

### Basic Information

#### The corpus used

- ▶ Project type: SNSF, Sinergia
- ▶ Project leader: Elisabeth Stark (estark@rom.uzh.ch)
- ▶ Project duration: 36 months (1/1/2016 – 31/12/2018)
- ▶ 617 chats, 763,650 messages, 5,543,692 tokens that can be used for linguistic research
- ▶ Multilingual: German, Swiss German, French, Italian, Romansh
- ▶ Cf. Ueberwasser and Stark 2017

### Basic Information

#### Influencing factors

#### Migration

Where do the people who use /l/-vocalization differently than expected in the place where they lived in 5th grade (i.e. do not use /l/-vocalization in the area where it is expected or do use /l/-vocalization in an area where it is not expected) live today? Did they move to the other area? Figure (2) shows that this is mostly not the case.

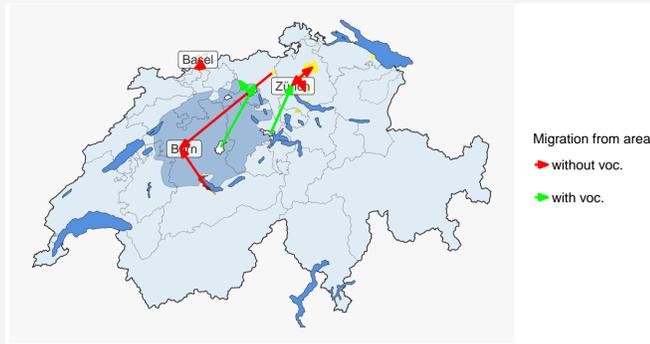


Figure 2: Migration of informants using /l/-vocalization between 5th grade and today

### /l/-vocalization in Switzerland

/l/-vocalization, i.e. the replacement of a lateral approximant [l] by the vowel [ʌ] is a well described feature of some Swiss German dialects (GSW). Phonological (e.g. Haas 1983) and sociolinguistic (e.g. Christen 2001) restrictions and promoters are well described. The *Linguistic Atlas of German-Speaking Switzerland*, Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (1962 to 2003), is the most renowned documentation of the GSW dialects representing regional variation in linguistic features. It describes /l/-vocalization as a feature roughly to be found between Bern and Lucerne. A more recent study Leemann, Kolly, Werlen, Britain, and Studer-Joho 2014 found /l/-vocalization to progress to "... southeasterly, southerly, and westerly directions, but with much less success to the north and northwest, where the equally influential dialectal areas of Basel and Zürich seem to exert opposing influences" (Leemann et al., 2014, 191).

/l/-vocalization in the WhatsApp corpus

### Distribution of /l/-vocalization

Figure (1) shows the distribution of /l/-vocalization in the corpus. The dark blue field designates the area where /l/-vocalization can originally be found. In the corpus, there are however areas outside this field with individual occurrences of /l/-vocalization, too. These occurrences are in the parts where Leemann et al. 2014 do not expect them, i.e. towards Zürich and Basel. Frequencies of /l/-vocalization in this outside-area is extremely low, mostly fewer than 10 tokens per informant.

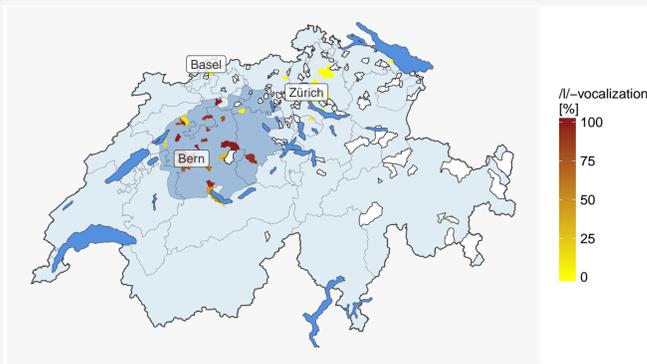


Figure 1: Distribution of /l/-vocalization in the corpus.

