Multilingualism and mixed-mode communication

Sociolinguistic insights into the German-Namibian diaspora

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Multilingualism and Mixed-Mode Communication

Sociolinguistic Insights into the German-Namibian Diaspora

Like other disciplines, the field of sociolinguistics is not a homogenous one. It rather comes in three “loosely connected waves” (Eckert 2012) with each wave applying specific sets of methods. How can we use methodological triangulation and combine these methods, both quantitative and qualitative in nature, to integrate the three waves of sociolinguistics? This dissertation focusses on this question through five case studies concerning the German-Namibian diaspora, i.e., German-speaking Namibians who migrated to Germany. Their multilingual repertoire (Standard German, Namdeutsch [Namibian German], English, and Afrikaans) is the main research object. The studies presented in this book use correlational analysis, participant observation and semi-structured interviews to unveil the interplay between extralinguistic variables (e.g., gender, mode, place of origin), individual styles and linguistic variation in both, face-to-face interaction and computer-mediated communication (CMC). In doing so, the dissertation adds the notion of translocalisation to the field of German Sprachinselforschung (research on German-language exclaves). I argue that this notion complements existing perspectives on local and regional dynamics and thus leads to a more holistic view on Sprachinseln. Therefore, this dissertation shows how methodological triangulation offers an opportunity to add new perspectives to already established constructs.
Multilingualism and Mixed-Mode Communication

Sociolinguistic Insights into
the German-Namibian Diaspora
Multilingualism and Mixed-Mode Communication: 
Sociolinguistic Insights into the German-Namibian Diaspora

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Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
I view social studies of linguistic variation as coming in three loosely-ordered waves, all of which are essential to the understanding of variation and change.¹

Penelope Eckert

¹ https://web.stanford.edu/~eckert/thirdwave.html (3 August 2022)
Table of Contents

Acknowledgements ......................................................................................... xiii
Acknowledgement of financial support ........................................................... xvii
Autor contributions ......................................................................................... xix

Chapter 1  | Einführung .................................................................1
  1.1 Der Mehrwert von integrativen Ansätzen .............................................. 2
  1.2 Die drei Wellen der Soziolinguistik ..................................................... 5
  1.3 Warum die deutsch-namibische Diaspora? .......................................... 7
  1.4 Translokale Sprachinselforschung ....................................................... 10
  1.5 Datensatz, Gegenstand und Methodologie ........................................ 11
  1.6 Struktur der Dissertation ..................................................................... 13
  1.7 Literatur .............................................................................................. 16

Chapter 2  | Die translokalisierte Community deutschsprachiger Namibier.19
  2.1 Warum München? .................................................................................. 28
  2.2 Literatur .............................................................................................. 30

Chapter 3  | Mehrsprachigkeit zwischen Print- und Onlinekommunikation.33
  3.1 Einleitung ............................................................................................. 33
  3.2 Die deutsche Sprache in Namibia ......................................................... 35
  3.3 Korpus und Methode ........................................................................... 37
  3.4 Orthographie ....................................................................................... 40
  3.5 Komposition ......................................................................................... 41
  3.6 Intensivierung....................................................................................... 43
  3.7 Pejorativer Sprachgebrauch ................................................................. 44
  3.8 Indigener Einfluss ................................................................................ 45
  3.9 Spuren von (Teil-)Kreolisierung im Namdeutsch .................................. 47
  3.10 Deutsche Mediensprache in Namibia: Norm oder Variation? ............ 48
  3.11 Schlussfolgerungen und Ausblick ..................................................... 50
  3.12 Literatur ............................................................................................ 53
Chapter 4  | Mehrsprachigkeit und CMC in der Diaspora ..........................57
4.1 Einleitung .................................................................................................57
4.2 Die doppelte Minderheit ..........................................................................58
4.3 Methode .....................................................................................................59
4.4 Zur Dynamik der digitalen Vernetzung .....................................................60
   4.4.1 Plattformen der deutsch-namibischen Diaspora und ihrer Community. 60
   4.4.2 Der Bedeutungsgewinn von CMC für die namibische Diaspora ..........62
4.5 Digitale Sprachmuster .............................................................................63
4.6 Zusammenfassung und Ausblick ...............................................................71
4.7 Literatur ......................................................................................................73

