The German Belt in Texas
German Immigration to Texas

- 1844: Large scale immigration
- Reasons for immigration
- Regional dialects
- Standard vs. non-standard German
- Dialect mixing and new dialect formation (Trudgill 2004).
Language maintenance, language endangerment, and language death

- **Since 1850**: German as the dominant language: Schools, newspaper, church, business, etc.
- **1907**: German-speaking population in Texas: 75,000 - 100,000 (Gilbert 1972)
- **1918**: World War I, English-only laws, anti-German-sentiments
- Other domains follow the “school-trend”.
- → Diglossia English-Texas German.
After 1945: WWII and its consequences

1960: Only 70,000 Speakers of TxG (Gilbert 1972)

1980: Final stages of “language shift”

2015: Only about 6-8000 speakers of TxG (older than 60 years). (Boas 2009)
Survival of Languages and Cultures

Generation 1
Generation 2
Generation 3
Generation 4
Generation 5

→ In 30 years TxG will be extinct.
The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP)
Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION

EDITING OF DATA

TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION

QUALITY CONTROL

PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE
Types of data collected and archived by TGDP

- Oral history interviews with speakers of TxG (45 – 60 minutes in length)
- Translation tasks (about 45 minutes)
- Biographical questionnaires (written, 10 pages)
Re-recording of Gilbert (1972)

- Gilbert’s (1972) Linguistic Atlas of Texas German is based on data collected in the 1960s.
- Translation of words, phrases, and sentences from English into Texas German.
- Based on these interviews, Gilbert created maps showing variation in Texas German.
- We re-sample Gilbert’s original data set in the same locations (sometimes with the same speakers!)
Gilbert (1972): map No. 10
Fred Eikel’s (1954) NBG data

- Eikel’s 191 English sentences were translated into Texas German in the 1930s and 1940s
- Re-sampling of the same data since 2001 gives us an idea of what has changed in New Braunfels German over the past 60 years
He always has trouble with his ear.

I am afraid that he will lose his money.

The wood is in the fire.

Turn off the faucet; the bucket is running over.

The groceries are in the pantry.

There are two quilts lying on the bed.

A blanket was lying on the floor.

The pillow slips were changed this morning.

He was at the doctor’s house; now he is at his office.

He is cutting the lawn.
Written biographical questionnaire

- Elicits personal data on language use and language attitudes

- Data are used to determine a number of extra-linguistic variables that help us understand how Texas German has been used by individuals over the past 80 years
5) When you were a kid how often did you speak (a) German, (b) English, with ________?

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER(S). Please make sure to include information on your use of German AND English for each print. For example, if you circle “always” for German, then you are likely to circle “never” or “sometimes” for English.

- Parents: (German) Always (English) Often
- Grandparents: (German) Never (English) Sometimes
- Teacher: (German) Always (English) Always
- Friends: (German) Always (English) Sometimes
- Siblings: (German) Always (English) Never
- Neighbors: (German) Always (English) Never

Still when you were a kid- how often did you speak (a) German, (b) English, at ________?

- Church: (German) Never (English) Sometimes
- School: (German) Always (English) Sometimes
- Home: (German) Always (English) Never
- Shops: (German) Always (English) Never
- Large Family Gatherings: (German) Never (English) Sometimes
- Other: (boy scouts, etc.) (German) Always (English) Never
Biographical Information

6) When you were older in the 1960s and 1970s, how often did you speak (a) German, (b) English, with _______?

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER(S). Please make sure to include information on your use of German AND English for each point.

Parents: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

(f) Grandparents: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Co-workers: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Friends: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Siblings: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Spouse: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Children: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Neighbors: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Still in the 1960s and 1970s, how often did you speak (a) German, (b) English, at _______?

Church: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Home: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Shops: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Large Family Gatherings: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

7) These days, how often do you speak (a) German, (b) English, with _______?

(f) Parents:
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

(f) Co-workers:
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Friends:
(English) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Siblings: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Spouse: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Children: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Neighbors: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

These days, how often do you speak (a) German, (b) English, at _______?

