

Foreign influences in Bernese Swiss German

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Introduction

- > What research says about Standard German:
 - Dunger (1899) and Stiven (1936): English influences into German since 1400
 - Onysko (2007) *Welt/Spiegel*: Around 1,2% of all printed words are borrowed from English
 - Eisenberg (2011): German borrows words from English on a regular basis since 17. cent.
 - Fiedler (2014): Research on Anglicisms since 1945 (Press, Commercials usw.)

Introduction

- > What research says about Swiss German:
 - Dalcher (1966): Responsible for research on Anglicisms in Switzerland, starting in 1948 until 2008
 - Collection of Anglicisms in 1964/65
 - ****Dalcher's private library****

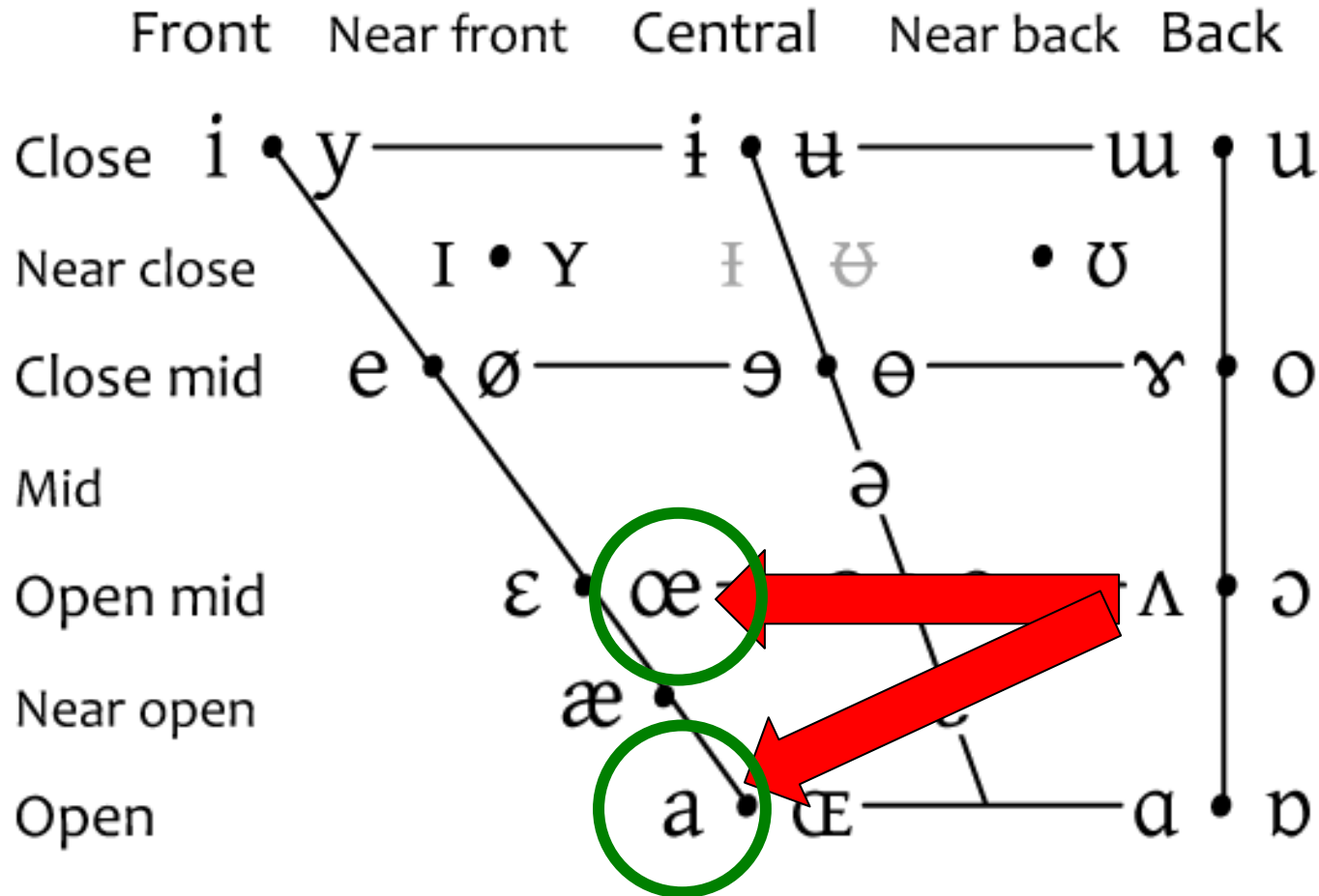
Introduction

- > Two projects
 - *STRUT* vowel project
 - Phonetic/sociolinguistic approach
 - Diphthong /ei/ project
 - Variationist linguistic approach
 - No historical material to compare
 - Work in progress

STRUT Vowel project

- > Research question: The vowel inventory of Bernese Swiss German has no STRUT vowel /ʌ/. In borrowed words /ʌ/ is replaced by /a/ or /oe/. Which vowel is chosen by whom?
- > Hypothesis:
 - The better the borrowed elements are integrated into the Bernese Swiss German lexicon, the more often /oe/ is chosen to replace the STRUT vowel /ʌ/

