

Universidade do Minho
Escola de Letras, Artes e Ciências Humanas

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**Swiss Standard German Vocabulary
in German Online Dictionaries**

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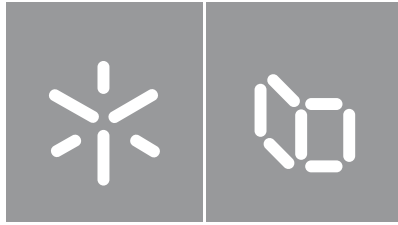
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UMinho | 2021

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



December 2021



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Escola de Letras, Artes e Ciências Humanas

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**Swiss Standard German Vocabulary
in German Online Dictionaries**

Master Thesis

European Master in Lexicography

Supervised by

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DIREITOS DE AUTOR E CONDIÇÕES DE UTILIZAÇÃO DO TRABALHO POR TERCEIROS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Professor Idalete Dias for all the help I received during the work on my thesis, and with many other matters.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my second supervisor, Professor Éva Buchi.

Last but not least, I would like to express appreciation to my family and friends for supporting me in everything I do.

ABSTRACT

Swiss Standard German Vocabulary in German Online Dictionaries

This work focuses on Swiss Standard German vocabulary in German online dictionaries. The goal is to investigate how modern large German online dictionaries such as *Duden Online* or *DWDS* portray pluricentricity of the German language. One important aspect of this research is the labelling of the words from different standards and the line that the dictionary draws for the user to differentiate between dialects and standards. In general, this work focuses on the representation of Swiss Standard German words in *Duden Online* and *DWDS*, based on the vocabulary from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* by Ammon et al.

Keywords: corpus search, dialect, lexicography, standard language, Swiss Standard German

RESUMO

Vocabulário Suíço Padrão Alemão em Dicionários Online Alemães

Este trabalho concentra-se no vocabulário do alemão padrão suíço em dicionários de alemão online. O objetivo é investigar como os grandes dicionários de alemão contemporâneo online, tais como *Duden Online* ou *DWDS* retratam a pluricentricidade da língua alemã. Um aspeto importante desta investigação é a rotulagem das palavras de diferentes padrões e a linha que o dicionário desenha para o utilizador diferenciar entre dialetos e padrões. Em geral, este trabalho centra-se na representação das palavras do alemão padrão suíço em *Duden Online* e *DWDS*, com base no vocabulário do dicionário *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* de Ammon et al.

Palavras-chave: alemão padrão suíço, lexicografia, dialeto, língua padrão, pesquisa de corpus

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INTRODUCTION

Language pluricentricity is a topic that has become more and more relevant. In terms of the research on pluricentricity in the German language, certain aspect of the vast area of German dialects and standards and their contact have been explored, but not all of them. For instance, in the area of Swiss Standard German we can name such researchers as Ammon (2015), Bickel (2000, 2006, 2011), Haas (2000) and Schmidlin (2008, 2011).

The linguistic situation in the German-speaking part of Switzerland is very specific because in everyday life and especially when spoken the dialect is most widely used, a situation which is designated by the term of diglossia. Considering this, the concept of diglossia in Switzerland is very important for this research. This term was introduced by Fergusson (1959), and later the situation of diglossia in Switzerland was described by Sieber and Sitta (1987), Werlen (2004). Researchers, such as Christen (2012), specifically addressed the issue of the contact between the dialect and the standard. This aspect is critical because the dialect is the constant source of the change in the standard, and certain words change their status from dialect to standard with time.

Concerning such aspect as the analysis of Standard Swiss German vocabulary in general German dictionaries specifically, we can name the work of Bickel and Hofer (2003). So far the topic of representing the pluricentric nature of the German language in general German dictionaries, especially online dictionaries, hasn't been fully described. We can see that in *Duden Online*¹ and *Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS)*² the users are not provided with the information on the difference between dialects and standards.

As dictionaries which present Swiss standard of the German language we chose the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen. Die Standardsprache in Österreich, der Schweiz und Deutschland sowie in Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Ostbelgien und Südtirol* (Ammon et al., 2011) (hereinafter referred to as *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*) and *Duden. Schweizerhochdeutsch. Wörterbuch der Standardsprache in der deutschen Schweiz* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018) (hereinafter referred to as *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*) due to their recentness and completeness.

In this thesis we would like to show not only how data in the above-mentioned dictionaries could contribute to improving existing lexicographic online resources of German, but also show the

¹ Duden Online. Retrieved from <https://www.duden.de/>

² Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS). Retrieved from <https://www.dwds.de/>

potential that such dictionaries (especially the *Variantenwörterbuch*) have for electronic lexicography, with the help of electronic encoding and visualisation tools as the *Extensible Markup Language (XML)*, the *Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)*³ and dialectal variation mapping.

Furthermore, we find that corpus search is crucial for modern lexicography. For this reason, the data collected from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* was compared to the data that we could obtain from the corpus search in the Swiss Standard German corpus (*Swiss Text Corpus*)⁴. To obtain the full picture about corpus resources, the situation with corpora in other dictionaries present in our research was also analysed.

The following are the main objectives of this thesis:

- to describe the linguistic situation in the German-speaking part of Switzerland in relation to selected existing lexicographic resources;
- to compare labelling in the analysed dictionaries;
- to collect the data from the reference dictionary and analyse it, taking as point of comparison the data obtained through the corpus search in the Standard Swiss German corpus;
- to provide an overview on how the data from the specialized variant dictionaries can enrich existing lexicographic resources;
- to create a proposal of an online onomasiological variant dictionary of German with sample entries in XML and present a mapping proposal based on the information found in the *Variantenwörterbuch*.

In what follows, we would like to briefly present the framework of our study. The first chapter covers general theory on pluricentrism and diglossia, as well as historical aspects of the linguistic situation in Switzerland. Our second chapter focuses on the empirical study with dictionaries (*Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online* and *DWDS*) and corpora, mainly comparing two dictionary types – the general German online dictionaries (*Duden Online*, *DWDS*) and the specialized variant dictionaries (*Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*). An important aspect of this part of the thesis was comparing the labels used to mark standard and non-standard dialect variation. The third chapter focuses on electronic resources such as corpora, including a proposal of an online dictionary with entry examples and a mapping proposal of dialectal variation.

³ Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). Retrieved from <https://tei-c.org/>

⁴ Schweizer Text Corpus. Retrieved from <https://www.chtk.ch/index.php/de/>

The methodology of our research consists of several steps and is deeply connected to the structure of this work. The first chapter is a theoretical basis for this thesis. In our opinion, it is impossible to bring something new to a study field without a thorough investigation of it. The theoretical chapter consists of a deeper look into the linguistic situation in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, as well as into the contributions made to this field of study, into pluricentricity and diglossia in general, as well as into the linguistic situation in Switzerland.

The second chapter is an empirical study of Swiss Standard German vocabulary in *Duden Online* and *DWDS*, with the help of the variant dictionaries *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* and *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*. For this purpose, words of the cookery and cuisine domain were collected. The decision fell on this domain due to the fact that it is a dominant part of culture, and it is also close to everyday life, in which the influence of dialect is normally bigger (Bickel & Landolt, 2018, p. 95). In this case, the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* has become a reference dictionary because of its completeness and uniqueness in terms of the representation of different variants. To our knowledge, such a dictionary which also depicts crossing of different variants is unique in German lexicography.

Secondly, the number of words for the study was established, which would allow to conduct a representative study within the frame of a thesis. The words from *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* were collected. The next step was to group the vocabulary in smaller domains. Such domains are food (meat, bakery, sweets, and liquids), utilities and other. Next, a comparative study was conducted which included the chosen vocabulary and three other dictionaries – *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online* and *DWDS*. The reference *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* was also included in the study because the first step was to compare the macro- and microstructure of these different types of dictionaries as much as possible, keeping in mind the type of medium that characterizes them (print or online). An important element of the microstructure that needed to be addressed was labelling. For instance, in *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* labels for a specific variant play a role of distinguishing different standards. To add to that, special attention was attributed to labels with similar meaning in different dictionaries, namely “Grenzfall des Standards”, “mundartlich” and “mundartnah”. What is more, available information about corpus resources of each dictionary was compared. Overall, in this chapter such lexicographic methods as functional-positional segmentation (Schierholz, 2015, p. 337) and qualitative analysis were used.

The comparison between dictionaries was divided in three parts – search for the words in the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary which is the dictionary of Swiss Standard German, and search in *Duden Online* and *DWDS*. The first part was partially different because *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary is also a dictionary of one variant, which to some extent includes the same vocabulary which was attributed to Swiss Standard German in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*.

Search for chosen vocabulary had several possible outcomes:

- the word is in the dictionary (labelled as (especially) Swiss Standard German / labelled as dialectal Swiss German);
- the word is not in the dictionary;
- other.

Correspondence of labels in different dictionaries was analysed; the results were compiled in a table. Following from these differences in representation, problems and preliminary results were discussed.

The third chapter of our thesis focuses on digital resources – firstly, corpora of the language variety under study, and secondly, proposal for a possible development of dictionaries and lexical resources in the field. For the corpus study, the *Swiss Text Corpus* was used. Study of the collected vocabulary in the corpus was conducted, for which methods of corpus analysis were used. Concerning the specifics of corpus search, arising difficulties and challenges were discussed, as well as the ways to deal with them. Finally, a concept of an online onomasiological variant dictionary was proposed, followed by entry proposal annotated in XML. The discussion of the results of the whole study is presented in the conclusions.

CHAPTER 1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, the theoretical framework of our thesis is presented. Different aspects of the linguistic situation in Switzerland are discussed, including the concept of diglossia. In addition, the connection between standard and ideology is explained.

1.1 Standard language

Our first subchapter aims to analyse the term “standard language” (*Standardsprache*) in relation to the term “High German” (*Hochdeutsch*). According to *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft (WSK) Online*⁵, standard language is a normed, coded variety with the highest prestige. „Standardsprache – normierte, kodifizierte distanzsprachliche Varietät mit dem höchsten Prestige und der größten regionalen wie domänenspezifischen kommunikativen Reichweite unter allen Varietäten der Dachsprache“ (Efing, 2015, entry „Standardsprache“). In this definition, an important concept of a “roofing language” (*Dachsprache*) is mentioned. According to Muljačić (1989), the metaphorical idea behind the term in the sense of a standard variant providing a cover to related dialects and varieties was first introduced by Heinz Kloss (p. 257).

Moreover, the same author of the article on standard language in WSK interprets the term *Hochdeutsch* as being outdated and confusing because it can have double connotations of designating a regional variety of the German language, other than just designating the standard variety: „Die für das Deutsche früher verwendete Bezeichnung Hochdeutsch ist veraltet und in doppelter Hinsicht ungeeignet, da sie ursprünglich regional-geographische Eigenheiten bezeichnet und zudem elitär konnotiert ist“ (Efing, 2015, entry „Standardsprache“).

In the work of Schmidlin (2011) we can also find a statement that the term *Hochdeutsch* has a purely geographical meaning, which is still used today, in addition to the social meaning of prestigious, “high” variety: „Die geographische (horizontale) Bedeutung und die soziale (vertikale) Bedeutung des Begriffs Hochdeutsch haben sich also bereits früh überschritten“ (p. 55).

The Prague School of Linguistics was one of the pioneers in the studies of standards and variants, for instance Vilém Mathesius who in the 1930s had already tried to define standard language as the one having flexible stability (Mathesius, 1932, p. 17). Today, the field of linguistic research that deals with standards is called Standardology, with Comparative Standardology as a major subfield.

⁵ Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft (WSK) Online. Retrieved from https://www.degruyter.com/database/WSK/entry/wsk_ida5b20c85-ef12-4fc3-a209-7cbc86df5aec/html

Concerning the features of standard language, Schmidlin (2011, pp. 25-26) focuses on the following characteristics. Firstly, standard is seen as the opposite of non-standard. This duality is very important in standardology. Secondly, the standard is codified, written, stable, associated with high prestige. Thirdly, formation of a standard is associated with language planning, standards are translatable among themselves and are represented by people with established cultural roles within the community. What is more, dialect speakers acknowledge the existence of language standards. As Fergusson (1959) indicated earlier, even though dialect speakers may not fully realize the imposed prestige of the standard, they have an internalized view that standard language is somehow superior: “more beautiful, more logical” (p. 330).

In addition, Isačenko (1975, p. 5) states that literary language – in this case a synonym to a standard language – has such a feature as polyvalency: it is used for all sides of life of a nation. J. Milroy, in his work on standard language ideology, names such characteristics of a standard language – “the notion of correctness, the importance of authority, the relevance of prestige, and the idea of legitimacy” (Milroy, 2006, p. 134). As we can see, his characteristics of standard language are similar to Schmidlin’s.

There are different relations between elements of language standardisation which work closely together towards developing a standard language model. Model speakers and writers, standard authorities, language code, and language experts are in the constant process of influencing each other (Ammon, 2015, p. 143).

According to Schmidlin (2011), standardisation also includes various processes, namely selection, codification, implementation, elaboration:

Selektion und Kodifizierung bilden zusammen die Voraussetzung für die Implementierung einer Standardsprache: Sie wird in der Sprachgemeinschaft als solche akzeptiert und in ihren Funktionen gefestigt. Bei der *Implementierung* sind aussersprachliche Faktoren wie Machtpositionen oder soziale Netzwerke beteiligt. (p. 44)

Austria, Germany and Switzerland have close, but still different standard varieties. Such languages with several standard varieties are considered pluricentric (Ammon, 2015, p. 113). German is spoken in Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Italy (Bolzano-South Tyrol), Belgium (German-speaking community) and Luxembourg (Ammon, 2015, p. 170).

There are also various pronunciation standards. In 1898, Siebs published the *Deutsche Bühnenaussprache* ("German stage pronunciation") based on observations at Berlin stages. Austrian pronunciation of standard German was first recorded in 1904 in the form of a textbook by Karl Luick. In the 19th edition of Siebs, its successors incorporated South German, Austrian, and Swiss pronunciation variants as moderate high-pitched pronunciations. The Swiss preliminary work on this was provided by Boesch in 1957 (Schmidlin, 2011, pp. 48-49).

According to Ammon (2015, p. 137), the standards have different degrees of similarity to other languages and dialects. For example, Standard German of Germany has medium similarity with Swabian and Bavarian and low similarity with Frisian. Standard German of Switzerland has medium similarity with Swiss German, and Standard German of Austria also has medium similarity with Bavarian.

An interesting approach to standardology was implemented by Smakman (2012). Instead of dwelling on the differences between the definitions of the term standard language created by linguists who use very different approaches, this researcher conducted a survey which shows us the perception of standard language in 7 countries (England, Flanders, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and the United States). Smakman highlights that the attitude towards the question of what standard language is, can be influenced by different factors, such as if language has originated in this particular country or elsewhere, if the country's size and shape have been changed because of the wars etc. (pp. 29-30). To add to that, the linguist states that "[t]he origins of standard languages in various countries also vary and they are not always regional or social" (p. 29).

