Dr. Toke Hoffmeister
Language – Cognition – Culture

GRK 2700

Dynamik und Stabilität sprachlicher Repräsentationen

The Interconnectedness of
SELF, WORLD AND LANGUAGE.

A reinterpretation of Lamdacism in West Central German and *bringen*-variation in Rhine Franconian considering linguistic representations.

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(Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas, Marburg/Germany)

10th Congress of the International Society for Dialectology and Geolinguistics (SIDG), Bucharest (Romania)

Forschungszentrum Deutscher Sprachatlas | DSA

Philipps Universität Marburg

Institut für Germanistische Sprachwissenschaft | IGS

In medias res: three questions, three theses

1st question: How do we interact with the world around us?

1st thesis: presence, presentation, representation

2nd question: Why do we represent language?

2nd thesis: the speaker as affected by language

3rd question: How does representation work?

3rd thesis: the recognize-as-relation

Overview

1) General remarks on linguistic representations

2) A new term of linguistic representations

3) Two examples
    a) Lamdacism in West Central German
    b) *Bringen*-variation in Rhine Franconian

4) Conclusion & Discussion

General remarks on linguistic representations

Representations

− show image-like character (Bloom & Markson 1998),

− have an asymmetrical relation to "things in the world" (Fodor 1987) and

− change in acquisition and learning (Danovitch & Keil 2004).

− are intentional (sensu Brentano), which means directed towards an object.

− have a 'Gehalt' (content).

 Representations are variously referred to in the literature as "memory traces" (Näätänen et al. 2007; Rosen 1975), "schemata" (Bartlett 1932; Neisser 1976), "categories" (Rosch 1975), "concepts" (Medin 1989).

A new term of linguistic representations

[[[[[[[symbol] salience] pertinence] significance] pithiness] presence] presentation] re-presentation]

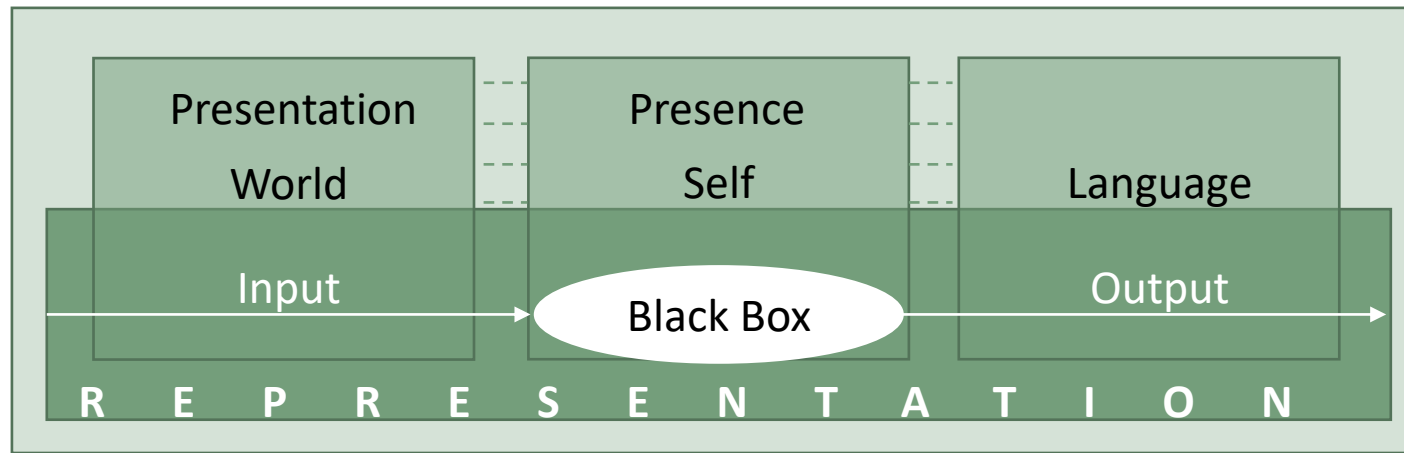| Presence	Presentation	Re-Presentation
Self	World	Language
to be present	*to be shown/to show oneself*	*envisioning/realisation*