STRUT Vowel project



STRUT Vowel project

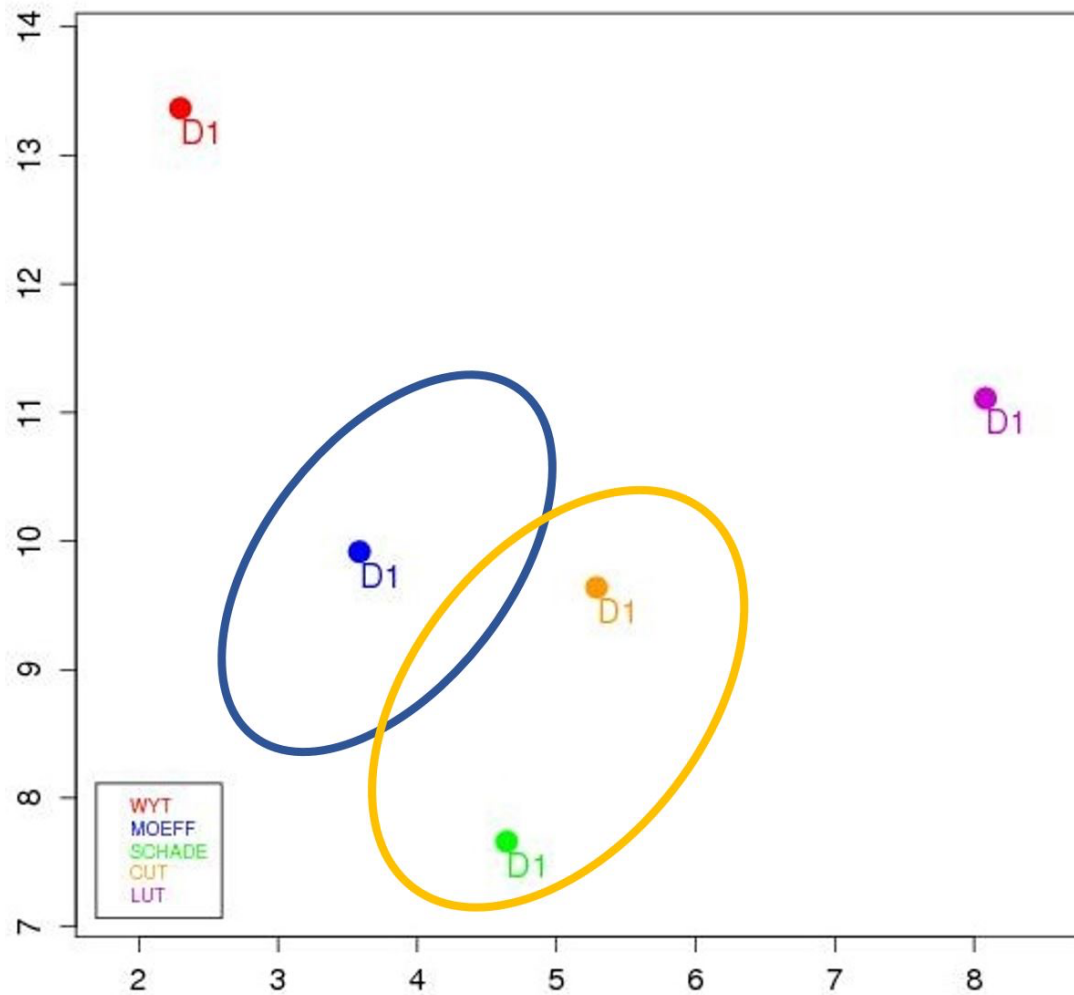
> Data collection:

- One age group (20-40), male and female equally balanced, name-a-picture task

> Analysis:

