Change in the historical lexicon of Bernese Swiss German

June 2019, ICLaVE 10 Leeuwarden
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> Archaisms

— Words or senses of words from a former epoch in language history

— Decline in frequency and/or semantic shift

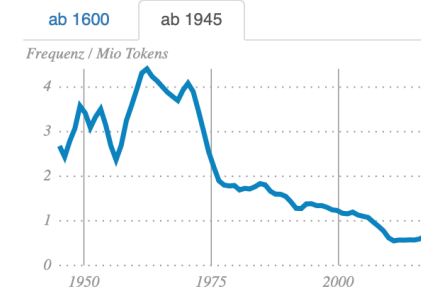— Speaker refer to archaisms often as old-fashioned parts of their

language

DWDS Der deutsche Wortschatz von 1600 bis heute.

→] Anmelden

Barbier ✕ 🔍 ❓

Barbier, der

Grammatik	Substantiv (Maskulinum) · Genitiv Singular: **Barbiers** · Nominativ Plural: **Barbiere**
Worttrennung	Bar-bier
Herkunft	Französisch
Wortbildung	mit ›Barbier‹ als Erstglied: ↗Barbierbecken ... **6 weitere** · mit ›Barbier‹ als Letztglied: ↗Dorfbarbier

Bedeutung

eWDG, 1967

⌄ **veraltend** Herrenfriseur

BEISPIELE:

zum **Barbier** gehen

einen **Barbier** suchen

der **Barbier** seifte den Kunden ein

die alte Zunft der **Barbiere**

Etymologie

Etymologisches Wörterbuch (Wolfgang Pfeifer)

Barbier · Balbier · barbieren · balbieren

Barbier m. 'Herrenfriseur'. Die seit dem 14. Jh. nachzuweisende, heute unübliche Berufsbezeichnung für den Bartscherer und Haarschneider, zu dessen Aufgaben in früherer Zeit auch medizinische Hilfeleistungen, namentlich kleinere chirurgische Eingriffe gehören, ist wie mnl. nl. *barbier*, engl. *barber* (über anglonorm. *barber*) eine Übernahme von gleichbed. afrz. frz. *barbier*, abgeleitet von afrz. **... Mehr**

Worthäufigkeit

selten   häufig

Wortverlaufskurve

ab 1600 | ab 1945

Frequenz / Mio Tokens

Ältere Wörterbücher

Grimmsches Wörterbuch (¹DWB) (1)

Wörterbuch der deutschen Gegenwartssprache (WDG) (1)

Korpustreffer

Referenzkorpora

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Overview

> Introduction

— PhD Project - Idea and basic information

— Research area

— Bernese Swiss German

> Methods

> Results and analysis

— Nidle

— Gvätterle

> Discussion

PhD Project

> Research idea

— To describe and explain language variation and change in the Greater area of Bern

— Research question: How and why did Bernese Swiss German change in the past 100 years?

— Hypothesis: Bernese Swiss German has changed due to language/dialect contact, speaker migration/mobility and changes in the social structure of the research area.

