relationships, and more. It is primarily in the last several years, however, that researchers in linguistic semantics and pragmatics have begun to ponder these questions and to rely upon the tools of semantics and pragmatics to shed light upon this kind of meaning.

In this present paper, I consider a number of forms associated with Texas English, including negative inversion (NI) (Salmon, 2020), personal dative (Horn, 2013), multiple negation, *ain't*, the IN'/ING variable, and others, all of which can convey multiple dimensions of social meaning, such that they are understood to be informal and familiar in some contexts, though are viewed as stigmatized and uneducated in others.

It is well known that social meanings of informality and education level are associated with these forms. I argue that this association is conventional, shown via a wide range of meaning diagnostics from the semantics and pragmatics literature, including: projection, defeasibility, calculability, detachability, backgroundedness, and more, which are commonly used in distinguishing differing dimensions of meaning such as conversational and conventional implicature (Grice, 1975), truth conditional meaning, and presupposition (Stalnaker, 1974). The result is that the social meaning is seen as conventional but non-truth conditional, which are qualities most associated with Gricean conventional implicature.

Once these social meanings are established as conventional, we then have a basis for explaining other meanings often associated with them in terms of *conversational* implicature. For example, the associated social meaning with NI renders it a marked competitor to its unmarked counterpart. A Texas dialect speaker can choose marked NI *Can't nobody lift that rock* or unmarked form *Nobody can lift that rock*: both are possible for the relevant speakers. Now, NI is often claimed to be conventionally emphatic; however, this property does not appear in every usage, which is an argument against conventionality. But, with the understood conventionality of the social meaning and markedness mentioned above, we have a means of deriving the emphatic properties pragmatically via Gricean reasoning, with speaker choice between marked and unmarked forms inviting hearer inferences (Horn, 1984). We can apply similar reasoning with the other forms as well to derive different meanings that have been associated with them over the years. Widening the lens a bit from dialect-internal speaker choice, another means of deriving the additional meanings in question is via code switching as discussed in Gumperz (1970, *inter alia*) in which a speaker's switch from one language to another can generate conversational implicatures, though in this case we would be assuming a speaker's choice to switch between dialects or registers as inviting hearer inferences.

The results here allow us to minimize the lexical content that needs to be associated with the forms mentioned above and also provide an intuitive explanation for the variability of both the emphatic and affective meanings that have been previously posited for these forms in the literature.

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Laryngeal contrasts in Germanic: The history of competing analyses

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Germanic laryngeal phonetics and phonology are vibrant topics today, including regular presentations about Laryngeal Realism (LR) at GLAC. We know, though, little about the history behind modern views. I tackle that historical context and what it means for current work, with a focus on the features proposed – voicing, fortis-lenis, etc. – the relationships among the different analyses, and close with a note on the history of orthography.

Iverson and Salmons (1995) any many since contrast LR directly with [voice] analyses. LR is "built directly on and inspired by a long line of work using physiologically based features for phonation", including lenis/fortis or tense/lax (1995:369). All these terms have been both intensely debated and widely used since the 19th century, along with voiced/voiceless. Scholars were aware of complications like the highly variable voicing of the /b, d, g/ series in English and German, and generally anticipated much modern discussion. Moreover, a voice analysis did not quickly become dominant, as is clear in Jakobson et al. (1952:26), "In languages lacking an autonomous opposition of voiced and voiceless consonants, [voicing] is either used as a mere concomitant of the opposition of lax and tense consonants, as in English." Fortis/lenis analyses never really faded either and the distinction is actively defended today, see Grønnum (2024). Finally, our modern orthographic conventions essentially continue ancient spelling: Latin used <b> for [b] and <p> for [p] as well as <ph> for [ph]. The latter spellings were originally found in Greek loanwords from about 150 BCE, e.g. <ch> in *chorus* for Greek <χ>, [kh] and began to be used in native words 50 years later, e.g. *pulcher* 'beautiful' (McCullagh 2011:86). Remarkably, the Phonetic Teachers Association, a precursor to the IPA, declared (1886) that we should use a "separate sign for each distinctive sound; that is, for each sound which, being used instead of another, in the same language, can change the meaning of a word". As teachers of French, English and German, they still used <p> for both English *put* and French *pas*.