A new term of linguistic representations

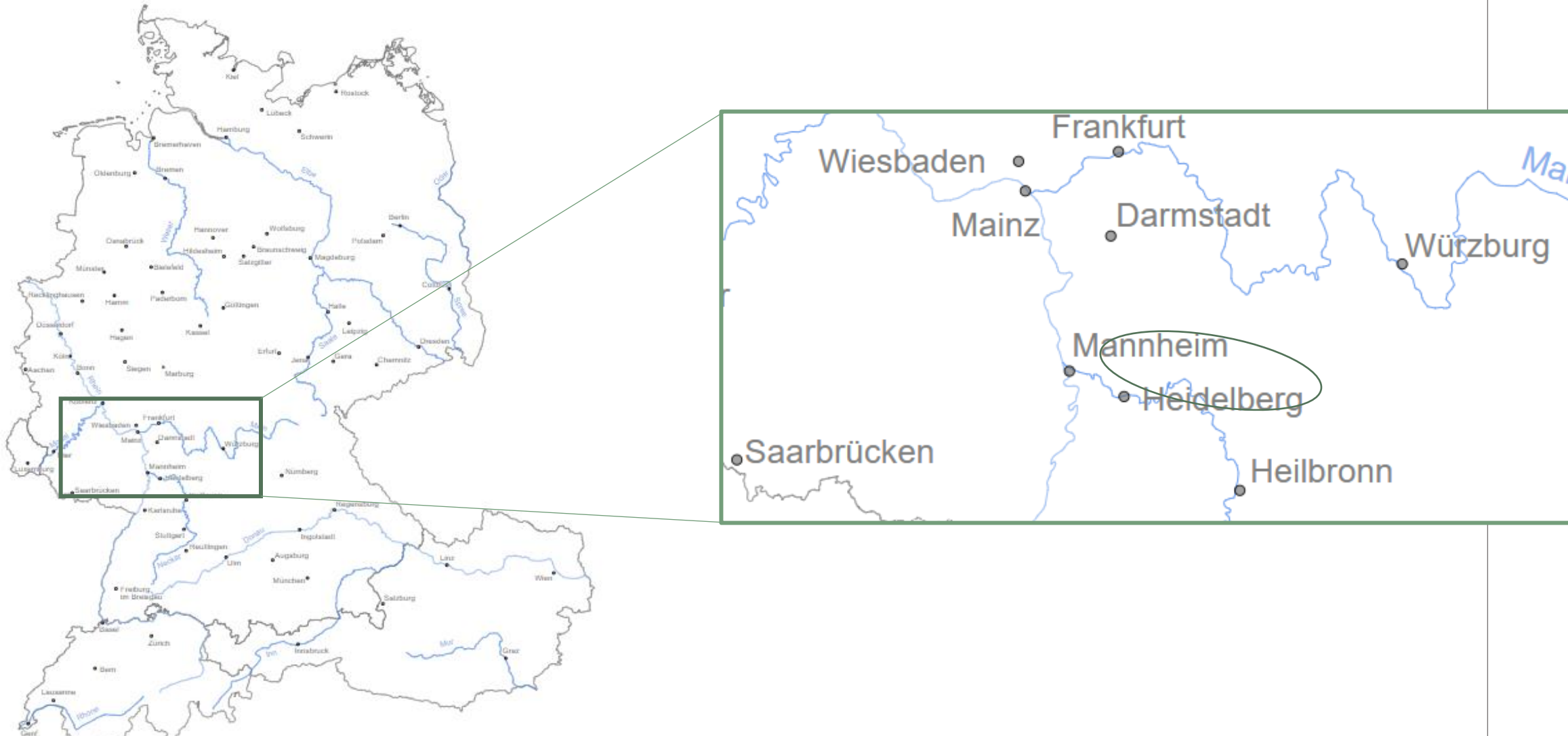**What is representation? A working definition.**

Representation is a cognitive process (of humans) of processing information about the world and finding one's way in it (*realisation*). The processing metaphor does not legitimise a mechanistic-behaviouristic interpretation; rather, processing here means reflection on and understanding of something as something (*as-relation*). In other words, processing is accompanied by interpreting and finally understanding (from a certain perspective) (*consciousness*).