The survey's goal was to analyse which view on their standard language speakers have. The results showed that many of the respondents defined standard language as opposite to dialect (Smakman, 2012, p. 38). Another feature of standard language named by respondents was non-regionalness, making it region-neutral. Moreover, one argument similar to the situation in Switzerland was used, mainly that the standard language is an external language – such responses were registered for Flanders in relation to the Netherlands, and the United States and New Zealand apparently in relation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Based on survey results, Smakman draws the conclusion that "the definition of the standard language could be that this language is the neutral communication tool within a country or speech community" (p. 54).

However, the responses in different countries varied greatly. Thus, we can conclude that a standard language variety should always be discussed within its historical context.

1.2 Distinction between the terms: written language, standard language and literary language

According to Wiegand (1986), if we address the history of the German language, it is important to distinguish between the Written Language Period (*Phase der Schriftsprache*) and the Standard Language Period (*Phase der Standardsprache*) (p. 644). In the 16th century a written German language developed that connected different German-speaking regions, and in this period the written language prescribed the rules for a spoken language, opposite to what occurred in the medieval times. In this language norming process, the publication of the first *Duden* Dictionary in 1880 played a crucial role.

Additionally, standard language is a broader notion than written language. Standard language is used in spoken language as well, and standard pronunciation constitutes a great part of standardisation. Written language standardisation is just a step towards a greater standard that all speakers use in spoken as well as in written language. On the other hand, in the context of diglossia in Switzerland, the difference between different mediums of the language and between different terms is important for understanding the linguistic situation.

What is more, Besch (2008) states that only in the end of the 18th century written language (*Schriftsprache*) broadens its influence to spoken language, thus forming the standard language (p. 2253).

Wiegand (1986) also emphasizes that in this case, the term High Language (*Hochsprache*) includes both written language and standard language (p. 645). We can conclude that this term is quite multifunctional and has several different meanings, but, as mentioned earlier, it is no longer commonly used in modern standard language discourse because of its regional and social prestige connotations.

It is important to note that there are other terms that in some discourses intertwine with the term standard language. As was clear from the survey of Smakman (2012), even the standard language term might be ambiguous because for speakers of different languages it might mean different things.

Thus, in different language communities, different terms may exist to designate and label the notion of standard language or notions similar to it. For example, Isačenko (1975) states that in Russian

there is a term which can vaguely be translated as “literature language” (“*Literatursprache*”), and it cannot be translated as standard language or *Hochsprache*. According to this linguist, this term means “soviel wie genormte, für alle verbindliche und stilistisch wohldifferenzierte Nationalsprache der Russen, die in allen öffentlichen Belangen sowohl in schriftlicher wie auch in mündlicher Form gebraucht wird“ (p. 5). Next, Isačenko goes on to explain that it is the language of the educational system, of the press and the theatre. However, the researcher highlights that this notion is not the same as the notion of standard language, and that Russian literature language has its own peculiarities, that’s why he discusses exactly this term. The conclusion here is that the definition of the terms related to standardized language is subject to be shaped by certain features of the language community.

However, the term literature language (*Literatursprache*) exists in German linguistics, too. Wiegand (1986) highlights that the standard language shouldn’t be labelled as literature language:

Die Standardsprache ist das Medium zur Vermittlung von Politik und Wissenschaft besonders in der fachexternen Kommunikation; sie ist Trägerin aller relevanten kulturellen Objektivationen, Basis auch der Literatursprache, und man sollte sie nicht – sehr mißverständlich – *Literatursprache* nennen. (p. 646)

All in all, the terms *Schriftsprache* and *Literatursprache* may intertwine with the term “standard language” (*Standardsprache*) as in the case of the term standard written language (“*Standardschriftsprache*”) (Wiegand, 1986, p. 645), or reflect some meanings of standard language. However, these terms are not mutually interchangeable, and have to be differentiated.

1.3 Standard and ideology

From a sociological point of view, language standardisation has a lot to do with the fact that a language is not a system in the vacuum with no outside influences, but, on the contrary, a system which is greatly influenced by societal rules and other factors. Thus, standardisation can have its own ideology. One of the advocates of the view of standardisation of language as a social phenomenon was the American sociolinguist J. Milroy.

One of the fundamental assumptions made by Milroy (2006) regarding standards and standardisation is that standard language is an ideal; subsequently, it is an idea in mind rather than a reality (p. 134). However, speakers of language often perceive the rules of language as purely linguistic

facts, not acknowledging the fact that the rules of correctness are superimposed upon the language from outside.

Another important argument expressed by Milroy is that Europeans live in standard language cultures, in which language attitudes together with responsible authorities constitute the standard language ideology (p. 133). One of the functions of any standardisation, as is the case with, for example, weights and measures, is to keep the standard from undergoing change. This also applies to language standardisation. In the same publication, Milroy states: “[t]here is usually also a tradition of popular complaint about language, bewailing the low quality of general usage and claiming that the language is degenerating. This too contributes to keeping the standard ideology prominent in the public mind” (pp. 138-139).

This can be called “the complaint tradition” which goes back for centuries and has a significant role in language maintenance (Milroy, 2001, p. 538) – or in the words of Schmidlin (2011), language planning, which she mentions as one of the characteristics of standard language (pp. 25-26).

Moreover, Milroy links superimposition of standard on everyone as stigmatisation. He compares discrimination on linguistic grounds related to accusations of not speaking properly and “not knowing their own language” to discrimination against people belonging to a specific social class, ethnic group, religion or gender, with the only difference that it is socially acceptable to discriminate on linguistic grounds. “Unfortunately, people do not usually realize that language stands proxy for these other social categories” (p. 135). The link to stigmatisation is connected to one of the most important characteristics of standard language – prestige. Stigma in this case is on the other side of prestige. In this sense, educational system plays a crucial role in cultivating prestige around standard forms of language which has already been discussed by many linguists and sociolinguists (Labov, 1969; Milroy, 2001, 2006; Schmidlin, 2011; Ammon, 2015). In the words of Milroy (2006), “Thus, children are believed to be taught their native language at school through the agency of authorities who have privileged access to its mysteries, and of course it is knowledge of the standard written form that children acquire” (p. 136).

This previous statement is very similar to the one later made by Ammon (2015) in *Die Stellung der deutschen Sprache in der Welt*. In his work, Ammon mentions norm authorities and corrections and model speakers/writers as standardisation powers (p. 143). In this linguist’s perspective, model speakers are “ideal” and close to the “ideal standard”, and together with norm authorities that are

responsible for corrections and bringing language closer to the canonical form. On Figure 1 we can see the illustration of the relations between the different social forces of standardisation (norm authorities, language codex, model speakers and writers, and language experts). From this scheme, it is clear that they constantly influence each other.

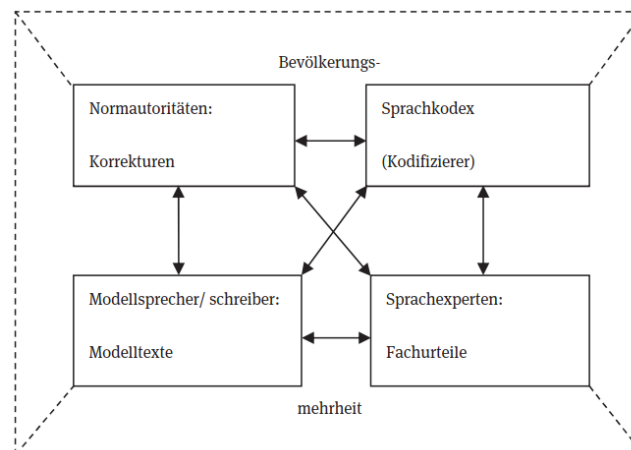


Figure 1: Social forces of standardisation by Ammon (2015, p. 143)

All in all, ideology and social forces play a crucial role in forming the standard. Most of the time these social forces of codification and rejection of change are not visible for the speakers who believe that standard is objective and it is a thing of pure linguistic reality. What is relevant for the objectives of this study is that dictionaries play a major role in standardisation and language codification because it is one of its forms.

1.4 Diglossia

To address such a specific situation as in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, one has to be aware of the sociolinguistic processes. The situation in Switzerland has been widely described by scholars, often in the view of sociolinguistics (Fergusson, 1959; Hudson, 2002). Thus, Fergusson in his famous work on diglossia (1959) has outlined many aspects that are typical for the German-speaking part of Switzerland. In this subchapter, we want to draw attention to the origin of the term itself and other related notions.

Firstly, linguists recognize a crucial role of history in the development of such linguistic situation in Switzerland. According to Fergusson (1959), “Swiss German diglossia developed as a result of long religious and political isolation from the centers of German linguistic standardization” (p. 327). As we

can see, standardisation has a direct relation to diglossia. Moreover, the relation between centre and periphery is also important.

Fergusson (1959) also states that the most significant and diving aspect of common reality of standard (normally high and prestigious) variety (called H by Fergusson) and dialect (designated as L) is that their functions are specialized, with very few overlapping. Thus, a sermon, personal letters, political speeches, university lectures, broadcasts, newspapers and poetry are in the sphere of use of H, standard language. On the contrary, instructions to waiters, conversation with friends and family, radio “soap opera” and folk literature are L – the dialect (p. 329). In other words, we can see that in informal situations and texts that are particularly related to local culture the non-standard variant is used.

Moreover, in his work, Fergusson (1959) is also talking about prestige of the standard language as a moving force of developing diglossia (p. 329). There is one very important and subtle observation in this author’s work that the internalized notion of the prestige of the standard language over the dialect can have different forms: “Even where the feeling of the reality and superiority of H is not so strong, there is usually a belief that H is somehow more beautiful, more logical, better able to express important thoughts, and the like. And this belief is held also by speakers whose command of H is quite limited” (Fergusson 1959, 330). Later, the aspect of prestige as a source of standardisation was also emphasized by other researchers, such as Schmidlin (2011).

Hudson (2002) also states that the situation of diglossia is more likely to occur in different varieties of the same language, than in distant languages. Thus, “it is in the very nature of a diglossic accomodation between codes that the linguistic varieties involved tend more often than not to bear a relatively close linguistic relationship to one another” (p. 15).

Fergusson (1959) also draws our attention to the fact that in the case of Swiss Germany, “there is no single standard, and even the term ‘regional standard’ seems inappropriate, but in several cases the L of a city or town has a strong effect on the surrounding rural L” (p. 332). We can conclude that there is a tendency towards standardisation of the dialect too, in which it approximates to the dialect of the city. He adds that L can be “a superposed standard colloquial”, but anyway it is learned naturally (p. 337).

Considering the future of diglossia, Fergusson (1959) describes the diglossic situation in Switzerland as a relatively stable one (p. 340). Hudson (2002) dwells deeper on this topic. He emphasizes that in diglossic context, on the contrary to the situations of societal bilingualism and

especially pseudodiglossia such as Catalán – Castillian, Frisian – Dutch a possible outcome of diglossia in a narrow sense “is H that tends to be displaced by L through a process of structural convergence resulting in the emergence of a new standard more closely related to certain educated varieties of the vernacular” (p. 30). In other words, the dialect is coming closer to standardisation and replaces the “prestigious” variety. Thus, coming back to Fergusson’s description of functions and domains of the two varieties of diglossia, L expands and overtakes the roles of H.

1.5 German in Switzerland: description of the linguistic situation

Due to the fact that the study presented here focuses on the words from the Swiss Standard German language, an overview of the linguistic situation in the German-speaking part of Switzerland is necessary.

According to Werlen’s statistics, of all German speakers in Switzerland, only 9% speak standard German (*Hochdeutsch*) regularly, while 86% use a dialect – Swiss German (Werlen 2004, 9). Most linguists describe the situation in the German-speaking region of Switzerland as medial diglossia (Fergusson, 1959; Sieber & Sitta, 1987). That is, whether one speaks dialect or standard language in Switzerland depends very much on the situation. The written language is mostly standard German, and spoken – the dialect. It is also important to understand that “dialect” (*Mundart*), or “Swiss German” (*Schweizerdeutsch*) are the terms used to designate the variety of dialects and regional language variants. So far, there are no tendencies to create a spoken koine in German-speaking Switzerland, except for the metropolitan dialects that develop in the big cities (Sieber & Sitta, 1987, p. 390). In addition, Sieber and Sitta express a view that the term “Swiss German” is not correct for this reason, because it does not properly reflect the situation in which everyone speaks their own dialect, hoping that the other person understands it.

Moreover, some linguists postulate that the situation is more complex than just medial diglossia. According to Werlen (2004), the model of medial diglossia does not encompass all important aspects of the linguistic reality of German in Switzerland:

[n]eben dem Faktor der Adressatenabhängigkeit scheint es aber noch andere Faktoren zu geben, die nicht zum einfachen Modell der medialen Diglossie passen. Da ist zunächst die Unterscheidung von Oralität und Literalität, nicht zu verwechseln mit dem Unterschied von Schreiben und Sprechen. (p. 22)

The distinction between orality and literality compared to writing and speaking is that spoken German in Switzerland is not always synonymous with dialect, and written German is not necessarily synonymous with standard German. There are speaking situations in which speakers tend to use standard German, and vice versa, in some situations of writing, Swiss German or dialect is used. Such situation can be, for example, informal written communication – a conversation in chat with friends, etc.

Moreover, code-switching in German-speaking Switzerland depends very much on the addressee. Specifically, this rule applies to the use of standard language (Werlen, 2004, p. 22). The use of dialect can also be seen as a shortening of the communicative distance between a speaker and an interlocutor. Other aspects that influence the choice between the standard and the dialect are self-expression, authority style and citation (p. 24).

Overall, every citizen of German-speaking Switzerland needs dialect competence, regardless of whether one will use it actively or passively. It is also important to note that social level does not have major influence here:

Ob man Schweizerdeutsch spricht oder nicht, hängt auch nicht von Schichtzugehörigkeit ab: Sowohl der Bankdirektor als auch der Schalterbeamte oder der Bauarbeiter (oft sogar dort, wo es sich um einen „Fremdarbeiter“ handelt) sprechen Dialekt. (Sieber & Sitta, 1987, p. 393)

What is worth noting is that, for this reason, technical conversations can also be conducted in dialect.

On the other hand, in the colloquial situations and due to medial diglossia, it is difficult to distinguish where dialect and where colloquial language is used. According to Sieber and Sitta, dialects of German in Switzerland have perfectly adapted to the needs of the new times. Moreover, there is a contrast in the imagination of the speakers between the old and the new dialect. „Dabei muß freilich zugestanden werden, daß die heutigen modernen Mundarten als Umgangssprache nur noch bedingt mit jenen Mundarten vergleichbar sind, die in der Dialektologie als ‘echte = alte Dialekte’ beschrieben und untersucht wurde” (Sieber & Sitta, 1987, p. 393).

