

germanic languages drafts

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index

sonderzeichentest

Hebrew test: (שְׂבִילָה, cf. Sefaria (2025))

Mixed: English שלום world.

IPA: ...Anyone who pronounces it [pɛɬɛχɪl] and not [pɛɾɛχɪl]...

abstract A: idee 1

In this paper I want to explore shibboleth phenomena in germanic languages. I'll try to find evidence for shibboleth occurrences (which can describe words that are typical in certain registers AND provide the potential to appear differently in phonologic realisation or semantic expression depending on the speaker, making them behave as specific in-group markers) in yiddish and frisian language as well as in berlin vernacular.

inspiration

password parsley

The login to one of the protected pages of a random organisation connected with our university is often carried out using a process known as single sign-on. In this process, the username and password (our ZEDAT *credentials*) are not transmitted to the page we want, but only the confirmation from an instance such that our credentials are correct, i.e., that we have provided the instance (the “guardian”) the correct username and password to access the remote page (a corpus engine, a library portal, or generally a remote application on the network that only allows access to *affiliates* of certain

educational institutions, e.g.) Both sides, guardian and repository, agree that we are only allowed access to the resources if we are who we claim to be. For example, a student at the FUB. Or a partisan. Or a member of a secret society. Or: a confidant of secrets. More precisely: a connoisseur of the SHIBBOLETH.

evidence

uljana wolf, etymologischer gossip: petersilie: one will no longer be able to use the word unreflected after reading about the 20,000 Haitian guest workers (cf. Wolf (2021)). The word petersilie – parsley – /perejil/ is needed as a means of access in order NOT to appear as a stranger to the community of natives = to fall victim to the massacre. Anyone who pronounces it [peɾɛχɪl] and not [peɾɛχɪl], as the locals do, will be murdered. So it is good to know the pronunciation. Or to master it.

Something similar, though less drastic, can happen to people who, to name just a few prominent examples, mispronounce derrida, bourdieu, accessoir or, to return to the subject, shibboleth (שבילת , cf. Sefaria (2025)) or, to begin the queries, say [balkoːN] instead of [balkən] and /tram/ instead of /straszenbahn/.

methods

Starting from a GPT provided bibliography (disclaimer: of which some entries appear already familiar... keywords: shibboleth, group identity, sociolinguistics), I'll dive into corpora provided and intend to consult speakers for their impressions. That may grow to a quantitative corpus based study or either be limited to a qualitative field investigation. I will not only search evidence in natural language but also in literature, which may be easier accessible.

abstract B: idee 2

language is developing and changing. there are many factors that influence language change, but i want to focus on one that may become relevant in todays language development: the change of language by constant and increasing use of AI tools that :communicate: with us as partners one may consider :real: or human-equivalent.

questions

now what are we experiencing if communicating with an artificial intelligence? first comes to mind the seemingly :natural language: addressed to us. one may feel as if talking to a human when asking questions and getting a response. studies prove that a significant amount of us show behaviour towards the AI that one would expect humans show only towards each other. that leads to the first question: > if we hold the AI as a human communication partner, could its behaviour towards us (here: their language) influence the way we talk/act viceversa? can people learn from an AI *how* to talk and what would they learn in this case? what is the language *taught* here specifically? do we adapt to patterns or linguistic markers common for *AI speech*?

AI speech: wtf

we can assume as common ground that the language used (here: output) by LLMs seems rather neutral, deprived of features deviating from the norm. its rather easy to understand, doesnt contain irony or sarcasm very often nor hyperbolic sentence structures (if not explicitly prompted) and could be very well used in a textbook for learners. it may be considered *universal* in aspects of transferability into other languages. it uses to not contain any specific vocabular or non-standard phrases. the syntax and grammar seems to follow the corresponding rules as the models are trained on large corpora of natural language. if we would (and we will do that) analyse a corpus of LLM outputs we very probably will find that in any feature it complies with the average feature matrix of any language compared. so if one language goes like SPO with having an average wordcount of 5wds/phrase and an average wordlength of 5 chars then the LLM certainly will show the same features for output in that language. no magic so far.

But: what if learners or people with deficient language skills begin to sync their output with the artificial language in their chatverlauf? simple like: beginning a response firstly with an appreciation of the :very interesting question: whatever the other may have asked? we're already heading that way...

There may also be tiny (oberlehrerhafte) standardisations of our own speech peculiarities (idiosyncrasies) we are confronted with which we are kind of nudged to relativate if always sending them into a black hole.

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