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GERMANIC LANGUAGES

I. GERMAN STUDIES
LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

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1. General

A number of works published during 2013 take stock of the nature of contemporary German. The state of the art of research into variation in German is presented in a Festschrift commemorating Ulrich Ammon’s 70th birthday. *Vielfalt, Variation und Stellung der deutschen Sprache*, ed. Karina Schneider-Wiejowski, Birte Kellermeyer-Rehbein and Jakob Haselhuber, Berlin, de Gruyter, x + 578 pp., presents 32 papers in two sections, ‘Vielfalt und Variation der deutschen Sprache’ and ‘Sprachenpolitik und international Stellung von Sprachen’. Edited by the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung and the Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften, the volume *Reichtum und Armut der deutschen Sprache. Erster Bericht zur Lage der deutschen Sprache*, Berlin, de Gruyter, 233 pp., contains contributions by Peter Eisenberg, Wolfgang Klein, and Angelika Storrer focusing on those perennial bones of contention, anglicisms and Nominalstil, as well as variation in vocabulary and inflection.

Scholars interested in the corpus-based study of German are well served by a volume from a conference in Manchester in 2011. Five of the 19 chapters in *New Methods in Historical Corpora*, ed. Paul Bennett et al., Tübingen, Narr, 282 pp., examine methodologies for capturing information on German from corpora, namely: Klaus-Peter Wegera, ‘Language Data Exploitation: Design and Analysis of Historical Language Corpora’ (55–73); Britta Juska-Bacher and Cerston Mahlow, ‘Phraseological change — A Book with Seven Seals? Tracing the Diachronic Development of German Proverbs and Idioms by a Combination of Corpus and Dictionary Analyses’ (139–50); Mathinde Hennig, ‘The Kassel Corpus of Clause Linking’ (207–19); Bryan Jurish, Marko Drotschmann and Henriette Ast, ‘Constructing a Canonicalized Corpus of Historical German by Text Alignment’ (221–34); Sonja Linde and Roland Mittmann, ‘Old German Reference Corpus: Digitizing the Knowledge of the 19th Century. Automated Pre-annotation Using Digitized Historical Glossaries’ (235–46).

The five-volume *Historisches Lexikon deutscher Farbbezeichnungen*, by William Jervis Jones, Berlin, Akademie, cxlvii + 3161 pp., deals comprehensively with colour terms from Old High German to the present day, including compounds and idioms, as well as terms from technical language. By the same author, the monograph *German Colour Terms: A Study in their Historical Evolution from Earliest Times to the Present*, Amsterdam, Benjamins, xiv + 663 pp., offers a thorough historical analysis of German colour words from the earliest period of the language to the present and draws data from over 1000 texts. While the first part presents a review of previous work in colour linguistics, and the second part describes and documents the formation of popular colour taxonomies and specialised nomenclatures in German across many periods and fields, the third part traces linguistic developments in systematic detail across more than 12 centuries,
paying particular attention to the evolving meanings of colour terms, their connotative values, figurative extensions, morphological productivity, and lexicographical registration.

2. Phonetics and Phonology

Gerrit Kentner and Caroline Féry, ‘A New Approach to Prosodic Grouping’, *LRev*, 30:277–311, addresses German prosody. Based on two experiments involving German sentences containing three or four coordinated names, K. and F. link the expression of prosodic boundaries to syntactic embedding and branching, and consequently defend a model of mapping syntax to prosody that expresses this. They further contend that prosodic constituent structures at the level of the prosodic phrase and above are best represented recursively.

Ruben van de Vijver and Dinah Baer-Henney, ‘On the Role of Phonetic Motivation and Frequency in the Acquisition of Alternations’, *LiLi*, 43:49–64, deals with the acquisition of final devoicing and umlaut in noun plurals in German. The authors contend that these two alternations are roughly equally frequent in German, and use two production experiments involving plural formation, one with adults and one with five-year-old children, to show that children tend to rely more on phonetic motivation in acquiring these alternations than adults do.

Barbara Vogt, ‘Consequences of Rhythmic Secondary Stress in German: Stress Patterns in Language Games and Past Participle Formation’, *LBer*, 234:171–91, looks at main stress in artificial German words in order to determine rhythmic secondary stress patterns, and then applies the resulting analysis to the formation of past participles. Markus Tönjes, ‘“Desblö Socksge! Merimsedie Destānum!” Was uns Gaunab der 99. über den Wortakzent des Deutschen verrät’, *LBer*, 235:337–72, connects lexical stress in German to syllable weight, based on an analysis of German words altered by the author Walter Moers in his novel *Rumo*, and the audiobook by the German actor Dirk Bach.

Phonetic descriptions of two dialects of German have appeared. Christopher Cox, Jacob M. Driedgera, and Benjamin V. Tucker, ‘Mennonite Plautdietsch (Canadian Old Colony)’, *JIPA*, 43:221–29, treats a Low German dialect, now spoken quite widely in the German-speaking diaspora, with an estimated 300,000 speakers. Sameer ud Dowla Khan and Constanze Weise, ‘Upper Saxon (Chemnitz Dialect)’, *ib.*, 231–41, covers the version of Upper Saxon spoken in Chemnitz in eastern Germany. A phonetic description of the closely-related language Luxembourgish (originally a dialect of German, but now considered a separate language by its speakers) also appeared: Peter Gilles and Jürgen Trouvain, ‘Luxembourgish’, *ib.*, 67–74.

Jill Beckman, Michael Jessen, and Catherine Ringen, ‘Empirical Evidence for Laryngeal Features: Aspirating vs. True Voice Languages’, *JL*, 49:259–84, continue their important work on laryngeal features. They show that aspirating languages like German differ considerably from true voice languages like Russian in the variable voicing of lenis stops: intervocalic lenis stops are much less likely to be fully voiced in German than they are in Russian. This difference is consistent with the view that the active laryngeal feature in German is [spread glottis], as opposed to [voice] in languages like Russian; and that the variable voicing of lenis stops in German is the result of passive voicing. Phonetic differences between various other Germanic languages are also discussed. Other relevant comparative studies of German and Russian include Augustin Ulrich Nebert, *Tonhöhenumfang der deutschen und russischen Sprechstimme. Vergleichende Untersuchung zur Sprechstimmlage*, Frankfurt, Lang, 291 pp., which offers a comparative prosodic study of pitch ranges in German and Russian, drawing on both acoustic and auditory phonetics and focusing largely on German as spoken by native speakers of Russian; and Tamara Rathcke, ‘On The Neutralizing Status of Truncation in Intonation: A Perception Study of Boundary Tones