

Texas German Dialect Archive 2.0

Left Context	Match	Right Context	LANGUAGE
73 1-40-1 Speaker_0040 in Mann gestorbe is und das bin ich nach de Stadt	removed		amb
74 1-40-1 Speaker_0040 ch von zubaas geerbt hat 'n Haus bin ich da rein	removed		amb
75 1-42-1 Speaker_0042 angen un uh hann ihn dort geschossen un hann sie	removed		amb
76 1-43-1 Speaker_0043 war in [ninety two] ... zweinneunzich hab' ich	removed		amb
77 1-43-1 Speaker_0044 WEIL da ham mir gegen die Deutsche ... uh ...	removed		amb
78 1-43-1 Speaker_0044 u sagst, der hat der Football mit den linge Fuss	removed		amb
79 5-52-1 Speaker_0052 ich wir in Himmel UND- und das ist wie ich immer	removed		amb
80 5-52-1 Speaker_0052 MIR hann keine - uh nicht	removed		amb
81 5-52-1 Speaker_0052 arm. MIR-mir hann nicht arm	removed		amb
82 5-52-1 Speaker_0052 hat, war in San Anton, aber die sind nach Comfort	removed		amb
83 1-54-1 Speaker_0054 UND ham's gemahln und ham's ham's gestuck- gest-	removed		amb
84 1-54-1 Speaker_0054 in die Schit soeren, DIE Schaleker ham das nicht	removed		amb
85 1-54-1 Speaker_0054 n [Sitting] alsam hat 'se hat 'se den Milleimer	removed		amb
86 1-55-1 Speaker_0055 dass Samstag Amd ... ham sie die ... Klocken ge-	removed		amb
87 1-55-1 Speaker_0055 DIE [community] nach Doss	removed		amb
88 1-55-1 Speaker_0055 SO sin sind sie fort [removed]	removed		amb
89 1-55-1 Speaker_0055 SO sin sind sie fort [removed]	removed		amb
90 1-56-1 Speaker_0056 ne masse [removed]	removed		amb
91 1-56-1 Speaker_0056 einer wo-wo [removed]	removed		amb
92 1-56-1 Speaker_0056 [removed]	removed		amb
93 1-57-1 Speaker_0057 hat.	removed		amb
94 1-57-1 Speaker_0057 wo die Kluck-Glock	removed		amb
95 1-59-1 Speaker_0059 ie Eltern ham Haus da gehabt. UN mir ham von die	removed		amb
96 1-59-1 Speaker_0059 UN uhh das is alles, wo ma nach	removed		amb
97 1-62-1 Speaker_0062 hat hatter	removed		amb
98 1-62-1 Speaker_0062	removed		amb
99 1-62-1 Speaker_0062 UND ich ganz	removed		amb
100 1-62-1 Speaker_0062 hinten ich hab	removed		amb

Search results for the 'ambiguous' language tag (AMB) in TGDA 2.0

The TGDP has been making strides towards releasing the Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA) 2.0, a more enriched version of our transcriptions of Texas German narrative inter-

views. The TGDA currently contains recordings of Texas German translations of several lists of English words and phrases, recordings and transcriptions of narra-

tive interviews with Texas German speakers, and basic information about where interviews took place.

This is already a

continued on p. 7

Courses on Texas German taught at UT Austin

During the fall 2023 semester, UT Austin students had the opportunity to take two different courses involving Texas German.

The first course, "The Texas German Dialect," taught by Dr. Vince Vanderheijden, provided students with a knowledge of German from a theoretical point of view, including structural comparisons with Texas English and Standard German. Using data from the

TGDA, students learned about a variety of important structural properties of Texas German, including its sound system, word formation patterns, and grammar.

The second course, "German Immigration to the United States," taught by Dr. Jana Weiss, examined the motivation for migration, settlement patterns, the constructions of identity through traditions and festivals, and German Americans' economic, social, and cultural contributions to

the U.S. as well as challenges to assimilation. A significant part of the course dealt with German immigration to Texas and compares the experiences of this group of German immigrants with that of other German immigrant groups in the U.S. Students participating in the course also toured the Briscoe Center for American History at UT Austin, one of the leading repositories of primary and secondary sources pertaining to German immigration to Texas.