In addition, linguists describe a tendency to vernacularisation of the language in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. The reasons for this are the “changed communication needs of the present” and “changed communication conditions” (Sieber & Sitta, 1987, p. 397). The language as a whole shortens the distance to everyday language. Returning to the previous problem of borderline

cases between standard and dialect in the dictionary, this may be a reason to interpret a borderline word or expression as being a part of the standard language vocabulary.

Sieber and Sitta (1987) also note that in everyday language only dialect is used, and not colloquial language, although it is not self-evident for all existing dialects (p. 397). However, in German-speaking Switzerland it was the historical development of the language that led to today's situation, in which dialect has overtaken functions of other levels of language. Furthermore, the written language in German-speaking Switzerland is considered conservative. This can be seen as leading to dialect absorbing the language changes.

In summary, as we can see, there is not always clarity between the dialect and the Swiss standard of German. For example, Werlen (2004) only mentions the term "Swiss German", but it is not described as dialect. It seems possible to conclude that this is one of the reasons for the inconsistency verified in the labels used by different dictionaries to classify words or terms.

1.6 Swiss German and different standards: historical notion of development

In order to understand the linguistic situation in the region better, we need to provide some historical context and perspectives in this chapter.

On formation of the language frontiers in Switzerland, Koller in *Nation und Sprache in der Schweiz* (2011) states that Switzerland was a territory originally inhabited by Rhaetian people and Celts. Later, during the Roman rule from the end of the 1st century BC to around 400 AD, these tribes were romanised. In this way, in the West, Gallo-Romance/French, in the South Alpine-Lombardi/Italian and in the East Rhaeto-Romance/Alpine-Romance emerged. Another part of the language border forming process was migration of the Alemanni to the north and central Switzerland since the 5th and 6th centuries, after which language borders within Switzerland slowly stabilized. However, in the east (Rhineland, Graubünden) the germanisation lasted until the 14th century. Koller emphasizes that due to such difference of ethnic, tribal and linguistic origin in historical perspective it's hard to call people of Switzerland a unity (p. 572).

In his work *Schweizerdeutsch und Sprachbewusstsein* (2019), Ruoss analyses the sociolinguistic situation in Switzerland in the 19th century because that is when the consolidation of the situation of diglossia was formed. To understand the situation, we need to go back to earlier centuries. Ruoss claims that the processes that preceded the formation of diglossia happened between the 16th

and 18th centuries, where in the whole German-speaking area New High German was a written “H[igh]” variety while the spoken dialects were used as “L[ow]” varieties. The author states that until 1700 in most German-speaking areas a medial diglossia was established (p. 71).

Until the beginning of the 19th century, it was still normal in all German-speaking countries to use dialect. Later with the spread of literacy it became normal to first use Standard German or *Hochdeutsch* in elite circles, but later also this tendency had an impact on all educated German-speaking people. However, in Switzerland this process didn’t occur and even educated people communicated in dialect, not labelling it as a social marked variety, which caused amazement among people coming from other countries. Especially concerning the spoken language, Ruoss (2019) writes: “Im Gegensatz zu anderen deutschsprachigen Regionen gab es in der deutschen Schweiz zu Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts keine gesellschaftliche Gruppe, die das Hochdeutsche als Alltagsvarietät pflegte und ihre Kinder hochdeutsch sozialisierte” (p. 77).

There is no clear reason for this absence of later stratification because it is a very complicated process with many variables, and the reconstruction of spoken evidences is almost impossible. Researchers agree that it was not an inner linguistic process, but rather a process influenced by social and political realities of that time. In the view of Ruoss (2019), even the linguistic distance between High German and Alemannic dialects is a dubious argument (p. 73). He suggests that in this case, political view of Switzerland as a republic with principles of equality might have influenced this absence of change from diglossia. Another possible reason would be multilingualism of Switzerland, since Standard German never became a symbol of nation in Switzerland as was the case in Germany.

Another important possible reason which influenced diglossia in Switzerland was that French played a role of a standard language even in German-speaking areas. There are evidences that for the Swiss elite in the 18th and 19th centuries the French language was much more significant in international relations sphere than standard German: “Aus dem 18. und 19. Jahrhundert gibt es zahlreiche Hinweise darauf, dass sich die bessere Gesellschaft insbesondere Berns sogar mit Deutschen vorzugsweise auf Französisch unterhielt, weil es ihnen vertrauter war als das Hochdeutsche” (Ruoss, 2019, p. 78).

Thus, Hudson’s (2002) remarks about circumstances in which a diglossia can develop a new sense in Switzerland’s historical context:

At least three sets of circumstances suggest themselves as having this potential. In the first, the H-variety in question historically has never been used as a vernacular by any native speakers.

[...] Third, the H-variety still enjoys a vernacular speaker base in a separate speech community, the members of which do not regard themselves, and are not regarded as, members of the community that employs H for nonvernacular purposes only. (p. 21)

However, the claim about diglossia and literacy “in the sense of both the incidence of individual literacy skills and the existence of a literary tradition” (Hudson, 2002, p. 26) is a more complicated one, and in this case, as Ruoss (2019, p. 77) shows us, Switzerland had a very high rate of literacy, but standard German wasn't spoken a lot. This situation is a typical case of medial diglossia.

Koller (2011) also suggests reasons for such a development of Switzerland as a multilingual and multicultural nation (p. 565). Firstly, it was another self-identification system based on different cantons and regions. Secondly, it is the fact that in Switzerland language borders do not coincide with other, confessional, social or economic borders. Thirdly, Koller also mentions the role of ideology for the formation of such cultural and linguistic situation – for Swiss identity that multilingualism and multiculturalism at the level of the Swiss nation merge into a national “unity” of a higher order.

1.7 The role of loanwords in Swiss German and Standard Swiss German

In Switzerland, different languages have always been in contact with one another. There are 3 official languages in Switzerland – German, French and Italian, and 4 national languages, including the official languages and Romansh, which is considered to be an official language in correspondence with Romansh-speaking citizens. It is also very notable how official languages of cantons are taken very seriously and there is a strict line between the official language borders between the cantons with different official languages. There are some exceptions to this rule, such as the cantons that have several official languages – they are Bern, Freiburg, Wallis and Graubünden – the only canton with three official languages (Lüdi et al., 2000, p. 89). In this situation of constant language contact loanwords play an important role. Thus, there are a lot of words in Swiss German that came from other languages official in Switzerland (French, Italian), and English.

English plays a special role in communication in Switzerland. According to a study of Lüdi et al. (2000), in the educational institutions English was regularly spoken as a colloquial language by 14.5% of people across the whole Switzerland (p. 79). In her study of 2008 about anglicisms in German-speaking areas, Schmidlin (2008) comes to the conclusion that in the *Variante Wörterbuch des Deutschen* by Ammon et al., which serves as a basis for our investigation, the share of anglicisms is the

highest in helvetisms – over 32% (p. 264). The biggest share of anglicisms in the dictionary was in the sports domain. The researcher also highlights that it has already been proven that Swiss Standard German is the most “anglicism-friendly” variant of the German language. Dürscheid and Spitzmüller (2006) also draw attention to the fact that the use of anglicisms in Swiss German-speaking regions can signify an affiliation with a certain social group (p. 28). Schmidlin (2008), referring to another study of the above-mentioned researchers, highlights that as in the case of anglicisms as well as in the case of loanwords from French, their number is not due to the fact that Swiss German has “loaned” a lot of words from the other languages, but due to the fact that German in Switzerland has made less effort to germanize them (p. 265).

In Swiss media, the question of the importance of English in communication between Swiss nationals who speak different languages has also been brought up (Stephens, 2021). Stephens in his article about the use of English in Switzerland draws attention to the aspects that show how English became more prioritized in the last decades in Switzerland, such as Swiss government publishing press releases in English. This is due to the multilingualism issue in the country, since sometimes the level of understanding of a language that is spoken in another canton is not sufficient, so professionals prefer to communicate in English.

A study of 2003 by Durham shows that in mailing Swiss medical students belonging to *International Federation of Medical Students' Associations – Switzerland* from different linguistic backgrounds have given their preference to communication in English over time. The complexity of communication in such a multilingual setting is enhanced due to the fact that sometimes speakers prefer to communicate in dialect, but the other speaker has been taught a standard language variety in school. Such situation occurs with the German language (Stephens, 2021). As Durham (2003) notes, “[g]enerally, people's main language is the same as that of the canton or region in which they live. Which language they chose to use with Swiss nationals from other linguistic regions in the country is more complicated, however”.

Due to this multilingualism, the question of education language in Switzerland is complicated. In the year 2000, canton Zurich decided that English would be a prioritized second language in school in comparison to other official Swiss languages. This decision was considered controversial by some Swiss media. “Many people, particularly in the French- and Italian-speaking parts of the country, fear that teaching English ahead of Swiss national languages would weaken or even undo the social glue that holds Switzerland together” (Stephens, 2021).

To summarize, due to the multilingualism in Switzerland, languages spoken there are influenced by one another. English in such a situation sometimes serves as a lingua franca, which leads to increase of anglicisms in Swiss German and Standard Swiss German.

CHAPTER 2 METHODOLOGY

Dictionaries have significant influence on standardisation. They are both a tool and a consequence of the standardisation process. In this chapter we focus on the Standard Swiss German vocabulary and the way it is presented in German modern online dictionaries, firstly presenting the macro- and microstructures of the dictionaries in focus.

2.1. Standard Swiss German in dictionaries: an introduction

The reference work of this research was the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011). Additionally, we used the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018) dictionary as the most recent dictionary representing Swiss Standard German vocabulary. The goal of our research was to investigate to which extent such vocabulary is represented in *Duden Online* and in the *Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS)* as the largest online dictionary platforms of the German language.

During the study, both a quantitative approach, which included collecting and counting words, and a qualitative approach, which included interpreting the data, were used. Our hypothesis is that words belonging to Swiss German standard might be not fully represented in German online dictionaries.

Bickel and Lorenz (2003) have previously pointed out that in GWDS (*Großwörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*) by Duden not enough standard Swiss German vocabulary is included, and that the dictionary lacked some very frequent helvetisms. Linguists emphasised that despite GWDS being a dictionary of German language and not of Germany, there are some lacunae in representation of Swiss Standard German:

Das GWDS ist aus Schweizer Sicht noch kein befriedigendes Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache. [...] Noch ist das GWDS unverkennbar auf Deutschland zentriert, alles deutschländische wird unbesehen als allgemein gültig hingestellt, Varianten aus den anderen deutschsprachigen Ländern werden dagegen markiert. (p. 256)

This last statement about GWDS being very Germany-centred is very important. This is another hypothesis about German online dictionaries that we would like to investigate in our research. In general, it is interesting to investigate if this situation has changed with modern online dictionaries, especially considering the fact that it is much easier to update online dictionaries in comparison to print dictionaries.

It is important to note that in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, which is our reference work, there are lemmas that belong to several variants of the German language, for example, words that are used both in Switzerland and Germany. We decided to include in our study not only pure helvetisms, but also words from different standards. This decision was motivated by the fact that sometimes, as is between standard and dialect, the line between standards is hard to draw. That is why we decided to not exclude words that belong to several standards of the German language, especially considering that some standards such as Austrian in combination with Swiss German are not considered neutral.

During the progress of our research, we have encountered other resources that are important for a general picture of the representation of Swiss German in dictionaries, but could not become our focus because they did not reflect the situation with Swiss Standard German. Mainly we refer to Swiss German dictionaries which are necessary to mention here.

Firstly, there is the dictionary *Wie sagt man in der Schweiz?* by Meyer which was published in *Duden Taschenbücher* series in 1989. This dictionary focuses on Swiss German vocabulary, but it is important to note the theoretical approach that taken. On the contrary to considering Swiss standard German a variety of a pluricentric language, Meyer (1989) refuses to draw a line between Swiss German and Swiss Standard German and notes that the definition of standard itself comes from English linguistics and is not applicable to German language (p. 23).

Secondly, there is the *Schweizerisches Idiotikon*⁶ which is also available online since 2010. It is very exhaustive and is also a historical dictionary which covers lexicon from the late middle Ages until current times. The printed version consists of 17 volumes. It is important to observe that the online version of this dictionary has a lot more to offer than just a dictionary, containing a lot of information of Swiss German itself as a FAQ for readers and links to other related resources. In the FAQ, a view on Swiss German is expressed that it is hard to determine if this is a dialect or a separate language.

2.2 Analysis of dictionary structures

In this subchapter we will focus on macro- and microstructure of four dictionaries: *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011), *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt 2018) dictionary, *Duden Online* and *DWDS*. First of all, it is important to define the terms

⁶ Schweizerisches Idiotikon. Retrieved from <https://www.idiotikon.ch/>

macrostructure and microstructure. According to Gouws and Wiegand (2010), “[t]he macrostructure of a printed dictionary is that textual structure that presents the ordering of all those elements of the data memories that contribute to the dictionary type specific macrostructural coverage” (p. 78). In this definition, the macrostructures of both print and online dictionaries are included. On the other hand, microstructure is a structure of a dictionary article that includes various items describing different features of the lemma. Macrostructure and microstructure are connected, and thus additional levels are created, such as mediostructure which is represented by cross-references (Wiegand et al., 2010, p. 192).

To obtain a clear understanding of the lexicographic data contained in the above-mentioned dictionaries, their overall (macro-) and entry (micro-) structure needs to be compared. Two of our analysed dictionaries that are focused on the variant (*Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary) or several variants (*Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*) are printed dictionaries, the two other dictionaries – *Duden Online* and *DWDS* (which has features of a lexical platform and not only a dictionary) – are online resources. Due to that, their macrostructure is different.

Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen is a collective work of a group of almost twenty researchers and other collaborators involved in some way in this project. The main idea was developed by Ulrich Ammon (Ammon et al., 2011, p. 7). There have been two editions of this dictionary, and we used the second one for our research.

According to Wiegand et al. (2010), “[i]f a dictionary has a front matter as well as a back matter, it possesses a textual frame” (p. 147). The structure of the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* includes such a frame, including a broad introduction addressing different aspects of German language pluricentricity. Among other information, it includes differences in grammar, and explanation of the labels. The *Variantenwörterbuch* uses different labels of usage to indicate the region of the variant. They are sometimes followed by regional labels of the countries where German is spoken, such as D-südwest. (southwest of Germany), BELG (Belgium), etc. Concerning the back matter, *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* contains the list of the resources and useful information on how to read these.

