

Copyright © by John Kretzer 2008

All Rights Reserved

INVESTIGATING AND DESCRIBING THE DIALECT OF LOWER FRANCONIA

by

JOHN KRETZER

Presented to the Faculty of the Honors College of
The University of Texas at Arlington in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements
for the Degree of

HONORS BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GERMAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

May 2008

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost I absolutely have to thank my wife for putting up with the endless hours of me droning on about my fascination with the language and this dialect, and for listening to my *meckereies* (complaints) about the workload this project required. Without her support and encouragement, my project would not have been feasible, and I am forever indebted. I would also like to thank my mentor Dr. Rings for her willingness to allow me to pursue a project for which there was not much extant literature, as well as for her tutelage and guidance throughout the entire process.

April 11th, 2008

ABSTRACT

INVESTIGATING AND DESCRIBING THE DIALECT OF LOWER FRANCONIA

Publication No. _____

John Kretzer, BA

The University of Texas at Arlington, 2008

Faculty Mentor: Lana Rings

Many scholars of linguistics agree that dialects preceded standardized, codified language. Vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation vary from region to region, often with local variation within regions. This is the case with all languages. The area of northern Bavaria known as Lower Franconia (*Unterfranken*) is no exception. This dialect has been in existence for hundreds of years and pre-dates standard German. While standard German is taught in schools, the dialect has been perpetuated and remains in use today, albeit not as frequently by younger generations. Due to renewed interest however, efforts are being made to record and codify the dialect before time takes its linguistic toll and various elements of the dialect disappear altogether.

The purpose of this study was to augment existing knowledge of the Lower Franconian dialect. With this in mind, a comparison was made between standard

German and Lower Franconian. First, historical and geographical influences were briefly explored. This was followed by a description of some of the more common yet distinctive features of grammar and vocabulary encountered in this dialect, to include construction of a vocabulary table based on personal experience as well as ongoing studies. Finally, several stories written in both dialect and standard German were compared and analyzed. These were augmented with an English translation in order to allow native English speakers the opportunity to better understand the depth of linguistic differences between Lower Franconian and standard German.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	viii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. GEOGRAPHY.....	4
3. GRAMMAR.....	14
4. VOCABULARY.....	22
5. DIALECTAL LITERATURE.....	29
5.1 “Max und Moritz” (Original).....	32
5.2 “Max and Moritz” (English).....	33
5.3 “Max und Moritz” (Franconian).....	34
5.4 “Max and Moritz” (English).....	36
5.5 “Zu weit ganga“ (Franconian).....	38
5.6 “Zu weit gegangen“ (German).....	38
5.7 “Gone too Far” (English).....	39
6. CONCLUSION.....	41

Appendix

A. UNTERFRÄNKISCH DICTIONARY	44
B. SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE	53
REFERENCES.....	57
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.....	60

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Page
2.1 Map of Germany	5
2.2 Map of Bavaria	9
2.3 Map of Unterfranken	12
6.1 Fränki Logo	42

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3.1 German Definite Articles.....	15
3.2 Franconian Definite Articles.....	16
3.3 German Indefinite Articles	17
3.4 Franconian Indefinite Articles.....	19
3.5 Conjugative Comparison of the Verb <i>geben</i> in the Present Tense in Standard German and Lower Franconian.....	20
3.6 Comparison of Past Participles in Standard German and Lower Franconian .	20
4.1 Franconian Vocabulary.....	24

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Germany as we know it today has been in existence for less than one hundred years. Indeed, a united Germany has only been officially in existence since October 9th, 1990 with the official reunification of East and West Germany at the end of the Cold War. In reality however, Germany has a long, rich, and colorful history. This richness is reflected in the myriad cultures and traditions scattered throughout the various regions of Germany. It is further seen in the amount and variety of its linguistic dialects. A *Mundart* or dialect is differentiated from standard German in that its linguistic differences are far greater than simply speaking standard German with a regional accent. Despite the fact that *Hochdeutsch* or standard German is taught in all schools throughout Germany, the use of standard German in the school system is not mandated, and the prevalence of regional dialects is seen in everyday life from city to city. Indeed, it is actually the case that there is no legal requirement to teach a standardized form of German. According to Dr. Thomas Adam at the University of Texas at Arlington, it is not uncommon to attend a lecture or seminar course at a German university, and hear the professor speaking a regional dialect. Some universities even encourage the use of dialect (personal communication, February 14, 2008).

Dialects are often viewed as slang, and with this attitude a negative connotation is often perceived when discussing the use of a dialect for day-to-day communications. Dialects are in all actuality not an incorrect form of speaking a language. They are inherently, due to their nature, an indicator of one's region, one's origin, and very often one's status. A dialect typically consists of its own unique structure and adheres to a standard set of rules for usage and grammar, and as stated above most have been in existence for centuries before the advent of standard German. It is commonly held that standard German is related to and derived from the much older dialects (e.g. Lockwood 1976; Keller 1961). "The transition between genuine dialect and standard is gradual, socially as well as geographically. Standard [German] owes relatively much to the local dialects. Dialect features [in the South] colour the speech much higher up the social scale than in Central and North Germany" (Keller 1961). More importantly, dialects provide a perspective into the history of a people and their culture. A language should be viewed as a community to which each member, each dialect, contributes to the community pot that is the lifeblood and being of that community. With this in mind, it becomes easy to imagine the importance of dialects in the development of a standard form of a language.