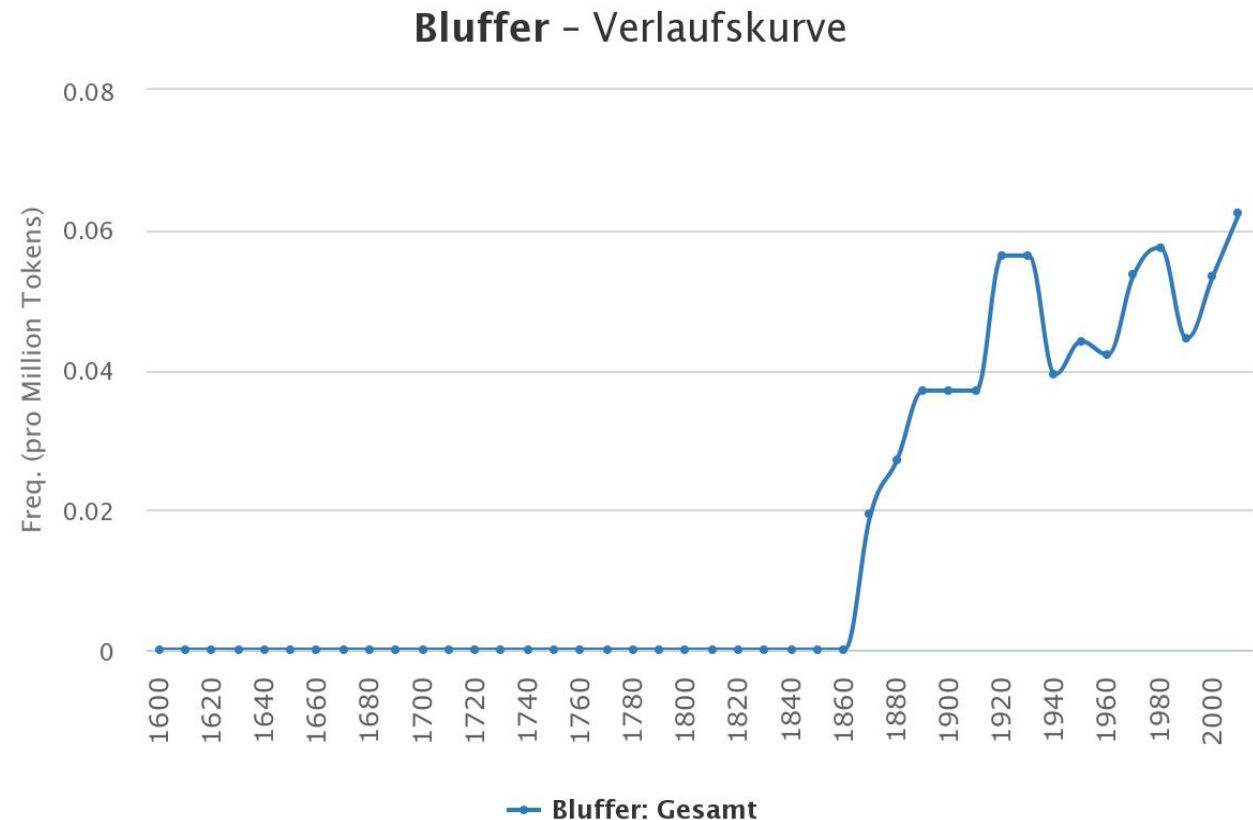
- Formants measured and plotted
- Degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011) :
 1. Late 19. or early 20. cent., integration completed (Bluffer) [*pl***œ***f:ə*r]
 2. Mid 20. cent., partially integrated (Pub) [*p^h***œ***p* or *p^h***a***p*]
 3. Late 20. cent., not (yet) integrated (Update) [*ʔ***a***p**d*ɛ*t*]

STRUT Vowel project



STRUT Vowel project

- > Bluffer in Standard German
- In use since late 19. cent.