### Frequencies

Do informants who use /l/-vocalization even though they do not originate in the corresponding area apply /l/-vocalization in word forms that are more frequently used in the area with /l/-vocalization? Figure (3) shows that this is not the case. Even though the word form most frequently used outside the area (*mau/mal* ['times']) is much more frequent in the area with expected /l/-vocalization, this is not the case for the other word forms.

Wordform	Region with vocalisation	Region without vocalisation
mau/mal	~7.5	~5.5
aliso/aliso	~3.0	~5.5
vouu/voll	~2.0	~4.5
aauer/aller	~4.0	~3.5
egau/egal	~1.5	~1.5
vuu/vill	~1.0	~2.0
mou/moll	~0.5	~1.0
baud/bald	~0.5	~1.0
geuu/gell	~0.5	~1.0
bud/bild	~0.5	~1.0

Figure 3: For the 10 most frequently used word forms outside the expected area: how frequently are they used in either area?

### Phonological context

Haas 1983 (quoted after Leemann et al. 2014) proposes an implication scale with different phonological contexts that promote /l/-vocalization as follows:

1. /l/ following a vowel and preceding a consonant: VLC (e.g. 'salt' *Salz, Sauz*)
2. /l/ following a vowel and preceding a word boundary: VL# (e.g. 'valley' *Tal, Tau*)
3. /l/ following a consonant with syllabic /l/: C L-syllabic # (e.g. 'bird' *Vogel, Vogu*)
4. intervocalic and geminated /l/: V L-geminate V (e.g. 'plate' *Teller, Teuer*)
5. /l/ between two vowels: VLV (e.g. 'sole' *Sohle, Soue*)
6. /l/ following a word boundary (with a possible consonant onset) and preceding a vowel: #[C]lV (e.g. 'believe' *glauben, gvaube*)

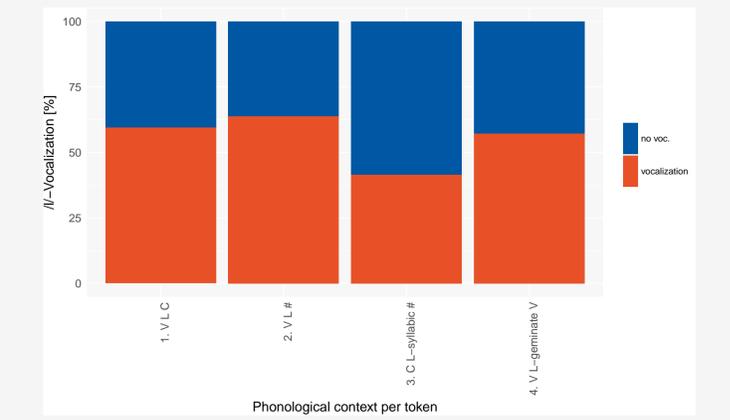


Figure 4: Phonological context within the area with expected /l/-vocalization

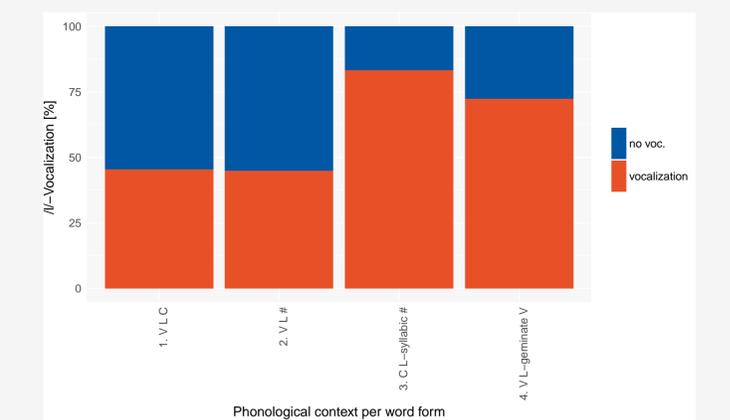


Figure 5: Distribution of /l/-vocalization in the corpus.