Church: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Home: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Shops: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Large Family Gatherings: (German) Always Often regularly sometimes never

Additional Comments:
Workflow of TGDP

- DATA COLLECTION
- EDITING OF DATA
- TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION
- QUALITY CONTROL
- PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE
Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION

EDITING OF DATA

TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION

QUALITY CONTROL

PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE
Editing of Data

- Names of people are “beeped out” (privacy)
- Recordings are uploaded to our file server (MySQL database), using web interface
- Once files are uploaded, the entire workflow is automated and web-based (not bound to specific location)
Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION

EDITING OF DATA

TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION

QUALITY CONTROL

PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE
Transcription & Translation

Interviewer: 'Einem nach andere Sprachen gesprochen auf...

NEIN

[Well, mein Vater, wo der arbeit hat, da muss er Englisch sprechen. Er]

NUR Deutsch. Uh huh]

Speaker: No

[Well, my father where he work has, there must it he English speak. He has Eng]

[Only German. Uh huh?]

Interviewer: Were all other languages spoke other than

Speaker: Only German. Uh huh?
Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION

EDITING OF DATA

TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION

QUALITY CONTROL

PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Username</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>1-34-1-7-a</td>
<td>Language use at school, games/pranks played during recess</td>
<td>02:39:00</td>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>Oct 18, 2003</td>
<td>Apr 15, 2004 2:04 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-34-1-8-a</td>
<td>After-school chores and amusements</td>
<td>02:12:00</td>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>Oct 18, 2003</td>
<td>Apr 16, 2004 1:10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-34-1-9-a</td>
<td>Supper and afterward</td>
<td>01:31:00</td>
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<td>Apr 20, 2004 1:50 pm</td>
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<td>Leisure time at the bowling alley, earning and spending money</td>
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<td>Nov 17, 2003</td>
<td>May 12, 2004 12:23 pm</td>
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<td>Division of labor on farm, the grandparents' activities</td>
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<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>Nov 17, 2003</td>
<td>Apr 22, 2004 1:18 pm</td>
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<td>1-34-1-12-a</td>
<td>Saturday activities; movies, catechism, hunting grandparents</td>
<td>01:25:00</td>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>Nov 17, 2003</td>
<td>Apr 22, 2004 1:43 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-34-1-13-a</td>
<td>Sunday activities; church, visiting grandma #2, visits</td>
<td>01:47:00</td>
<td>Jarrod</td>
<td>Nov 17, 2003</td>
<td>Apr 22, 2004 1:51 pm</td>
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<td>1-34-1-14-a</td>
<td>Saturday dances</td>
<td>02:22:00</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>Jan 15, 2004</td>
<td>Apr 27, 2004 3:41 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-34-1-15-a</td>
<td>High school (Geronimo) and college (San Marcos)</td>
<td>03:23:00</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>Jan 15, 2004</td>
<td>Apr 27, 2004 5:03 pm</td>
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<td>1-34-1-16-a</td>
<td>Working on the farm in summer, friends who went to college</td>
<td>01:52:00</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Nov 15, 2003</td>
<td>May 04, 2004 2:36 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

- Digital language archive containing audio/video recordings including transcriptions and translations
- For teaching, research, outreach (German Texan Heritage Society, heritage preservation efforts etc.)
Welcome to TGDP

The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) is an umbrella organization for carrying out research in representative Texas German speech communities in central Texas.

The goals of the TGDP are:

- to preserve the Texas German dialect as it reflects the rich cultural and linguistic traditions of its residents
- to gather basic research information about linguistic diversity in order to understand the nature of language variation and change
- to provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests
- to use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture
The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

TGDP Login

In order to efficiently manage our research and to protect the privacy of the Texas German speakers on our site, you must login to enjoy full site access.

User Name

Password

Login

*If you don't have an account, click here to register quickly and easily.
Texas German Dialect Archive

Click on a red city, then select a sound or video file.

From LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF TEXAS GERMAN by Glenn G. Gilbert. Copyright (c) 1972. Courtesy of the University of Texas Press.
The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)
Going to dances on the weekend, an uncle who lived with them
1-38.1-9-a.