The phonetics and phonology of laryngeal features have been historically both more and less contentious than many think. LR hews close to the lenis/fortis and tense/lax traditions while but situated in contemporary theories of speech sounds. LR was never as far from the mainstream view as early LR proponents thought. Over the longer term, voice analyses may look more like the minority position. One next step is to explore the extent to which we can synthesize LR with fortis/lenis and tense/lax.

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Interindividual Differences in the Plural Allomorphy of German Nonwords in First-Year L2 German Learners and L1 German Speakers

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This study examines interindividual variability in the plural formation of German nonwords by English-speaking learners of German as a foreign language (L2) and native German speakers (L1). German plural marking is complex because it is characterized by several suffixes (e.g., *-en, -n, -e, -s, -er*, and a zero morpheme), some of which may co-occur with umlaut (stem vowel modifications). Although the plural form of a noun cannot be unambiguously predicted, German plural formation is influenced by several *probabilistic* factors, including the gender of the noun (e.g., Köpcke 1988, 1993; Wiese 2000)*,* phonological characteristics of word-final sounds (e.g., Mugdan 1977; Augst 1979; Wurzel 1984, 1998; Köpcke 1988), and semantic properties (Köpcke, 1988; Plag, Domahs & Heitmeier, 2024). Pluralization is further shaped by syllabic and prosodic structure (Köpcke 1988, 1993; Wegener 1995), particularly the preference for disyllabic trochaic structures (Wiese 2000, 2009; Smith 2004, 2020, 2022).

We present a nonword study in the form of a wug-test paradigm in which participants were presented with nonwords that varied in their prosodic-phonological properties (presence or absence of a final schwa-syllable: disyllabic singular forms ending in a final schwa-syllable, monosyllabic singulars, and multisyllabic singulars not ending in a final schwa-syllable). The study compares behaviors of first-year L2 German learners and L1 German users both of which were instructed to produce plural forms for each noun. Here, we investigate interindividual differences in German plural formation by examining umlaut usage and plural suffix preferences in both L1 and L2 German users. We analyze whether individuals within each group exhibit systematic variation in umlaut use and whether there is a correlation between umlaut use and trochaic prosody, as umlaut could potentially compensate for prosodic deviations as has been suggested for Pennsylvania Dutch (cf. Fisher, Schuhmann, Putnam 2022). In addition, we analyze whether speakers favor specific plural suffixes, how these preferences differ between L1 and L2 groups, and whether L2 users show transfer effects from English, particularly in their use of the *-s* suffix.

Overall, umlaut occurred in a relatively small proportion of pluralizations, although some individuals showed usage rates as high as 30-40%. Correlation analyses revealed no statistically significant relationship between the frequency of umlaut occurrence and the production of trochaic plural forms, suggesting that umlaut is not systematically used to compensate for non-trochaic forms. Analyses of plural suffix selection further revealed four distinct subgroups within each participant group (L1, L2). This study aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of L2 plural acquisition in German, highlighting individual variation rather than aggregated trends, while at the same time assessing the interplay of morphological and prosodic-phonological factors in pluralization strategies. The results underscore the inherent complexity of German plural morphology, and the observed variability suggests that both native speakers and early-stage L2 learners develop idiosyncratic internalized grammatical models.

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Writing to be read: Authentic creative writing for language skills and motivation

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A plurilingual approach to German as a foreign language with adult learners entails an instructional focus on valuing their developing linguistic competency in the target language rather than on their deficiencies in comparison to the idealized native speaker. To promote growth in target language literacy and writing skills, we introduced composition of German children's books as an entrepreneurial experiential learning project in the second and third semesters of formal instruction, affording introductory and early intermediate learners of German a highly motivating and authentic experience as creative authors (Stoller & Meyers, 2019). This writing project meets an authentic need for age- and level-appropriate texts for 170+ North American schools where children are taught in German (Racek, 2022). German-language children's books are less numerous and less consistently leveled than in English (e.g., Brinkmann, 2021; Brügelmann & Brinkmann, 2021), posing a particular problem for early second language and bilingual learners. The *By Learners For Learners* project gives adult learners of German a chance to apply their developing linguistic skills to an original composition for course credit, then opt into the following process, in which we arrange illustrators and e-publish their book as an Open Education Resource under Creative Commons licensing. This presentation introduces the project's first publications and describes its creative writing and publishing phases, with emphasis on the benefits of creatively applying language skills, feedback on writing, metalinguistic reflection on the target language, and learner affect.