TGDP MILESTONES 2022–2023

- ◆ The TGDP has interviewed 32 speakers of Texas German since November 2022.
- ◆ TGDP members presented their research at academic conferences in Alexandria (VA), Austin (TX), Banff (Canada), Dallas (TX), Eichstätt/Munich (Germany), Erfurt (Germany), Montréal (Canada), and Spartanburg (SC).

- ◆ Congratulations, Dr. Matthias Warmuth! We're thrilled to announce that Matthias graduated with his Ph.D. in August 2023, with his dissertation on Texas German diphthongs.

- ◆ Two TGDP publications in the *Yearbook of German American Studies*.

- ◆ TGDP in the news: Hans Boas was interviewed about Texas German by the *Fredericksburg Standard*, *German Life*, *Texas Co-op Power Magazine*, and the "Real Life and Other Fantasies" podcast.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

<i>TGDA 2.0</i>	1, 7
<i>Featured Speaker</i>	2
<i>The TGDP receives a large grant</i>	2
<i>Glenn Gilbert's Texas German Materials</i>	3



Featured Speaker: Valda Haverlah Rudolph



Valda Rudolph and her daughter Lanelle Rudolph

Valda was born 95 years ago in Fashing, Atascosa County—a thriving farming community populated primarily with German-speaking families who grew cotton, raised

livestock and poultry, and grew their own vegetables. The few necessities the farms didn't provide were obtained in nearby Karnes City and Kennedy (in

Karnes County).

Her siblings were more than 12 years older than Valda, so she grew to become her ailing father's primary helper with farm chores yet also worked alongside her mother learning "woman's work." Beside the satisfaction of helping her parents at home, Valda enjoyed school academically and socially. Although German was spoken at home and among family and friends, only English was spoken at school.

At age 18 Valda married her school sweetheart, Alfred, the first American-born child of German immigrants. They passed the language and work ethic of Texas Germans to their

two daughters. When their girls were 6 months and 8 years old, their family moved from Fashing to Pleasanton (Atascosa County) where, unfortunately, there were fewer opportunities to speak German except at home. As a result, the Texas German dialect began its decline for Valda's family. Yet, Alfred's relatives in Saxony, Germany, many of whom speak no English and whom Valda and her older daughter, Lanelle, have visited several times, are amazed how understandable their Texas German dialect is *im Vaterland*.

Author: Lanelle Rudolph

The TGDP Receives a Generous Grant

In November 2022, the TGDP received a grant of one million dollars from an anonymous donor to support the recording, processing, and archiving of interviews with the remaining speakers of Texas German. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer speakers of Texas German left because this unique dialect has not been systematically passed on to the next generation since the late 1940s. This means that Texas German will most likely become extinct in the next five to ten years.

This very generous grant

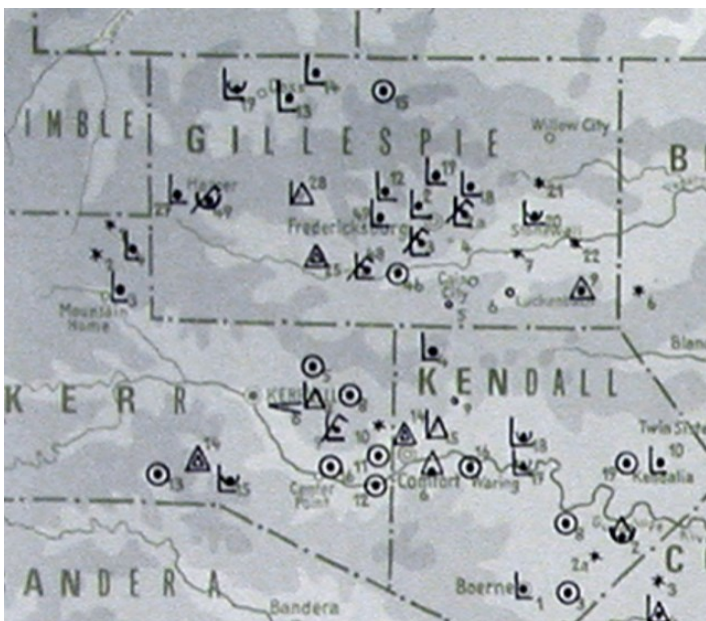
has enabled the TGDP to hire UT Austin students to interview, segment, archive, and transcribe and translate interviews with what we expect will be the last fluent speakers of Texas German. The grant will allow the TGDP to also expand its coverage by locating and interviewing Texas German speakers in more remote locations of Texas. The TGDP is extremely thankful for this generous grant, which enables it to continue to build awareness and appreciation of Texas German language, culture, and history for years to come.