Regarding the entry structure, there is a distinct feature of the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* characterised by connections between the concepts presented by different word forms. This is an indication of a clear mediostructure – cross-references to other dictionary articles with the same meaning in the same variant of German, or in other variants, indicated with labels. In the entries below

we can see that the cross-reference in this dictionary includes a non-typographical element, an arrow, and the cross-referenced lemma itself. In the example of the lemma “Hörnli“, we can see that respective words in other variants are “Hörnchen“ in Austria (which is marked by a letter A) and Germany (signified by a letter D), and „Hörnchennudel“ in Germany. Here we illustrate two entries cross-referenced to each other:

Hörnli CH das; -s, – (meist Plur.): ↗ **HÖRNCHEN** A D (ohne südwest), ↗ **HÖRNCHENNUDEL** D (ohne südwest) ›kurze, gebogene Teigware‹: *Spaghetti oder Hörnli oder Makkaroni oder Rösti oder Fleisch zum Mittagessen* (Bachmann, Gilgamesch 29)

Figure 2: Entry example for “Hörnli” in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011)

Hörnchennudel D (ohne südwest) die; –, -n: ↗ **HÖRNCHEN** A D (ohne südwest), ↗ **HÖRNLI** CH ›kurze, gebogene Teigware‹: *Zubereitung für 300 g ... Broccoli, 125 g Hörnchennudeln, 100 ml süße Sahne und 50 g geriebenen Käse* (Knorr, 2000, Internet) – Vgl. Nudel

Figure 3: Entry example for “Hörnchennudel” in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al. 2011)

Apart from the lemma itself, cross-references and regional labels, these dictionary articles provide the meaning of the word also introduced by non-typographical items, and example sentences in italics.

Our second source is the *Schweizerhochdeutsch: Wörterbuch der Standardsprache in der deutschen Schweiz* which focuses only on Swiss Standard German vocabulary. For this study we used a second edition of this dictionary. The authors of the dictionary are Hans Bickel and Christoph Landolt (2018), Swiss researchers who specialize in the questions of Swiss German and Standard Swiss German. Both authors are editors of *Schweizerisches Idiotikon* – an online dictionary of Swiss German. As in the case with the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary provides the user with general information about this variant, information on grammar, pronunciation and useful information on orthography, as well as list of the literature on the subject. All these outertexts also construct a frame-like structure in this dictionary.

The microstructure of this dictionary is concise and consists of an item providing grammatical information, items providing style and origin of the word (if it has a foreign origin), and an item providing the meaning:

Hörnli, das; -s, - (meist Pl.; mundartnah): kurze, gebogene Teigware; dtl. Hörnchen

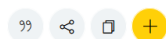
Figure 4: Entry example for “Hörnli” in the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018)

Neither example sentences, nor data collection information, such as corpus work, are provided. According to Sutter (2017), quoting Landolt’s interview, this dictionary was compiled from several already existing dictionaries – “das *VWB* (2004), der *Rechtschreib-Duden* (2009a) sowie das *Schweizer Wörterbuch* (2006)” (p. 89), the first dictionary being the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, and the last – the dictionary of Meyer that we mentioned in the previous subchapter. Thus, the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary was designed to present the information in a concise manner.

Duden Online and *DWDS*, even though they are both online resources, are quite different in structure. *Duden Online* is a monolingual online dictionary, and the Duden platform has many additional features other than just the dictionary, especially related to language learning – such as the feature of a text spellchecker, podcasts etc. Furthermore, *Duden Online* provides the user with outer texts such as the information about the corpus.

The entry itself in Duden consists of three different parts – spelling (*Rechtschreibung*), meaning (*Bedeutung*), and grammar (*Grammatik*). Gouws (2014) indicates that the article structure in Duden Online is multi-layered, meaning that “the allocation of items to sections supersedes their allocation to comments” (p. 167). Duden implements in the entry structure the feature that is common for social media, allowing users to share information, in this case share an article. Below, we present the entry for lemma “Hörnli”:

Hörnli, das



Wortart: **Substantiv, Neutrum**
Gebrauch: **besonders schweizerisch**
Häufigkeit: **— — — — —**
Aussprache: **Betonung**
Hörnli

Rechtschreibung ⓘ

Worttrennung Hörn|li

Bedeutung ⓘ

kurzes, leicht gebogenes röhrenförmiges Gebäck

Grammatik

das Hörnli; Genitiv: des Hörnli[s], Plural: die Hörnli[s]; vgl. [Götti](#)

 [Zur Deklinationstabelle des Substantivs Hörnli](#)

Figure 5: Entry example for “Hörnli” in *Duden Online*

As we can see, the first information presented in the article is part of speech, use, frequency and pronunciation.

DWDS, or *Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache* also offers much more than just a dictionary, such as different corpora, glossaries and games. The navigation around the website is not as intuitive when compared to the *Duden Online* because of the different options and settings that the user has to choose according to their needs, such as choosing a focus on a certain corpus.

The entry page structure in *DWDS* also consists of 3 parts – page beginning (*Seitenanfang*), meanings (*Bedeutungen*) and thesaurus (*Thesaurus*). The beginning of the entry page looks like this:

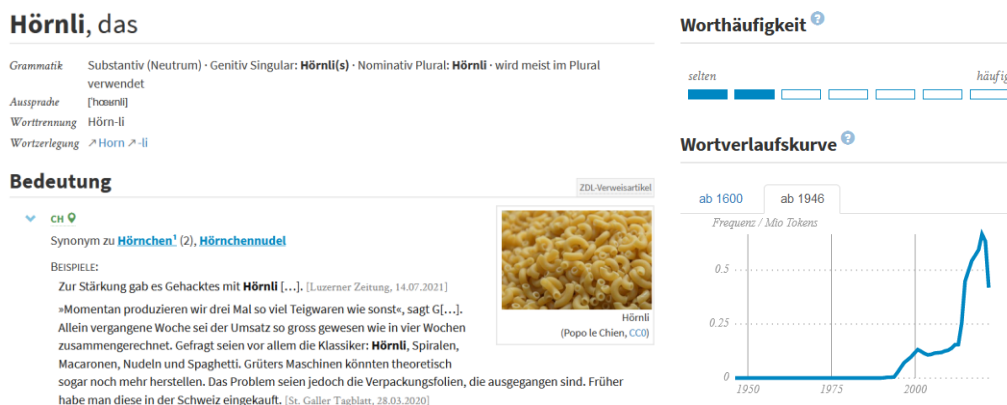


Figure 6: Entry example for “Hörnli” in *DWDS* with frequency information

As we can see, *DWDS* provides the user with frequency information as well, including the frequency chart. The usage of the words is provided in the meaning part. It is important to note that, in the case of *DWDS*, if a word is not found in the dictionary or the “lexical resources”, the search is automatically switched to corpora.

2.3 Usage Labels

In this section we would like to draw attention specifically to labels which play an important role in our research. Firstly, it is important to analyse which labels are used in *Duden Online* in the first place. The indication that interests us in this case is the indication of usage. The usage label appears in *Duden Online* at the beginning of the entry after the information on part of speech. If you click on it, Duden continues to the other page where this indication is explained. In the explanation *Duden Online* does not mention the word “standard” at all. According to this explanation there are only “regional” and “dialectal” words. In the examples of the different uses, dialectal and standard language varieties are listed without distinction - for example, with „süddeutsch“, „norddeutsch“, „rheinisch“, „alemannisch“, „österreichisch“, „schweizerisch“ or similar (*Duden Online*). To sum up, *Duden Online* does not show the user the difference between a dialect and a standard.

The usage label has an indication: “Regionale und zeitliche Zuordnungen“. The first aspect that stands out is the term “normalsprachliche“. *Duden Online* informs the user that „Wörter und Wendungen, die nicht im gesamten Verbreitungsgebiet der deutschen Sprache Bestandteil des Normalsprachlichen sind, sondern nur regional bzw. in einzelnen Dialekten Verwendung finden, werden entsprechend markiert...“ (*Duden Online*). The term “normalsprachliche” in this case is not explained. One can assume that in such a way standard language is designated. In other words, the idea of pluricentricity and different standards is not communicated here, perhaps to not confuse the user.

One can also compare an introduction of the previous printed versions of *Duden*, for example the *Duden Universalwörterbuch*. We can see that since *Duden Universalwörterbuch* (2007), the explanation of the usage hasn’t changed much. The term “German language area” (*deutsche Sprachgebiet*) is used in the sense of all countries and regions in which German is used.

The *Duden Universalwörterbuch* uses the label “landschaftlich” as follows: “Lässt sich ein nur regional verwendetes Wort bzw. eine Wendung nicht eindeutig einer bestimmten Region zuordnen, wird die Markierung „landsch.“(=landschaftlich) verwendet“ (*Duden Universalwörterbuch*, 2007). As you can see further, in *Duden Online* this marker is also used when the regional usage of the word is too complicated to determine.

In comparison to this position of the Duden, there is the corresponding position in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011):

Dies ist ein Wörterbuch des Standarddeutschen, also des im öffentlichen Sprachgebrauch als angemessen und korrekt geltenden Deutschs. In das vorliegende Wörterbuch wurden jedoch nicht alle Wörter und Wendungen des Standarddeutschen aufgenommen, sondern nur solche, die nationale oder regionale (areale) Besonderheiten aufweisen, sowie – soweit vorhanden – deren gemeindeutsche Entsprechungen. (p. 11)

As we can see, here it is emphasized that different standards are everything that is considered appropriate and correct. However, sometimes it is not so easy to determine whether a word belongs to the standard, or to the dialect or slang. It is also important to explain such principles to the user. Such explanation is also available in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*.

Folgende Wörter und Wendungen blieben dagegen unberücksichtigt: Nicht der Standardsprache, sondern dem Dialekt oder der Umgangssprache zuzurechnende. Sie wurden allerdings dann aufgenommen, wenn sie öfter auch in Standardtexten vorkommen und deshalb einen Grenzfall des Standards darstellen. (p. 12)

As can be seen, the standard varies and sometimes certain cases are not so easy to determine. The frequency of such words in standard language texts can be one of the tools to determine the position of such words between standard and dialect.

In *Duden Online* the difference between standard varieties and colloquial speech is not communicated. In our opinion, it would be beneficial for such an important dictionary of German language to provide its readers with information about the pluricentrism of the German language.

To add to that, the way the information is included in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011) can be a good example of a simple and short explanation of the pluricentrism of the German language:

Die plurizentrische Auffassung von der deutschen Sprache bedeutet, dass sprachliche Besonderheiten nationaler Zentren nicht als Abweichungen von einer nationen-übergreifenden deutschen Standardsprache gelten, sondern als gleichberechtigt nebeneinander bestehende standardsprachliche Ausprägungen des Deutschen. Dahinter steht die Tatsache, dass die Nationalstaaten eine wichtige Rolle spielen bei der Herausbildung von Standardsprachen, vor allem ihre Verwaltung, ihr Rechtswesen und ihre sonstigen Institutionen, aber auch ihre Verlage und Medien. (p. 22)

In the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* there is another interesting assertion. This claim is that the major dictionaries of German treat the variants, even common only in Germany, „einfach als gemeindeutsche Normalformen“ (“simply as general German normal forms”) (Ammon et al., 2011, p. 22). In this research we are going to investigate to which extent this statement is true.

Here we would like to also compare corresponding labels in the *Digitales Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache (DWDS)*. The corresponding section on regional labels is called *Regionalangaben*. It is possible to directly go to this page from an article that has a regional label. It has extensive information on how regional labels are distributed including information on corpus sources. It is indicated that the regional distribution of words or their readings is determined in the *DWDS* on the basis of the ZDL regional corpus with exception of area of Switzerland that has a separate corpus due to cooperation of *DWDS* with Austrian Academy of Sciences.

For other areas, the sources for corpus are indicated. ZDL regional corpus is the corpus that consists only of newspapers. In the case of Switzerland, three different German-speaking areas are represented: the western part represented by *Basler Zeitung* and *Der Bund* (Bern), the eastern part by *St. Galler Tagblatt* and *Thurgauer Zeitung*, and the central part by *Bote der Urschweiz* and *Luzerner Zeitung*. We can draw a preliminary conclusion that the fact that regional labels are distributed based on newspaper corpus alone does not cover the range of words that might come up in other types of texts.

Going back to printed dictionaries, it is important to address the subject of words that are on the verge of becoming standard, or have already become but still have qualities of a dialect word, and how dictionaries are treating this problem. The only comprehensive approach to this question is found in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*.

In the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* the label “Grenzfall des Standards” (borderline case of the standard) is introduced as part of *Normebene* (norm level). What is more, it is indicated that the words that belong to dialect or colloquial language are included in the dictionary if they are frequent in standard texts, and thus are positioned on the borderline of a standard language (p. 22). Thus, the phenomenon of words that are found to be between standard language and dialect is defined. To add to that, the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* informs its users that that to differentiate dialect, colloquial language and standard language is very hard and sometimes pretty much impossible. It is complicated by the fact that sometimes the words from so called colloquial language are used in standard texts for stylistic reasons (p. 46).

The *Schweizerhochdeutsch. Wörterbuch der Standardsprache in der deutschen Schweiz*, on the other hand, focuses on standard forms of one variant of the German language, Swiss Standard German. The entries in the dictionary and information on the labels used are clear and concise. The dictionary contains a brief general introduction and a section where the abbreviation of labels is explained. The label “mundartnah” is used to mark words identified, to some extent, as belonging to a regional dialect

In *Duden Online* and *DWDS* both labels “mundartlich” and “mundartnah” are used. These two labels are similar, but still there is a slight difference between them. However, the label “Grenzfall des Standards” is different because it clearly communicates a concept that there is a border between dialect and standard and words can be in this zone.

In *Schweizerdeutsch-Duden*, according to Sutter (2017), there are diaphasic labels, and the label “mundartnah” is one of them. The linguist emphasizes that the frequency of this label is very high, and it is not clear if this label corresponds to “Grenzfall des Standards” from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*. However, she indicates that “Der Begriff Grenzfall des Standards selbst wird von Bickel und Landolt als problematisch bewertet und findet deshalb keinen Eingang in ihr Wörterbuch” (p. 97). Thus, authors of *Duden-Schweizerhochdeutsch* deliberately didn't use this label. Sutter also draws attention to the problematic label “umgangssprachlich” in this dictionary. Citing the interview with Landolt, she provides the answer to the question regarding the markings “mundartnah” and “umgangssprachlich” from the author of the dictionary – due to the situation of diglossia, they signify the same concept (p. 97).

2.4 Word choice (Domain Cookery and Cuisine)

2.4.1 Introduction

Our word choice for the research was motivated by several factors that will be explained below. Firstly, the number of words is determined by the scope of the research that is possible to conclude within a Master Thesis project.

Secondly, the choice of the lexical domain was made based on the fact that words from the cookery and cuisine domain and connected to food, cooking or kitchen supplies constitute a large part of the specific Swiss German lexicon, and many of these words have been taken into the standard. The everyday domestic vocabulary is usually specific due to diglossia, and the fact that Swiss people in the

German part usually communicate at home in a dialect, thus cookery and cuisine vocabulary constitute a big part of this vocabulary.

Moreover, if we are talking about food and cuisine, this part of life is largely intertwined with the culture identity of the country and its people. As a result, the lexical field of kitchen and food can reflect habits and peculiarities of the national cuisine.