PhD project

> Historical background

— Language atlas of German speaking Switzerland

- Brought up by Hotzenköcherle and Baumgartner in 1935

- Pilot study in 1939, 6 years of fieldwork planed, done after 19 years

- 1962 – 1997, 8 published volumes

- Approx. 1500 informants (NORMs and NORFs), 600 localities

- 4000 questions prepared, shortened to "only" 2500 questions → 8h interviews

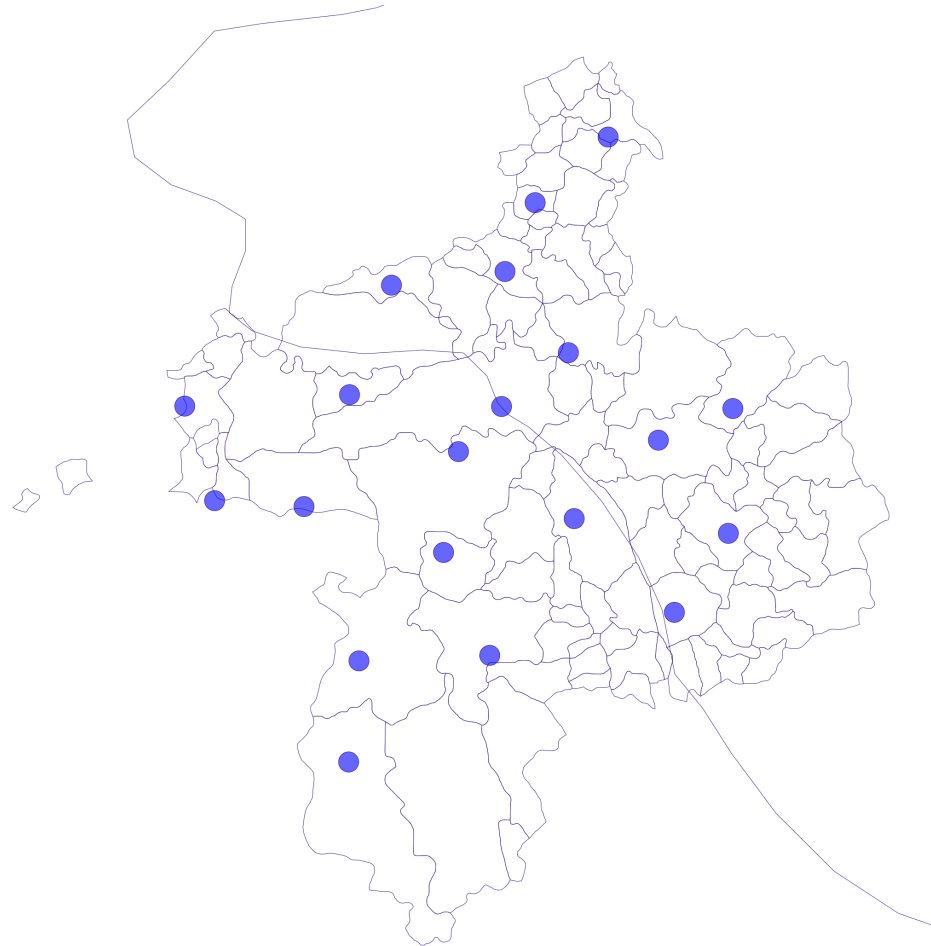- "Kleiner Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz" in 2010
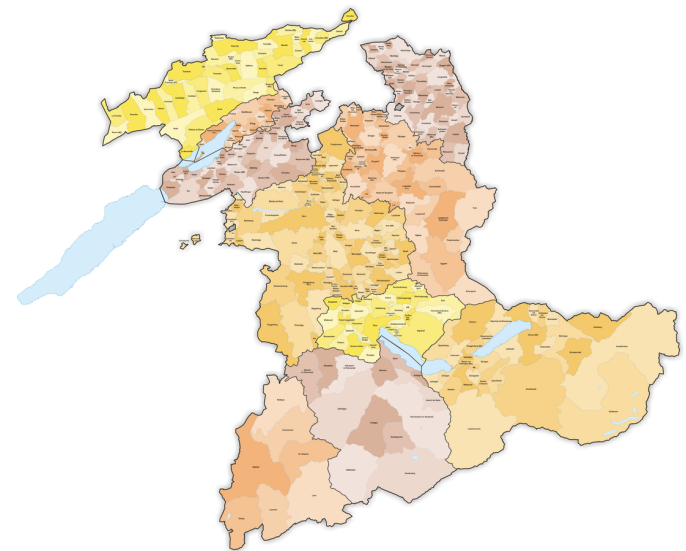
Resarch area

Research area

> Survey network

Bernese Swiss German

> Varieties used in the canton of Bern

— High alemannic dialects

— Regional stratification:

- Northern Bernese Swiss German
- Southern Bernese Swiss German
- Bernese Swiss German in „Berner Oberland"

Methods

- Localities

  - 20 localities in the Greater area of Bern, documented in the language atlas of German speaking Switzerland

— Informants

  - 4 per locality (18-30, 30-60, 60+ and a famer), gender equality if possible

— Data collection

  - Questionnaire, spontaneous speech, translation (Northwind and sun)

— Variables

  - 120 variables already documented in the Swiss language atlas, covering phonology, syntax and morphology, also new variables

— Result

  - Corpus of 9600 tokens, 67h spontaneous speech, approx. 10h translation

Results and Analysis

> Change in the historical lexicon on Bernese Swiss German

— Archaic variables in the survey which refer to objects still in use

— Stable in the language atlas of German speaking Switzerland (if documented)

— Stable among the oldest and the conservative speakers, variation in the middle group, at least passive understanding in the youngest group

