UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Language Variation in Bernese Swiss German

09 June 2017 ICLaVE Malaga

Christa Schneider

Overview

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- A short introduction
  - The PhD project
  - Research area: The Berner Mittelland
  - Object of research: Bernese Swiss German
- Results
  - Staub's law
  - English loanword in Bernese Swiss German

A short introduction

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- PhD Project:
  - What:
    - Document language variation and change in the dialects of the Berner Mittelland
  - How:
    - Comparison of new data with the original data of the SDS (atlas of German-speaking Switzerland)
  - Why:
    - Show language change and language contact phenomena
    - Reasons for the identified changes
    - Isoglosses?

A short introduction

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- Locations
  - 20 locations documented already in the SDS
- Informants
  - 4 informants per location (18-30, 30-60, 60+ and a farmer)
- Data collection
  - Questionnaire, spontaneous speech, translation (*Northwind and Sun*)
- Variables
  - 120 variables, covering phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon, SDS and new
- Analysis:
  - Transcription with ELAN, later maps with QGIS

Research area - The Berner Mittelland

Verwaltungskreis Bern-Mittelland

Object of research: Bernese Swiss German

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- Regional stratification:
  - Northern Bernese German

	Northen BSG	Southern BSG
Jahr (year)	Johr	Jahr

  - Southern Bernese German

	Southern BSG	Northern BSG
Fenster (window)	Fäischter	Fänschter

Results

- Staub‘s law
  - Variable with historical background in the SDS
  - Comparison possible

- English borrowings in Bernese Swiss German
  - New variable without historical background
  - Speculation