What are <u>linguistic</u> representation<u>s</u>? A working definition.

Linguistic representations are the cognitive equivalents of basic linguistic categories (e.g. phone(me), morphe(me), lexeme). They are a necessary prerequisite for solving real-life problems with the help of language.

Example 1: Lamdacism in West Central German
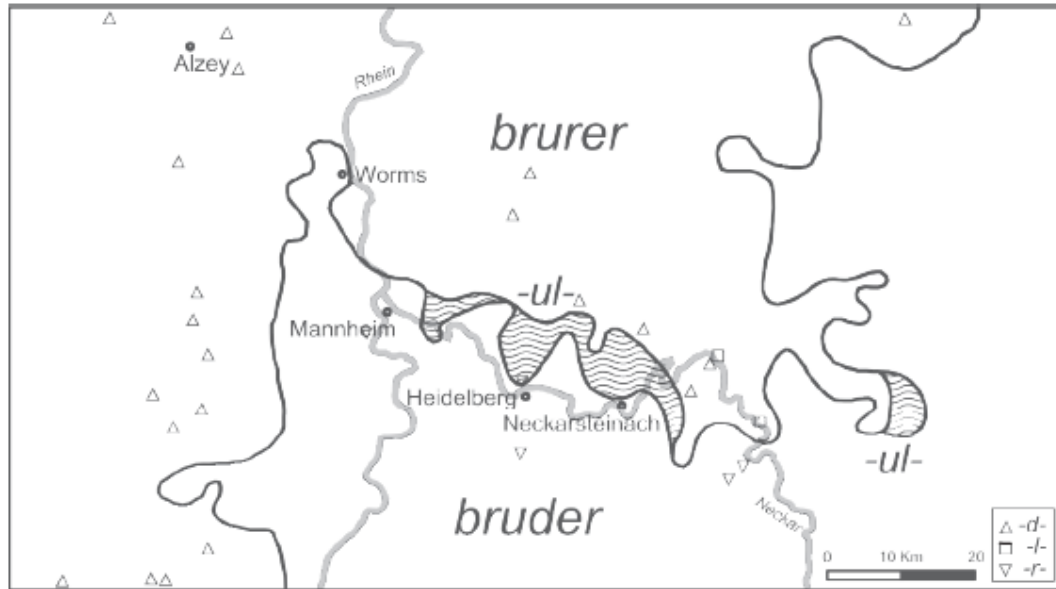
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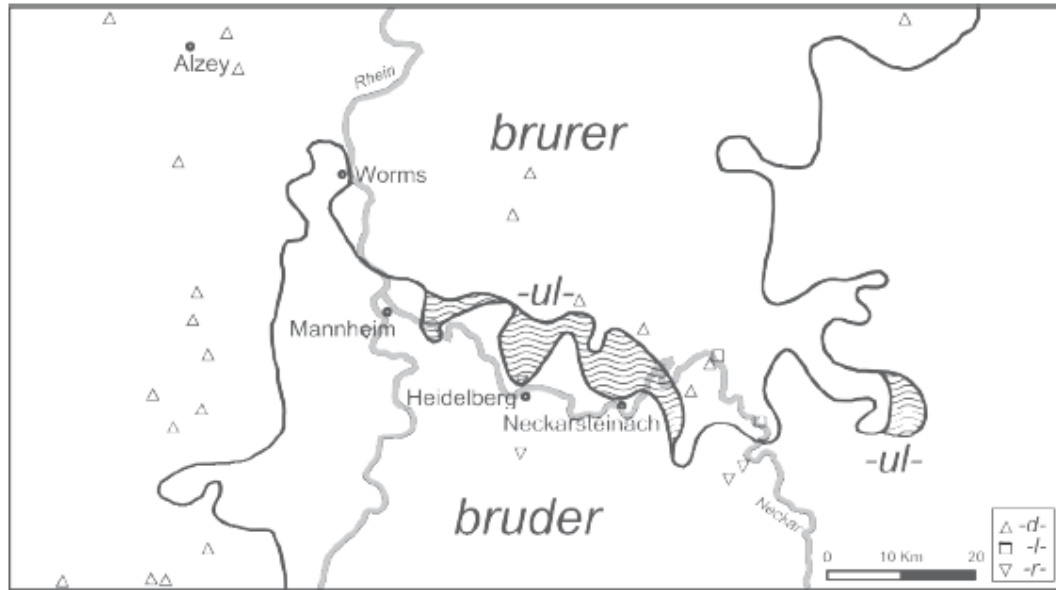