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Expanding Neural Part-of-Speech Analysis of Historical Germanic Languages

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The purpose of this study is to expand upon the preliminary findings reported in Smith and Hartmann (2024) by applying neural network Part-of-speech (POS) tagging to a broader set of historical Germanic languages (Old Saxon, Old English, Old High German, Old Icelandic, and Gothic) in order to improve these tools to facilitate further research into Germanic. The tools used in this study function by deriving contextual information to predict the POS of sequences of words, and have potential to facilitate improved corpora and deeper syntactic analyses. By facilitating the automatic annotation of untagged datasets, and investigating the intricate interactions between syntactic categories, these tools have great potential value for germanicists. Many computational techniques have shown a high level of accuracy for POS tagging. Still, most are dependent on the use of large pre-tagged datasets, often not available for most of the world's languages, particularly small or historical languages. This study leverages artificial neural networks to retrieve contextual information of syntactic structures to predict the most likely POS for individual words in the corpus. Deep neural network models have shown high accuracy in previous studies on POS tagging and computational syntactic analysis (Chiche, 2022). The goal in this study is to test the same methodologies to more related datasets from Old High German (Zeige et al, 2024), Historical Icelandic (Rögnvaldsson et al, 2012), and Gothic (De Herdt, 1997).

This study reports accuracies in the 87-90% range for OS, OE, OIce, and GO, and accuracy of ~80% for OHG. Secondary ablation analyses have revealed interesting predictability trends across a variety of categories including Determiners, Adjectives, Adverbs, Conjunctions, and complementizers. Additionally, this study also seeks to propose a potential new model formulation which incorporates morphological data in parallel to syntactic data in a multi-language tagging model that features a more finely grained tagset. This version of the model would have the potential to deliver probabilities for specific, detailed tags that may not have been included in the original annotations by recognizing cross-linguistic patterns between closely related languages.

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A preliminary investigation of oblique subjecthood in Dutch

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Modern Dutch is a prime example of a language boasting SVO order in main clauses (Haeseryn et al. 1997: 21.3.1.1). Grammatical subjects in Dutch, which are traditionally identified through agreement, also occur in first position far more often than any other constituent: for spoken language, Bouma (2008) has shown that 70% of sentences start with the subject, as opposed to a mere 20% starting with either the direct or the indirect object.

The present talk zooms in on the Dutch two-place predicate *wachten* 'await', for which a lemmatised search query in the nlTenTen20 corpus has shown that its morphological object shows the word order distributions of a canonical subject: sentences starting with adjuncts aside, unmarked OVS order is attested 80% of the time and the reverse yet marked SVO order 20% of the time. One relevant pair of examples is presented under (1a–b) below:

OVS (unmarked)

(1a) *Zijn opvolger* *wacht* *alleszins* *geen gemakkelijke taak.*
his successor awaits in.any.case no easy task
'In any case, his successor does not await an easy task.'

SVO (marked)

(1b) *Talrijke beproevingen wachten* *de mens* *op het pad naar die bestemming.*
numerous trials await the human on the path to that destination
'Numerous trials await man on the path to that destination.'

The fact that *wachten*'s standard word order pattern is OVS suggests that the object is, in fact, an oblique subject. The current talk further explores this hypothesis by presenting data for five additional subjecthood diagnostics: inversion, (pro)nominality, definiteness, animacy and conjunction reduction. These generate remarkably convergent results, confirming that the morphological object indeed behaves as a canonical subject. In addition to this case study, I provide a cursory discussion of a few other Dutch verbs potentially licensing oblique subjects. The results of this preliminary investigation show that subject–verb agreement in Dutch does not always signal behavioral subjecthood. In addition, this study shows that oblique subjects are not necessarily confined to case languages, as is sometimes believed (cf. Sigurðsson 1992).