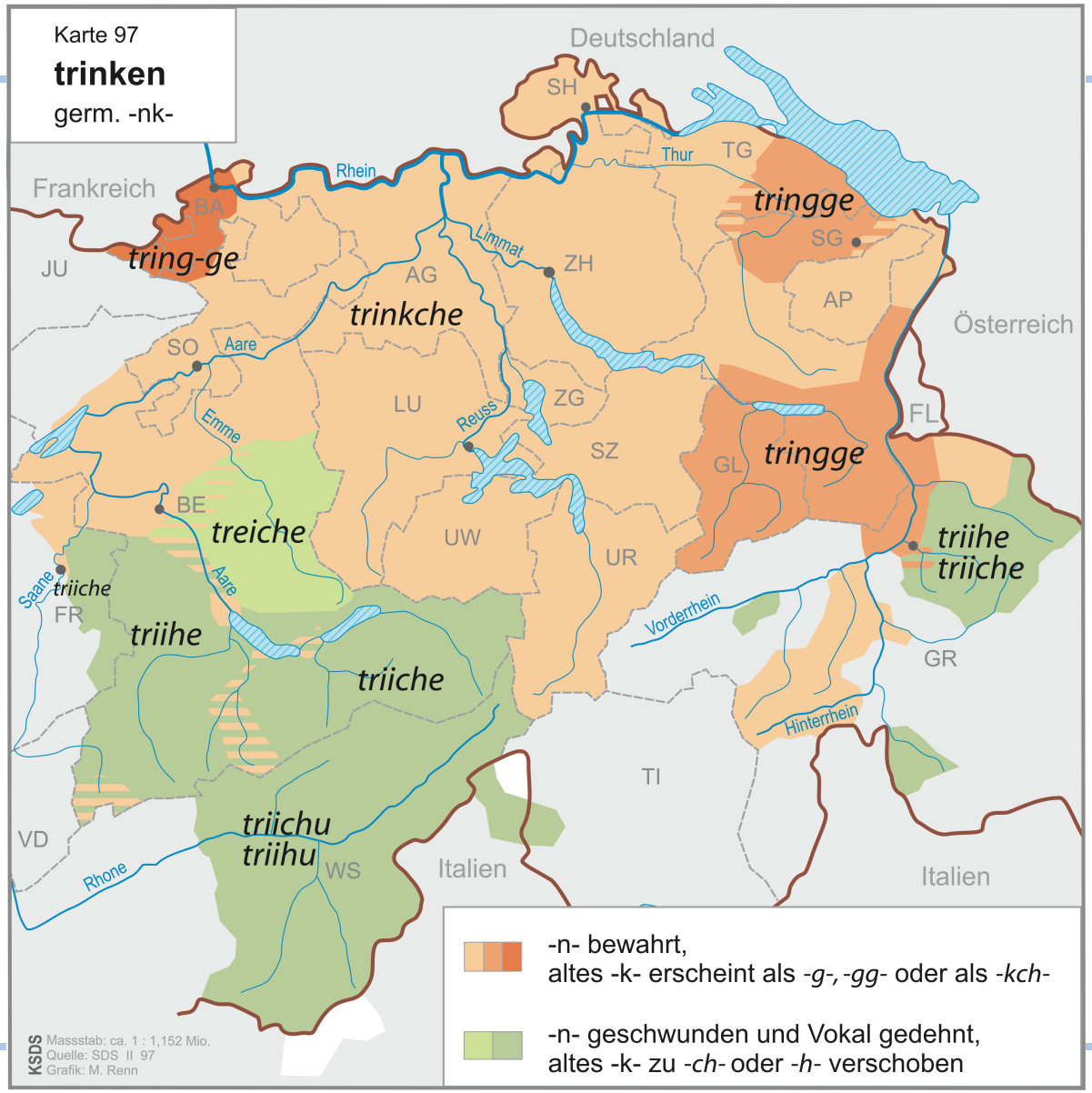
Results - Staub‘s law

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- Change originally described by Friedrich Staub (1877)
- **VnF → V:F** or **Vn → V:/_F** (cf. Werlen 1977: 260)
  - Decline of this sound change expected
    - Coexistence of Standard German
    - Lower social prestige of diphthongs
  - Pilot study (Schneider 2012)
    - More variation as in SDS documented → change in progress
- Variable „trinken“ (*to drink*), in SDS *trɪŋkxə, trɛixə, trɪ:hə*

