

Abstract zum Beitrag auf der Konferenz

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The Social – An Overt or a Hidden Category in Dictionaries?

On the relation of explicit and implicit sociolinguistic marking in dictionaries of the historical Viennese urbanlect with a focus on language contact with Slavic languages

Dictionaries are connected to society and refer to it in multiple ways: On the one hand they are produced to fulfil either usage-oriented (*individual*) or documentary (*societal*) functions (see Hausmann 2008a: 1), on the other they also portray a certain (part of) society by recording and describing its vocabulary. As a third dimension we could take the fact into account that dictionaries are commonly compiled by collectives, and thus by sub-societies, rather than by individual authors.

The proposed paper focusses on the second point, the portrayal of a certain (part of) society through its vocabulary. Dictionaries may use explicit strategies to mark lemmas according to sociolinguistically relevant categories such as variation in time, space or class (see Hausmann 2008b: 651). But also the selection or omission of lemmas as well as the general description and etymologizing of lemmas and the selection of examples prove to be implicit strategies to represent a certain (part of) society. Considering the German equivalent for engl. *vocabulary* – *Wortschatz*, 'treasure of words' – I argue that dictionaries do not only produce and reproduce pictures and stereotypes of language communities, but also evaluate them with regard to their status.

The empirical study is carried out on the example of dictionaries of an historical urbanlect of Vienna, precisely of the period around 1900, and focusses on the representation of Slavic languages and contact of German in Vienna with those.

Selected References:

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