



Lexik des gesprochenen Deutsch

Project description

The project “Lexik des gesprochenen Deutsch” (LeGeDe) is a third-party funded project of the Leibniz Association (funding line: innovative projects) and was implemented from 2016 to 2019 as a cooperative project of the departments Pragmatics and Lexical Studies at the IDS. In the last years, both departments have gained the necessary expertise for the development of a corpus-based dictionary of spoken German, the conception of which is a first for German as well as other languages.

The following preconditions rendered this project possible:

- The FOLK-corpus (= “Research and Teaching Corpus of Spoken German”), developed at the IDS, constituted an appropriate data basis that could be used for the analyses.
- Through project cooperations and active exchange, the LeGeDe-project could benefit from the expertise of the Department of Pragmatics in the area of semantic-functional analysis of spoken language in interaction.
- In recent years, the areas “Computer Lexicography” and “Empirical Methods” could gain expertise in the conception and realization of complex multimedia online dictionaries as well as the development of relevant empirical methods. The LeGeDe-prototype ties in with this experience.

Data basis and selection of headwords

The data basis for the development of the LeGeDe-prototype is FOLK (250h audio recordings/2.4 mio. tokens as from September 2019), which is the first and largest corpus of spoken German and is constantly being extended. FOLK is accessible via the DGD (= “Database for Spoken German”) and contains recordings and transcripts gathered in German-speaking areas

within different private, institutional, and public settings. It offers various options for the analysis of spoken data in terms of linguistic and interactional characteristics.

The selection of suitable headword candidates for the LeGeDe-prototype was based on a direct quantitative comparison between FOLK and parts of DEREKO (= “German Reference Corpus”), which represents the written usage of the German language. In addition to one-word lemmata, manual qualitative analyses could help identify multi-part headword candidates (e.g. *keine Ahnung* [‘no idea’], *guck mal* [‘look’]), which have an interactional function as a whole.

Project outcomes

With the development of the LeGeDe-prototype, an entirely new way of describing and presenting language was created, from the perspective of spoken language research as well as from the lexicographic view. The different word articles describe both the lexical characteristics and the interactional functions of each headword in authentic conversation (cf. figure below). Transcript excerpts with audio substantiate the analyses.

The following results could be achieved by the project:

- the conduction of a series of empirical studies on the expectations and requirements of future users for a lexicographic resource on spoken German,
- the determination of characteristics in spoken usage with a focus on the lexicon on all levels (form, content/function, situation etc.),
- the development of new possibilities of lexicographic representation, which take into account the functions of lexical items in interactional contexts, and their visualization,
- the development of new ways of describing highly contextualized lexical data in multimedia formats through the integration of language documentation in the form of transcripts and audio files,
- the creation of the tool *Lexical Explorer*, with which the user can create individual word profiles that can be searched and analyzed in regard to word form variation, co-occurrences, and metadata based on corpus data from FOLK and GeWiss (= “Spoken Academic Language”).

The screenshot displays the LeGeDe prototype interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the LeGeDe logo and links for 'Über LeGeDe', 'Benutzungshinweise', 'Glossar', and 'Literatur'. Below this, a sidebar on the left lists various grammatical categories like 'Ahnung', 'eben', 'gucken', 'gut', 'halt', 'ja', 'kriegen', and 'schauen', each with its respective grammatical information. The main content area features the entry for 'gucken', which includes a detailed description of its various meanings and interactional functions, a frequency chart showing its usage in FOLK, and a table summarizing its functions in conversation. The table has two columns: 'Bedeutungen' (Meanings) and 'Funktionen im Gespräch' (Functions in Conversation). The 'Bedeutungen' column lists 'gucken' as a full verb with meanings like 'directionally oriented visual perception', 'checking', 'waiting', 'looking at', 'looking down', 'looking up', 'looking out', and 'showing a specific attitude'. The 'Funktionen im Gespräch' column lists 'guck mal' as a verb phrase with functions like 'discourse marker' and 'shifting the action to the future', and 'mal gucken' as a verb phrase with the function of 'shifting the action to the future'. Below the table, there are sections for 'Information in anderen lexikografischen Ressourcen' (Information in other lexicographic resources) and 'Forschungsliteratur' (Research literature).

Bedeutungen	Funktionen im Gespräch
gucken [VOLLVERB] <ul style="list-style-type: none">» richtungsorientiert visuell wahrnehmen» überprüfen» achten auf» abwägen» ansehen» abwarten» suchen» umherschauen» eine bestimmte Miene zeigen	guck mal [VERBALSYNTHAGMA] <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Diskursmarker mal gucken [VERBALSYNTHAGMA] <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Verschiebung einer Handlung in die Zukunft

Information in anderen lexikografischen Ressourcen

- Online-Wortschatz-Informationssystem Deutsch (OWID)
- Digitales Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache (DWDS)

Forschungsliteratur

- Günthner (2017)
- Imo (2007)
- Wegner (2015)

As a result, the prototype mainly targets usage situations in scientific settings (language documentation). Perspectively, the results of this project contribute to the improvement of teaching German as a foreign or second language by providing information about authentic contemporary spoken language use and therefore create a foundation for reflexive native-language teaching. The LeGeDe-resource makes it possible to explore and internalize the characteristics of the German lexicon in spoken interaction on the basis of empirical evidence. As for applied linguistic settings (German as a foreign, second or first language), the resource can provide a foundation for the creation of adequate teaching and learning material.

Research topic

Modern dictionaries of the German language are often based on written German. In the project “Lexik des gesprochenen Deutsch” (“Lexis of spoken German”), for the first time a prototype of a corpus-based dictionary of spoken German was developed. For this, lexical characteristics typical of spoken German were described, analyzed and processed lexicographically on the basis of the FOLK-corpus, which was developed at “The Leibniz Institute for the German Language” (IDS). The resource is embedded into OWID^{plus} and is available online at <https://www.owid.de/legede/>. It presents lexical and functional characteristics of spoken German as used in interaction in private and institutional settings.

Project supervisors

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Associated projects

- FOLK (= “Research and Teaching Corpus of Spoken German”)
- Research units “Computer lexicography” and “Empirical Methods”

Associated employees

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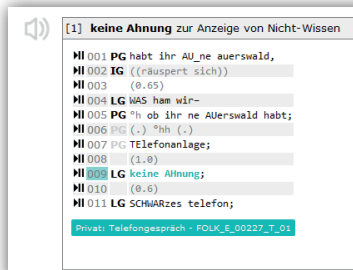


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The Leibniz Institute for the German Language (IDS) is the central institute for research and documentation of the German language in its usage and recent history. It is one of the over 90 extramural research and service institutions in the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft (Leibniz Association).

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