Interviewer 1: UND war umi ni Sie, 1a Sie in der Schule waren, war halten Sie am Wochenende
and what did you do as you in the school were, what did you do on the weekend
nach gemacht?
all do?

Oh, we had dancers. We have danced. The everywhere were dancehalls. But
bloß in der Stadt bei Peterhalle war DA, dort die - man siehst was
just in the city - by Peter's Hall was. There is now the - let's see - what
is there now? G-the Gsauver. There was a hall, a Peter's Hall. And
da hunfer getan. UNF die Tondelle da war die Tondelle. UNF
there were dancers. And then the generation that was the gymnastics club. And
da hunfer gemacht bei [Stonewall] um ohma when we noch BERCHIKH.
there were danced and by Stonewall and objects are where the Bridge, the,
Comfort, Rathkeffer, schloß. DER Rathkeffer war aber leere Tondelle. EAS
Comfort, Rathkeffer, everywhere. The Rathkeffer was however no dance-hall. It
wur bloß in [thinking place] DA hunfer gemacht
was just a dancing place. There was never danced.

Interviewer 1: JA.
Yes.

Speaker 38: [YES]
Yeah.

Interviewer 1: UND Sie, und, die zwei Tanzen gegangen oder mit anderen Freunden oder
And you with the partner to the dancing go or with other friends or
Freundinnen?
girlfriends?

Speaker 38: UNF mein Onkel hat uns immer dabei genommen
Oh my uncle had us always there taken.

Interviewer 1: ACH ja.
Ah yes.

Speaker 38: JA der hat uns mit gebracht. DAS war Miller [Brothers] UN nun waren glücklich
Yes he brought us lived. That was Miller Brothers. And we were happy
dass die so uns glücklich war - was nicht vor aus gesehen hat. WAS de man
that he was so happy had, because what he not for us alone had. What the say
wir aber nachträglich hat die gesehen. UND hat das uns [faked reference] uns.
we also after the fact has the seen. AND has that us [faked reference] us.
Texas German Dialect Project 2001-2015

- Interviewed more than 450 speakers of Texas German across central Texas
- Recorded, digitized, and archived more than 850 hours of interviews
- Materials used for classes on Texas German language, culture, and history
- Community outreach
- Academic publications and presentations
- Theses / dissertations
UT linguist strikes gold with Texas German Dialect Project

Languages, inn.

German

Dr. Boris Uzun

TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT
http://www.tgdp.org

Press Highlights

UT Researchers Record Dialect From Central Tex

Henry Wolf Jr.

Henry's Journal

Texas German dialect disappearing

"The language is dying out. It will be gone in 25 or 30 years."

RANB ROGIT LANGUAGE PROFESSOR

CONTINUED FROM \n
then.- and they coined a whole new vocabulary largely unknown to the isolate German settlers in Texas.

So while Germany built up its new vocabulary in Europe the German Texans created a new vocabulary in Texas, and hundreds of English words simply in the latter half of the 19th century.

Usually the Texas German speakers pronounced their English words with a German accent when they said the name of the German word, and the language was spoken in the home.

German culture thrived in the hilly landscape where many homes and churches were built. Everyone studied in German, and German music, art and literature were embraced. German language was even taught in some English language schools.

In San Antonio, so many prominent Germans lived along the San Antonio River near CH Goethert's store in the 1880s that people dubbed the area "Germania." The city passed an English-only law to prevent the German-speaking members of local government holding meetings that many citizens couldn't understand.

Reports such as these talk about "Germania" when they ex-
plain why some languages were more popular in certain areas. As long as Con-
necticut remained relatively isolated, the Pennsylvania Dutch were speaking to each other in German, and the language continued to be spoken in the home, school, and church.

"I thought, if I teach (my kids) German, who are they going to speak to?"

DIANE MOOTZ

"I thought. 'If I teach (my kids) German, who are they going to speak to?'"

Racing Against Time

Local couple records a song that many Germans will be able to understand.
Linguistic insights.

- Language contact and language change
- Language variation
- New-dialect formation
Dankeschön !!!