Abb. 2: Ausschnitt aus der Karte ‚Bruder' im „Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs" mit der Verteilung von Rhotazismen (brurer; Norden und Westen) und Lambdazismen (-ul- = bruler; Schraffur) in der Rhein-Neckar-Region

"refers to a historical substitution phenomenon in which - in the wcg. area of interest here - germ. Þ or ohg. d are represented as dialectal l" (Lameli 2015: 66, own translation).

Bruder [brother] → *Brurer*

Bruder [brother] → *Bruler*

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But why?

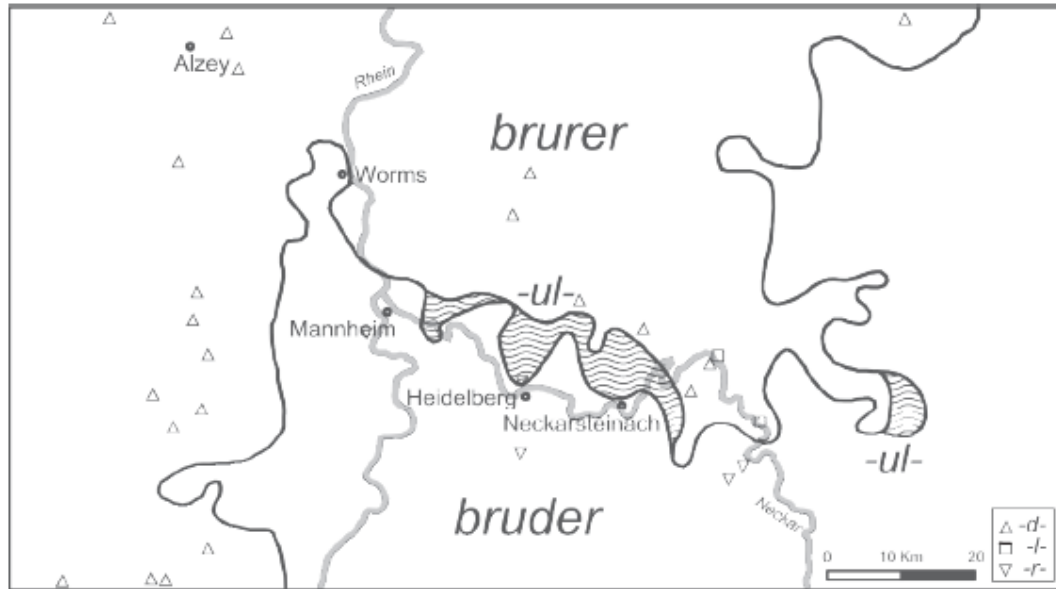# Example 1: Lamdacism in West Central German

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Answer 1: Lameli (2015)

Not fully explained yet, but hints from language geographic situation (cf. context hypothesis)