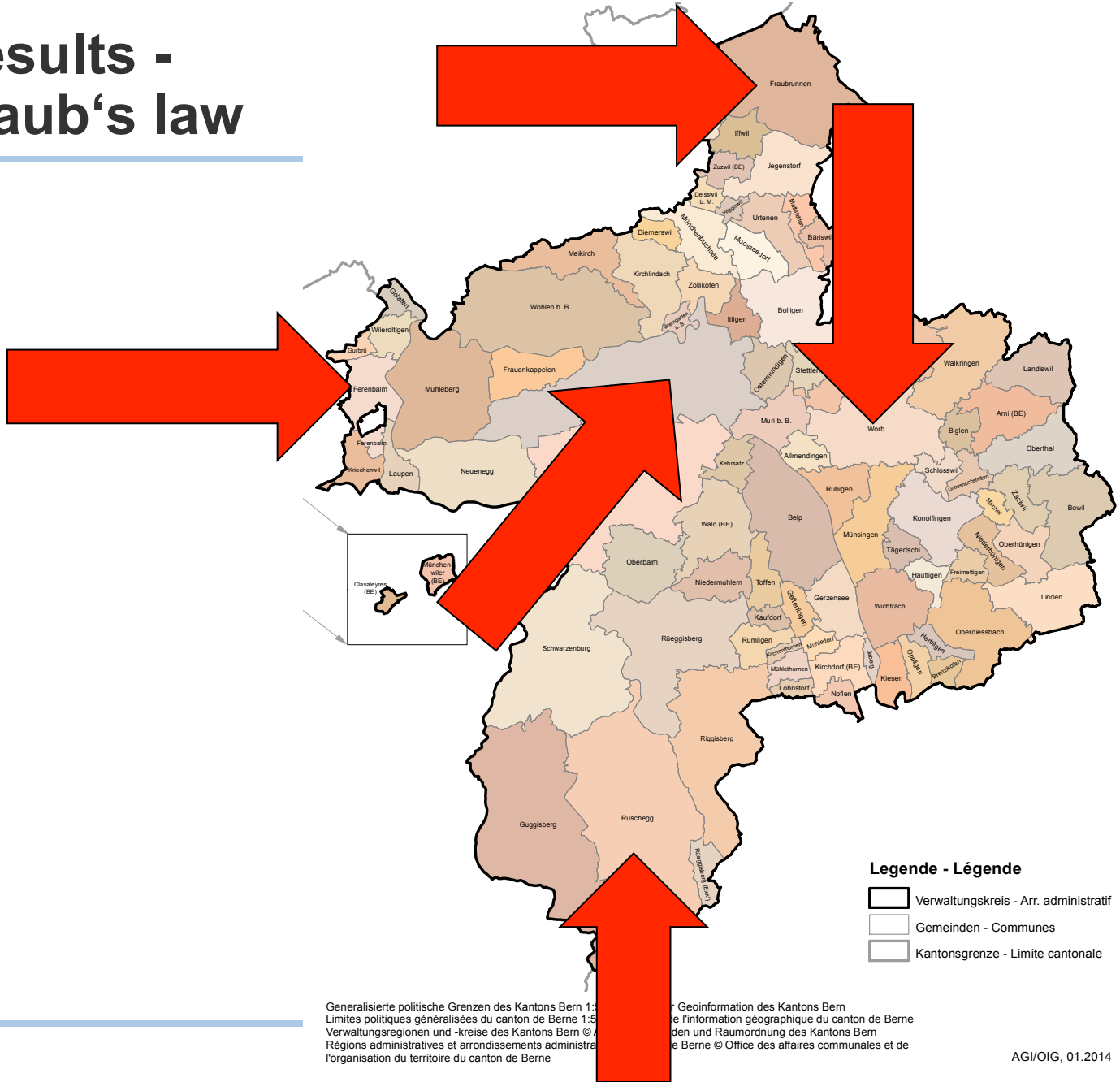
Results - Staub‘s law

> kSDS



Results - Staub‘s law

Verwaltungskreis Bern-Mittelland
Arrondissement administratif de Berne-Mittelland

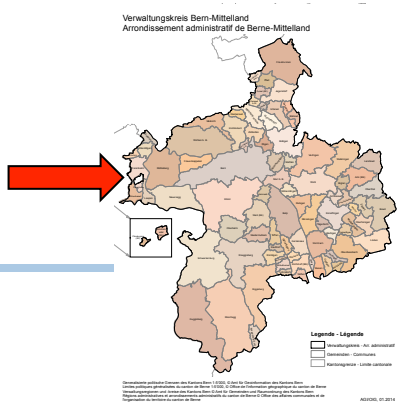


Generalisierte politische Grenzen des Kantons Bern 1:
Limites politiques généralisées du canton de Berne 1:5
Verwaltungsregionen und -kreise des Kantons Bern © A
Régions administratives et arrondissements administra

r Geoinformation des Kantons Bern
de l'information géographique du canton de Berne
den und Raumordnung des Kantons Bern
e Berne © Office des affaires communales et de l'organisation du territoire du canton de Berne

AGI/OIG, 01.2014

Results - Staub‘s law



UNIVERSITÄT BERN

> Ferenbalm

	trɪŋkxə	trɛixə	trɪ:xə	trɪ:hə
SDS	x			
F‘balm1	x			
F‘balm2	x			
F‘balm3	x			
F‘balm4	x			