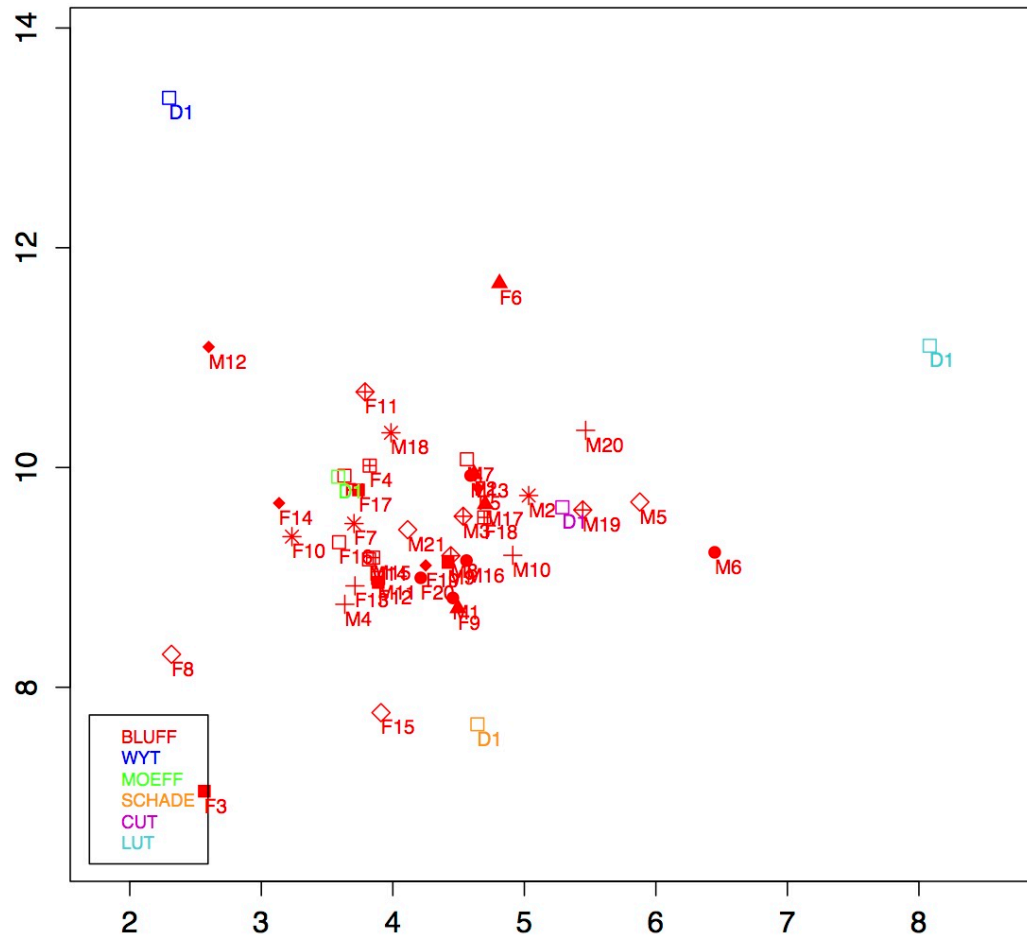


STRUT Vowel project

> Results: Bluffer

In Bernese Swiss German
almost only pronounced as