Different dialects are often spoken from village to village, even when geographically separated by fewer than five miles. This vast array of dialects in their diverse forms and permutations would make an overall comparison of German dialects exceedingly difficult. Furthermore, the differences between the various dialects are often as profound as the differences between one dialect and standard German.

Estimates on the number of German dialects range from anywhere between 50 and 200, depending on the researcher and the way a dialect is defined (e.g. Waterman 1966; Wells 1985). From my perspective, and for the purposes of this writing, it is most effective to define dialect based on the German word *Mundart*, which roughly translated means “style of mouth”. It might seem rather simplistic, yet it fits the nature of this research perfectly, as it investigates and describes the manner of speaking, the style of the language or linguistic form, that is spoken in the area around the Main River in Germany. This region is called *Unterfranken*, or Lower Franconia, and the dialect is commonly referred to as *Unterfränkisch*, or Lower Franconian. Lower Franconia lies in the northwest corner of the state of Bavaria in southern Germany. In this region, various Bavarian dialects are spoken. While some of the linguistic features of the Bavarian dialects are shared across all of the dialects of the southern regions, Lower Franconian differs from the other Bavarian dialects by a large enough gradation that it is classified as a unique dialect. It is this uniqueness, coupled with the author’s having lived in Lower Franconia for more than six years, that has provided the impetus for this study.

Lower Franconia is characterized not only by its linguistic characteristics, but also its geography. Its geographical lie is of great relevance to both the evolution of the dialect, as well as its isolation. Therefore, a brief assessment of its geography is warranted as it is pertinent to the dialect as it is known today.

CHAPTER 2

GEOGRAPHY

Germany, like the United States, is divided into constituent states (fig 2.1). As in the United States, there is a standard language that is taught in the school system, and used by the business world. What differentiates Germany from the United States, linguistically speaking, is the amount and variety of dialects one encounters from state to state, and region to region. The reasons for this are both historical and political.

Germany did not exist as it does today, but was instead composed of a much larger geographic area than is currently demarcated by both modern geographic and political borders. German speaking lands once comprised a large swath of central and northern Europe to include all or part of modern day Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, and the Netherlands.

Figure 2.1 Map of Modern Germany



Historically speaking, despite the long existence of a Germanic language or languages, there was no united Germany until 1871 when it was unified for the first time under Otto von Bismarck, although even then, there was no unified German language, but rather dialects that had been in existence for several hundred years, and very often could not be understood by someone who was not from the immediate area. “In many cases the sum total of the differences is so great that the dialect is not immediately comprehensible at all to one who knows only Standard German, though with some experience it can usually be fairly soon understood by any German speaker” (Lockwood 1965). Despite the passage of well more than one hundred years since the initial unification of Germany, such linguistic divisions still exist throughout all of Germany.

Northern and southern dialects have been in existence since before the beginning of written German. The creation of a standard, preferred dialect has taken centuries. While many would argue that Martin Luther began standardizing German with his many publications, to include publication of the first German Bible in 1534, this is an oversimplification. That is not to say that his works bear no influence in the evolution of modern German, for he did indeed lay the foundations for a standardized modern German language. Martin Luther’s linguistic effects rather, are felt in a way that was never expected, and certainly never intended. Luther is primarily remembered for his religious work that led to the Protestant Reformation, and rightly so. What is also important to remember is that at that time, most of Europe, to include the German speaking lands, was Catholic as was mandated under the auspices of the Holy Roman

Empire. This remained the case until after Luther's time. After Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, the empire and the church called him to the city of Worms where he was eventually excommunicated. With Luther's departure, most of his parishioners happily departed with him. This caused a deep rift in both the Catholic Church as well as the Holy Roman Empire along both ideological and geographical lines. The southern regions of Germany, to include Bavaria, where Lower Franconia is located, remained staunchly Catholic, and as such opposed to all forms of the Protestant Reformation, including changes to the German language by the fomenter of the Reformation, whom they viewed as a heretic. Rudiments of this religious fallout can still be witnessed in simple forms such as the refusal to use the Protestant *e* at the end of certain words. *Das Auge* is standard German for the *eye*, whereas in Lower Franconia it is still referred to as *des Aug*. Besides the ideological difference, another factor that must be taken into account is the literacy rate of the time period as well as the lack of mass publication.

At the time of Luther's prolific writing, most of the population was illiterate and never saw written works of any kind, other than what the church allowed them to see. Printed work still remained rare, and consequently expensive. As such, only those with financial means were able to readily access printed material. The Catholic Church was one of the few entities, along with the aristocracy, that was able to afford books and manuscripts. As the Catholic Church retained its stronghold in the south, and the Catholic Church remained opposed to Luther, the latter's influence was felt much more in the north than in the south. Just as importantly, language at that time was not

formally taught but was still largely learned and passed on through the oral tradition, and local dialects remained and were perpetuated from generation to generation.