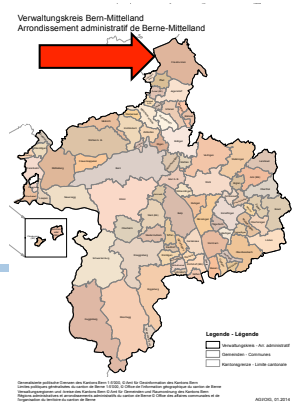
Results - Staub‘s law

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

> Bern

	trɪŋkxə	trɛixə	trɪ:xə	trɪ:hə
SDS	x			
Bern1	x			
Bern2	x			
Bern3	x			
Bern4	x			

Results - Staub‘s law

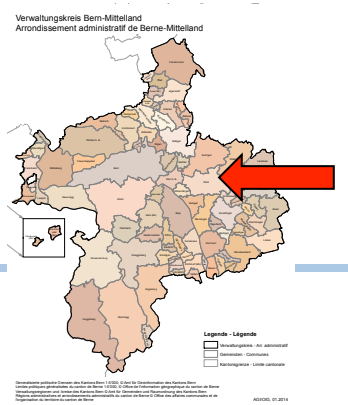


UNIVERSITÄT BERN

> Fraubrunnen

	trɪŋkxə	trɛixə	trɪ:xə	trɪ:hə
SDS	x			
F‘brunnen1	x			
F‘brunnen2	x			
F‘brunnen3	x			
F‘brunnen4		x		