1.) language systematic explanation:
language contact

2.) sociolinguistic explanantion:
language ideologies

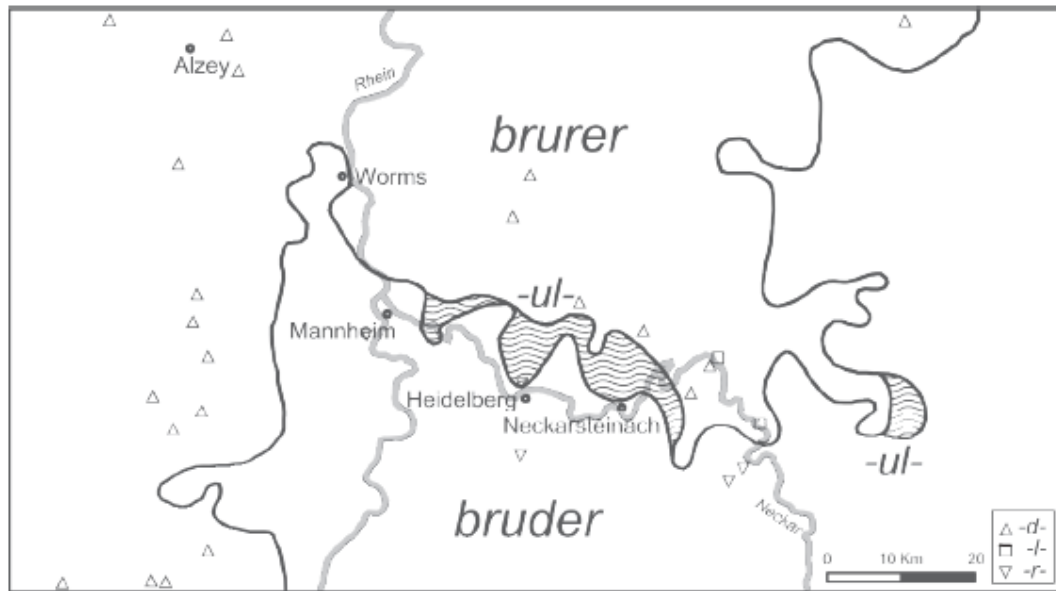# Example 1: Lamdacism in West Central German

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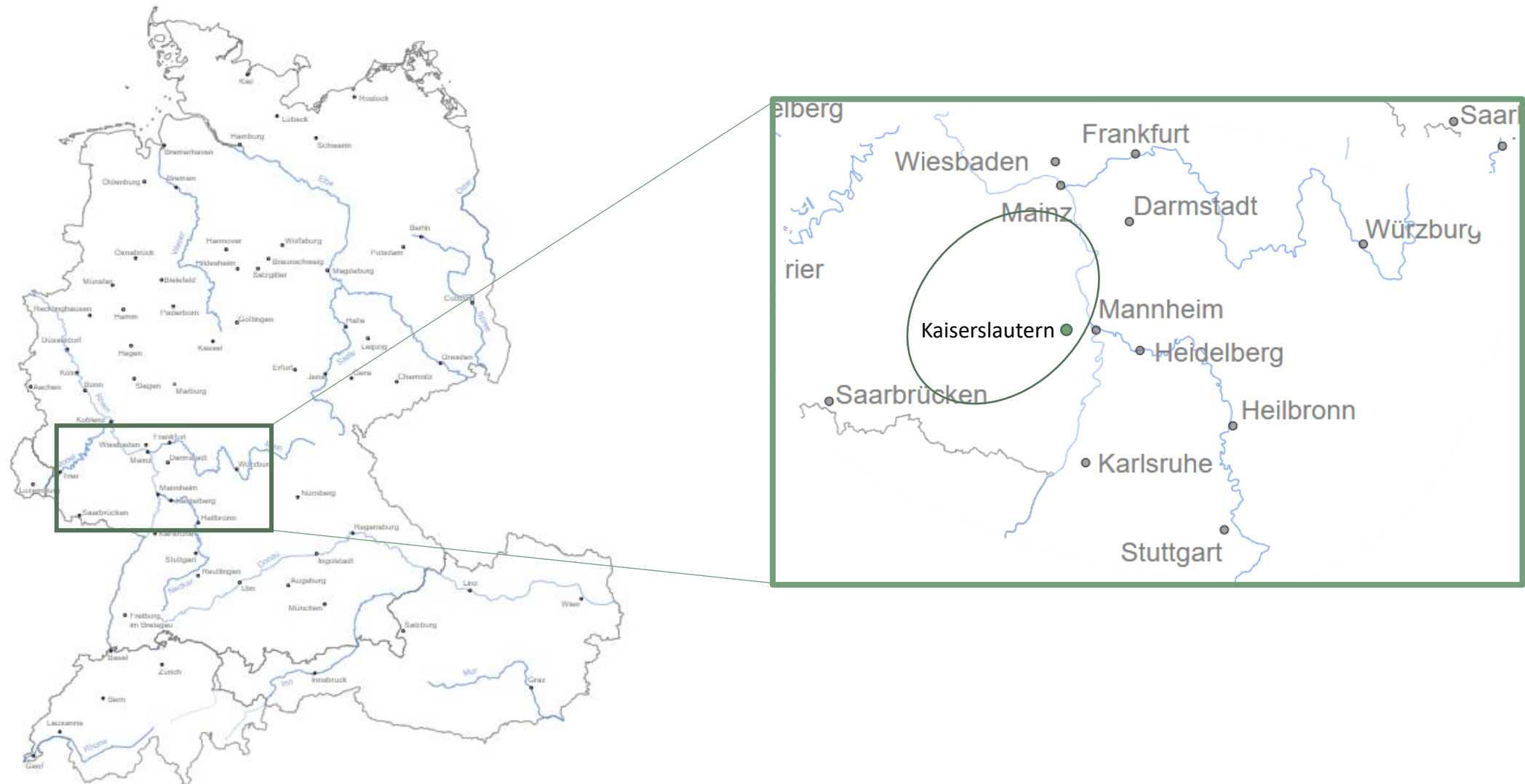
Answer 2: Re-Interpretation

