

The *Deutsches Wörterbuch* as a Resource for the Investigation of Loan Vocabulary

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Historical dictionaries are traditionally used for looking up singular word senses or word histories. As more and more historical dictionaries are either digitized or designed as online dictionaries from the scratch, more encompassing and systematic ways of using dictionaries and retrieving dictionary information have become possible. Against the background of this development this paper tries to demonstrate the potential of historical dictionaries for the investigation of linguistic diversity. In a case study, one of the most important historical dictionaries of German will be tested as to its usefulness for the investigation of loan vocabulary: the *Neubearbeitung des Deutschen Wörterbuch von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm* (²DWB) which is a fully revised version of the letter section A to F of the original *Deutsches Wörterbuch* founded in 1838. As the ²DWB covers the German language from its earliest days up to the present and as it includes detailed information about loan words, it is a good basis for answering questions like: How did loan activity develop over centuries? Which donor languages (e.g. Latin, French, English) were predominant at which time? The results of this investigation will be compared with the data provided by the *Deutsches Fremdwörterbuch* (²DFWb) which represent an important source for the loan word chapters in P. von Polenz' authoritative *Geschichte der deutschen Sprache*. In order to evaluate the findings the different ways in which ²DWB and DFWb define and describe loan vocabulary has to be taken into account, too.

References: ²DFWb = Deutsches Fremdwörterbuch. Begonnen von Hans Schulz, fortgeführt von Otto Basler. 2. Aufl. völlig neubearbeitet im Institut für deutsche Sprache in Mannheim. Bd. 1ff., Berlin, New York 1995ff. ²DWB = Deutsches Wörterbuch von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm. Neubearbeitung. Hg. von der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (vormals Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR) und der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. Bd. 1ff. Leipzig 1983ff. von Polenz, Peter (1994–2000): *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte vom Spätmittelalter bis zur Gegenwart*. Bd. 1–3. Berlin, New York: De Gruyter.

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