Results - Staub‘s law



UNIVERSITÄT BERN

> Worb

	trɪŋkxə	trɛixə	trɪ:xə	trɪ:hə
SDS		x		
Worb1	x			
Worb2		x		
Worb3		x		
Worb4		x		

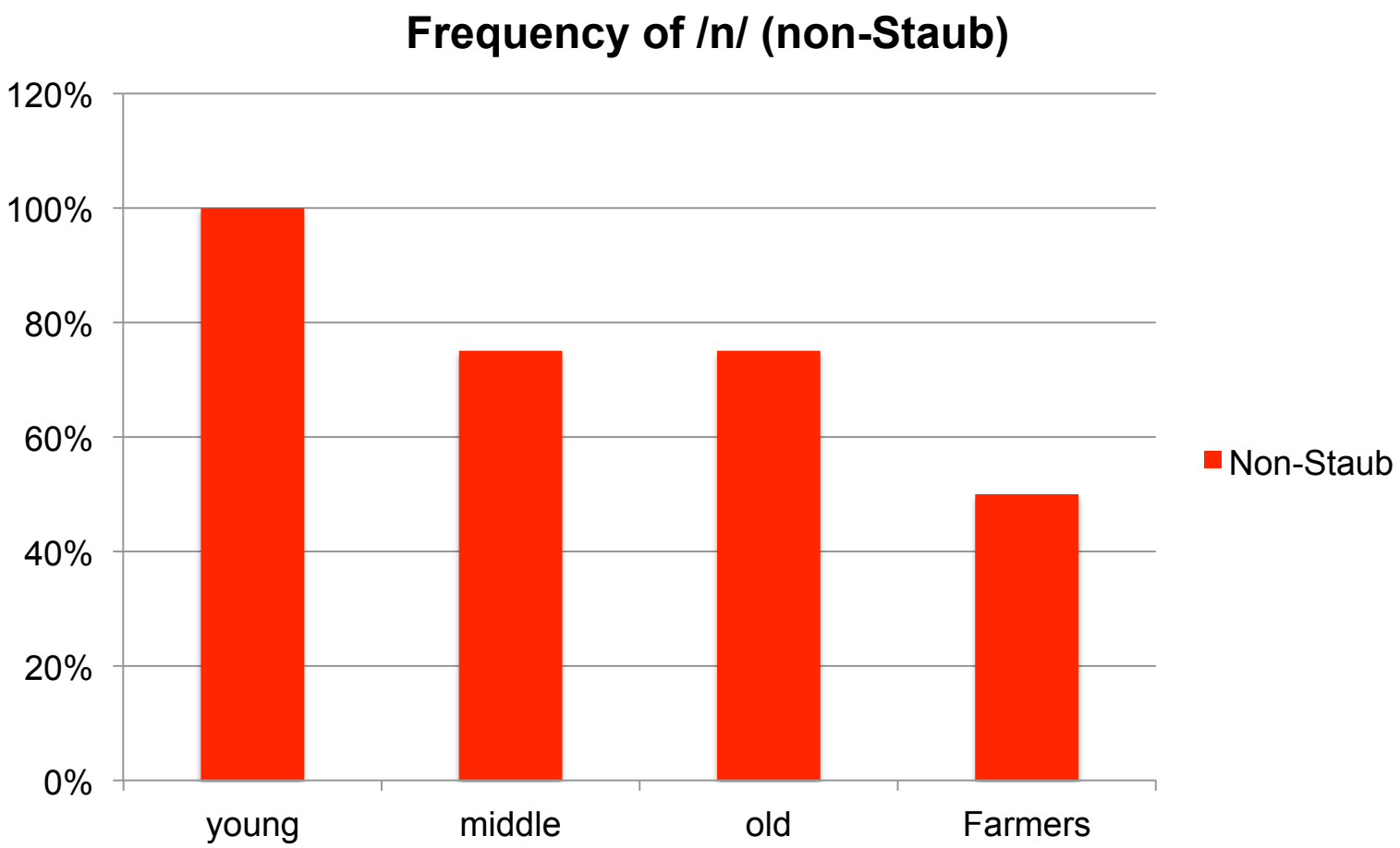
Results - Staub‘s law

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

> Rüeggisberg

	trɪŋkxə	trɛixə	trɪ:xə	trɪ:hə
SDS				x
R‘berg1	x			
R‘berg2		x		
R‘berg3		x		
R‘berg4			x	