(I) The human being as affected by language

(II) Presence – Presentation – Re-Presentation

(III) The recognize as-relation

Example 2: bringen-Variation in Rhine-Franconian

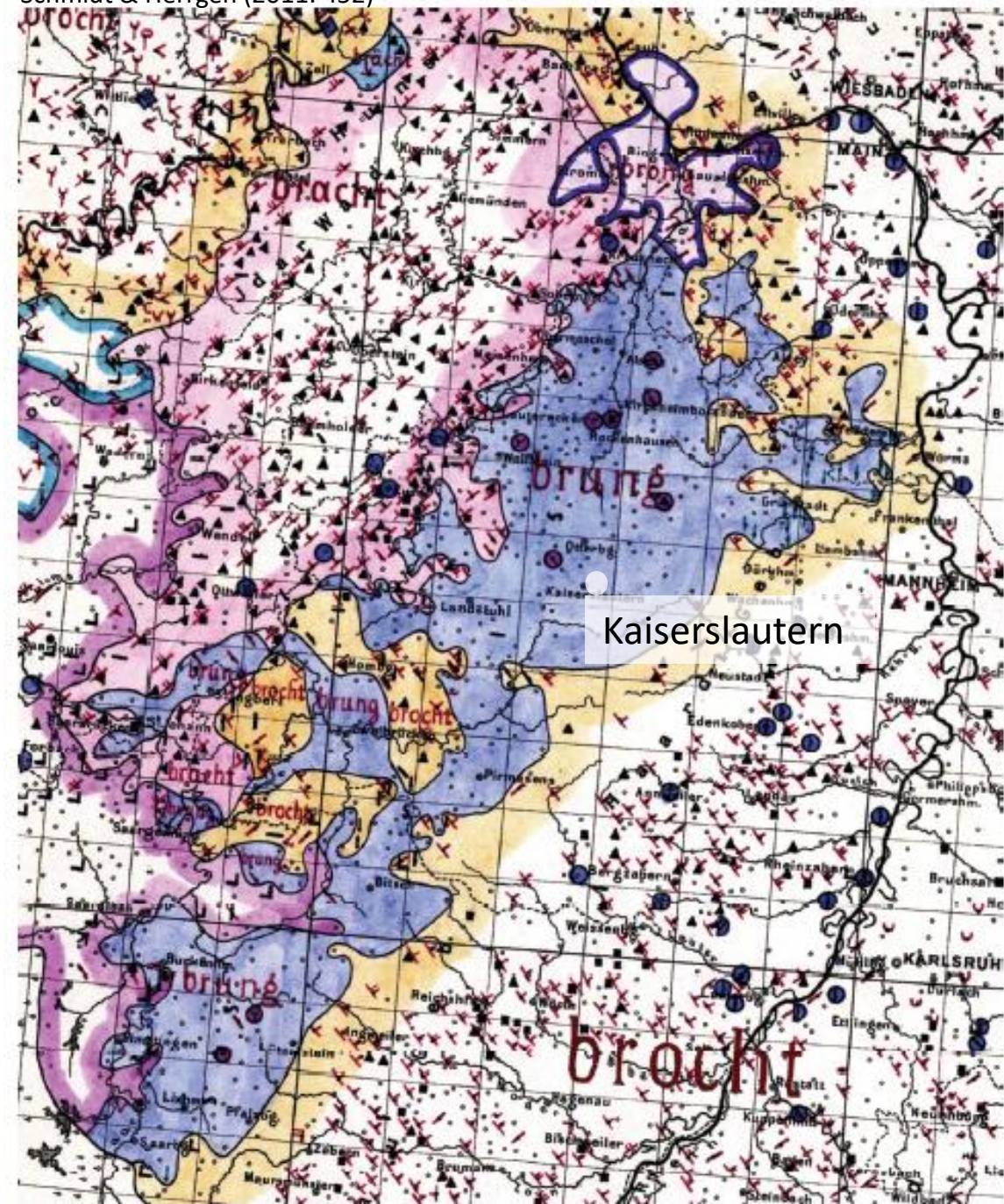https://regionalsprache.de/SprachGIS/Map.aspx