— Remarkable: Some young speakers consciously decide to use an archaic form for language identity reasons
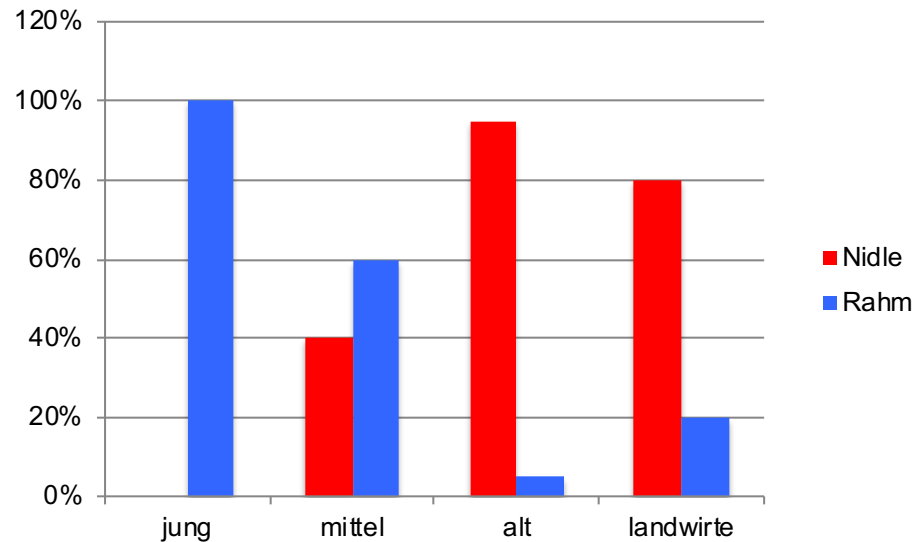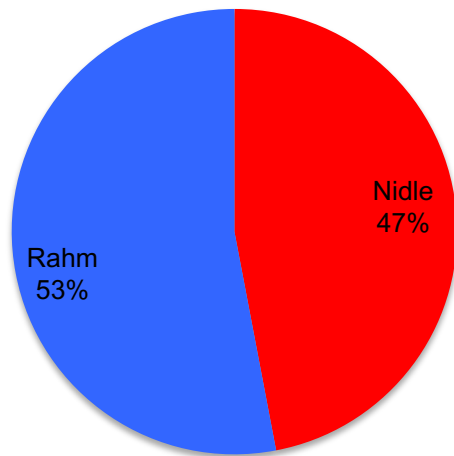
Nidle (cream)

> Bschteuet doch bitte ds Bärn uf em Bäreplatz ds fougende Menu:

> kleiner gemischter Salat

> Steak mit Pommes Frites

> *Meringue mit Glace und Rahm*

Results and Analysis

Nidle/Rahm/Sahne (cream)

- Not documented in the Language atlas of German speaking
  Switzerland – only apparent time approach possible

- „Rahm" is chosen consciously to increase comprehensibility

Results and Analysis

> Qualitative component:

— ***Worb 2***: *I ha mit öppe füfezwänzgi beschlosse, dass i lieber Nidle säge. Rahm isch Hochdütsch u das redeni ja nid. Nume wenni däiche, dass mi öpper nid versteit, sägi Rahm.*

  (When I was about 25 years old, I decided to use Nidle. Rahm is Standard German and I don't speak that. Only when I think that somebody does not understand Nidle, I use Rahm)

– ***Guggisbärg 3***: *I säge sicher nid Rahm, das hiisst Nidle. Me darf ghöre, wohär i chume, i bi Bärner u rede o so.*

  (I definitely don't say Rahm, that Nidle. It's allowed to hear where I come from, I'm Bernese and I speak like that.)

– ***Bern 1:*** *Nidle – kenni, aber das seit nume no mini Grosmueter*

  (Nidle – yes, I know this. But only my grandmother uses this.)