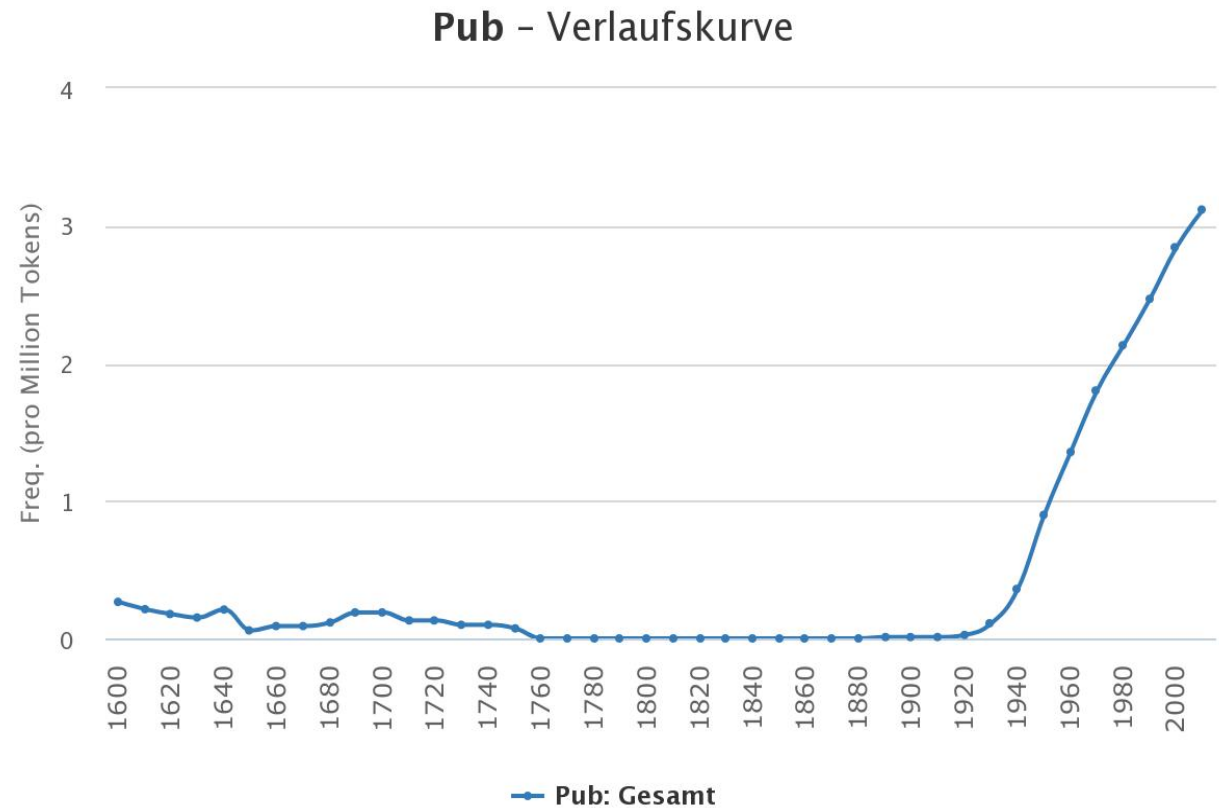
/plœf:ər/



STRUT Vowel project

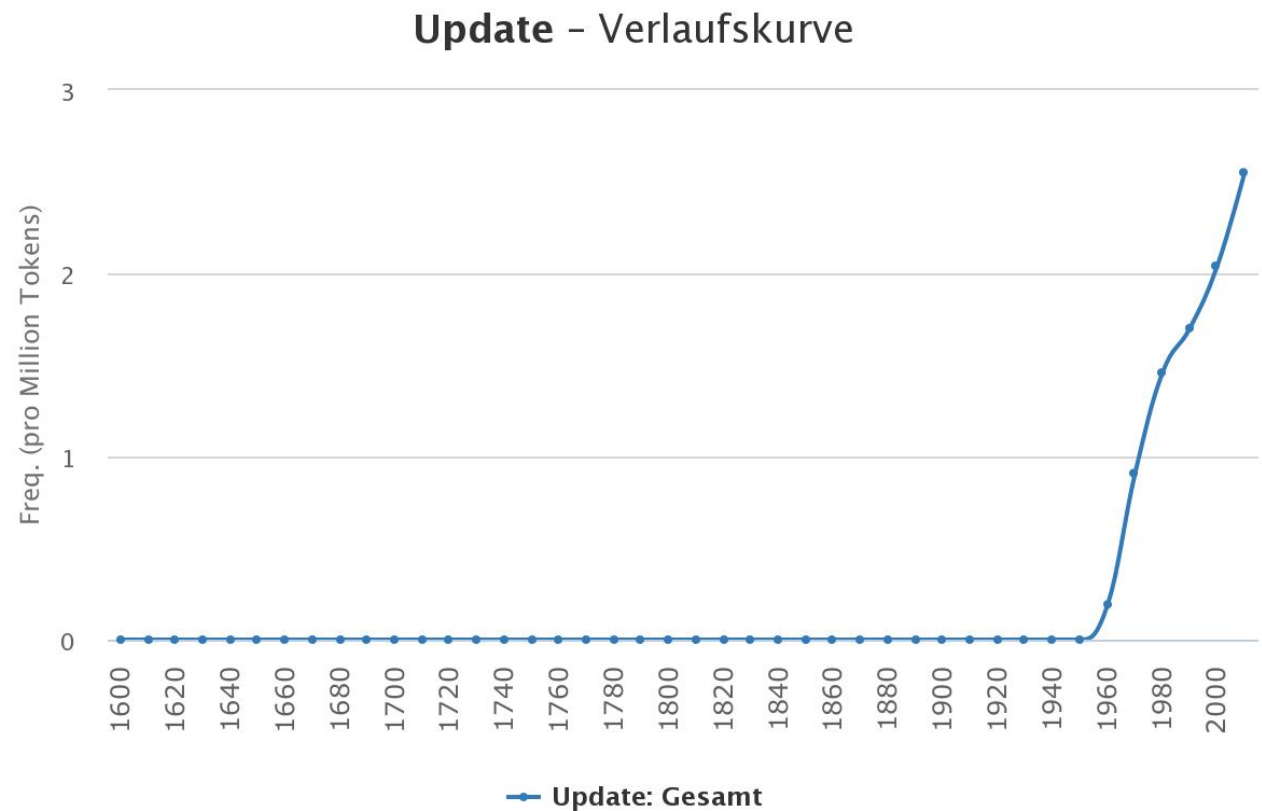
> Pub in Standard German