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Alternating Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs across German and Icelandic

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This paper takes as its starting point a set of 15 Icelandic verbs licensing both a nominative and a dative argument. These verbs pertain to one of three syntactic classes: (1) ordinary Nom-Dat verbs, (2) non-alternating Dat-Nom verbs, and (3) alternating Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs. Ordinary Nom-Dat verbs instantiate a Nom-Dat argument structure, non-alternating Dat-Nom verbs instantiate the reverse Dat-Nom argument structure, and alternating Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs may instantiate either, yet evidently not at the same time (Barðdal 2001, Barðdal 2023, *inter alia*). Each of these 15 verbs has been matched to a cognate or (near-)synonym in German. The aim of this paper is (1) to discover whether the Icelandic three-part distinction between Nom-Dat verbs, Dat-Nom verbs and Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs is upheld in German and (2) to uncover the factors motivating the choice of the two word orders, dative-before-nominative and nominative-before-dative, for the subset of alternating verbs across German and Icelandic. The Icelandic data stem from the isTenTen20 corpus (520 million words; Jakubíček et al. 2013) and the German data have been collected through the deTenTen13 corpus (16.5 billion words; Kilgarriff et al. 2004).

For each of the 30 verbs under study, the first 200 random verb-second tokens have been retained, thus equalling a dataset of 6,000 tokens. Both argument slots may be filled either by a pronoun or a full NP. Each token has been annotated for the following ten variables: (1) language, (2) case, (3) (pro)nominality, (4) pronoun type (if applicable), (5) referentiality, (6) person, (7) number, (8) definiteness, (9) animacy and (10) length.

Our findings may be summarized as follows. First, apparent Dat-Nom verbs in German, like *gefallen* 'please, like', in fact turn out to be alternating Dat-Nom/Nom-Dat verbs in that language. This conclusion is supported by word order counts, which show that such verbs instantiate either word order pattern, dative-before-nominative and nominative-before-dative, with reasonable frequency, going far beyond what would be expected in topicalisation constructions. Second, a conditional inference tree scrutinizing the entire set of alternating verbs across Icelandic and German shows that the variation in the dataset is best explained through an interaction of case marking and (pro)nominality. The model also reveals that, for configurations involving full NPs only, the language difference is of minor importance, thus confirming that alternating verbs are parallel structures in both Icelandic and German which should not be analysed in distinctive ways.

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A Critical Review of Translanguaging Pedagogical Practice to Facilitate Learner Motivation and Comprehension in German Second Language Acquisition

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Multilingualism has become a global reality as domains of business and education are now increasingly characterised by speakers with expanded linguistic repertoires. This is particularly evident in the traditionally monolingual space of tertiary education where multilingualism has often been classified as subtractive and where learners are frequently required to replace their minoritized language with the dominant language of instruction (Haukås, 2016). This approach has resulted in adverse repercussions for learners who lack adequate academic proficiency in monolingual classrooms which exclude learners' L1 as viable tools for learning (Funke Omidire, 2019). Conversely, research has shown that study programmes that support learners' L1 in the classroom results in better educational outcomes, including learner engagement with course content and reflections about language (Li et al., 2025; Parmegiani, 2022; Parra & Proctor, 2021; Rolstad et al., 2005; Willig, 1985). In view of this, a translanguaging pedagogical approach in the foreign-language classroom is arguably one of the foremost imperatives to maximise learning. As a sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic theory, translanguaging opens up possibilities for understanding the complexities associated with meaning-making within the post-modern emergence of superdiverse societies (Vertovec, 2010). Furthermore, it allows for equitable student-teacher interactions which recognize the agency of all classroom participants in how interactional norms are constructed and how individualised linguistic repertoires are used in ways that are most advantageous to individual participants (Conteh, 2018). Most research on translanguaging pedagogy in the foreign-language classroom has focused on English and, to a lesser degree, Spanish (Sun, 2022; Sun & Lan, 2021; Urzúa, 2025) This paper reviews various approaches to translanguaging pedagogical practice with the aim of identifying current developments and possible future directions for the German foreign-language classroom.

Door het bos de bomen: A variationist perspective on laryngeal contrast in Dutch fricatives

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In this paper, I discuss new (2024-25) variationist data from ten locations in the Low Countries to examine the phonological status of laryngeal contrast in fricatives. Dutch is generally accepted to be a *True Voice* language within the framework of Laryngeal Realism, i.e. the laryngeal contrast in obstruents is established using the feature [voice], setting Dutch apart from most Germanic relatives which use the feature [spread]. Although the precise mechanics are challenging to examine in deep time, one plausible hypothesis is that this departure from Germanic phonological typology arose from contact with a Romance substrate in the early medieval period (cf. Schrijver 2013).