Example 2: bringen-Variation in Rhine-Franconian

Standard German:
bringen – brachte – gebracht

Wenker (1880):
bringen – (ge)brung(en)

Temporal comparison (1880-1985):
No expected reduction of dialectal *(ge)brung(en)* (cf. Schmidt & Herrgen 2011: 156) but an expansion

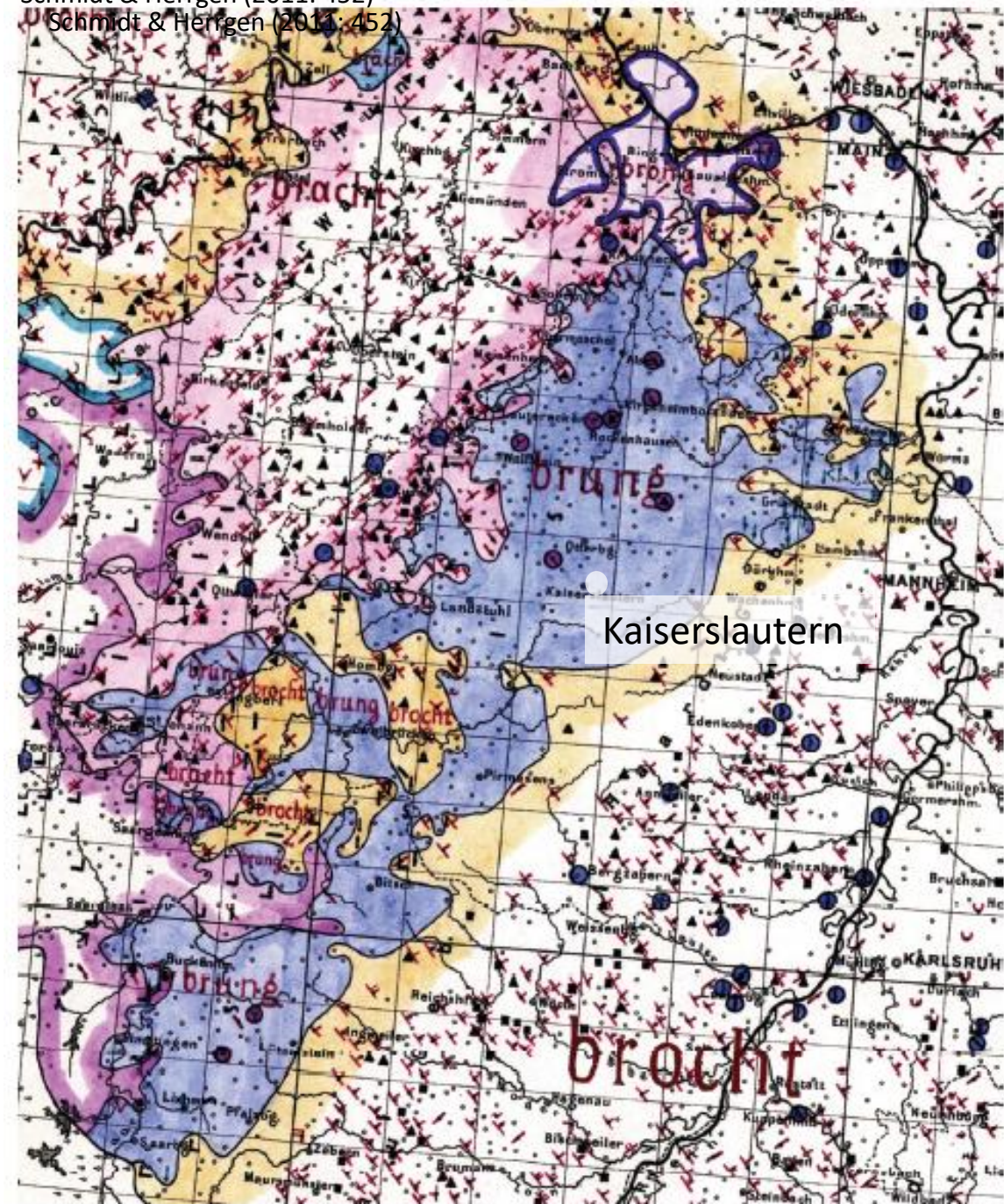**But why?**

Schmidt & Herrgen (2011: 452)

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Example 2: bringen-Variation in Rhine-Franconian
Answer 1: Schmidt & Herrgen (2011)

Bringen – brachte – gebracht in standard German is a single case in verb conjugation paradigm

Children often produce *gebringt or *gebrungen due to the difficulty of the single case