A second historical, geographical influence in the continued differentiation of northern and southern dialects lies in the Thirty Years War. At the war's conclusion in 1648, the population in the northern regions had been decimated with losses estimated to be close to 70 percent. This 70 percent was not isolated within the military, but is comprised of the general population including women and children. In an attempt to rebuild the territory, then King of Prussia, Friedrich Wilhelm I, invited immigrants to the region. As an incentive, Friedrich promised free choice of religion, as he was himself a Calvinist. The largest majority emigrated from an area around the present day Netherlands. Along with their religious beliefs, they brought with them their own northern Germanic dialect. While the south also suffered losses during the war, they were not as great as those in the north. There was no general invitation for new immigrants to the area and as a result, there were very few linguistic influences imported, which ensured that the already established southern German dialects would undergo only slight change, if any change at all.

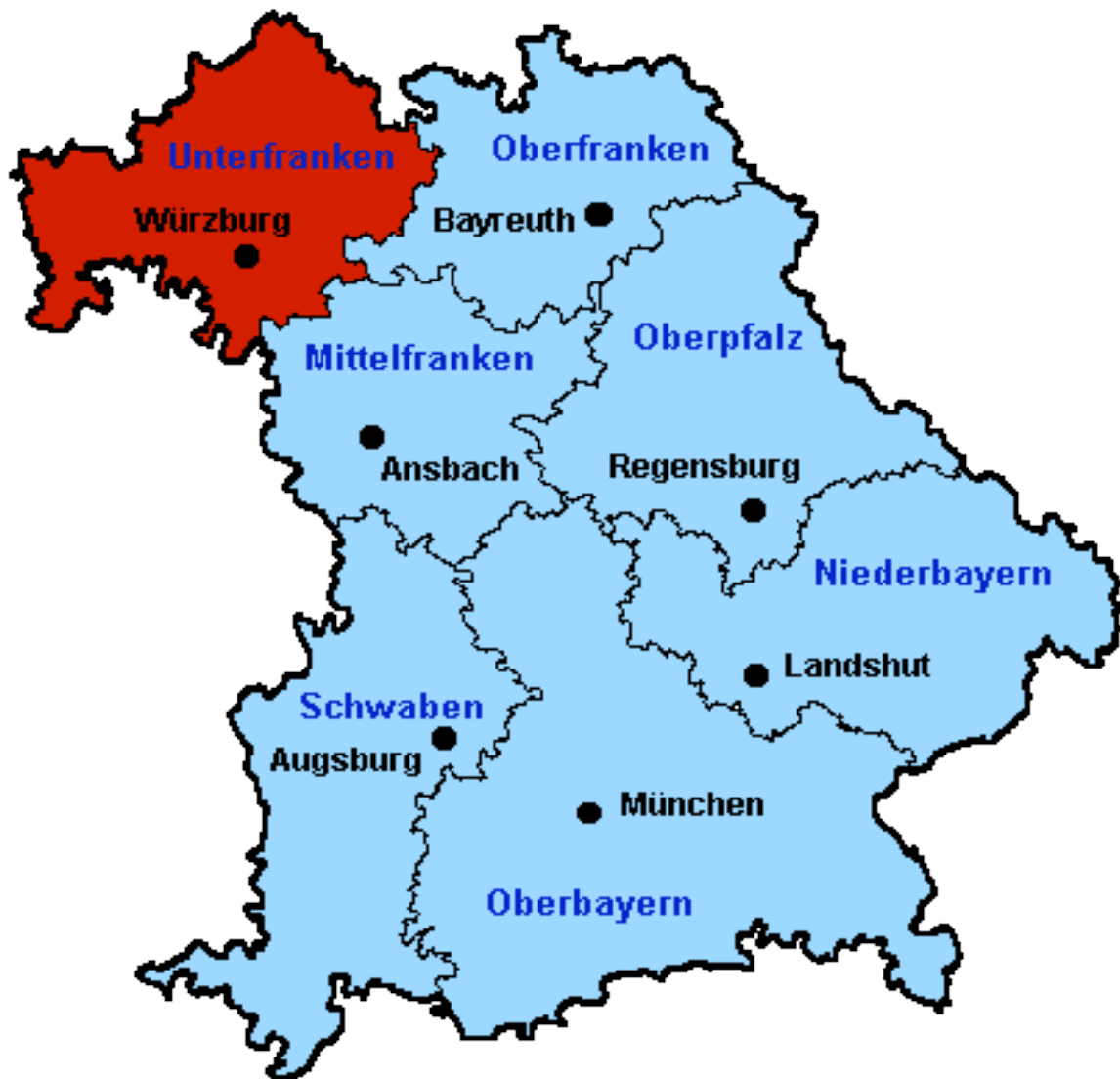


Figure 2.2 Map of the Bavarian regions

This map (fig 2.2) depicts the entirety of Bavaria in southern Germany, of which Lower Franconia is only a small portion in the northwestern corner. The capital city Würzburg was officially founded in 1402, although its actual existence predates Charlemagne (Karl der Grosse) and the Holy Roman Empire. Charlemagne himself consecrated the first cathedral there in 788 A.D.