Setting up for interviews with Texas German speakers



Glenn Gilbert's 1960 Texas German Materials



A map from Gilbert's (1972) *Linguistic Atlas of Texas German*

In the 1960s, Glenn Gilbert traveled around Gillespie and Kendall counties, interviewing Texas Germans for his dissertation titled *The German Dialect Spoken in Ken-*

dall and Gillespie Counties, Texas (1963). He then expanded his research, traveling to dozens of counties in central Texas, resulting in his *Linguistic Atlas of Tex-*

as German (1972).

Over the last several years, Gilbert has generously donated all of his research materials pertaining to these projects to the TGDP at UT Austin. This includes interview recordings, maps, and a set of over 100 mailed Texas German questionnaires from the 1960s.

The TGDP is working on digitizing these materials and processing them in such a way to make them accessible and available to the public.

One step towards this goal is collecting all of the biographical and linguistic information from his 1972 *Atlas* and putting it into a spreadsheet that can then be used to generate various digital maps.

Another step is taking his

recordings and identifying which recordings correspond to which of his publications, and which recordings have not been included in any publications (yet).

The TGDP is currently working on segmenting his recordings into smaller audio clips, which we plan on transcribing and integrating into digital linguistic maps to make this resource available and accessible to the public.

In the future, we would like to combine the information from Gilbert's dissertation, his *Atlas*, and his questionnaire with our TGDP recordings into a single online interface in order to facilitate making comparisons between Texas German in the 1960s and since 2001.

Visiting Doctoral Researcher: Caroline Reher



Caroline Reher

In March and April 2023, Caroline Reher visited the TGDP from the University of Dortmund, Germany. Caroline has a B.A. in Applied Linguistics and German Studies from the University of Cologne and an M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Bielefeld, Germany.

She is currently a doctoral student who is writing her dissertation on relative clauses in German contact varieties. Based on the results from her linguistic fieldwork on Chilean Ger-

man, which is in contact with Spanish, she became interested in finding out whether German varieties in contact with other languages exhibit similar or different types of relative clauses.

During her time at UT Austin, Caroline conducted some linguistic fieldwork with Texas German speakers to determine whether Texas German relative clauses show the same or different types of structures as Chilean German. She is also considering looking at

relative clause structures in Namibian German and Russian German. Caroline's dissertation is still in progress and we are looking forward to finding out her results in the not too distant future. During her stay at UT, Caroline also organized a one-day online workshop of the "Network for Research on German Minority Languages," where she and several other TGDP members presented research on German contact varieties.

International Workshop on Minority Languages at UT Features Talks on Texas German



Participants of the workshop (from left to right): Lisa Dücker, Nicole Palliwoda, Jana Rohwedder, Hans C. Boas, Sabrina Goll, Verena Sauer, Steffen Höder, Luna Peters, Antonio Schöwe, Margo Blevins, Michael Elmenthaler (not present: Ellen Jones and Marc Pierce).

From October 2022 to September 2023, Verena Sauer was a visiting postdoctoral researcher with the TGDP.

Verena was originally from the University of Kiel (Germany), and her postdoctoral research stay was

funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

From August 21-23, 2023, Verena organized an international workshop entitled "Focus on Minority Languages" at UT Austin. This workshop, financially supported by the University of Kiel and UT Austin, featured 12 talks by scholars from the University of Kiel and UT Austin.

The main focus of the talks were different linguistic aspects of three specific minority languages: Low German as spoken in Northern Germany, South Schleswig Danish, spoken in the border region between Denmark and Germany, and Texas German.

The talks focused on a variety of different structural aspects of minority

languages such as sound systems and grammatical aspects, questions about language and identity, and minority languages in the media and in public education. Each talk lasted about 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

Workshop participants also got guided tours of some of the cultural treasures of UT Austin, including the Harry Ransom Center for the Humanities and the Briscoe Center for American History. The workshop was a success as the participants discovered many parallels between minority languages in different parts of the world and they were inspired to analyze linguistic data in new ways. Based on this year's workshop, we are hoping to continue this scientific exchange in 2024.