Results - Staub‘s law



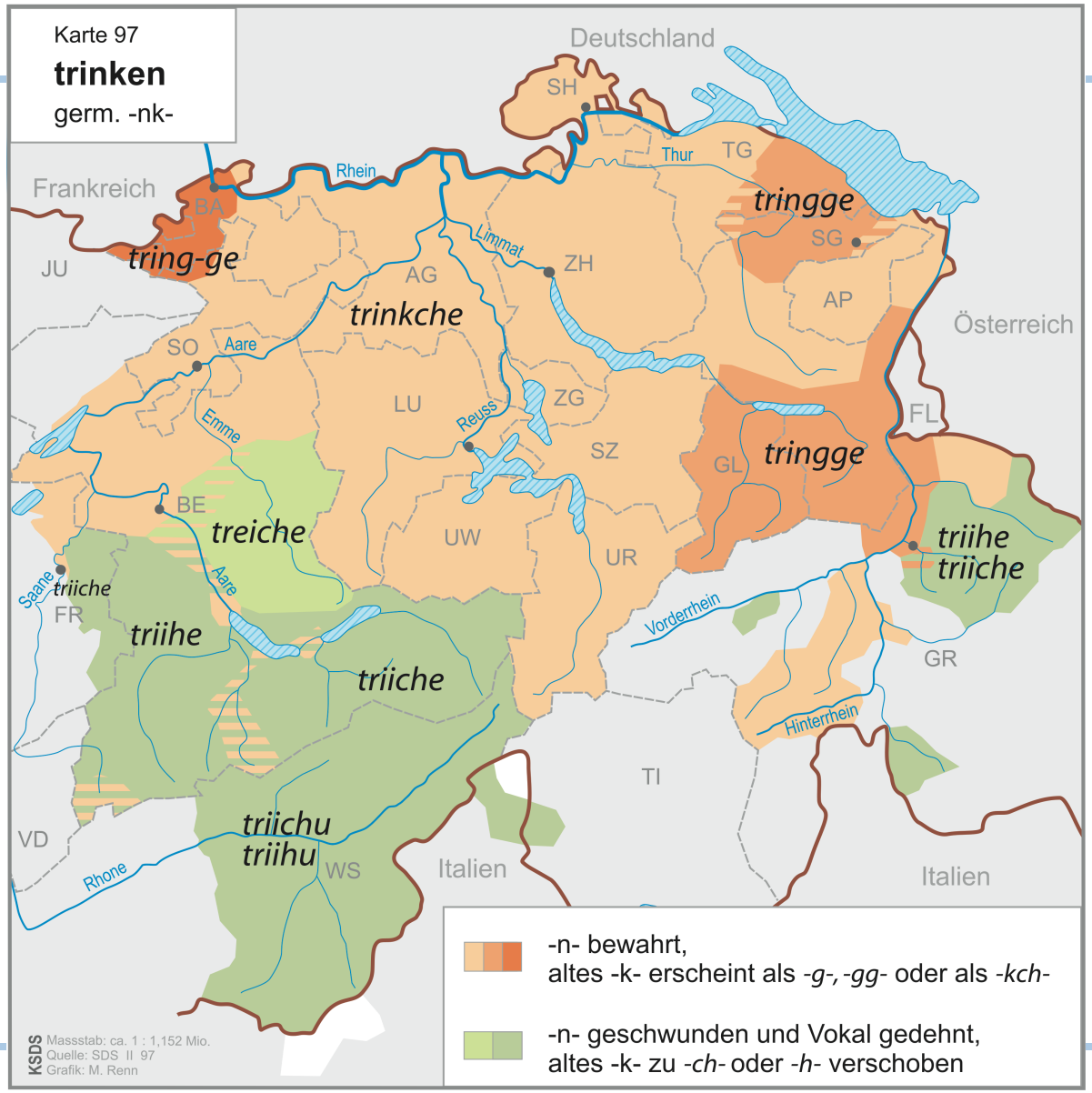
Results - Staub‘s law

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- Why?
  - Change still in progress, social reasons?
    - Yes, as qualitative interview parts show
  - Youngest age group: trinke has more prestige, variation of the city
  - Farmer in Fraubrunnen: SDS *trɪŋkxə*, now *trɛixə*
    - Language contact phenomena

Results - Staub‘s law

> kSDS



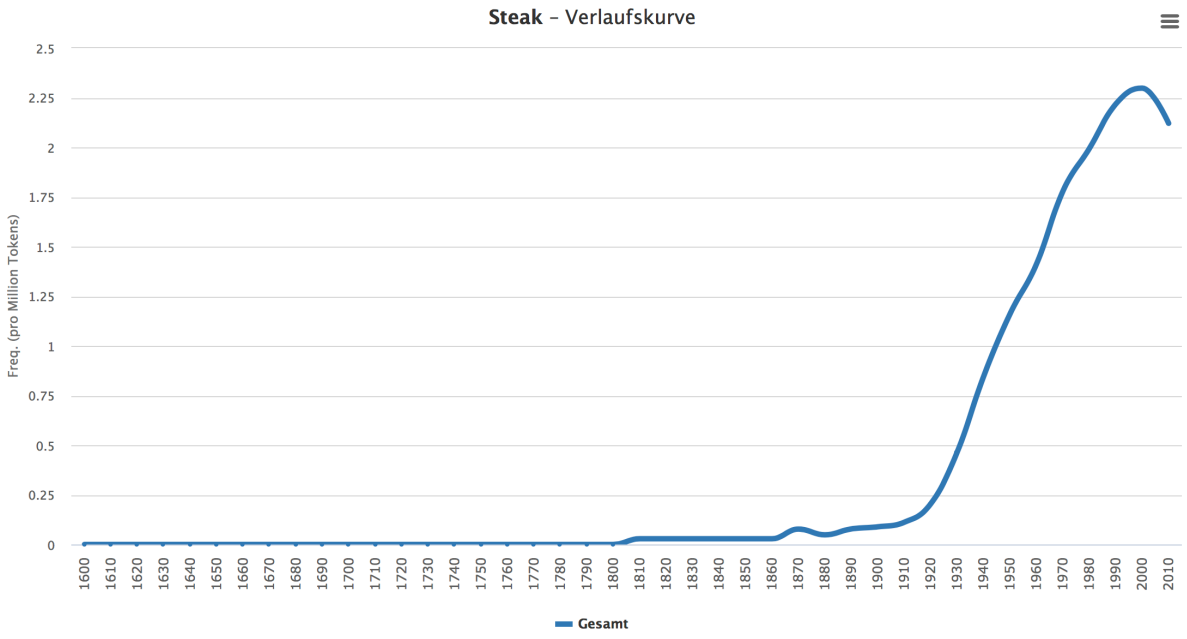
Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German

Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German

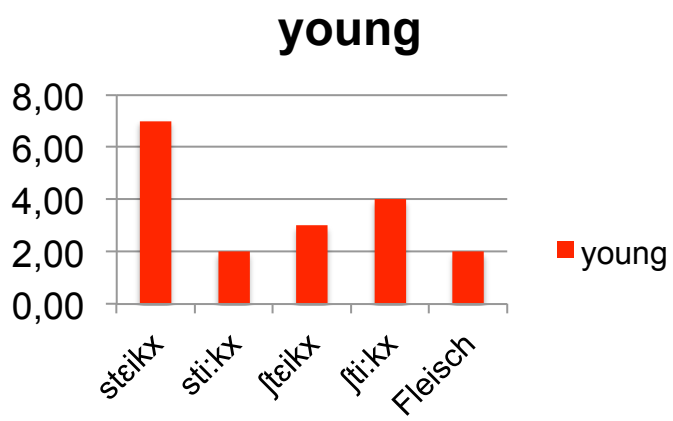
Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German

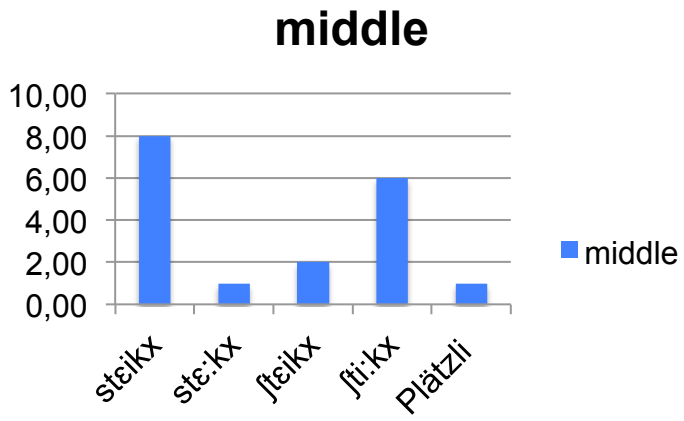
UNIVERSITÄT BERN

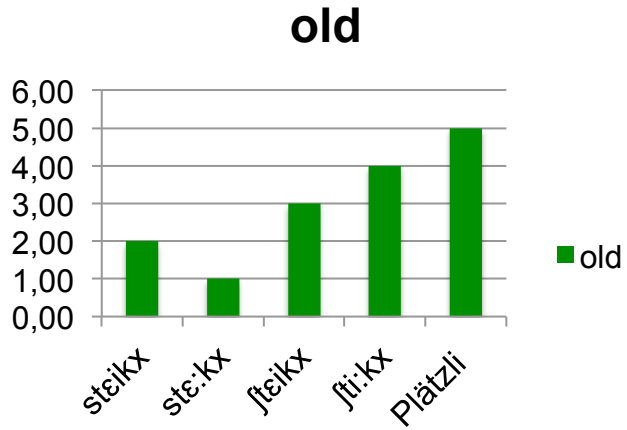
- Background:
  - Borrowed into German in the 19th century
  - Hypothesis: Education in English has influence to the pronunciation