The term *Ostfranken* (East Franconia) has been in use since the time of the Carolingian empire (Fritz-Scheuplein, et al. 1997). Ludwig II (Louis), or Ludwig the German, was the grandson of Charlemagne and was granted the area of the eastern Frankish empire in the Treaty of Verdun in 843. Ludwig, like his grandfather Charlemagne spoke an Old High German dialect. While the Franks were the progenitors of what eventually became modern day France, the area of East Franconia remained geographically located around the Main River in southern Germany, and as new migrants moved to the area and began to populate it, they became known as Franconians, and eventually Main Franconians. As of about 11th century, the area of the Franks referred to the regions around the river Main (Fritz-Scheuplein, et al. 1997).

The region of Lower Franconia has villages still in existence today that were founded more than 1000 years ago, such as Kitzingen, Buchbrunn, and Biebelried. At the time of their founding the villages in this region interacted with one another, but due to geographical isolation, not with other regions of the German speaking lands. As a result, they developed their own dialect of German unique to the region and this is the spoken variety of the language that has been passed on with only a few evolutionary changes, and is still in use today. Because this is historically a primarily agricultural region, and very few could read or write at the time of the development of the dialect, the language was passed down by word of mouth, with little influence from outside sources until a means of mass publishing was developed.

With the advent of the printing press, Martin Luther was able to exercise his influence on the development of modern German as a standardized form of writing, and

eventually speaking. “Luther’s prime importance lies in the enormous circulation of his works. One third of all publications in Germany between 1518 and 1523 bears Luther’s name.” (Lockwood 1965). As previously stated however, this influence was primarily felt in the northern areas of Germany where he was highly regarded and had a fairly large following.



Figure 2.3 Map of the counties of Lower Franconia

The region of Lower Franconia is itself divided into nine separate *Landkreise* or counties. The Lower Franconian dialect is also divisible into sub-categories of the dialect, yet they do remain related and are similar enough that this work will only highlight the general differences between standard German and the Lower Franconian

dialect, rather than intra-dialectal features. As a dialect can be defined by its use of differentiating grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, these features are the primary purpose of this study and subsequent chapters are dedicated to the features that separate Lower Franconian from standard German.

CHAPTER 3

GRAMMAR

Of great importance to all languages is grammar. Grammar is a set of rules that govern structure, morphology, and syntax. Grammar allows the speaker to identify the tense being used, and the listener to decipher if an event has occurred, is occurring, or will occur. One can also determine to whom the information is applicable. The proper use of grammar clarifies ambiguities that might otherwise cause confusion.

One of the distinctive features of the German language is the use of genders and cases. In the English language, there is no definitive gender assigned to each noun. In English, we have *the man, the woman, the girl, the fork*, etc. In German, as well as several other languages, each noun is assigned a specific gender. Paralleling the aforementioned nouns, the German variant is *der Mann, die Frau, das Mädchen, die Gabel*. To further complicate matters, while nouns and their articles do not change gender, they do change form, dependent on the grammatical case being used in the sentence. German consists of four cases, those being: nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive. Each case has its specific purposes. Their default uses are as follows: the nominative indicates the subject in a sentence, the accusative case often the direct object, while the indirect object is indicated by the use of the dative case, with the genitive case used to show possession. However, as further explanation of case usage is not the primary purpose of this project, I will simply refer to the below listed tables to

present a rough outline of gender and case use in standard German and Lower Franconian. A necessity for the basic understanding of case use will become even more apparent when the tables for indefinite articles are presented a bit further along in this work.

Table 3.1 Definite Articles for Case by Gender in Standard German

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	der	den	dem	des
Feminine	die	die	der	der
Neutral	das	das	dem	des
Plural	die	die	den	der

The preceding table for definite articles can be found in virtually all books that are concerned with the teaching of German grammar. If one were to construct an English equivalent table, it would consist of only one column and one row, as in English the word *the* is used for all of the above cases, and there is no word gender assigned.

The table for definite articles in Lower Franconian is non-existent in any grammar books, and therefore had to be pieced together in an analysis of both the written variant as well as recorded narratives. Franconian literature, including children’s books, provided the exemplars for written Franconian, while the recorded narratives were of several Franconian natives relating anecdotes. Those articles taken from recorded narratives are orthographic approximations or transliterations of the dialect feature as it is spoken and pronounced.

Table 3.2 Definite Articles for Case by Gender in Lower Franconia

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	de	den	dem	des
Feminine	di	di	de	der
Neutral	des	des	dem	des
Plural	di/dia	di/dia	den	der

While this is still a bit more complex than English, one can begin to see a simplification of grammar as the word articles become truncated and are often pronounced in a manner that makes them sound approximately the same.