In *Schweizerhochdeutsch: Wörterbuch der Standardsprache in der deutschen Schweiz*, cookery vocabulary is listed as one of the areas where the lexicon of Standard Swiss German is very rich: “Die Küchensprache – ein Teilgebiet der Sprache von Haus und Haushalt – ist besonders stark geprägt durch eine grosse regionale Vielfalt” (Bickel & Landolt, 2018, p. 95).

The process of word choice was conducted as follows:

1. Choice of the domain and criteria was concluded.
2. Based on that, a search in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* for the words belonging to the respective domain was carried out.
3. Words from subareas such as food, kitchen utilities and activities in the kitchen were selected.
4. A search for the words selected in (2) was concluded in other dictionaries (*Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online*, *DWDS*).
5. The vocabulary was organised in groups and presented in a table for better visualisation.

There are some aspects about the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* of Ammon et al. and the word choice that is important to note. Some of the selected words belong at the same time to the different standards of German, such as CH (for Switzerland), A, CH (for Austria and Switzerland) and CH, D (for Switzerland and Germany) etc. Thus, such words are on the periphery of the standards. Our goal was to select the words that belong to the Swiss German standard, but not exclusively. One of the goals of this research is to compare the labelling in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* to labelling in our other focus dictionaries, namely *Schweizerhochdeutsch: Wörterbuch der Standardsprache in der deutschen Schweiz*, *Duden Online* and *Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS)*.

2.4.2 Word categories

To be able to better group the words, we assigned them to several categories, the main categories being “Utilities”, “Food”, “Actions”, and “Other”. One category (“Food”) was divided into subcategories: “unspecific”, “meat”, “sweets”, “pastry”, “drinks or liquids”.

Utilities:

Backofen, Bratschaufel, Chacheli, Dampfabzug, Kunst, Passevite, Quirl, Rechaud, Rüstmesser, Schaumkelle, Schöpfkelle, Schwingbesen, Teekrug, Wallholz, Zapfen.

Food:

unspecific: Äplermagronen, Birnenbrot, Blaukabis, Blumenkohl, Bodenkohlrabi, Brösmeli, Crevette, Fideli, Gschwellti, Hörnli, Knöpfli, Mutschli, Nüdeli, Nüssler, Nüsslisalat, Omellete, Pelati, Raffel, Rotkabis, Rüebli, Spaghettata, Spätzli, Sulz;

meat: Gigot, Gnagi, Haxe, Huft, Huftplätzli, Rippli, Schlegel, Stotzen, Schüfeli, Wädli, Wienerli;

sweets: Biber, Biskuit, Biskuitroulade, Cake, Caramel, Chäschüechli, Gugelhopf, Leckerli (Läckerli), Schoggi, Truffe;

pastry: Anisbrötli, Birnenbrot, Brätzeli, Brötli, Bürli, Weggen;

drinks or liquids: Abricotine, Blöterliwasser, Jus, Kaffee (Kafi) fertig, Kaffee (Kafi) Schnaps, Nidel.

Actions (verbs):

abbrühen, andämpfen, anrösten, anziehen, bestäuben, eindicken, raffeln, rüsten, schwingen.

Other:

Menu, Paniermehl, Tellerservice, Znacht, Zmittag, Zmorge(n), Znüni.

The following table was compiled to illustrate how Swiss standard German vocabulary on the given topic is represented in our focus dictionaries, including the respective usage labels.

Presence or absence of words from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* in *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary (*SHD* in the table), *Duden Online* (*Duden* in the table) and *DWDS* was marked with + or – symbols accordingly. Regional markings were also added to the table.

Marking used in the table:

- n. s. – standard not indicated
- s – “schweizerisch”
- ö. – „österreichisch“
- s. d. – “süddeutsch”
- b. s. – “besonders schweizerisch”
- s. b. m. – “schweizerisch, besonders mundartlich”
- m-n. – “mundartnah”
- m. – “mundartlich”
- l. – “landschaftlich”
- Grenzf. – “Grenzfall des Standards”

In addition, the abbreviations from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* to signify the regions of the standard were used: A for Austria, D for Germany, CH for Switzerland and Vbg. for Vorarlberg region in Austria.

Special cases, in which we couldn't indicate if a word was present or absent in the dictionary, were marked with an asterisk and explained below the table.

Lemma	Standard	SHD	Duden	DWDS
abbrühen	CH D	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Abricotine, die	CH	+	-	-
andämpfen	CH D-süd	-	-*	-
Anisbrötchen, das	CH	-*	+ s.	-
anrösten	A CH D-süd	+	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
anziehen (meaning 5)	CH	-	-	-
Äplermagronen, die, nur Pl.	CH	+	+ n. s.	-
Backofen, der	CH D	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
bestäuben	CH D STIR	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Biber, der	CH	+	+ s.	-
Birnenbrot, das	A-west (Vbg.) CH	+	-	-
Biskuit (Biscuit), das/der	CH	+	+* n. s.	+ n. s.
Biskuitroulade, die	A CH	-	-	-
Blaukabis, der	CH	+	+ s.	+ n. s.
Blöterliwasser, das	CH Grenzf.	-	-	-
Blumenkohl, der	A-west (Vbg.) CH D	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Bodenkohlraabi, der	CH	+	-	-
Brätzeli, das	CH	-	-	-
Bratschaufel, die	CH	+	-	-
Brösmeli, das	CH Grenzf.	-	+ m-n.	-
Brötli, das	CH Grenzf.	+ m-n.	+ s.b.m.	-
Bürli, das	CH	+	+ s.	-
Cake, der	CH BELG	+	+ s.	+ s.
Caramel, das	CH	+	+ s.	-
Chacheli, das	CH Grenzf., dim.	+ m-n.	-	-

Chäschüechli, das	CH Grenzf.	+ m-n.	-	-
Crevette, die	CH	-	+ n. s.	+*
Dampfabzug, der	CH	+	+ b. s.	-
eindicken	CH, D	-	+	+
Fideli, das	CH	+	-	-
Gigot, der/das	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Gnagi, das	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Gschwellti, nur Pl.	CH Grenzf.	+ m-n.	-	-
Gugelhopf, der	CH D-südwest	+	+ s.	+ n. s.
Haxe, die	CH D-mit./süd	-	+*	+ n. s.
Hörnli, das	CH	+ m-n.	+ b. s.	-
Huft, die	CH	+	+ s.	-
Huftplätzli, das	CH	+	-	-
Jus, der	CH	+	+ s.*	.*
Kaffee (Kafi) fertig	CH	+	-	-
Kaffee Schnaps	CH	+	-	-
Knöpfli, die, nur Pl.	CH	+ m-n.	+ s.	-
Kunst, die	CH	+	+	-
Leckerli (Läckerli), das	CH	+	+*	+ s.
Menu, das	CH BELG LUX	+	+ s.	-
Mutschli, das	CH	+ m-n.	-	-
Nidel, der/die	CH Grenzf.	+ m-n.	+ s.	-
Nüdeli, das	CH	+ m-n.	-	-
Nüssler, der	CH	+	-	-
Nüsslissalat, der	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Omelette, die	A CH	+	+ ö., s.*	+ n. s.
Paniermehl, das	CH D	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Passevite, das	CH	+	+ s.	-
Pelati, die, nur Pl.	A CH	+	+ ö., s.	-
Quirl, der	CH D	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Raffel, die	CH	+	+ l.	+ l.
raffeln	CH	+	+ l.	+ l.
Rechaud, das	A CH	+	+s., sd., ö.	+ n. s.
Rippli, das	CH	+	+ s	-
Rotkabis (Rotchabis), der	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Rüebli, das	CH	+ m-n.	+ s.	-
rüsten	CH	+	+ s.	+*
Rüstmesser, das	CH	+	+ s	-
Schaumkelle, die	CH D-nord/mit.-w.	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Schlegel, der	A CH D-süd	+	+ sd., ö.	+ sd., ö., s.
Schöpfkelle, die	CH D-nord/mit.	-	+ n. s.	+ n. s.
Stotzen, der	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Schoggi, die	CH Grenzf.	+ m-n.	-	-
Schüfeli, das	CH	+	-	-
Schwingbesen, der	CH	+	-	-

schwingen	CH	+	+ s	-
Spaghettata, die	CH STIR Grenz.	-	-	-
Spätzli, die, nur Pl.	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Sulz, die	A CH D-süd	+	+ s., sd., ö.	+ s.
Teekrug, der	CH	+	-	-
Tellerservice, der	CH	+	-	-
Truffe, das	CH	+	-	-
Wallholz, das	CH	+	+ s.	-
Wädli, das	CH	+	+ s.	+ s.
Weggen, der	CH	+	+ s.	-
Wienerli, das	CH	+	+ s.	-
Zapfen, der	CH	+	+ s.*	-
Znacht, der/das	CH	+ m-n.	+ s.	+ s. m.
Zmittag, das/der	CH Grenz.	+ m-n.	+ s.	-
Zmorge(n), das/der	CH Grenz.	+ m-n.	+ s.	-
Znüni, das/der	CH Grenz.	+ m-n.	+ s.	+ s. m.

Table 1: Cookery and Cuisine word list extracted from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* in comparison with the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online* and *DWDS*

2.4.3 Special cases and discussion

„andämpfen“ – in both *Duden Online* and *DWDS* the form „andampfen“ is present.

„Anisbrötchen“ – in *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary, only the form „Anisbrötli“ is present.

„Biskuit“ („Biscuit“) – in *Duden Online* only the first form is present.

„Crevette“ – in *DWDS* this word is indicated in the entry for „Krevette“ as alternative writing.

„Haxe“ – in *Duden* this word is present in the form „Haxen“.

„Jus“ – in *Duden* it is just one meaning that is labelled as „schweizerisch“, and in *DWDS* it is defined as „Fleischsaft“ which doesn't correspond to the general meaning in Swiss Standard German according to the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* („Frucht- oder Gemüsesaft“ (2011, p. 377)).

„Leckerli“ („Läckerli“) – in *Duden Online* only one meaning is marked as Swiss, and only one form is given (the first one).

„Omelette“ – in *Duden Online* it is indicated that in Switzerland only this form is used, while in Austria an alternative form is also possible.

„Nidel“ – in *Duden Online* two articles are given, „der oder die“.

„rüsten“ – in *DWDS* only very general meaning is given, „etw., sich vorbereiten“, which is a much broader meaning than in Swiss Standard German. The regional indication is not given in this case.

„Zapfen“ – in this case in *Duden Online* the referred meaning is only one of many in the entry.

„Zmorge“ („Zmorgen“) – both forms are present in *Duden Online*.

The special cases may be grouped as following:

- orthographic like “Biskuit”/”Biscuit” or “Leckerli”/”Läckerli“;
- homonymous cases like “Biber” or “Kunst”;
- polysemous cases – like specific Swiss meaning of “anziehen”;
- synonyms: “abbrühen”, “anrösten”, “anziehen”; “Brötli”, “Bürli”, “Weggen”; “Rotkabis”, “Blaukabis”; “Gnagi”, “Haxe”, “Wädli”; “Kaffee fertig”, “Kaffee Schnaps”; “Nüssler”, “Nüsslisalat”; “Schlegel”, “Stotzen”;
- borrowings from other languages: French – “Abricotine”, “Gigot”, “Jus”, “Omelette”, “Passevite”, “Rechaud”, “Truffe”; English – “Cake”; Italian – “Pelati”, “Spaghetтата”.

Not all words in this research are pure helvetisms, but some of them are defined in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* as belonging to several standards. In this section we list them according to the standards.

Pure helvetisms: Abricotine, Anisbrötchen, anziehen (meaning 5), Äplermagronen, Biber, Biskuit, Blöterliwasser (Grenz.), Bodenkohlrabi, Brätzeli, Bratschaufel, Brösmeli, Brötli (Grenz.), Bürli, Caramel, Chacheli (Grenz.), Chäschüechli (Grenz.), Crevette, Fideli, Gigot, Gnagi, Gschwellti (Grenz.), Hörnli, Huft, Huftplätzli, Jus, Kaffee (Kafi) fertig, Kaffee (Kafi) Schnaps, Knöpfli, Kunst, Leckerli (Läckerli), Mutschli, Nidel (Grenz.), Nüdeli, Nüssler, Nüsslisalat, Passevite, Raffel, Raffeln, Rippli, Riebli, rüsten, Rüstmesser, Stotzen, Schoggi (Grenz.), Schüfeli, Schwingbesen, schwingen, Spätzli, Teekrug, Tellerservice, Truffe, Wallholz, Wädli, Weggen, Wienerli, Zapfen, Znacht, Zmittag (Grenz.), Zmorge(n) (Grenz.), Znüni (Grenz.).

Two standards: abbrühen (CH, D), andämpfen (CH, D-süd), Backofen (CH, D), Birnenbrot (A-west Vbg., CH), Biskuitroulade (A, CH), Cake (CH, BELG), Gugelhopf (CH, D-südwest), Haxe (CH, D-mittel/süd), Omelette (A, CH), Paniermehl (CH D), Pelati (A CH), Quirl (CH D), Rechaud (A CH), Schaumkelle (CH, D-nord/mittelwest), Schöpfkelle (CH, D-nord/mittel), Spaghetтата (CH STIR (Grenz.)).

Three standards: anrösten (A, CH, D-süd), Blumenkohl (A-west Vbg., CH, D), Menu (CH BELG LUX), Schlegel (A, CH, D-süd), Sulz (CH, A, D-südwest).

Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen	Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden	Duden Online	DWDS
Blöterliwasser, das	-	-	-
Brösmeli, das	-	schweizerisch mundartnah	-
Brötli, das	mundartnah	schweizerisch,	-

		besonders mundartlich	
Chacheli, das	mundartnah	-	-
Chäschüechli, das	mundartnah	-	-
Gschwellti, nur Plur.	mundartnah	-	-
Nidel, der/die	mundartnah	schweizerisch	-
Schoggi, die	mundartnah	-	-
Spaghettata, die	-	-	-
Zmittag, das/der	mundartnah	schweizerisch	-
Zmorge, das/der	mundartnah	schweizerisch	-
Znüni, das/der	mundartnah	schweizerisch	schweizerisch mundartlich

Table 2: Comparison of usage labels in the focus dictionaries

As we can see from this table, there is a correlation between words being close to dialect or colloquial language and absence of their definitions in *Duden Online* and especially *DWDS*. To add to that, labelling between dictionaries does not match in some cases, such as “Znüni” which is labelled differently in all four dictionaries, as indicated in the table above. In general, considering all collected words, many of them are not present in German online dictionaries.

CHAPTER 3 SWISS STANDARD GERMAN IN ELECTRONIC (LEXICOGRAPHIC) RESOURCES

In this chapter we look at the importance of corpus search for variant dictionaries. Furthermore, the potential of variant dictionaries for e-lexicography is explored, with entries proposal in XML and a mapping proposal.