Use increases in the middle of the 20. cent.



STRUT Vowel project

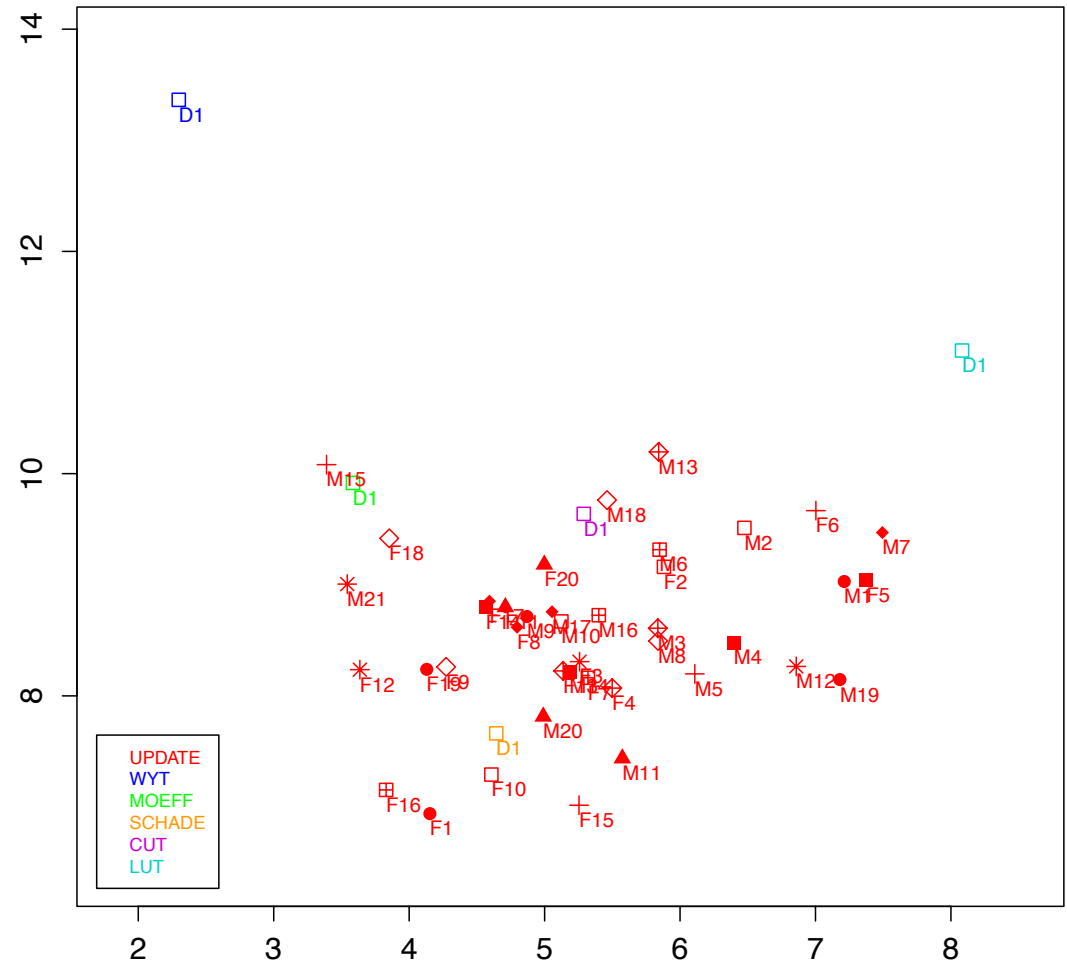
- > Update in Standard German Use increases around 1960