As nouns are assigned genders, there is also a set of grammatically standard words to indicate that gender when definite articles are not used. Indefinite articles also indicate word gender, as well as case based on the ending of that indefinite article. English uses the word/letter *a/an* as an indefinite article to demarcate nouns such as: *a man, a woman, a girl, a fork*. The standard German corollary would be *ein Mann, eine Frau, ein Mädchen, and eine Gabel* for the nominative case, with these articles changing form based on which case is being used. For indefinite articles there are no plural forms, therefore this table does not have a plural row as seen in the table for definite articles. The basic structure of these indefinite articles is outlined below in table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Indefinite Articles for Case by Gender in Standard German

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	ein	einen	einem	eines
Feminine	eine	eine	einer	einer
Neutral	ein	ein	einem	eines

Mark Twain once said: “A person who has not studied German can form no idea of what a perplexing language it is. Surely there is not another language that is so slipshod and systemless, and so slippery and elusive to the grasp. One is washed about in it, hither and thither, in the most helpless way”. In his tongue and cheek manner, he even proposed doing away with the gender system in order to simplify the grammar of the language. One could conjecture that some of his time in Germany was actually spent in Franconia and that he was familiar with the dialect. Contrary to Twain’s observation, German, in all actuality, has a fairly rigid set of grammar rules that are followed for both the written and spoken forms, but especially for formal writing. Some allowances are of course made for the daily vernacular, much as in seen in all language systems to allow for shifts in register depending on who is speaking and to whom one speaks. It would seem, however, as if Twain’s suggestion was noted and accepted by the Bavarians of Lower Franconia, but of course this dialect had already been long in existence at the time of his writing. The indefinite article system for the Lower Franconian dialect actually does simplify the grammar by making almost all of the articles the same, as well as very similar to English, with only a slight pronunciation difference. The *ā* is pronounced like the English short *e*, /e/.

Table 3.4 Indefinite Articles for Case by Gender in Lower Franconia

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	ä	än	ä	ä
Feminine	ä	ä	ä	ä
Neutral	ä	äs	ä	ä

These forms of the definite and indefinite articles allow for a much simpler grammar than that of standard German. The following sentence: “*Ein Mann hat einer Frau eine Blume gegeben.*” is standard German and means: “A man gave a flower to a woman.” The indefinite articles indicate both gender and case of the several nouns in the sentence. The same sentence written in the dialectal variant would be: “*Ä Moo hat ä Fraa ä Blume gebe.*” The first feature to be noted is the use of the simplified indefinite articles. *Ein* becomes *ä*, *einer* becomes *ä*, and *eine* also becomes *ä*. They do not differentiate case as the codified standard does. Furthermore, in an analysis of this sentence, one can immediately see several other differences. First, one notes the lexical differences of the words for *man* and *woman*. *Mann* is modern standard German for *man*, while *Moo* is Lower Franconian for *man*. *Frau* is standard for *woman*, and *woman* in the dialect is *Fraa*. Finally, and just as important however, is the past participle form of the verb *geben*, which means *to give*. The standard German equivalent of this verb in the past participle is *gegeben*. The Lower Franconian past participle of this verb is *gebe*. In standard German *gebe* is the first person present tense of *geben*, yet the dialect uses it as the past participle. A basic conjugation table for *geben* is seen in Table 3.5.

Many verbs in the Franconian dialect exhibit analogous features when conjugated, and this is just one example. Other examples of Franconian past participles are seen in Table 3.6.

Table 3.5 Conjugative Comparison of the Verb *geben* in the Present Tense in Standard German and Lower Franconian

	standard German	Lower Franconian
ich I	gebe	geb/gib
du you	gibst	geb/gib
er/sie/es he/she/it	gibt	geb/gib
wir we	geben	gebe
Ihr you (all)	gebt	gebe
Sie/sie you formal/they	geben	gebe

Table 3.6 Comparison of Past Participles in Standard German and Lower Franconian

Infinitive	standard German past participle	Lower Franconian past participle	English
geben	gegeben	gebe	gave
machen	gemacht	macht	did
sagen	gesagt	sacht	said
sein	gewesen	gewast	was/were

There is one verb however that is very important due to its frequency of use. The standard German word *würden* means *would*. It is used in the same approximate context of its English equivalent in phrases such as *What would you do...* In Lower Franconia *würden* is still used, but it is much more common to hear the dialectal variant *detten*, derived from the word *täten* which is the subjunctive preterit form of the word *tun* meaning *to do*. *Täten*, although it is still part of the modern German language, is very seldom used and is probably considered archaic by most Germans. While the meanings are different in their root forms, the dialect uses them interchangeably in the subjunctive to mean the same thing. Below is a sentence in standard German (G) with the Franconian dialectal variation (U) underneath. Below the variant, is provided the English (E) translation.

G: Was würdest du machen, wenn ich das machen würde?

U: Was dettst'n mach wenn i' des mache dett?

E: What would you do if I were to do that?

CHAPTER 4

VOCABULARY

Besides the grammatical differences, one of the most distinctive features of this dialect, or any dialect for that matter, is the use of a lexicon that differs from the standard.

An example in English is the word *cornbread*. This word is understood throughout the United States, even where one is unfamiliar with the dish itself. In some rural southern areas, cornbread is usually referred to as *cornpone* or simply *pone*. As with the preceding English exemplar, a common bread exists in Lower Franconian under two completely unrelated names. Bread is important to the German diet and Germans bake more types on a daily basis than most people can imagine. One of the more common breads, found throughout all of Germany is called *Brötchen* in standard German, which means small bread, and is similar to what is commonly referred to as a roll or a hoagie style roll in the United States. Lower Franconia uses two different words to describe these breads; *Weck* and *Kipfla*. The word *weck* is interesting because in standard German one could assume it would be the root of the verb *wecken* meaning *to wake* or *awaken*, but this does not bear any relationship to the meaning in Lower Franconia. According to the original Grimm Brothers dictionary, the word *Weck* can be found as far back as the fourteenth century in the writings of Tyrolean poet Oswald von Wolkenstein and refers to a wedge shaped bread. Tyrol is also one of the southern German speaking lands and is today one of the states of Austria. Much of the lexicon

that is used in Lower Franconia can also be heard in other southern dialects as they did develop along the same parallels.