3.1 Dictionaries (*Duden Online*, *DWDS*, *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, and *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*) and their corpora

To proceed to the further step of our research we need to explain the methodology of this stage of our research. First, the information about the types of corpora available was collected. The richest and the most important available corpus of Swiss Standard German is the *Swiss Text Corpus* (*Schweizer Text Korpus*), which is a project connected to *Schweizerisches Idiotikon* project. It is also a partner project of *DWDS*, as stated by Bickel (2006, p. 72).

In addition, information on corpus from dictionaries of our research was collected: *Duden Online*, *Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS)*, *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, and *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary.

Starting with *Duden Online*, the information about the Duden corpus available on the website is quite superficial. It is indicated that the choice of words in Duden is dictated by the *Dudenkorpus*. However, there is no information provided about the corpus itself at all, at least it is not available on the website. The only information available concerns the domains of the corpus (biology, chemistry, computer science, medicine, technology, economy), although it is not an exhaustive list, the number of words (more than 5 billion), and partners of Duden Corpus⁷. The partners listed are mainly newspapers and journals. However, out of 16 partners, only one Swiss newspaper is listed – *Berner Zeitung*. Three of them Austrian (*Die Presse*, *Edition Atelier*, *Kremayr & Scheriau*), and the rest are German.

Thus, *Duden Online* does not allow the user to obtain exact information about its corpus. As stated by Münzberg in 2011, Duden corpus is not available to the general public, but only to Duden editors: “Das Korpus ist nicht öffentlich verfügbar und wird ausschließlich von der Dudenredaktion und ihren Autor(inn)en genutzt.” (p. 182). To this moment, the status of the corpus has not changed.

Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (DWDS) presents itself as a digital lexical system. Geyken (2007) states that the main corpus of *DWDS* was constructed at Berlin-Brandenburg Academy

⁷ Duden Online. Partner. Retrieved from https://www.duden.de/ueber_duden/Partner

of Sciences in order to fill the blank space of not existing at that time (1999) corpus of the German language of the 20th century. One of its main features was the balance between 5 parts: “it is roughly equally distributed over time and over five genres: journalism (approx. 27 per cent of the corpus), literary texts (26 per cent), scientific literature (approx. 22 per cent) and other nonfiction (approx. 20 per cent), as well as a smaller number of transcripts of spoken language (5 per cent)” (Geyken, 2007, p. 26).

It is important to note that from the beginning, the idea was that regional corpora would be separate projects:

Texts from Austria and Switzerland are deliberately underrepresented in the current corpus because plans for the co-operation and coordination of corpus compilation were made with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences. (Geyken, 2007, p. 30)

Presently, there is a ZDL regional corpus that consists of newspapers that *DWDS* uses to determine regional words. On the *DWDS* website the corpus search of the ZDL corpus is available only within regions of Germany. However, a remark “aktuell nur DE für *Deutschland*”⁸ may mean that this corpus will be enlarged by data from other German-speaking countries. Other corpora available on the *DWDS* platform are different meta corpora, special corpora, several newspaper corpora and web corpora. Most of them are available for free browsing.

In what concerns our main reference work, *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, information on corpora used is included in the dictionary itself. According to Bickel (2006), who in his article explains the use of Internet in the corpus search of the *Variantenwörterbuch*, compilers of this dictionary were faced with a very difficult task, namely the differentiation of different standards’ vocabulary and making sure that the chosen lemmata are not frequent in other standards’ corpora (p. 73). To solve this problem, researchers used both printed and online corpora. For the primary search, corpora from standard language texts in German for Austria, Switzerland, Germany, as well as for Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, South Tirol and East Belgium were compiled. In the dictionary section of references there is an indication that for Austria, Germany and Switzerland correspondingly the following text types are present: 50 daily and weekly newspapers, ca. 50 journals and magazines, 40 popular non-fiction books, 40 novels, 10 detective stories, 10 light novels, 10 books for children and teenagers, 1500 pages of

⁸ DWDS. ZDL-Regionalkorpus. Retrieved from <https://www.dwds.de/d/korpora/regional>

prose text from literary anthologies, brochures, advertisements, forms, law texts, spoken resources and Internet resources (Ammon et al., 2011, p. 911).

In his article, Bickel (2006) explains in more detail how exactly Internet was used as a resource for corpus search. According to the linguist, Internet resources were mostly used to determine the frequency of words, using different software such as *AltaVista* (p. 74). The search was conducted within the Internet domains specific for each country. Ammon et al. (2011) indicate that more than a half of all entries come from the Internet resources. For that, online-archives of printed media were used as well as the web pages of the cities, different institutions, companies, schools and interest groups were used (p. 911). Bickel (2006) highlights that using the World Wide Web as a corpus is possible only if trustworthy results can be obtained and if the results are in a systematical relation to the language reality (p. 76).

Regarding the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary corpus, in the dictionary itself there is no information on how the words were collected. Sutter (2017) states, with the quote from Landolt's interview, that due to the fact that other dictionaries were a source for this dictionary, electronic archives or corpora were used only in rare cases (p. 89). If it was necessary, the authors consulted the corpus *COSMAS II* from the *Institut für deutsche Sprache*.

Bei Neuaufnahmen in den *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* war vor allem das eigene Sprachwissen, die Sprachkompetenz der Autoren ausschlaggebend. So wurden beispielsweise „Entdeckungen“ (Landolt 2013: Interview) aus dem sprachlichen Alltag der Autoren mittels Google-Recherchen sowie mittels *Cosmas II* überprüft und, falls als frequent bestätigt, in das Wörterbuch aufgenommen. (Sutter, 2017, p. 89)

As we can see from the quote above, for new entries which were not based on previous dictionaries the authors of *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary, Bickel and Landolt made decisions based on their language competence and then checked their frequency in Google searches and the *Cosmas II* corpus. Thus, corpora played a secondary role in the compilation of this dictionary.

3.2 Swiss Text Corpus

3.2.1 General information

The Swiss Standard German corpus *Swiss Text Corpus* or *Schweizer Text Corpus* is a project that started as part of a bigger international project *Corpus C4* of Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland on comprehensively describing German language of 20th century. The primary version of the text was first published in 2004. Initially, the *Swiss Text Corpus* was developed by researchers of Basel University, and supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Since 2014 it is managed by Swiss Idioticon (*Schweizerisches Idiotikon*) and supported by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences.

At the stand of September 2021, the *Swiss Text Corpus* was comprised of 23.5 million words (tokens). The resources are various – as indicated on the website, the corpus consists of newspaper articles, advertisements, forms, instructions, popular special literature, fiction etc. Since 2017 the corpus started being enlarged by resources from the 21st century as well. Currently, the part of the texts from 21st century contains 3.5 million words, corresponding to approximately 15% of the whole corpus. Curatorship of the *Swiss Text Corpus* currently is presented by Prof. Dr. Helen Christen (president), Prof. Dr. Hans Bickel, Prof. Dr. Alfred Bodenheimer, Prof. Dr. Annelies Häcki Buhofer, Dr. Charles Linsmayer and Prof. Dr. Martin Luginbühl. The board of trustees was founded in 2000 by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW) at that time within the project of *DWDS*.

The *Swiss Text Corpus* is freely available to search online, but the full scope of features is available only for registered users. The search is case sensitive, and a user has a wide range of search options, such as search options by region, text class, text domain, date and visualisation of information in charts. The regions represented are CH-northwest, CH-northeast, CH-east, CH-southeast, CH-center, CH-southwest and CH-west.

The text classes represented are “Geb” – functional texts (*Gebrauchstexte*, marked in the corpus as “Geb”), fiction texts (*Belletristik*, marked as “Bel”), non-fiction texts (*Sachtexte*, marked as “SaT”), and newspaper texts (*Journalistische Texte*, marked as “Ztg”). In figure below we can see the distribution of the texts types in the Swiss Text Corpus. As we can see from the figure, the distribution of tokens by genre is not balanced (ca. 5.5 million tokens for functional texts, 8.3 million tokens for non-fiction texts, 4.6 million for newspaper texts and 5.6 million tokens for fiction texts).

	1900-1924		1925-1949		1950-1974		1975-1999		2000-2018		gesamt	
	W	TW	W	TW	W	TW	W	TW	W	TW	W	TW
Gebrauchstexte	1042	1'122'547	1'465	1'235'998	969	1'165'808	1'417	1'036'198	1'238	944'778	6'131	5'505'329
Sachtexte	167	1'447'644	433	2'043'191	804	1'943'462	276	1'846'198	898	985'400	2'578	8'265'832
Journalistische Prosa	833	501'527	1'107	1'006'662	993	970'560	1'929	1'117'639	1'267	973'282	6'129	4'569'670
Belletristik	188	1'116'823	50	1'248'864	159	1'122'446	59	1'147'943	40	942'760	496	5'578'836
gesamt	2'230	4'188'541	3'055	5'534'715	2'925	5'202'276	3'681	5'147'978	3'443	3'845'700	15'334	23'919'667

W = Werke

TW = Textwörter (Tokens minus Satzzeichen)

Figure 7: Distribution of text types in the *Swiss Text Corpus* (state of October 2021)⁹

In addition to search by text type, search by text domain is also possible. There are 36 domains listed:

Text domains in <i>Swiss Text Corpus</i>
General vocabulary
Script, book, press
Religion
Philosophy
Psychology, esoterism
Culture, education, science
Law, administration
Politics, military
Sociology, society, labour
Economy, traffic, environment
Language
Literature
Visual arts, photography
Music
Theatre, dance, film, radio
History
Cultural anthropology, ethnology
Nature, natural sciences

⁹ Schweizer Text Korpus. Korpusaufbau. Retrieved from <https://www.chtk.ch/index.php/de/projekt/korpusaufbau>

Earth sciences
Astronomy, space research
Physics
Chemistry
General biology, microbiology
Botany
Zoology
Anthropology
Medicine
Mathematics
Stochastics, operations research
Computer science
Engineering
Agriculture, garden
Housekeeping, bodycare, family
Sports
Games, entertainment
Handicrafts

Table 3: Text domains in *Swiss Text Corpus*

As we can see, there is no Cuisine or Cookery as a separate domain. For this reason, we conducted our research not specifying the domain.

In the corpus search, visual representations of frequency by text genre, domain and year are available. In the diagram below, we can see the representation of the frequency of the word “Hörnli” by text domain:

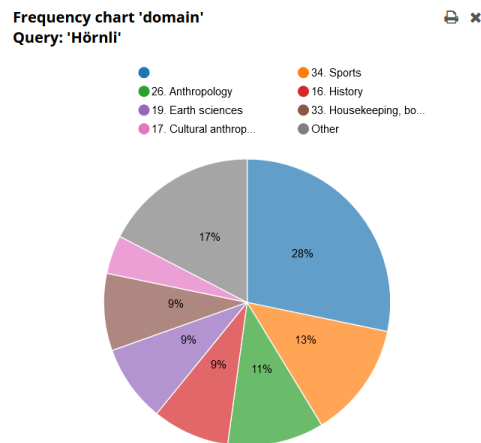


Figure 8: Frequency pie chart visualisation for the word “Hörnli” by text domain in the *Swiss Text Corpus*

Visualisation is available as a pie chart diagram as well as bar chart. Distribution is also available as a pie chart, bar chart and a map with a geographical distribution. A user can also obtain a frequency chart by text type and year. In the following example, we can see the distribution of the word “Hörnli” by year and text genre. In this example, the most corpus hits for the lemma “Hörnli” belong to the period of years 1925-1949, and the biggest text genre within this time frame for this word is functional texts (*Gebrauchstexte*).

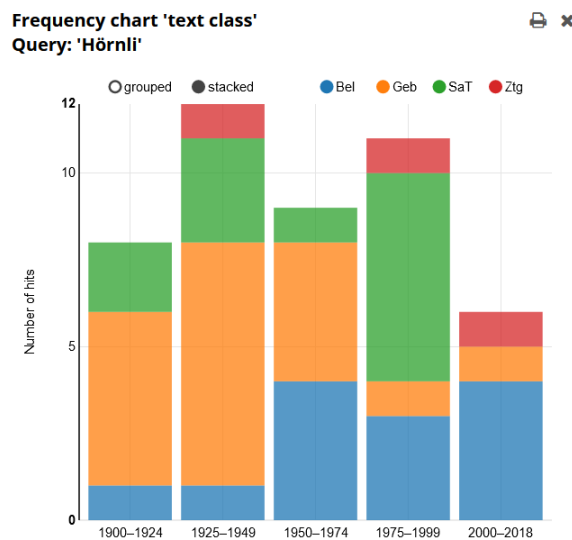


Figure 9: Frequency bar chart visualisation by text type and year for the word “Hörnli” in the *Swiss Text Corpus*

Moreover, we can also obtain the frequency of the word on a map of Switzerland. In the figure below we can see that the region where the word “Hörnli” is the most frequent is in the Northwest.

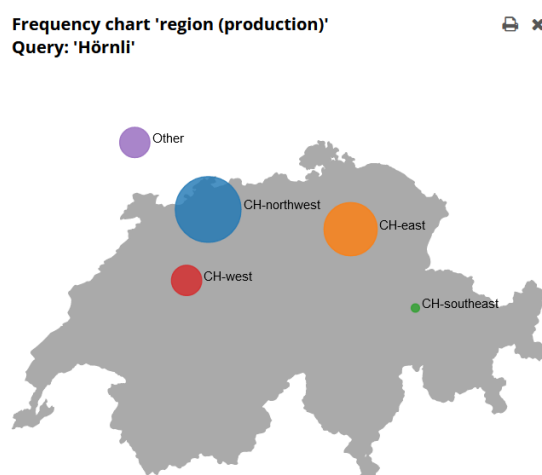


Figure 10: Frequency map visualisation of the word “Hörnli” by regions in the *Swiss Text Corpus*

3.2.2 Word frequency from the Cookery and Cuisine vocabulary in the *Swiss Text Corpus*

In this subsection, we present the frequency table of Cookery and Cuisine vocabulary in the *Swiss Text Corpus*. We concluded the corpus search with the vocabulary list from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011). Since the search query in the *Swiss Text Corpus* by default provides only results by word form, to search by lemma the following expression was used: ‘\$Lemma=bestäuben’ (example word). For search of multi-word expressions such as “Kafi Schnaps” the query ‘Kafi && Schnaps’ was used. The number of corpus hits was listed as well as corpus hits by text genre, by number and per cent. Special cases such as homonymy are marked with an asterisk and explained below.