This implication scale can only partly be confirmed by the data in the corpus, as figures 4 and 5 show. For the groups 5 and 6, there is no data in the corpus, while the representation by tokens used in figure 4 shows a rather equivalent use of /l/-vocalization. On the other hand, if we look at the distribution by word forms as seen in figure 5, there is a clear discrepancy between the first two and the last two groups thus confirming the implication scale partly.

### Phonological context: multiple options for /l/-vocalization

There are only two word forms in the corpus with the option for more than one /l/-vocalization: *Alkohol* ('alcohol') and *Profilbild* ('avatar'). The individual forms are shown in figures (6) and (7). The individual wordforms belong to the classes:

- ▶ *Alk-*: 1. VLC
- ▶ *-ohol*: 2. VL#
- ▶ *Profil-*: 2. VL#
- ▶ *-bild*: 1. VLC

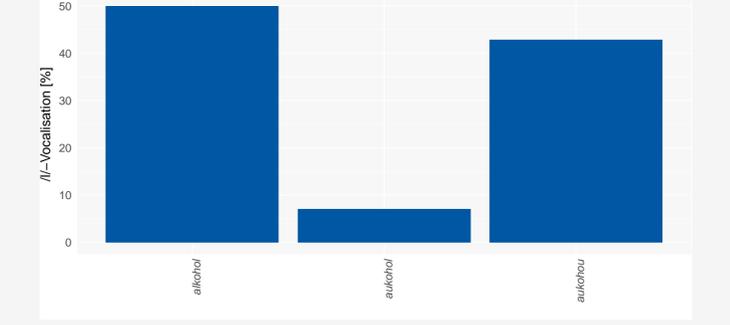


Figure 6: Realization forms for Alkohol

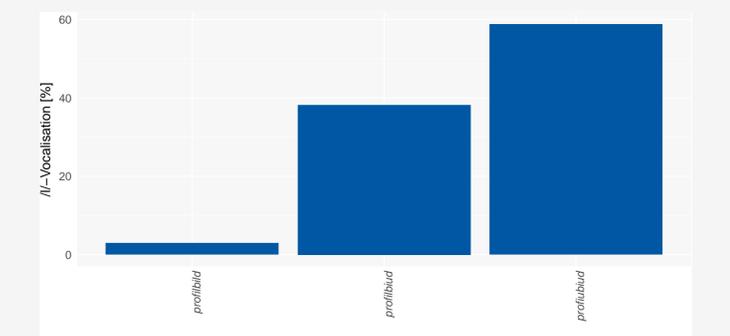


Figure 7: Realization forms for Profilbild ('avatar')

The realization forms for the two composita are extremely different. While the tendency for *Alkohol* is to either use /l/-vocalization or not while avoiding the mixed form, *Profilbild* is hardly realized without /l/-vocalization but with a strong tendency to realize with both possible /l/-vocalizations.

Conclusion

/l/-vocalization when observed in a written environment is much more individual than expected. It can be found in environments where it is not expected and the realization does often not follow the expected patterns.

### Bibliography

Christen, H. (2001). Ein Dialektmarker auf Erfolgskurs: Die /l/-Vokalisierung in der deutschsprachigen Schweiz. *Zeitschrift für Dialektologie und Linguistik*(1), 16-26.

Haas, W. (1983). Vokalisierung in deutschen dialekten. In W. Besch, U. Knoop, & W. Putschke (Eds.), *Dialektologie: Ein handbuch zur deutschen und allgemeinen dialektforschung. vol ii* (p. 1111-1116). Berlin: de Gruyter.

Leemann, A., Kolly, M.-J., Werlen, I., Britain, D., & Studer-Joho, D. (2014). The diffusion of /l/-vocalization in Swiss German. *Language Variation and Change*, 26(02), 191-218. doi: 10.1017/s0954394514000076

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