Now the children's form *gebrungen is not corrected in the acquisition process which leads to frequency extension

Kaiserslautern

Example 2: bringen-Variation in Rhine-Franconian

Answer 2: Re-Interpretation

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Conclusion & Discussion

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three aspects for a holistic language theory and an adequate linguistic explanation

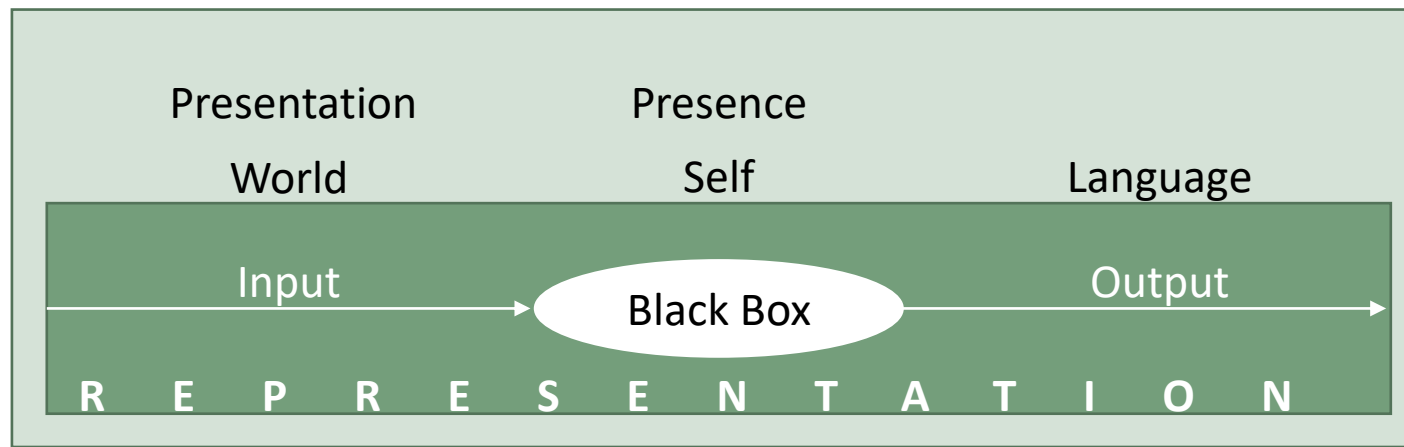| Presence	Presentation	Re-Presentation
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Funding and Collaborators

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Thank you for your attention.

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