STRUT Vowel project

> Resultate: Update

In Bernese Swiss German
pronounced as /ʔapdɛit/



STRUT Vowel project

- > Discussion
 - Integration according to Eisenberg make sense
- > Problems
 - Integration not tested with other variables
 - Reference formants are not very precisely measured
 - Not much social data collected

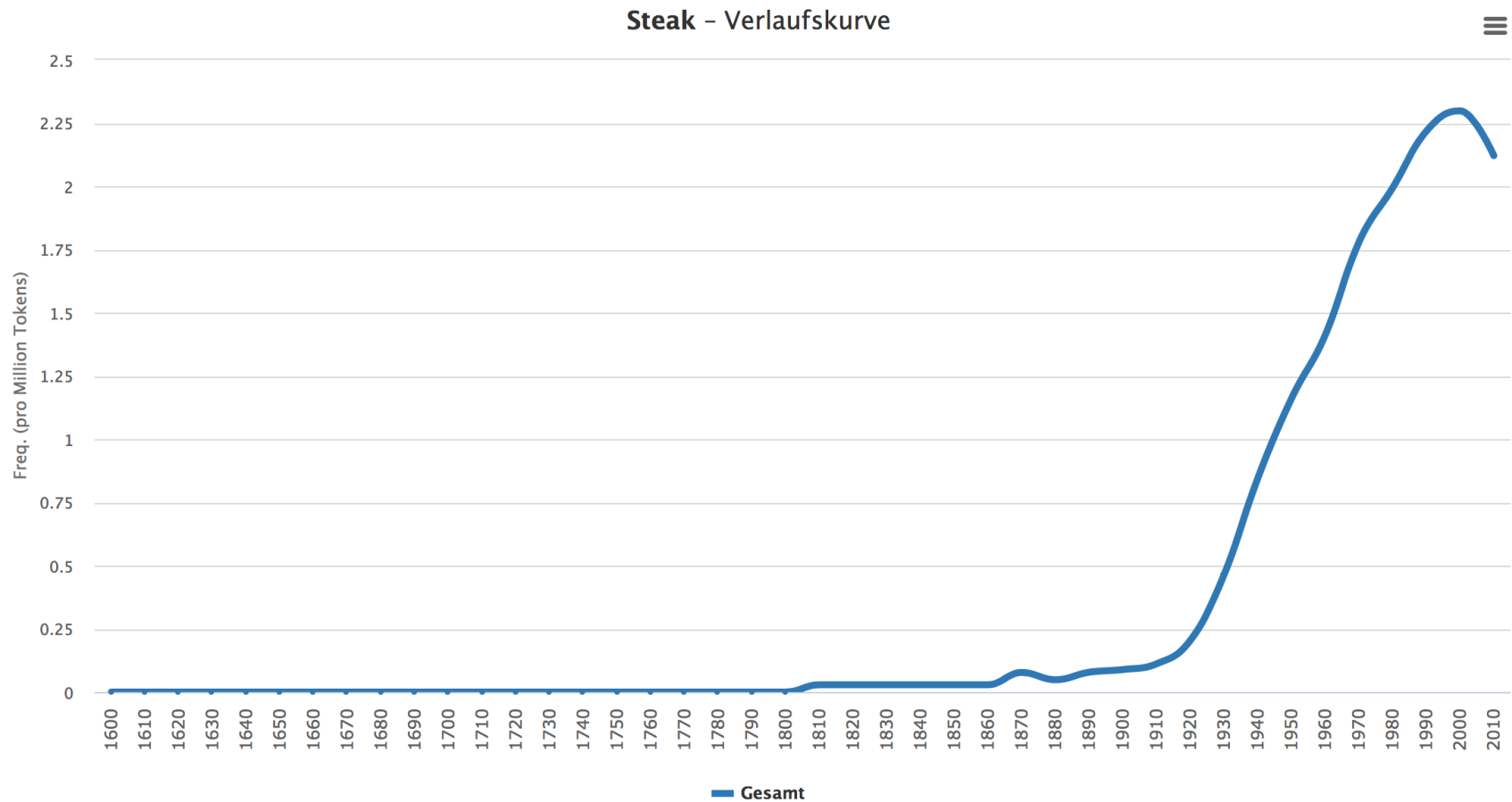
Diphthong /ei/ project



Diphthong /ei/ project

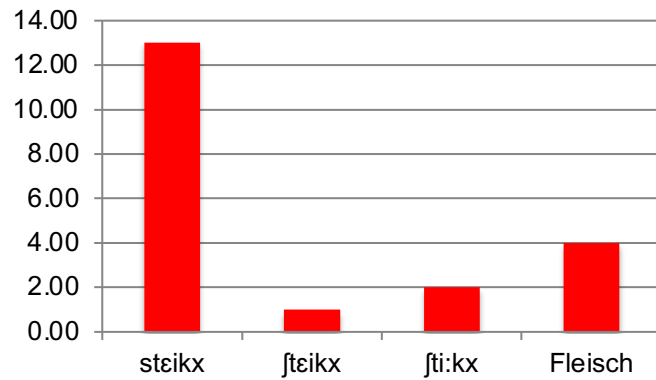
- > Research question: In Bernese Swiss German, *steak* is pronounced as *stɛɪk(x)*, *ftɛɪk(x)* oder *fti:kx* and many more. Who uses which variant and why?
- > Hypotheses:
 1. *fti:kx* is the result of a monophthongisation, which happened during the integration to Bernese Swiss German
 2. Level of English is an important fact when it comes to the pronunciation of *steak*
 3. *ftɛɪk(x)* is the result of a combination of integration and a certain level of English