Lemmata	Corpus Hits	Bel	Geb	SaT	Ztg
abbrühen	6	2(33.3%)	2(33.3%)	2(33.3%)	
Abricotine	-				
andämpfen	5		4 (80%)	1 (20%)	
Anisbrötchen	1			1(100%)	
anrösten	4		3(75%)	1(25%)	
anziehen (meaning n 5)	823*				
Äplermagronen	1			1(100%)	
Backofen	120	13(10.8%)	61(50.8%)	35(29.2%)	11(9.2%)
bestäuben	133	9(6.8%)	47(35.3%)	69(51.9%)	8(6%)
Biber	63*				
Birnenbrot	2		1(50%)	1(50%)	
Biscuit	4	1(25%)		3(75%)	
Biskuit	29	10(34.5%)	12(41.4%)	6(20.7%)	1(3.4%)

Biskuitroulade	-				
Blaukabis	4				4(100%)
Blöterliwasser	1		1(100%)		
Blumenkohl	120	5(4.2%)	52(43.3%)	43(35.8%)	20(16.7%)
Bodenkohlrabi	7		7(100%)		
Brätzeli	-				
Bratschaufel	2			2(100%)	
Brösmeli	13		11(84.6%)	1(7.7%)	1(7.7%)
Brötli	3				3(100%)
Bürli	11		1(9.1%)	9(81.8%)	1(9.1%)
Cake	9		2(22.2%)	6(66.7%)	1(11.1%)
Caramel	6		3(50%)	3(50%)	
Chacheli	5	2(40%)		3(60%)	
Chäschüechli	6		3(50%)	3(50%)	
Crevette	1		1(100%)		
Dampfabzug	1				1(100%)
eindicken	29	1(3.4%)	5(17.2%)	19(65.5%)	4(13.8%)
Fideli	11			11(100%)	
Gigot	2			2(100%)	
Gnagi	6	2(33.3%)	3(50%)	1(16.7%)	
Gschwellti	4	2(50%)	1(25%)		1(25%)
Gugelhopf	25	10(40%)	3(12%)	4(16%)	8(32%)
Haxe	4	1(25%)	2(50%)	1(25%)	
Hörnli	46	13(28.3%)	18(39.1%)	12(26.1%)	3(6.5%)
Huft	4		3(75%)	1(25%)	
Huftplätzli	-				
Jus	22*				
Kaffee fertig	1	1(100%)			
Kaffee Schnaps	-				
Kafi	16		6(37,5%)	7(43.8%)	3(18.8%)
Kafi fertig	-				
Kafi Schnaps	2			1(50%)	1(50%)
Knöpfli	11		7(63.6%)	3(27.3%)	1(9.1%)
Kunst	3589*				
Läckerli	1			1(100%)	
Leckerli	20	7(35%)	8(40%)	5(25%)	
Menu	43	4(9.3%)	7(16.3%)	5(11.6%)	27(62.8%)
Mutschli	4			4(100%)	
Nidel	10	2(20%)	1(10%)	6(60%)	1(10%)
Nüdeli	-				
Nüssler	2			1(50%)	1(50%)
Nüsslissalat	24		3(12.5%)	7(29.2%)	14(58.3%)
Omelette	51*	1(2%)	13(25.5%)	35(68.6%)	2(3.9%)
Paniermehl	29		22(75.9%)	7(24.1%)	
Passevite	4			4(100%)	
Pelati	-				

Quirl	20	4(20%)	6(30%)	7(35%)	3(15%)
Raffel	4			4(100%)	
raffeln	24	3(12.5%)	3(12.5%)	17(70.8%)	1(4.2%)
Rechaud	1	1(100%)			
Rippli	5		3(60%)	2(40%)	
Rotchabis	-				
Rotkabis	15		8(53.3%)	3(20%)	4(26.7%)
Rüebli	89		9(10.1%)	68(76.4%)	89(13.5%)
Rüstmesser	2		2(100%)		
Schaumkelle	4			4(100%)	
Schlegel	83	9(10.8%)	9(10.8%)	44(53%)	21(25.3%)
Schöpfkelle	5	1(20%)	2(40%)	1(20%)	1(20%)
Stotzen	3		2(66.7%)	1(33.3%)	
Schoggi	6	1(16.7%)	4(66.7%)		1(16.7%)
Schüfeli	2		2(100%)		
Schwingbesen	9			7(77.8%)	2(22.2%)
schwingen	636	302(47.5%)	92(14.5%)	166(26.1%)	76(11.9%)
Spaghettata	-				
Spätzli	13	1(7.7%)	4(30.8%)	7(53.8%)	1(7.7%)
Sulz	11		8(72.7%)	1(9.1%)	2(18.2%)
Teekrug	2	2(100%)			
Tellerservice	-				
Truffe	-				
Wallholz	2		1(50%)	1(50%)	
Wädli	-				
Weggen	5		1(20%)	2(40%)	2(40%)
Wienerli	21		8(38.1%)	9(42.9%)	14(19%)
Zapfen	156	26(16.7%)	76(48.7%)	48(30.8%)	6(3.8%)
Znacht	5	1(20%)		1(20%)	3(60%)
Zmittag	4	2(50%)	1(25%)		1(25%)
Zmorge	1				1(100%)
Zmorgen	-				
Znüni	28	7(25%)	15(53.6%)	3(10.7%)	3(10.7%)

Table 4: Frequency of words from the Cookery and Cuisine word list in the *Swiss Text Corpus*

All orthographic variants such as “Biskuit”/”Biscuit”, “Kaffe”/”Kafi fertig”/”Schnaps”, “Leckerli”/”Läckerli”, “Rotkabis”/”Rotchabis”, “Zmorge”/”Zmorgen” have been included in the table in order to highlight the frequency of the respective word forms.

During our search, we encountered some problems with polysemous and homonymous words. The cases of “Biber” (other than meaning of the animal, “Lebkuchen mit Mandelfüllung” (Ammon et al., 2011, p. 117)), “Jus” (“Rechtswissenschaften” and “Frucht- oder Gemüsesaft” (p. 377)) and “Kunst” (in *Variantenwörterbuch* – “von der Küche aus mit Holz beheizter Kachelofen mit Ofenbank” (p. 446)) are homonymous, and we decided not to include the distribution of these words by text type for this

reason. The word *anziehen* is a case of polysemy, with a meaning “etw. in heissem Fett leicht Farbe bekommen lassen, andünsten” (Ammon et al., 2011, p. 48) that belongs to the Cookery and Cuisine domain. In the case of the word *Quirl*, we are faced with polysemy of botanical meaning and of kitchenware meaning: “Küchengerät [aus Holz] mit Stiel und sternförmigem Unterteil zum Verrühren von Flüssigkeit” (p. 603).

Overall, we can draw a conclusion that due to its limited size, some words are not represented in the *Swiss Text Corpus* even though they are included in the *Variantenwörterbuch*, namely “Abricotine”, “Biskuitroulade”, “Brätzeli”, “Huftplätzli”, “Kaffee Schnaps”, “Kafi fertig”, “Nüdeli”, “Pelati”, “Rotchabis”, “Spaghettata”, “Tellerservice”, “Truffe”, “Wädli”, “Zmorgen”. Furthermore, from the frequency table we can see that the most represented text class is functional texts, but it may be due to the fact that constitutes the biggest part out of four text classes.

3.3 Potential of e-lexicography for German variant dictionaries: dictionary proposal

3.3.1 Onomasiological online dictionary of variants

Modern technologies provide a wide range of opportunities in lexicography, not only for the lexicographers, but also for users. In the case of Swiss Standard German, there is, to our knowledge, no online dictionary available yet: only corpora, dialectal online resources or printed dictionaries. In our opinion, there is a lack of materials describing pluricentricity of the German language. Such resources could absolutely use the advantages of e-lexicography.

In this subchapter we would like to introduce a concept of an online onomasiological dictionary of German standards. Onomasiological organisation of the dictionary would help us to display a range of words in different standards of the German language corresponding to the same concept. In the words of Sierra (2000), “Paper dictionaries have limitations that, thanks to computational lexicography, can today be avoided. On-line dictionaries allow users to look for information via a range of potential routes” (p. 224). Thus, onomasiological online dictionary would have a benefit for the user in representation of a concept. In such a dictionary, the user would start from a concept and would, as a result of the dictionary search, have access to synonyms that designate that same concept.

According to Wiegand (1970), the distinction between semasiological and onomasiological approaches lies in the language communicative functions. The lexicographer states that the onomasiological position can be compared with the sender (pp. 253-254). Wiegand explains that a

linguist in onomasiological process looks for linguistic signs (“Sprachzeichen”) corresponding to an already defined concept. Thus, the concept in this case corresponds to the designation, “Designat” in Wiegand’s words. On the other hand, the semasiological situation is a situation of the receiver: the receiver assigns one or more concepts to one linguistic sign.

In the case of an onomasiological dictionary, users would follow the route proposed by lexicographers, from the concept to the linguistic signs. In German lexicography, examples of onomasiological dictionaries are some idiomatic dictionaries, for instance the *Synonymwörterbuch der deutschen Redensarten* by Schemann, in which idioms are organised by concepts.

3.3.2 Entry proposal with XML and TEI

Using the advantages of online lexicography, we can construct an entry using XML (Extensible Markup Language). One of the important features of XML is that it is both machine-readable and human-readable. For specific needs of text encoding, there is the *Text Encoding Initiative* (TEI) which has a chapter on Dictionaries¹⁰. Lemnitzer, Romary and Witt (2013) call TEI “the most prominent international endeavour in the humanities” (p. 11). The TEI allows linguists from all over the world to encode text in a unified form.

The following example of an entry of the lemma “Birnenbrot” is using information from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011). In this example entry, grammar information as well as meaning are included, followed by cross-references to words from other standards in the dictionary. In the figure below the corresponding entry for “Birnenbrot” in the *Variantenwörterbuch* is presented.

Birnenbrot A-west (Vbg.) CH das; -(e)s, -e; ↑ZEITEN
A-west, ↑KLETZENBROT A (ohne Vbg.) D-südost,
↑BIRNENWEGGEN CH, ↑HUTZELBROT D-süd,
↑SCHNITZBROT D-südwest ›[in der Weihnachtszeit
gegessenes] dunkles, süßes Früchtebrot: *Die ver-
schiedensten Arbeitskreise der Pfarre bieten ein reichhal-
tiges Angebot an Adventkränzen, Adventschmuck,
hausgebackenen Keksen und Birnenbrot und verschie-
denen kleinen Geschenken* (VN 25. 11. 1999, Heimat/
Feldkirch 10; A-west); *Wir entscheiden uns für die
vom Kellner empfohlene Käseplatte mit Birnenbrot*
(TA 25. 4. 2000, 19; CH) – In CH auch in der Form
Birnbrot

Figure 11: Entry “Birnenbrot” in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011)

¹⁰ Text Encoding Initiative. Dictionaries. Retrieved from <https://tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/DI.html>

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<entry xml:id="Birnenbrot">
  <form>
    <orth>Birnenbrot</orth>
  </form>

  <gramGrp>
    <pos>n</pos>
    <gen>neutr</gen>
  </gramGrp>

  <usage>
    <usg type="geo">A-west</usg>
    <usg type="geo">CH</usg>
  </usage>

  <sense>
    <def>[in der Weihnachtszeit gegessenes] dunkles, süßes Früchtebrot</def>
  </sense>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Zelten">Zelten</ref>
    <usg type="geo">A-west</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Kletzenbrot">Kletzenbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">A</usg>
    <usg type="geo">D-südost</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Hutzelbrot">Hutzelbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">D-süd</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Schnitzbrot">Schnitzbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">D-südwest</usg>
  </xr>
</entry>

```

The following entry for the lemma “Zelten” is connected by a cross-reference to the previous entry. In the figure below we can see the corresponding entry in the *Variantenwörterbuch*.

Zelten A-west der; -s, -: ↗ BIRNENBROT A-west (Vbg.) CH, ↗ KLETZENBROT A (ohne Vbg.) D-südost, ↗ BIRNENWEGGEN CH, ↗ HUTZELBROT D-süd, ↗ SCHNITZBROT D-südwest ›[in der Weihnachtszeit gegessenes] dunkles, süßes Früchtebrot‹: *In besonders religiösen Familien wurde der Zelten drei Mal gesegnet* (Kurier 17. 12. 1996, 24) – In A (ohne west) und D-süd veraltet auch in der Bedeutung ›kleiner flacher [Leb]kuchen‹ – Dazu: **Birnenzelten** A-west (Vbg.), ↗ **Lebzelten** A D-südost, **Zeltenbrot**

Figure 12: Entry “Zelten” in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<entry xml:id="Zelten">
  <form>
    <orth>Zelten</orth>
  </form>

  <gramGrp>
    <pos>n</pos>
    <gen>masc</gen>
  </gramGrp>

  <usage>
    <usg type="geo">A-west</usg>
  </usage>

  <sense>
    <def>[in der Weihnachtszeit gegessenes] dunkles, süßes Früchtebrot</def>
  </sense>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Birnenbrot">Birnenbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">A-west</usg>
    <usg type="geo">CH</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Kletzenbrot">Kletzenbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">A</usg>
    <usg type="geo">D-südost</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Hutzelbrot">Hutzelbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">D-süd</usg>
  </xr>

  <xr type="synonym">
    <lbl>syn see</lbl>
    <ref target="#Schnitzbrot">Schnitzbrot</ref>
    <usg type="geo">D-südwest</usg>
  </xr>
</entry>
```

From the examples of the entries for “Birnenbrot” and “Zelten” in XML according to the TEI guidelines, we can see that they follow the same structure dictated by the TEI. The first tag represents the version of XML, and the encoding, in our case UTF-8. After that, the entry begins with the tag <entry>. Every tag in XML has to have a start tag and an end tag, wrapping around the information presented in it. The entry tag has an ID, marking the address for the lemma in the inner structure of the dictionary. Inside the entry, we have such tags as <form>, <gramGrp>, <usage>, <sense>, and <xr>. The tag <form> contains the orthographical form of the lemma, marked by the tag <orth>. The tag <gramGrp> contains the information about the part of speech (<pos>) and grammatical gender <gen> of the entry. <usage> tag describes the usage information. In the case of digitalising entries from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, we use it to signify the information about the variant in which the word is used. For this purpose, in the section of <usage> we use one or several tags <usg type=“geo”>, with the type of usage indicating that it is the information about the region of the variant. Next section <sense> contains the definition of the word, marked by the tag <def>. The following section is <xr>, containing a cross-reference, and having a type “synonym”. This section is very important for our onomasiological dictionary proposal because it links together synonyms that signify the same concept. Within the <xr> section, we have the labels <lbl>syn see</lbl> that sends the user to the respective synonymic entry, <ref target=“#Hutzelbrot”> that provides an id of a reference, and a usage label. After all the sections, we see the </entry> end tag. Such unified and clear both for computers and humans structure provides an opportunity for digitalising a big amount of data from any dictionary.

3.3.3 Geographical distribution of synonyms from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*: a mapping proposal

Based on the research carried out, we can conclude that there are a lot a number of projects dedicated to mapping for Swiss Standard German and Swiss German, from which we can name *Syntaktischer Atlas der deutschen Schweiz (SADS)* which was published in December 2021 (Glaser, 2021). There are also online projects such as *Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (SDS)*¹¹ and *Kleiner Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (KSDS)*.¹² Concerning general German language atlases, including dialectal atlases, the extensive project on mapping *Regionalsprache.de (REDE)*¹³ should be mentioned. However, to our knowledge there is no resource on mapping several standards of the German language.