While evidence for a True Voice analysis of Dutch is overall robust, especially for stops, in-depth variationist work can (1) reveal historical strata related to phonological change; and (2) provide insight into the status of laryngeal contrast in obstruents, especially where stops and spirants behave differently. For Dutch as a whole, assimilation patterns suggest a different role for laryngeal contrast in fricatives than in stops. Dutch 'regressive voicing assimilation' spreads the voice feature from voiced stops onto preceding obstruents (both stop and fricative), as can be observed in noun compounds: *boos + doener > [boːzdunər]* 'villain' and voet + bal > [vudbal] 'football/soccer'. Fricatives, however, do not act as triggers of such an assimilation process. Instead, the voicing in fricatives is neutralized after obstruents in what is often labelled 'progressive voice assimilation', like in *ijs + vogel > [ɛisfoːɣəl]* 'kingfisher' and *gemak + zucht > [ɣəmaksʏxt]* 'laziness'. This observation has been cited in support of a binary, as opposed to privative, representation of contrastive features. I intend to illustrate that this asymmetry more likely results from differences in the underlying representation of stops versus fricatives, where voice plays an altogether different role in fricatives. Iverson & Salmons (2003) argue for 'legacy specification' in Dutch fricatives, an account that merits further development.

I present new (2024-25) acoustic data collected from different locations in the Netherlands and Belgium to represent major Netherlandic dialect areas. I examine (a) the role of phonetic voicing in establishing contrast in word-initial fricatives, and (b) any assimilation patterns involving laryngeal features and fricatives. While data collection and analysis are ongoing, five speakers from East and West Flanders show a robust voicing contrast in fricatives that seems far more Romance-like than dialects to the northwest, where laryngeal merger is rampant. In dialects where Dutch velar fricatives have lenited to [h/ɦ] (mostly West Flanders), these initial data also show speakers retain the voicing distinction, and these lenited fricatives participate in voicing assimilation processes. Detailed charting of this type of variation is crucial to a meaningful analysis of the phonology of Dutch as a whole; we must see the trees to understand the forest.

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A new Formalization of Notker's Anlautgesetz utilizing Optimality Theory

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In this paper I examine the orthographic alternation of Old High German (OHG) obstruents in initial position known as Notker's Anlautgesetz and propose a new analysis couched in Optimality Theory (OT). In this alternation, "voiced" obstruents appear when preceded either by a vowel or by a voiced consonant (1a, 2a, 3a); whereas "voiceless" obstruents appear when preceded by a voiceless consonant (1b, 3b), or clause-initially, following a pause (2b):

(1) <b> ~ <p>
   a. *ei**n** **b**ilde* 'an image'
   b. *misseliche**s** **p**ildes* 'of varying image'

(2) <d> ~ <t>
   a. *ún**d**e **d**emo golde* 'and the gold'
   b. *tes koldes* 'of the gold'

(3) <g> ~ <k>
   a. *umbe**g**at* 'circles'
   b. *uf**k**at* 'ascends'

Although several competing analyses have been proposed to explain the phonological nature of the distinction represented orthographically, including the quantity-based distinction of Lahriri and Kraehenmann (2004), this paper accepts the analysis of a fortis-lenis distinction, most recently detailed by Page (2013), and will provide a new formalization of the alternation utilizing OT. Additionally, one aspect of the orthographic alternations found in Notker's manuscripts that has yet to be satisfactorily explained is the treatment of word-final obstruents. This paper seeks to offer a more satisfactory explanation for these, based on the analysis of the treatment of obstruents in word-initial and medial positions, which provides evidence that Notker had some perception that the OHG reflexes of West Germanic *b, *þ, and *g collectively formed a kind of natural class that should pattern together, which was extended to the orthographic representations in word-final position.