Diphthong /ei/ project

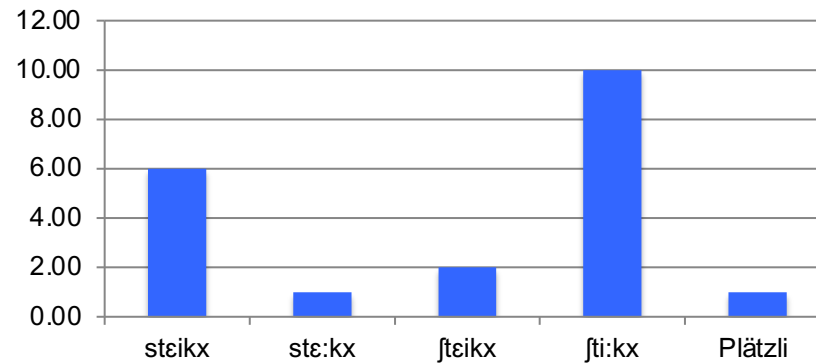


Diphthong /ei/ project

young

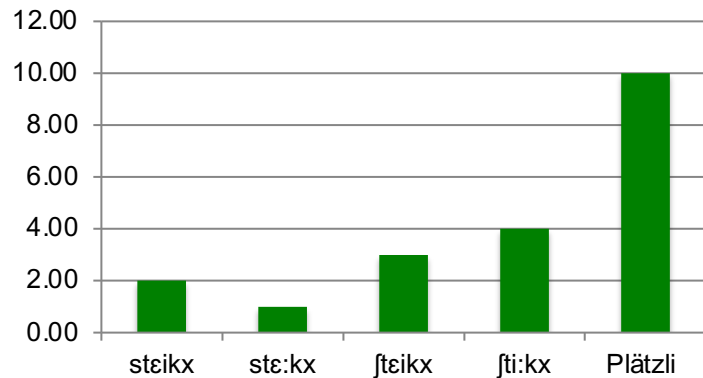


middle

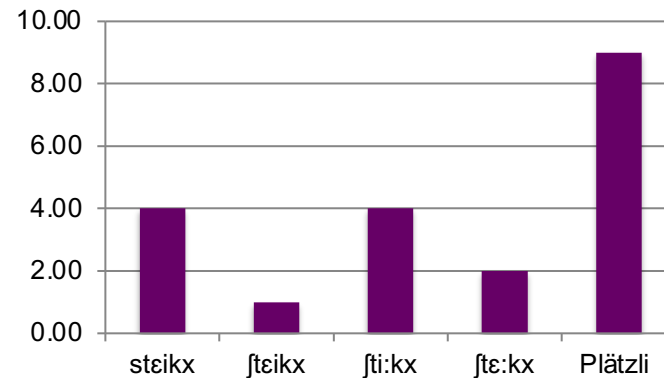


n = 20 per age group

old



farmers



Diphthong /ei/ project

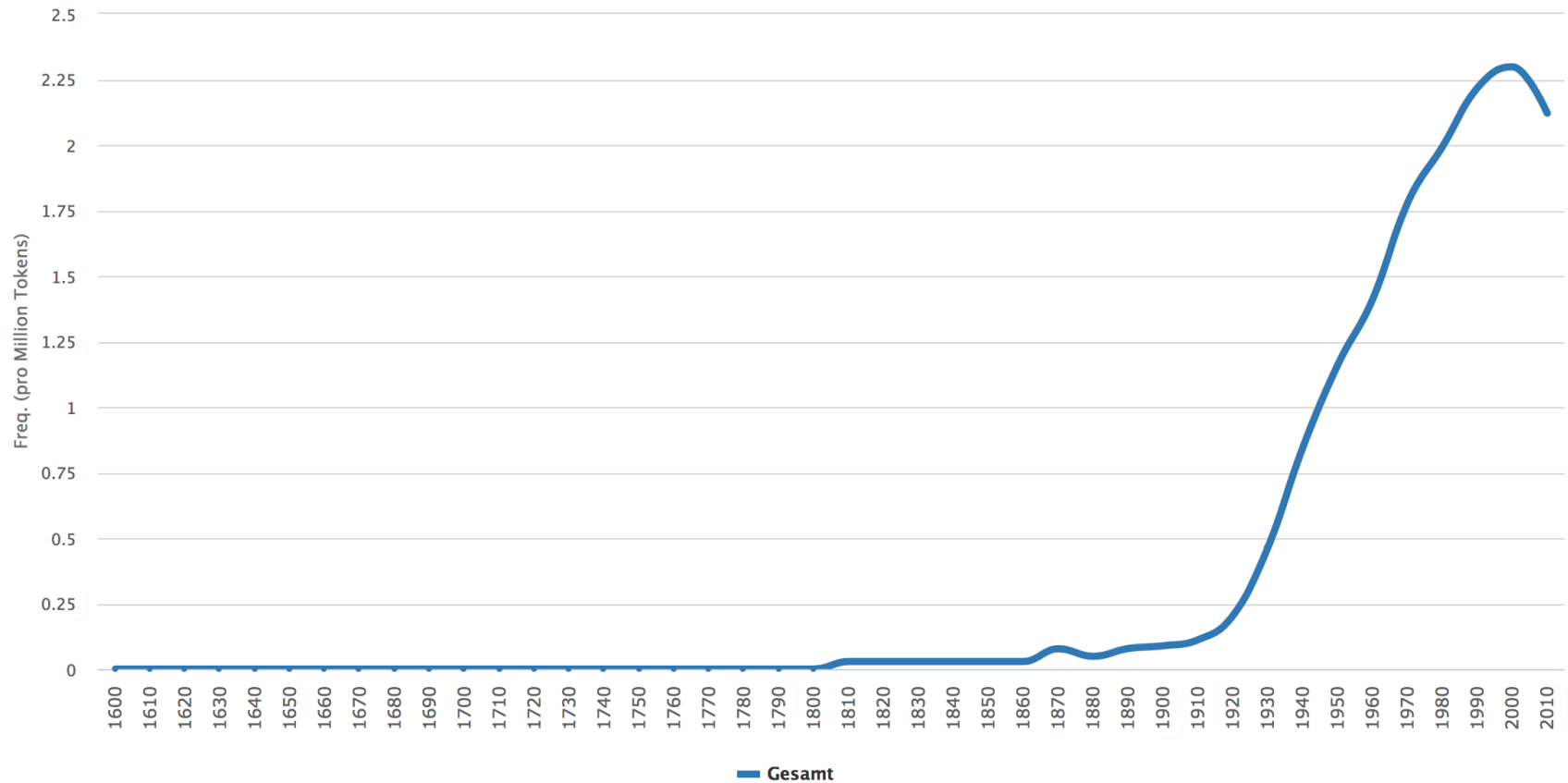
- > Results (Level of English)
 - Level of English has an effect
 - Youngest speakers
 - Since 2004 English is compulsory at Swiss Schools
 - Level of English already before, use of Media
 - Middle speakers
 - Learned some English and try to keep up
 - Sometimes uncertain
 - Oldest speakers and farmers
 - Only little knowledge of English
 - *Steak* not very often, but old variant *Plätzli*

Diphthong /ei/ project

- > Results (Monophthongisation)
 - Monophthongisation of stɛɪk(x) → ʃti:kx means full integration of the item into Bernese Swiss German
 - Chart shows first or second degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011)

Diphthong /ei/ project

Steak - Verlaufskurve



Diphthong /ei/ project

- > Results (Monophthongisation)
 - Monophthongisation of stɛɪk(x) → ʃti:kx means full integration of the item into Bernese Swiss German
 - Chart shows first or second degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011)
 - Probleme:
 - Why present in middle age group? Uncertain? More open towards the full integration of an Anglicism?

Diphthong /ei/ project

- > Next steps
 - Analysis of sociolinguistic data
 - Closer look to monophthongisation necessary
 - Material Peter Dalcher



anJedem.

Vielen Dank
für die
Aufmerksam-
keit!