¹¹ Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (SDS). Retrieved from <https://sprachatlas.ch/>

¹² Kleiner Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (KSDS). Retrieved from <https://www.kleinersprachatlas.ch/>

¹³ Regionalsprache.de (REDE). Retrieved from <https://regionalsprache.de/>

As we have tried to demonstrate, that the rich macro-, micro and mesostructures of the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011) can be processed in electronic form to create a number of different resources, including an annotated online version of the dictionary. Another very useful resource that can be constructed using the synonym sets and the geographic distribution of the variants explicitly found in the entries of the *Variantenwörterbuch* is an atlas that maps the regional synonyms that designate the same concept. Below we present our mapping proposal¹⁴¹⁵ for the concept “[in der Weihnachtszeit gegessenes] dunkles, süßen Früchtebrot” for our online variant dictionary proposal, based on the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*.



Figure 13: Geographical distribution of synonyms for “Birnenbrot”, based on “Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen” (Ammon et al., 2011)

On the map above, the German-speaking countries are depicted, namely Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The above-mentioned concept is designated by the words “Birnenbrot”, das; “Zelten”, der; “Kletzenbrot”, das; “Birnenweggen”, der; “Hutzelbrot”, das; and “Schnitzbrot”, das. All of the words have the same definition in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*. The words are

¹⁴ The mapping proposal was created with the tool Genially. Retrieved from <https://app.genial.ly/>

¹⁵ The picture retrieved from <https://lewebpedagogique.com/ducosdeutsch/2016/06/18/ubungen-zum-thema-europa-und-dach-lander/>

distributed among the regions of the German-speaking countries: for Switzerland – “Birnenbrot” and “Birnenweggen”; for Austria – “Birnenbrot” in Vorarlberg region; “Zelten” in the West of Austria, and “Kletzenbrot” for the whole country excluding the Vorarlberg region; for the South of Germany – “Hutzelbrot”, for the Southeast – “Kletzenbrot”, and “Schnitzbrot” for the Southwest.

Every lemma is represented with a different figure on the map. Thus, we can see the visualisation of the geographical distribution of the words that designate the same concept in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. This proposal intends to show that the lexicographic information provided in the *Variantenwörterbuch* can be easily mapped if the Dictionary is available in electronic form. Visual mapping is an information visualisation method that provides the users with a more visual representation of the data.

In our opinion, visualisation is very important in e-lexicography. It helps the user to better understand the correlations and linguistic processes. Furthermore, having access to variant dictionaries such as the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* provides lexicographers with a lot of data that could be converted to a digital form with the help of such tools as XML and TEI, and used for providing the best possible visualisation of the information for the user.

CONCLUSIONS

After a close look into Swiss Standard German vocabulary in German online dictionaries, we can sum up the results of our research. In this section, we will go through the conclusions in different aspects of our thesis.

Firstly, our theoretical part proves that the linguistic situation in the German-speaking part of Switzerland is a very special one. Most researchers describe it with the term “medial diglossia”. In this case of standard language being mostly written and dialect being mostly spoken, many dialect words enrich the standard vocabulary of Swiss Standard German. Furthermore, due to the fact that Switzerland is a confederation and has 3 official languages, the language contact within the confederation leads to a high number of borrowings from other languages, including English that serves as a lingua franca between the regions. In addition, with such a strong influence of a dialect which is not normed as is the standard language, often certain words appear with alternative writing (such as “Leckerli”/“Läckerli”, “Rotkabis”/“Rotchabis” etc.). The two alternative forms exist because one is closer to the general standard, and the other one is closer to the phonetic system of the dialect.

In view of the above, lexicographers are faced with serious and difficult decisions about including the words from other standards, about labelling and about the representation of the pluricentricity of the German language in the dictionaries. The focus in this work was on online dictionaries, *Duden Online* and *DWDS*, both of which are monolingual online dictionaries of the German language. The goal was to investigate to what extent Swiss Standard German vocabulary is represented in these dictionaries.

Our main reference work was the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011) which is a unique and very rich source of the variant vocabulary of the German language. This research was conducted on the basis of the hypothesis that the information present in this dictionary could greatly enrich existing online German dictionaries. Our second reference work was the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018), the recent second edition which shed insight on how Swiss Standard German lexicography is evolving and which trends are currently present.

To better capture the representation of Swiss Standard German vocabulary in German online dictionaries, it was important to focus on a specific domain of the vocabulary. We chose vocabulary from the Cookery and Cuisine domain, an area of the language where diglossia and dialect had a serious impact. To evaluate the situation with Swiss Standard German vocabulary, words from the

Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen (Ammon et al., 2011) were collected. After this process, we checked for the presence of the chosen words in our focus dictionaries.

As our hypothesis was, *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018) contains most of the vocabulary from our Cookery and Cuisine wordlist, except for those words that belong to several standards of the German language, and not only to Swiss Standard German. We decided to include such lemmas from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* into our list because it is interesting to investigate how such words are represented in other dictionaries. The first conclusion that we could draw is that not all Swiss Standard German lemmata from the Cuisine and Cookery list were present in *Duden Online* and *DWDS*.

Secondly, it is important to note that after collecting the words and analysing the labelling, it was clear that the labelling of the same words in the dictionaries of our study had major discrepancies. In the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011) the label “Grenzfall des Standards” is used to designate the word that is found in standard texts but has not fully entered the standard. In case of *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* (Bickel & Landolt, 2018), the label “mundartnah” is used. It shows the proximity to the dialect. Sutter (2017) emphasizes that in view of the number of words that are labelled as “mundartnah” in *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, which is almost 10 per cent of the total number of words, the compilers of this dictionary consider such words as standard: “Anzahl mundartnaher Helvetismen aufgenommen ist, lässt darauf schliessen, dass die Autoren die mundartnahen Helvetismen zum Standard rechnen” (p. 97). In the case of *Duden Online* and *DWDS*, the labels “mundartlich” and “mundartnah” are used. The labelling of the same words in different dictionaries even with similar labels has shown to have discrepancies. Furthermore, in *Duden Online* and *DWDS* the labelling of the dialectal words, namely the labels “mundartlich” and “mundartnah”, and the difference between them is not explained. In our opinion, it is important for editors of the dictionaries, whether online or printed, to communicate the principles of the labelling to the user.

Thirdly, our hypothesis that the words in the German dictionaries are marked against the German standard from Germany was proved. The first emphasis on this was expressed by Bickel and Hofer (2003) in their article with a critical overview of GWDS by *Duden (Großwörterbuch der deutschen Sprache)*. From the point of view of other standards of German, such as Austrian or Swiss, such principle of labelling can be considered as leading to lacunae in labelling and assuming that the word from standard German from Germany is used as standard in all other regions, while the other standard’s variety would be marked. In our work, we proved that most of the words that belong to two

standards, one of which is German from Germany, are not marked as regional in any way. However, if a word belongs to two standards such as Swiss and Austrian, it is labelled as belonging to these standards.

One other important step was to evaluate the situation with available corpora for Swiss Standard German, and to analyse the situation with the corpora of the dictionaries that are in the focus of our research. The main focus corpus was the *Swiss Text Corpus*, the Swiss Standard German text corpus. We used it to verify which words from our list are frequently present in the corpus. As a result, we saw that some words that were present both in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* and *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* were absent in the corpus. This could be explained by the fact that a corpus of a standard variant is very challenging to construct, subsequently, the overall number of tokens in this corpus was not very significant.

Another part of this step was to investigate the corpus basis that the focus dictionaries use. Starting from printed dictionaries, we could see that the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* has a significant corpus base of balanced subcorpora of different standard variants both in print and as Internet sources. In what concerns the *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden* dictionary, due to the fact that the main sources for the lemmata were other dictionaries including the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, the corpus data was not used.

Concerning *Duden Online* and *DWDS*, both of the online dictionaries have their own large corpora. The *Dudencorpus* is not available for browsing and there is no detailed information about it. In the case of *DWDS*, various corpora are available for browsing, especially for registered users. For regional labelling, the ZDL regional corpus is used. However, currently this corpus doesn't include subcorpora for regions other than Germany, and the decisions on including words from other standard variants is made based on, among other resources, the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*.

Given that the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* is the most complete resource of vocabulary of standard variants among all the German-speaking regions, in our opinion it is important to represent its data in the most user-friendly way possible. With the current development of digital lexicography, different tools are available for us to convey the information from the print dictionary into the electronic form. Such tools are, among others, the *XML (Extensible Markup Language)* and *TEI (Text Encoding Initiative)*, a chapter on dictionaries of which provides electronic encoding guidelines for the information found in lexicographic resources in a uniform way. In our last chapter, we present the two entries of an

online onomasiological standard variant dictionary of the German language in XML. The onomasiological dictionary type was chosen for the reason that all entries in it would be connected within the concepts and presented with standard lemmata from different variants. In this aspect, the TEI guidelines on cross-references were crucial to connect the entries. What concerns the aspect of user-friendliness, we believe that the visualisation is very important for the user. For this reason, we also presented a mapping proposal that would provide the user with the information on how the same concept is distributed within different standard variants of the German language. In our opinion, it is very important to digitalize the information given in variant dictionaries in order to explore new perspectives on how the data can be made available to users.

During the whole process of work on our thesis, we encountered several problems of different types that we would like to mention here. Firstly, the difficulties with the empirical part of our study started with word collection. A choice to collect the vocabulary on Cookery and Cuisine was made. However, the words from this domain were mostly not labelled in the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*. There was a domain label “Küche”, but the lemmata from our wordlist were mostly not labelled, so the search through the dictionary had to be manual by using keywords.

Secondly, a series of special cases was identified during the empirical part of the research. Namely, these were the cases of polysemy, homonymy or alternative writings. Synonyms also presented a significant part of the chosen lemmata. Strategies to deal with such cases had to be developed to carry out searches in the different dictionaries – *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online* and *DWDS* – and in the *Swiss Text Corpus*. Thus, for the visualisation of the information we decided to present the alternative writings together, and mark all special cases in the table, followed by an explanation. Synonyms were presented separately in the table.

However, for the corpus search another strategy had to be defined, since words with alternative writings could only be searched using their word forms. For this reason, in such cases the alternative word forms were both presented in the table. In addition, the homonymic words presented a huge challenge for evaluating the data collected from corpus search. This is due to the fact that in the case of highly frequent words, it is very hard to define in which meaning the word is used in every corpus hit. Furthermore, it was not possible to distinguish such words by domains available in the corpora because no domain on Cookery and Cuisine was specified. Processing so much information requires immense time and resources, thus not feasible within the scope of this master thesis. Another problem that we faced during processing corpus search results was that not all words from the *Variantenwörterbuch des*

Deutschen that were marked as Standard Swiss German were present in the corpus. This could be related to the limited size of this corpus (23.5 million text words).

Thirdly, we encountered certain problems while preparing our online dictionary and entry proposal. Due to the specifics of the XML and the TEI guidelines, and the specifics of our proposed online onomasiological variant dictionary, it was problematic to define a suitable tag for every part of our proposed entry. Mainly difficulties arose when defining the cross-reference labels that might be different in TEI depending on the purpose of the dictionary. Nevertheless, we managed, in our opinion, to define the most suitable tag for this situation. Another issue in this section arose during the mapping proposal. It was challenging to find suitable software for such geographically mapping the variants used within different countries.

All in all, despite all the difficulties, the goals and objectives of this study to describe the linguistic situation of medial diglossia in Switzerland, collect the data and compare the labelling in the focus dictionaries – *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen*, *Schweizerhochdeutsch-Duden*, *Duden Online* and *DWDS* – were reached. On the one hand, we can conclude that the online dictionaries of German could provide more information for their users about labelling and pluricentricity of the German language and the difference between standards and the dialect. On the other hand, we hope to have shown that variant dictionaries can enrich existing dictionaries of the German language and their potential for application in e-lexicography.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Cookery and Cuisine word list from the *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen* (Ammon et al., 2011) with English translation or explanation

Word	Translation
abbrühen	to blanch sth.
Abricotine	apricot liquor
andämpfen	to braise sth.
Anisbrötchen	anise bread roll
anrösten	to braise sth.
anziehen	to braise sth.
Älplermagronen	Swiss Alpine Macaroni
Backofen	oven
bestäuben	to flour sth.
Biber	ginger bread cake with almond
Birnenbrot	sweet fruit bread
Biskuit (Biscuit)	sponge cake
Biskuitroulade	cake from sponge dough rolls
Blaukabis	red cabbage
Blöterliwasser	refreshing drink, lemonade
Blumenkohl	cauliflower
Bodenkohlrabi	rutabaga
Brätzeli	pretzel
Bratschaufel	spatula
Brösmeli	crumb
Brötli	bun
Bürli	bun
Cake	cake
Caramel	caramel
Chacheli	ceramic cup
Chäschüechli	small cheesecake
Crevette	shrimp
Dampfabzug	cooker hood
eindicken	to flour sth.
Fideli	pasta used to serve with soup
Gigot	gigot
Gnagi	knuckle of pork
Gschwellti	potatoes boiled with skin
Gugelhopf	ring cake
Haxe	knuckle
Hörnli	croissant
Huft	rump meat of beef, rarely lamb, veal or pork
Huftplätzli	piece of meat from beef rump
Jus	juice
Kaffee (Kafi) fertig	coffee with liquor
Kaffee Schnaps	coffee with liquor

Knöpfli	a type of homemade pasta
Kunst	tiled stove
Leckerli (Läckerli)	swiss ginger bread cake
Menu	menu
Mutschli	a type of pastry mostly from flour and yeast
Nidel	cream
Nüdeli	noodles
Nüssler	variety of lettuce
Nüsslisalat	variety of lettuce
Omelette	omelette
Paniermehl	breadcrumbs
Passevite	food mill
Pelati	canned boiled tomatoes without skin
Quirl	agitator
Raffel	grater
Raffeln	to grate
Rechaud	small gas or spirit stove
Rippli	pork rib piece
Rotkabis (Rotchabis)	red cabbage
Rüebli	carrot
rüsten	to cut off
Rüstmesser	kitchen knife
Schaumkelle	skimmer
Schlegel	haunch of a slaughtered animal
Schöpfkelle	ladle
Stotzen	haunch of a slaughtered animal
Schoggi	chocolate
Schüfeli	grilled pork shoulder part
Schwingbesen	whisk
schwingen	to whisk
Spaghetтата	a meal with any kind of pasta
Spätzli	spätzle
Sulz	aspic
Teekrug	teapot
Tellerservice	meal offered on plates
Truffe	round chocolate candy
Wallholz	rolling pin
Wädli	knuckle
Weggen	bun
Wienerli	Frankfurt sausage
Zapfen	cork
Znacht	dinner
Zmittag	lunch
Zmorge(n)	breakfast
Znüni	small meal between breakfast and lunch