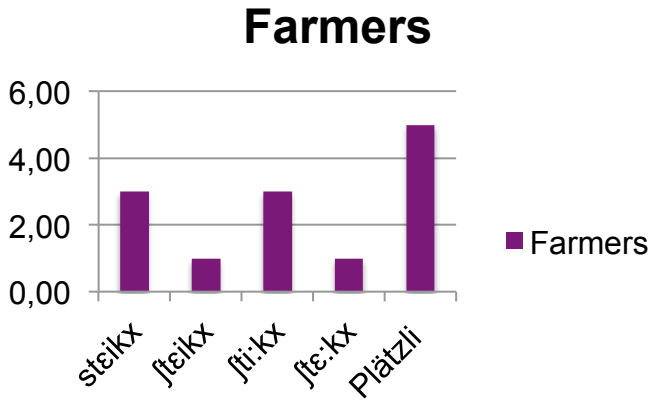


Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German

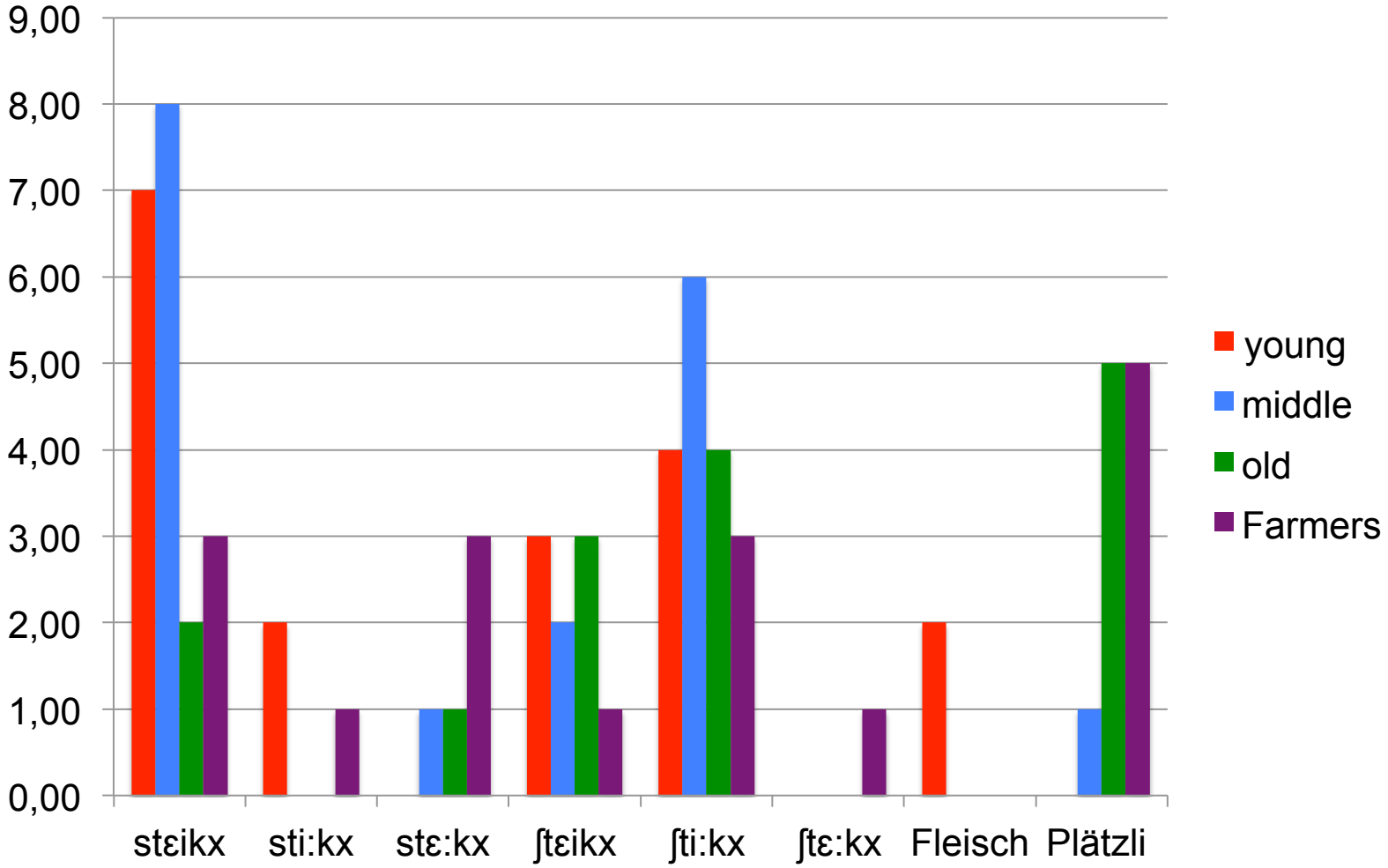








Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German



Results - English loanwords in Bernese Swiss German

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

- So?
  - Familiarisation with English has an effect
    - Since 2004 English compulsory at Swiss schools
    - Not only education in English, also internet, TV...
  - Middle aged group needs to keep up
  - Older and linguistically more conservative groups show lexical variation
  - Fleisch?

Thank you for your attention!