TGDP Banner Series

The TGDP team is creating a set of banners about Texas German history, culture, and language. The goal is to create mobile exhibits that can be displayed at different events (tgdp.org/banner-series/).

There are currently three mini-series in development (• = complete, + = in progress, ♦ = planned):

Mini-Series 1: Historical Context

- Why Germans left Europe and came to Texas
- Early German settlement in Texas
- The *Adelsverein*
- Native Americans & Germans in the Hill Country
- Texas Germans & the Civil War
- Post-Civil War immigration
 - + World War I
 - + The inter-war period
 - ♦ World War II
 - ♦ Black Texas German speakers

Mini-Series 2: About the TGDP / Texas German Linguistics

- About the TGDP
- The TGDP Workflow
- ♦ The foundation of Texas German(s): donor dialects, new-dialect formation
- ♦ Texas German(s): the sound system
- ♦ Texas German(s): the morpho-syntax
- ♦ Texas German(s): the lexicon
- ♦ The rise and fall of Texas German: language change, reasons behind the transition to English
- ♦ "People of the TGDP: 2021-2026"

Mini-Series 3: Texas German contributions & culture

- Texas Germans & Public Education
- Texas German Authors
- ♦ Texas German Newspapers
- Texas German Social Clubs
- ♦ Texas German Music & Art
- ♦ Texas German Scientists
- ♦ Texas German Entrepreneurs

If you have any recommendations for other banners, please let us know!

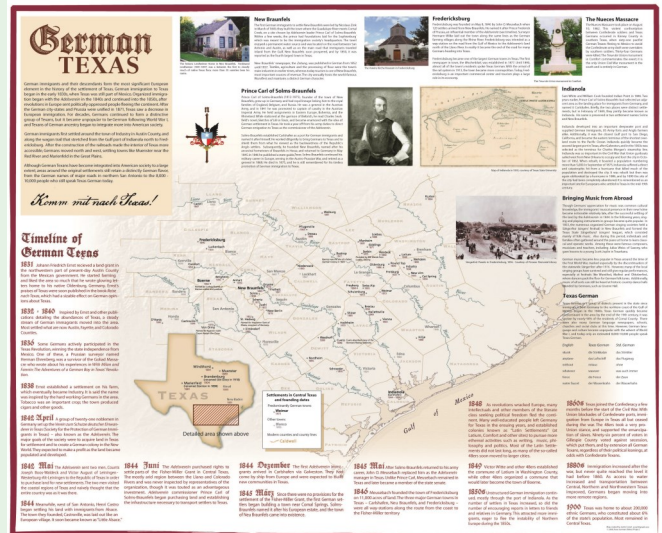
*New TGDP Member: Anna de la Fuente***Anna de la Fuente**

Anna de la Fuente is a native Austinite who is deeply passionate about the intersection of language and culture. In 2023, she graduated with a major in Linguistics and a

minor in German from McGill University in Montréal, Canada. During her time at McGill, she delved into the intricate world of linguistic analysis, where she conducted undergraduate research focusing on sociolinguistic factors influencing words with variable gender in the German language, and the complexities of verb suppletion within the Na-Dené language family. Anna's journey with the German language began in 2014, and her affection for it has only grown stronger with time. Her commitment to linguistic research and her insatiable curiosity have taken her from the United States to Canada, Sweden, Germany, and France.

New TGDP Member: Elisabeth Mathis**Elisabeth Mathis**

Elisabeth Mathis is currently a freshman at UT in Plan II and studying International Relations and Global Studies. She is originally from Austria and acquired German there, but has lived in Norway and the US for the majority of her life. After starting at UT, Elisabeth was intrigued by German culture and literature, and is currently pursuing a certificate in German. Elisabeth is excited about learning more about Texas German and how it compares to the German she had grown up with.

Featured: Texas German Map

Show your Texas German pride and contribute to the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin by purchasing one of our high-quality prints of the history of German immigration into Texas!

