

The ‘atlas of everyday German in Salzburg’:

An update on (areal) variation in a central region of Austria

Konstantin Niehaus (Salzburg), Julian Blaßnigg (Salzburg), Peter Mauser (Salzburg)

‘Everyday’ language encompasses all ‘lects’ which are spoken in informal and routine settings and can be produced spontaneously (cf. Elspaß 2010: 419). ‘Everyday’ German differs between the German-speaking countries and regions: While speakers in northern Germany tend to use (near-)standard German, speakers in Switzerland chiefly speak local dialects; today’s situation in southern Germany and Austria is diaglossic, i.e. speakers shift between standard, dialect, and a broad spectrum of recent regiolects (cf. Kehrein 2019). The macro-areal variation found in ‘everyday’ German was first documented in the WDU (*Wortatlas der deutschen Umgangssprachen*) and, more recently, is being documented since the 2000s by the AdA (*Atlas zur deutschen Alltagssprache*), in particular on the lexical level (cf. also König, Elspaß & Möller 2020: 232–245).

Yet, both atlases cover the variation of more restricted areas only at large but not in greater detail. This holds also true for the central Austrian federal state of Salzburg where everyday German ranges from several different dialects like West Central, South Central, and South Bavarian to more widespread regiolects to areal standard German, frequently spoken especially in Salzburg city (cf. also Lenz 2019).

We will present a project (funded by the government of Salzburg, 2020–2023) which will establish a new atlas for the Austrian region of Salzburg, the *Atlas zur Salzburger Alltagssprache* (ASA, ‘atlas of everyday German in Salzburg’). It draws on the method of the AdA and utilizes an online questionnaire on 76 mostly lexical but also phonetic and grammatical features. Data collection was conducted in co-operation with the biggest regional newspaper (*Salzburger Nachrichten*) in four rounds in late 2019 and includes social information on the participants’ residence, age, gender, level of education, profession, mobility, and family heritage. In contrast to earlier dialectological studies on the region (cf. Scheutz 2007, 2016), our questionnaire reached a huge response of 1,500 to 5,000 participants each round.

Thus, the data allows for quantitative sociolinguistic and geolinguistic analysis (based on the approaches in Pickl et al. 2019 and Pröll et al. 2021). We will present first results in that regard and concentrate on lexical regional variation across Salzburg, particularly on the level of infrastructural ‘planning regions’ (*Planungsregionen*) since the Alpine landscape should be a decisive factor. In addition, we will discuss social factors where applicable and address the

distinction of ‘lects’ in Salzburg, i.e. we will give empirical insights on the diaglossic situation based on apt items of the questionnaire. As the data also allows for a more detailed cartography than previous studies, we will briefly touch on issues of visualization that arise with the tools ArcGIS and Geoling (<https://www.geoling.net>).

Ultimately, our goal will be a popular book publication in the fashion of Leeman et al. (2018) which does not, unlike earlier atlases, impose the traditional opposition (local dialects spoken by older people *versus* regiolect or standard spoken by younger people) but instead takes into account the actual diaglossic situation.

References:

AdA = Elspaß, Stephan & Robert Möller. 2003–2021. *Atlas zur deutschen Alltagssprache*. URL: <http://www.atlas-alltagssprache.de/> [10.12.2021].

Elspaß, Stephan. 2010. Alltagsdeutsch. In Hans-Jürgen Krumm, Christian Fandrych, Britta Hufeisen & Claudia Riemer (eds.), *Deutsch als Fremd- und Zweitsprache. Ein internationales Handbuch*. 2nd, revised edition. Vol. 1. Berlin, New York: de Gruyter. 418–424.

Kehrein, Roland. Areal Variation im Deutschen „vertikal“. In Joachim Herrgen & Jürgen Erich Schmidt (eds.), *Sprache und Raum. Ein internationales Handbuch der Sprachvariation*. Band 4: Deutsch. Unter Mitarbeit von Hanna Fischer und Brigitte Ganswindt. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter. 121–158.

König, Werner, Stephan Elspaß & Robert Möller. ¹⁹2020. *dtv-Atlas deutsche Sprache*. München: dtv.

Leemann, Adrian, Stephan Elspaß, Robert Möller & Timo Grossenbacher. 2018. *Grüezi, Moin, Servus. Wie wir wo sprechen*. Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt.

Lenz, Alexandra N. 2019. Alemannisch und Bairisch in Österreich. In Joachim Herrgen & Jürgen Erich Schmidt (eds.), *Sprache und Raum. Ein internationales Handbuch der Sprachvariation*. Band 4: Deutsch. Unter Mitarbeit von Hanna Fischer und Brigitte Ganswindt. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter. 318–363.

Pickl, Simon, Simon Pröll, Stephan Elspaß & Robert Möller. 2019. Räumliche Strukturen alltagssprachlicher Variation in Österreich anhand von Daten des „Atlas zur deutschen Alltagssprache (AdA)“. In Lars Bülow, Ann Kathrin Fischer & Kristina Herbert (eds.), *Dimensionen des sprachlichen Raums: Variation – Mehrsprachigkeit – Konzeptionalisierung*. Frankfurt am Main, Oxford u.a.: Peter Lang. 39–59.

Pröll, Simon, Stephan Elspaß & Simon Pickl. 2021. Zum variationslinguistischen Verhältnis von Stadt und Land. Ein Beitrag zu einer sprachlichen Raumtypologie am Beispiel Österreichs. *Linguistik Online* 110 (05/2021), 293–329.

Scheutz, Hannes (ed.). 2007. *Drent und herent. Dialekte im salzburgisch-bayerischen Grenzgebiet. Mit einem sprechenden Dialektatlas auf CD-ROM*. Unter Mitarbeit von Sandra Aitzetmüller und Peter Mauser. Salzburg: Salzburg – Berchtesgadener Land – Traunstein EU Regio.

Scheutz, Hannes (ed.). 2016. Salzburger Sprachatlas. URL:
<https://www.sprachatlas.at/salzburg/index.html> [10.12.2021].

WDU = Eichhoff, Jürgen: *Wortatlas der deutschen Umgangssprachen*. Vol. I (1977), vol. II (1978). Bern: Francke; vol. III (1993). München: Saur; vol. IV (2000). Bern, München: Saur.