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How the PIE Perfect Can Explain the Weak Preterit

David L. White

Though Germanic historical linguistics in its modern form has existed for about 150 years, there is no consensus as to what form of DO was employed to form weak preterits. If any solution positing only sound-changes and analogies of the "classical" types, as Hill (2010: 413) demands, could solve the problem, that solution would have become the conventional wisdom long ago. Some anomalous change must have occurred, and the only plausible candidate is the 2SG. Once the stem of the 1/3SG was worn down to /dɛd-/, 2SG **/dɛdt/, analogically warranted but phonotactically impossible, would have been resolved as /dɛss/. Learners who did not understand the alternation involved would have had little choice but to interpret /dɛss/ as /dɛɛs/, with 2SG /-s/: "folk morphology". The (non-obvious) changes required to get from the PIE perfect to the Germanic weak preterit are as follows. (Some related changes are compressed.)
1) 3PL /r/ is replaced by /-ond/, from present /-ont-i/, shorn of present-marking /-i/. N.B. As PIE allowed only /-d/ as a final dental plosive (Ringe 2017: 23), Pre-Germanic /-ond/ becomes Germanic /-ɔnt/. **2)** In DO, as in several other Class VII "reduplicating" verbs (Ringe 2017: 215), preterit SG /ɛɛ/ is replaced by /ɔɔ/. Relics of original /ɔɔ/ can be seen in **a**) 2SG /-oo/ in southerly WG, **b**) 2SG /dedos/ in OS, **c**) PL /oo/ in Alemannic. **3)** Long Vs immediately preceding other Vs are shortened (Fulk 2018: 332). **4)** Initial stress develops, but not on reduplicating syllables (Ringe 2017: 277-8), such as /dɛ-/ in DO. **5)** 1SG /-ɔ/ and 3SG /-ɛ/ acquire contrastive stress, and preceding /ɔ/ is lost. (*Cf.* "med(i)eval", "extr(a)ordinary") At this point, all forms but the 2SG have /dɛd-/ as the stem. **6)** In strong verbs, final unstressed /-ɔ, -ɛ/ > /-ə/ > //. But in weak verbs, 1SG /-ɔ/ and 3SG /-ɛ/, having (secondary) stress, are not affected. **7)** In strong verbs, 3PL /-ɔnt/ > /-unt/ > /-un/, much as in /hɔndɔ/ 'tens' becoming /-hund/ (Ringe 2017: 230), and this /-un/ spreads to weak verbs. **8)** The stem /dɛd-/ spreads to the 2SG: /dɛdɔɔt/ > **/dɛdt/ > /dɛss/. **9)** Since /dɛss/, out of line with other forms, looks like it has lost a reduplicating syllable by haplology, /dɛ-dɛss/ is created. **10)** As there is now no third /d/ to justify /ss/, /-dɛss/, phonetically unclear due to having weak stress at the end of a longish strong, is interpreted as having 2SG /-s/: /dɛɛs/. Note that /dɛɛs/ wrongly seems to point back to some non-perfect.
Haplology and de-stressing produce the forms that reconstruction points back to:

	Weak		[	Strong	]
	SG	PL	[SG		PL	]
1	d-ɔ	d-um	[-		-um	]
2	d-ɛɛ-s	d-ud	[-t		-ud	]
3	d-ɛ	d-un	[-		-un	]

The dependent forms of DO are, like their independent analogues (Fulk 2018: 333), from the PIE perfect. The upshot is that, as would be expected, all forms go back to the PIE perfect.

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A Third-Wave Sociolinguistic Investigation of Old Norse Definiteness

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To accompany the abundant literature published by historical linguists on past eras, the language change and variation involved in them have received attention from sociolinguistic perspectives (Conde-Silvestre, 2016; Faarlund, 2009; Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg, 2016). In particular, class, gender, and culture have been massive focuses for both subdisciplines. However, third-wave sociolinguistics, which prioritizes language identity and speech styles (Eckert, 2012; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 1992; Silverstein, 2003), remains understudied in relation to Old Norse speech communities and oral tradition. This study looks to contribute to the discipline of Germanic language studies by identifying medieval Iceland as a community of practice, identifying style-shifting through an analysis of Old Norse definite forms (Kossuth, 1980; Pfaff, 2005; Pfaff & Bech, 2024). Through examination of sagas, Eddas, and skaldic poetry, such as those from the *Heimskringla*, we will determine whether the types of definiteness markings change based on the noun and topic. We expect to notice changes not only based on topicality in the narrative but also based on the writer's intent to communicate the object's or person's perceived salience to their intended audience (McMahon, 2017). The presented findings will serve to solidify the intersection of historical and sociolinguistics; they will also act as a springboard for future diachronic research on Icelandic prose and poetry.

Keywords: historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, Old Norse, definiteness, style, community of practice, variation

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