Gvätterlisch oder Spiusch? *(to play)*

> Wie seit me „mit Spiuzüg spile" uf Bärndütsch?
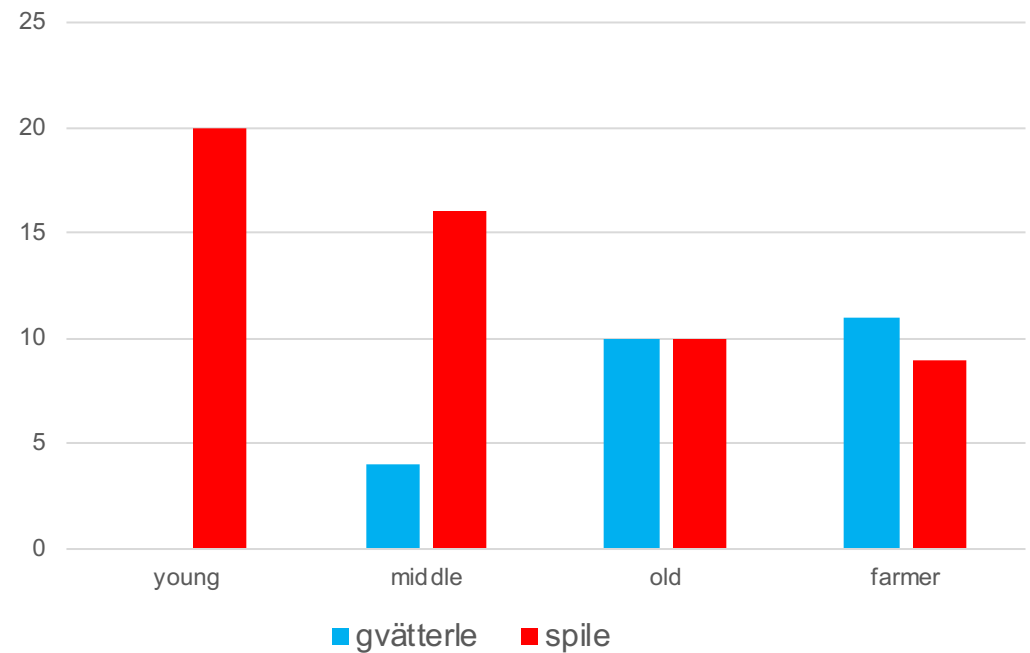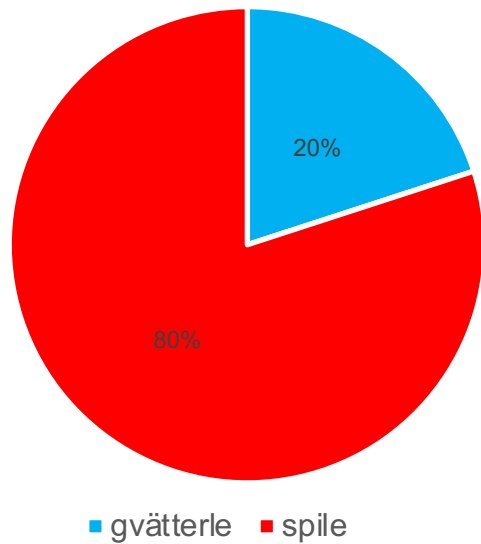
Results and Analysis

Spile/Gvätterle (to play)

– Variable in language atlas,
   apparent and real time
   approach possible

– Variant „spile" not
   documented, taken over
   from Standard German

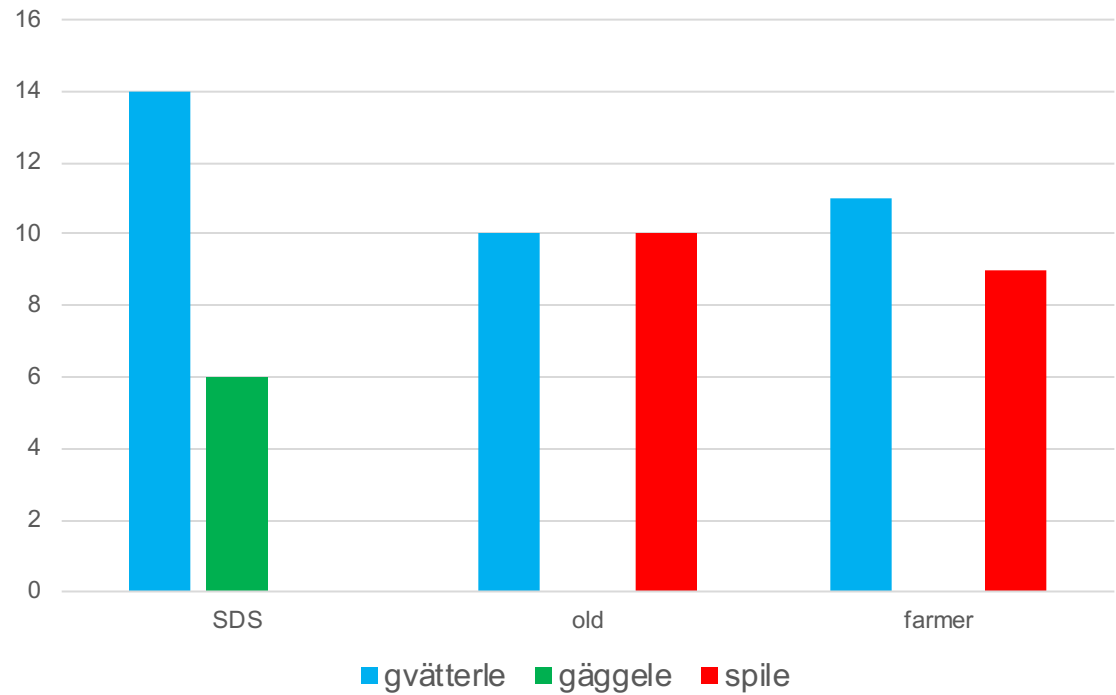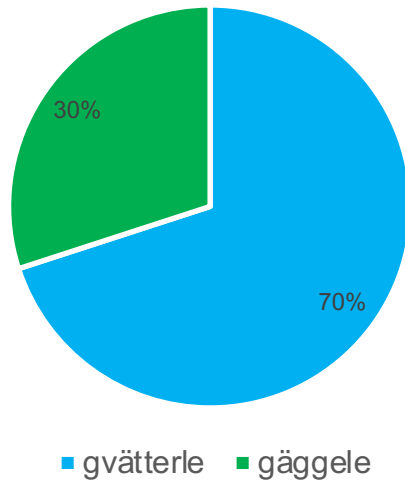– In addition: Recent
   semantic shift

