Yiddish

- Yiddish is the language of the Jews in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Developed around 1000 AD in Middle High German (MHG) area.
- Broad division between Western Yiddish (WY) and Eastern Yiddish (EY) based on vowel changes, e.g.
  - MHG [ei], [ou] > WY [a:], vs. EY [ey], [oy].
  - Or lexical differences, particularly Slavic loanwords and structural distinctions, e.g. Modern EY uses
    - symmetric X in 13th century.
  - A relative particle instead of MHG /ei/, /ou/ > WY /a:/ vs. EY /ey/, /oy/.
- Developed around 1000 AD in the Middle High German (MHG) area.
- Yiddish is the language of the Jews.

Language as a Sign for Jewishness in German Fiction: The Three-Stages-Model

Setting

- Includes 53 texts of Christian authorship; two sources from every 5-year-interval (time span 1770–1875).
- Enhanced by seven texts from the 21st century.
- Includes 53 texts of Christian authorship; two sources from every 5-year-interval (time span 1770–1875).
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Linguistic phenomena

- A cluster analysis of all used phenomena.
- Displays a systematic use of manipulative methods.
- Cluster C shows composited semantic strategies for rightward movement.
- The subcluster of Cluster A & B shows similar types of phenomena.

The areal distribution

- The areal distribution of the sum of all deviations calculated by Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW).
- Phenological deviations are mostly used in sources from the Southwest.
- Morphological deviations are more frequent in the West than in the East.
- EY and syncretic deviations (esp. VO-Structures) are more common in the East.

The literary discourse

- The want-cluster analysis between sources of Christians’ YFI and all of the deviations found results in 5 main clusters of sources having similar deviations.
- Each of the 5 clusters shows accumulation over time; this suggests that the sources influenced one another.

The Sources of Western Yiddish from the (long) 19th century results from the DFG-Project.

Staff

- Lea Schäfer, Nicola Schenkel, Ute Simeon.
- Project started in 2011 since then we have located about 300 potential WY sources.
- Mostly of the sources are plays and prose with elements of spoken language.
- That data presents conceptual originality.
- Only 25% can be attributed to Jewish authors.
- The majority of the sources are T anti-Semitic imitations of Yiddish.

Simulation of Hebrew

- Used and inspired by American prose and motion pictures.

Emulation of YFI

- Embeds WY and EY elements in New High German.
- First used in anti-Semitic literature.
- Later adapted by Jewish authors as a parodic device for non-assimilated Jews.
- Used and inspired by American prose and motion pictures.

Interpretation

- The data presents conceptual originality.
- Only 25% can be attributed to Jewish authors.
- The majority of the sources are T anti-Semitic imitations of Yiddish.