Chapter 5  | Multilingualism, group cohesion and mixed-mode groups ..........77
5.1 Introduction ..............................................................................................77
5.2 Methodology ............................................................................................81
5.3 The dynamics of a mixed-mode group .....................................................82
   5.3.1 FTF communication within NAMSA .................................................82
   5.3.2 In-group and out-group communication ..........................................85
   5.3.3 Mixed-modes and group cohesion ....................................................88
   5.3.4 NAMSA: Slang and identity in CMC ...............................................89
5.4 Mixed-mode and single-mode groups ....................................................97
   5.4.1 NAMSA versus NiD .........................................................................97
   5.4.2 Chronological frequencies ................................................................99
5.5 Conclusion and discussion .......................................................................101
5.6 References ..............................................................................................103

Chapter 6  | Multilingualism, gender and (referential) multimodality ..............109
6.1 Introduction ..............................................................................................109
6.2 Methodology ............................................................................................112
6.3 Theoretical remarks ................................................................................114
   6.3.1 Gender as a variable ........................................................................114
   6.3.2 Code-Switching and N nonce Borrowing ........................................116
6.4 Results .......................................................................................................116
6.4.1 Mode, word type and gender ............................................................. 116
6.4.2 Two types of multilingual practices .................................................. 119
6.4.3 Semantics and gender in multilingual word choice ........................... 122
6.4.4 Non-German Brocatives ................................................................. 126
6.5 Multimodal multilingualism and gender construction ......................... 127
6.5.1 Referential multimodality ............................................................... 128
6.5.2 Brocatives between FTF and CMC .................................................. 131
6.6 Discussion and conclusion .................................................................. 138
6.7 References ......................................................................................... 141

Chapter 7 | Multilingualism, urbanity and rurality in social media ..........145
7.1 Introduction ......................................................................................... 145
7.2 Individuals from urban and rural areas in Namibia .............................. 147
7.3 Dataset ............................................................................................... 149
  7.3.1 Discourse on Facebook ................................................................. 150
7.4 Results of the analysis ........................................................................ 151
  7.4.1 Intra-individual language choices displayed in CMC ...................... 151
  7.4.2 Roles and functions of Namibia-specific language practices ............ 154
7.5 Urban, rural or CMC practices? ............................................................ 158
7.6 Summary and outlook ......................................................................... 161
7.7 References ......................................................................................... 163

Chapter 8 | Discussion ................................................................................. 167
8.1 Methodological triangulation and sociolinguistics ............................... 167
8.2 The value of mixed-methods approaches ............................................ 168
8.3 Integrated approaches and sociolinguistics ......................................... 174
8.4 Advantages and limitations of triangulation ....................................... 176
8.5 Towards a new research field: translocal Sprachinsel/versuche ........... 178
  8.5.1 The German-Namibian Diaspora in South(ern) Africa .................... 179
  8.5.2 Volga Germans between Europe and the Americas ....................... 182
  8.5.3 Unserdeutsch Speakers between Papua New Guinea and Australia.... 184
  8.5.4 Translocal Sprachinsel/versuche .................................................... 186
8.6 References ......................................................................................... 189
Appendix A
Full results of the multiple logistic regression (Chapter 6) .............................................193

Appendix B
Results of the logistic regression (Chapter 7, Section 7.5) .............................................197

Summary in English ........................................................................................................199
References ......................................................................................................................206

Zusammenfassung auf Deutsch .................................................................................209
Literatur .......................................................................................................................217

Samenvatting in het Nederlands .............................................................................219
Literatuur ......................................................................................................................227
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Autor contributions

Chapter 1

Einführung

This chapter was written by Henning Radke. He revised the chapter based on detailed feedback from Arjen Versloot and Horst Simon. He also presented the chapter during the Sommerkolloquium (SK) in Oerlinghausen, Germany and received feedback from the audience. The SK was organized by the linguistic working groups of Freie Universität Berlin, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and Technische Universität Dortmund (1 – 3 July 2022). The chapter has not been submitted for publication elsewhere.

Chapter 2

Die translokalisierte Community deutschsprachiger Namibier

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Chapter 3

Mehrsprachigkeit zwischen Print- und Onlinekommunikation

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Chapter 5

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Discussion

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