Results and Analysis

Apparent time

Real time

Results and Analysis

> Qualitative component:

— ***Worb 1***: *I bruche nume spile, gvätterle isch öppis angers. Das isch so nutzloses umespile mit öppis. Mi Chef seit mängisch, I söu nid gvätterle.*

  (I only use spile, gvätterle is something different. That's uselessly playing around with something. My boss sometimes tells me not to do so.)

– ***Fraubrunnen 4***: *Letschti isch mis erschte Grosching bi mir gsi u när het mi Tochter aglütet u gfrogt, was die Chlini macht. I ha gseit "gvätterle" u mi Tochter het müesse nachefrooge, was das genau isch.*

  (Recently, my first grandchild was visiting me and my daughter called me to ask what she (the grandchild) is doing. I said "gvätterle" and my daughter had to ask what this means.)
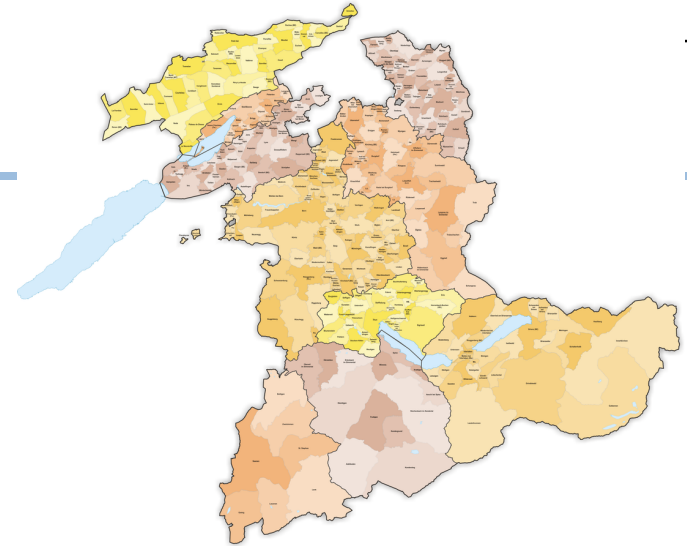
Discussion and concluding remarks

> Motivation for these changes?

— Increase of comprehensibility, influence of Standard language (Rahm)

> Where do the substituents come from?

— Standard language, supra-regional dialects

> Synonym or semantic shift?

— Both! Rahm-Nidle = synonym (very often), gvätterele-spile = shift

> Consolidation of speaker identity?

— Conscious decision to use a certain variant shows connection to their identity

Vielen Dank für die Aufmerksamkeit!

Bernese Swiss German

> Varieties used in the canton of Bern

— High alemannic dialects

— Regional stratification:

  – Northern Bernese Swiss German

	Nördliches Berndeutsch	restliches Berndeutsch
Jahr	Johr	Jahr
ja	jo	ja

  – Southern Bernese Swiss German

	Südliches Berndeutsch	restliches Berndeutsch
Fenster	Fäischter	Fänschter
denken	däiche	dänke

  – Bernese Swiss German in „Berner Oberland"

	Oberländer Berndeutsch	restliches Berndeutsch
Milch	Milch	Miuch
viel	viil	viiu