Interestingly, the wedge shaped trailer that is pulled behind a tractor today is sometimes referred to as a *Wechala*, although this could be derived from *Wagen* (wagon). The same farm trailer is called an *Anhänger* in the northern areas of Germany. This example again points to the separate paths of linguistic development that occurred between the southern and northern regions of Germany. Rather than present a lengthy etymological explanation of each of the words to be found in the dialect, a table is presented below (table 4.1) with a few of the basic dialect words along with their German and English meanings. A more comprehensive dictionary can be found in Appendix A.

One point that does need to be noted when referring to lexicon is pronunciation. As dialects are usually not codified but generally spoken, many of the words presented in the table below, and in Appendix A are orthographic representations of the spoken form. One must keep this in mind as this basically means that words are spelled out the way they would sound to a native speaker; simply stated, they are written using the letters that would normally correlate to the sound being produced. One of the hallmarks of the Lower Franconian dialect is the lack of differentiation between certain phonemic sound-alikes. P and B, T and D, K and G would normally have distinctive sounds because intricate yet decidedly different linguistic processes produce them. The /g/ is known as a glottal stop because the /g/ is produced in the throat while the /k/ is a voiceless velar stop, produced by placing the back part of the tongue against the soft

palate. The story for the P and B, T and D is the same, and the Lower Franconian dialect often does not differentiate between these phonemes, making orthographic representation a “catch as catch can” process. One example of this process can be seen in looking at the word for cardboard in table 4.1. It is transliterated as *Babbadeggl*, but could just as easily have been spelled *Pappadeckl*, yet the pronunciation by a native speaker would be undifferentiated to the listener, as it sounds somewhere in between the two different orthographic representations; i.e. neither /p/ nor /b/, but both at the same time.

The following list is indicative of the degree to which the lexicon of the dialect differs from the standard language.

Table 4.1 Basic Vocabulary

English	Unterfränkisch	Standard German
leg	Be	Bein
mouth	Maul or Gosche	Mund
cardboard	Babbadeggl	Pappkarton
sticker	Babberla	Aufkleber
bread roll	Weck or Kipfla	Brötchen
bread crumbs	Weckmehl	Brosamen
egg	Gockele (contextual)	Ei
chicken	Gockele or Giecher (contextual)	Huhn

chick	Ziewerla	Küken
tractor	Bulldogg	Traktor
left-handed person	Linkstatsch	Linkshänder
freckles	Muckeschiss	Sommersprossen
Godfather	Vetter	Taufpate
Godmother	Tote or Base	Taufpatin
Church celebration (usually the Catholic holidays)	Kirmes or Kirwe	Kirchweihfest
Santa Claus (Saint Nicholas)	Pelzmärtel	Nikolaus
clothing	Ware, Montur, or Gewand	Kleidung
handkerchief	Rotztuch	Taschentuch
to cry	greinen or plärren	weinen
to speak or converse	plaudern	reden
to nap	duseln or knauken	nicken
this year	Heuer (this word is becoming common throughout most of southern Germany)	dieses Jahr
saturday	Sonnabend	Samstag
a little bit	aweng	ein bisschen
supper	Nachtmal or Vesper	Abendessen
plum cake (regional specialty)	Qwetscheblotz	Zwetschkuchen
potato pancakes	Badscherla (contextual)	Kartoffelpuffer
cottage cheese	bibeles Käs	Quark

hard candy	Leckerlein or Gutslein	Zuckerbonbon
baker	Beck	Bäcker
would like to	mecherd	möchte
crooked or askew	schebs	krumm
eraser	Ratzifumml	Radiergummi
carrots	gelbe Rübe	Karotten
potatoes	Grund Birne (pronounced Krummbeere)	Kartoffeln
village	Kaff	Dorf
A word that is contextually based and means approximately “very”, but often with negative connotation as in: I am REALLY sorry.	eich des tutma eich Leid	arg Das tut mir arg Leid
A word used for emphasis in a sentence such as the word “now” in “Go now!” when used as an imperative	fei geh fei!	The closest German approximation would be “schon” as used in Geh schon!
A tag question such as: OK, right? Understood? This word has many different, contextually based meanings and is frequently used, most often at the end of a sentence or question.	gell	Stimmt es? Nicht wahr? OK?

In addition to simple lexical terms, linguistic differentiation can be seen in idiomatic phrases. Many of these make perfect sense in the Lower Franconian dialect (U), but as they are contextually based they do not translate well into standard German (G), let alone English; therefore an English similar saying (ESS) has been provided to assist with comprehension. A literal translation (LT) has also been offered in order to demonstrate that many sayings do not translate well due to cultural differences.

U: Er left dorum wie ä Giecher im Salat.

