

„Es werden im wesentlichen [sic!] nur Wörter aufgenommen, welche deutlich unterschiedlich zum Hochdeutschen sind.“
On the verticality of laypersons' dialect collections and the possibilities of its measurement

Within the last few years we have noticed an increasing amount of dialect collections, a lot of them appearing on the web, that have been made by laypersons. These word lists with „translation“, usually compiled within years of work and often by several dialect-speaking and -interested persons, mostly have the purpose to save dialectal words and phrases from oblivion. But also the – from the laypeople's point of view – special features of the respective dialect are documented in this way. So far, such collections have hardly received scientific attention (cf. Zilz 2010), not least because their compilation cannot stand up to scientific criteria. Indirectly, however, they contain information with scientific evaluation potential: By writing down those words that, in the eyes of the laypeople, belong to their dialect and that make it up, they give insight into their ideas of what they consider to be part of their particular variety.

Although the question of how laypeople conceptualize dialect(s) is of central interest in perceptual dialectology, it has so far only been approached by analyzing laypersons' conceptions of the spatial dimension of (their) dialect(s) as well as its naming and attributions (mental maps, pile-sort-method; cf. e. g. Niedzielski/Preston 2000, Lameli/Purschke/Kehrein 2008, Tamasi 2003). The presentation however focuses on the conceptualization of different Tyrolean dialects by analyzing the collections laypeople made of their own dialect. A first pilot study in this regard, presented at the International Symposium LaienWissenSprache in Kiel (cf. Schmidtke 2019), has already shown that laypersons have quite a wide-ranging idea of their diatopic variety: On the one hand, the collections do not only contain basic dialectal words, but also numerous elements of what is in use in a larger geographical radius and can thus be classified as regiolect, substandard, or colloquial (e. g. *ausrichtn* (süddt., österr., coll.) [ausrichten] ,to speak ill of sb.'). On the other hand, elements of the standard language, with more or less phonetic distance to it, are also classified as belonging to one's own diatopic variety (e. g. *loata* [Leiter] ,ladder', *ausramen* [ausräumen] ,to clear out sth.').

Thus, the vertical extent on the dialect-standard-axis is of particular interest: Where can individual collections be located on this scale? The question is approached by measuring the Levenshtein distance of the respective words. Initially, this has been done by using the tool Peter Kleiweg offers on the web (<http://www.let.rug.nl/kleiweg/L04/>). Based on a study carried out as part of a diploma thesis (Kapferer 2020) that focuses on an automation-supported analysis the presentation in a second step also evaluates possibilities and limitations of such a computational analysis.

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