

linguistics bimonthly

a RUEG - bulletin board

3 | 2019

Berlin, June 15, 2019 - special edition: LNdW 2019



RUEG projects Z (coordination and transfer), P6 and Pd-Meth are finally together on one floor in one of Humboldt University's **Hausvogtei** buildings. What is a Hausvogt-Ei?, you might ask.

In Berlin "Hausvogt" was the title of an electoral official (Vogt, overlord) who provided for the structural maintenance of the Residenzschloss ("Haus"), and its belongings. The suffix "ei" denotes the location. And what a location it is! Just look at the sign you see when you leave the subway: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Museum of German History...

Incidentally, the research group does not feel intimidated but challenged! Maybe that's why we have been struggling with an "overload" in the last couple of weeks rather than any "overlord". Anyway, we are happy to announce the first public release of our corpus, version 0.2.0.

The publication to cite is <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3236068>. This [URL](#) will always point to the latest release of the RUEG corpus, so it is easy to cite the most recent corpus version even before its release.

In this **bbb** 3/19 you will find a description of what we did at the Night of the Sciences (see **N⁸**), together with some news and an interview with Martin from Pd-Corps. Wait: Pd-Corps? Pd-Meth? Are these the results of the renaming process? Yes, we decided to explore our dark side with these terms (and also relate to "corpus" and "elicitation methodology") to replace "Pd-Berlin" and "Pd-Potsdam"! This info and many other you can find in our new [website](#):

linguistik.hu-berlin.de/de/RUEG

See you there or at Hausvogteiplatz, Katrin Neuhaus, RUEG transfer



A discussion game that lasts more than an hour? The Night of Science may be long, but considering the many other great things one can see and do... Nevertheless, we made it! And this was the question the players discussed:

“Imagine you were Berlin’s minister of Education and you had 100 additional positions for foreign language teachers: For which language would you use them: Turkish or French?”

speakers, and if the language competences of Turkish-heritage speakers were recognised at school. After an hour, players voted on the topic. Could our arguments not only convince us but also the participants, or are people more attached to their traditional values?

After a very lively final discussion, the participants agreed to distribute the teachers equally in French and Turkish.



What speaks in favor of more Turkish in school?

© Neuhaus

Perhaps not surprisingly, our participants initially did not see a need to expand Turkish education in Berlin schools. French is traditionally chosen as a second language after English, and their issues in favour of French include: tradition, cultural and economic aspects.

With this game, we aimed to open people’s eyes for the benefits of Turkish as an additional language taught at school. Arguments in favour of Turkish included the fact that Turkish is one of the most widely spoken heritage languages in Berlin, that teaching fosters formal registers and literacy in Turkish, and that it would support social cohesion if Turkish became part of the repertoire of more

PlayDecide is a card game developed in an EU-funded project and coordinated by Ecsite, the European network of science centres and museums. It strives to enable people to explore a topic in-depth in an informal and informative way. The game element can help to explore thoughts and opinions that would be difficult to express in other ways.

Our game “Türkisch vs Französisch” will be published on the PlayDecide platform and will be downloadable for future discussion groups. You can also use the cards we made (just contact [Katrin](#) if you want them to be sent to you).

Martin Klotz (Pd-Corps) from Berlin

When did you start working at RUEG?

I joined the project right at the beginning: May 1, 2018.

How would you describe your research to your grandparents - and in what language?

The answer would be in German, since my family is majorly from Thüringen. It could happen I'd pick up some dialect while being around them, but that's all. If they were to ask me what we do exactly in Pd, I'd tell them the research unit is collecting data and we are the ones to guarantee it has the shape to be investigated - and to answer every-



Martin Klotz

©Neuhaus

body's questions.

Which part of your RUEG research project are you most looking forward to?

I am really looking forward to the point of having data collection and all the baseline annotations completed. Then we can focus on project specific needs and annotations, problems that might still be a puzzle and allow getting creative.

Climate Wednesdays and s4f



Climate Wednesday on May 22 - in front of HU's main building

@s4f

As a regular reader of our newsletter, you may remember that RUEG has been concerned with the environment and climate change right from the beginning (see "guide-line", bbbb 1/19).

A lot has happened in this area since our last newsletter! Pupils took to the streets in masses to protest in the Fridays-for-Future-Movement. Several RUEG researchers have signed a statement of scientists and scholars supporting the protests for more climate protection, saying:

"These concerns are justified and supported by the best available science. The current measures for protecting the climate, biodiversity, and forest, marine, and soil resources, are far from sufficient."*

In view of this, we are now going on the road ourselves! The initiative is called "Climate Wednesdays", and as the name implies, we will stand each each Wednesday for an hour in different locations, e.g., in front of Humboldt university, where we get in contact with passers-by, students and tourists. Come and join us if you are around!

*www.scientists4future.org/stellungnahme/statement-text/

"Mommmy! First to the wheel of fortune!" That's exactly what we had hoped for. "Wir ziehen alle Register!", was the challenge of this game, and some 10 year olds were really good at it. How does it work? Participants turn the wheel and wait until it stops at a number. This number is linked to Lang-Sit productions in different registers (provided by "Deutsch ist vielseitig"). Players have to guess the correct



We pull all registers! ©Neuhaus

situation, that is, whether the texts were spoken or written, and whether the interlocutor was a friend or the police.

Participants, even those who initially had doubts, quickly learned to pay attention to register characteristics, and enjoyed discussing the different features. For three correct answers, they got one of our super chic new RUEG pencils!

Like the PlayDecide game, RERA can also be borrowed.



RUEG in Alberta: From June 23-28, RUEG will be present at ISB12, the International Symposium on Bilingualism, which is hosted by the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. The conference's general topic is "Bilingualism and the next generation", focusing on the next generation of bilingual speakers as well as on the next generation of researchers. RUEG will be representing all projects with a thematic session on "The Dynamics of

Heritage Speakers: A Comparative View" chaired by RUEG P2's Shanley Allen from TU Kaiserslautern.

RUEG in the media: „Faszinosum Mehrsprachigkeit“ - Interview with RUEG-speaker Heike Wiese, on the occasion of her taking up the new professorship for „German in Multilingual Contexts“ at Humboldt-Universität Berlin. Ljiljana Nikolic, [HUMBOLDT](#) 3/2019



© xkcd.com

RUEG is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – Project number: 394821310 | bbbb Editor: Katrin Neuhaus, RUEG Transfer Manager, katrin.neuhaus@hu-berlin.de | Möhrenstr. 40/41, 10117 Berlin | U Hausvogteiplatz | twitter.com/languagedivers1. Next issue: Summer school special, August 2019.