LT: He is running around like a rooster in the salad.

G: Er läuft darum wie ein Hahn im Salat.

ESS: Like a chicken with its head cut off.

U: Besser verlobt als gefobt.

LT: It is better to be engaged (to be married) than to be fooled.

G: Erst wägen, dann wagen.

ESS: Look before you leap.

U: Da könnama durch di Blume red.

LT: We can talk through the flowers.

G: Unter vier Augen sprechen.

ESS: Just between you and me.

U: Alte Hände, gute Suppe.

LT: Old hands, good soup.

G: Übung macht den Meister.

ESS: Practice makes perfect.

U: Wie Bädderle auf oolen Subbm.

LT: Like parsley on all soup.

G: Wie Sand am Meer.

ESS: A person who can be found everywhere or is involved in everything.

U: Sixte moi!

LT: See now!

G: Siehst du?

ESS: Now look what you've done!

CHAPTER 5

DIALECTAL LITERATURE

Although a complete codification of the dialect is still a work in progress, there have long been works of literature, typically of regional interest, that have been written in the Lower Franconian dialect. In addition to works written originally in Lower Franconian, other works have been translated from standard German into Lower Franconian. The transliterated works presented in this chapter; an excerpt from “Max und Moritz” and “Zu weit ganga” present examples of the difficulties one can encounter when shifting from dialect to standard German, and vice-versa. Maximilian Kerner, who translated the second poem from standard German into Lower Franconian, can only accomplish this by not attempting a literal translation, but rather a translation that conveys the same meaning and feeling as the original work. A discussion of aspects of “Max und Moritz” is presented, together with the original in standard German with its English translation, and the Lower Franconian with its translation. Then “Zu weit ganga” and its English translation are presented and discussed.

Max und Moritz is a set of seven poems originally published by Wilhelm Busch in 1865. It is seven tales of two extremely mischievous boys who engage in a series of misdeeds, and their negative consequences. While not as well known throughout the world as the fairy tales published by the Brothers Grimm, they remain popular today in

most German speaking cultures, and are often read by parents to their children. As the works of Busch remain popular, they have been transliterated into several dialects, including Lower Franconian.

The first two lines of the original poem by Wilhelm Busch are written thus: “Ach, was muß man oft von bösen Kindern hören oder lesen!” The rhymed words are *bösen* and *lesen*. Kerner’s version is written so: “Vo bäise Boum, ihrn Dreibm, ihrn Wesn, Offd mou mer dou woss heern, woss lesn!” As the written format of a dialect is an orthographic representation of the way a word is pronounced in that dialect, to simply translate the work word-for-word would not allow the rhyme scheme to be maintained, consequently changing the tone of the poem. Along with the morphological differences come also lexical differences. Lexical differences can be viewed as a hindrance to maintaining rhyme and feeling when translating a work. One can also take the perspective that phonological and morphological differences provide new opportunities to maintain rhyme and feeling by substituting a different lexical word in order to preserve the intent of the original author. Kerner does this in a very simple yet masterful fashion by substituting the Lower Franconian word for *Boum* for the German word *Kindern*. *Boum* means “boys”, while *Kindern* means “children”. This simple lexical change allows for the rhyming of *lesen* with *Wesn*. Rhyme and overall tone are retained, and the interpreted meanings of both are quite similar. This type of substitution and transposition are observable throughout the poem, and truly lends itself to preserving Busch’s intent and tone, while maintaining meter and rhyme. For this

reason, as noted in the previous example, there is generous use of poetic license in order to maintain meter and rhyme, much as in the original work.

This same difficulty is also encountered when works are translated from German into English. In order to preserve the lyrical quality of the poem, but still convey the same meaning, there are changes made to the body of the text that are not true literal translations but serve the purpose of maintaining the overall integrity of the work. It should be noted however, that for the purpose of this work, the English translations provided by the author were made as accurately and literally as possible with no regard for meter and rhyme, but in a more direct fashion in order to facilitate comparisons of lexicon and grammar. Secondly, as noted in chapter 4, many of the dialect words are orthographic representations of the words as they are spoken. This is of paramount importance due to the fact that only recently have scholars and writers begun to present dialect in a written form. While this is a common method for transliterating the spoken dialect into the written format, it should by no means detract from the validity of the dialect as simply being a bastardized form of the language. One must remember that the dialects existed long before the standardized version of the language, but many were never codified due to the fact that most dialect speakers were never educated to read or write.

5.1 Max und Moritz German Original by Wilhelm Busch

Vorwort

Ach, was muß man oft von bösen

Kindern hören oder lesen!

Wie zum Beispiel hier von diesen,

Welche Max und Moritz hießen;

Die, anstatt durch weise Lehren

Sich zum Guten zu bekehren,

Oftmals noch darüber lachten

Und sich heimlich lustig machten

Ja, zur Übeltätigkeit,

Ja dazu ist man bereit!

Menschen necken, Tiere quälen,

Äpfel, Birnen, Zwetschgen stehlen,

Das ist freilich angenehmer,

Und dazu auch viel bequemer

Als in Kirche oder Schule,

Festsitzen auf dem Stuhle.

Aber wehe, wehe, wehe!

Wenn ich auf das Ende sehe!!