Donated for fundraising purposes by mapmaker and German American Justin Cozart, this **beautiful 34"x28" map** includes a chronology of the history of Texas Germans dating back to 1831, when Johann Friedrich Ernst first fell in love with the wide-open country and wrote a book about it, *Reise nach Texas*. It also explains key concepts in German immigration, such as the role of the *Adelsverein*, an organization that was instrumental in the settling of Texas, the founding of Texas German towns, basic differences between Texas and Standard German, the popularity of German music, and more. **Contact the TGDP for yours today!**

The German Texas map is available exclusively from the TGDP for \$40.00 (includes shipping and handling).

Scan the QR-Code for the order form.



*New TGDP Member: Jan Steinhauer***Jan Steinhauer**

Jan is a transfer student at UT who studies electrical and computer engineering. He is originally from Bavar-

ia, Germany. At the University of Würzburg he studies Human Computer Interaction. He speaks three languages fluently (German, English, and Spanish), as well as two German dialects (Franconian and Bavarian). Furthermore, he wants to extend his dialect portfolio and add Texas German to it. Currently he is working with the TGDP on building a large language model of Texas German. After graduation he hopes to continue working on large language models and to be fluent in Texas German.

New TGDP Member: Heidi Hansel**Heidi Hansel**

Heidi is a senior at UT Austin who is originally from Colorado, but has lived in Texas and Belgium as well. She is majoring in Linguistics and getting a certificate in German as well. Heidi grew up in a German and

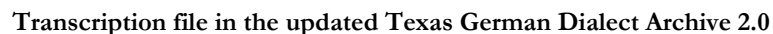
Flemish household due to her dad and his side of the family originally being from Germany. Because of that, Heidi has always had an interest in the Germanic languages, and languages in general. This interest was the deciding factor for Heidi to join the TGDP, because the Texas German dialect is such an interesting piece of Texas and German history for her and she wanted to learn more about it. She plans to participate in the Würzburg Summer Program to get a better grasp of the German language and culture, as well as to make sure she is on a better path to go into the field of translation once she completes her degree through UT.

New TGDP Member: Simon Herbert**Simon Herbert**

Simon is an exchange student from Würzburg, Germany. He is studying to become a teacher for English and Geography at the University of Würzburg. At UT Austin, he is taking courses in Linguistics, American Studies, and English. Simon is interested in Texas-German language and culture and hopes to learn more about it by working for the TGDP.

New TGDP Member: Samira Bopp**Samira Bopp**

Samira Bopp is currently a junior during her exchange semester at UT Austin. She is from Germany and studies teaching for the subjects English and PE at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität in Würzburg. During her exchange semester in Austin, she is excited to learn more about Texan-German.



tagging systems are based on Margo Blevins' (2022) UT Austin dissertation, in which she manually added all of the normalization and language information to a smaller collection of Texas German transcripts. Then, Thomas Schmidt, a German software developer and computer scientist with over 20 years of experience with building corpus tools and managing corpora, archives and infrastructures, took the information from Blevins (2022), simplified it, and applied it to the TGDA transcriptions. He also used several other resources, such as FOLK 'The Research and Teaching Corpus of Spoken German,' DeReKo 'The German Reference Corpus,' and COCA 'The Corpus of Contemporary American English.' The result will be a more flexible Texas German Dialect Archive 2.0.

TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT (TGDP)

Department of Germanic Studies
Texas German Dialect Project
2505 University Ave, C3300
Burdine Hall 336, 3rd Floor
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712 –1802

E-Mail: texasgermandialect@gmail.com
Phone: (512) 910-5047

AS REPORTED BY



Plans for 2024

- ◆ Record more Texas German speakers.
- ◆ Continue to work on the Texas German dictionary pilot project by adding and enriching lexical entries.
- ◆ Continue to work scanning historical Texas German letters at the Briscoe Center at UT Austin.
- ◆ Continuation of the compilation of a traveling museum exhibit on Texas German language, culture, and history.



We are still looking for Texas German speakers!

Do you or does someone you know speak Texas German? We're always looking for more speakers to talk to, and we need your help!

Don't worry if you haven't spoken German in a while and feel a little rusty — we're just trying to preserve as much as we can while we can, and we're happy to come to you. You are also welcome to visit us on the the University of Texas at Austin campus.

E-mail: texasgermandialect@gmail.com
Phone: (512) 910-5047

Thank you for your help and support! We couldn't do it without you.