Ach, das war ein schlimmes Ding,

Wie es Max und Moritz ging!
Drum ist hier, was sie getrieben,
Abgemalt und aufgeschrieben.

(Busch 1959)

The English translation of the German original is a line-by-line translation and is presented below to allow for a comparative analysis to the subsequent English rendering of the Lower Franconian version.

5.2 English Translation of German Original by Author

Foreword

Oh, what one often hears or reads
About naughty children!
Take for example these two,
Who were named Max and Moritz;
Who, instead of striving to do good,
As they had been wisely taught,
Instead just laughed about
And made fun of their lessons.
Yes, for evil deeds,
Yes, for that always ready!
Teasing people, torturing animals,
Stealing apples, pears, and plums,

That is naturally easier,
And much less difficult,
Than sitting properly in their chairs
In church or school.
But woe, woe, woe!
When I look at the conclusion,
Oh it was a terrible thing,
What happened to Max and Moritz!
That is why their deeds here,
Are written and illustrated.

(Kretzer 2008)

The previous standard German example (5.1) of the Busch classic was subsequently transliterated into Lower Franconian by Maximilian Kerner.

5.3 Max und Moritz Franconian by Maximilian Kerner

Vuurwodd

Vo bäise Boum, ihrm Dreibm, ihrm Wesn,
Offd mou mer dou woss heern, woss lesn!
Midd solche mäi mer uns befassn,
Max und Moritz, su homms g'haßn;
Däi, anschdadd aaf elldre Leid,
Z'horng, midd aller Dreisdichkeid,

Siech blooß drieber lussdi gmachd homm.
 Gschbeddld, g'heend und drieber glachd homm.
 Widderwodd, Browokaddsjoon
 Dou derfier, dou kommers hoom!
 Leid veroorschn, Viecher hauer,
 Ebffl, Birner, Zweddschger glauer,
 Des is fraali oogenehmer
 Und derzou a fui begweemer,
 Wäi in der Schoul und in der Kerch,
 Brav doddzerhoggn, ohne Gwerch
 Obber, auerlauerlau!
 Wenner mer des End ooschau!!
 Wennsd des heersd, Bou, Dou gräichsd Schiß,
 Wäis denner zwaa su ganger is.
 Drum is des Ganze wäi siss driebm
 Aafgmoold, dou und niedergschriebm.

(Kerner 2001)

Maximilian Kerner uses the words *Widderwodd*, *Browokaddsjoon*, *Dou derfier*, *dou kommers hoom!* in the tenth and eleventh lines of his translation. The original Busch work uses *Ja, zur Übeltätigkeit, Ja dazu ist man bereit!* The translation is provided below, but these two lines are interesting to note due to the Kerner's use of poetic license to maintain the rhyme scheme, which would not have otherwise been

possible. The standard German word *Übeltätigkeit* means approximately “the commission of misdeeds” and a Lower Franconian approximation would be difficult to find, especially with the necessity to maintain rhyme. A second translation by Josef Ehrlitzer uses the following wording in that area:

Am schlimmsten aber scheine mir
di zwä Läuser, dia sich hier
zeign als di Übeltäter
dia verabscheut doch ä jeder;

Those four lines make use of completely different phrasing, yet maintain the original meaning and intent of the poem. An English translation is provided below, and can be compared to the full translation of Kerner’s work in section 5.4.

It seems to me the worst
these two lice, that here
show themselves as the miscreants
are loathed by everyone;

5.4 English Translation of Franconian Transliteration by Author

Foreword

Of naughty boys, their deeds, their essence

We must often hear or read!

With such as these we must now deal,

Max and Mortiz, so were they named;

They, instead of listening to their elders
Tried their hardest instead,
Just to make fun of them.
Mocking, belittling, and laughing about them.
Once again, a provocation
You can believe, it will all come home!
Tricking people, hitting animals,
Stealing apples, pears, and plums
This is of course more agreeable
And also much more comfortable,
Than obediently and quietly sitting,
In church or school.
But woe, woe, woe!
When I look at the end!!
When you hear this boy, you will get scared,
To hear what happened to the pair.
That is why everything is written down and drawn,
Exactly the way they did it.

(Kretzer 2008)

The second example of Lower Franconian, a short poem, is an original Franconian work written by Wilhelm Wolpert (2006), a Franconian who travels and entertains in the troubadour style, throughout Lower Franconia. He is often described

as *ä waschechte Frange* (a dyed-in-the-wool Franconian) and is well known for his work in preserving and maintaining the language through his various appearances and publications.

5.5 Zu weit ganga by Wilhelm Wolpert

Druntn Bahnhof hamm sa scho gstrittn, und wie!
sie sann laut, jede hört's, sie bläckt her, er brüllt hi.
mit Gezeter und Gekeif und mit heftigem Zanken
streiten sa sich weiter wie echte Franken.
und wie sa än Berg drom warn, am oberen Turm,
steigert sich de Ehekrach zum Gewittersturm.
Sie bäbert und gäckert, da iss er explodiert,
Und hat sei Fraa kurzerhand eena gschmiert.
“Mein Herr, Sie sann zu weit ganga” sag i,
und dass er sich schenier soll.
“Gell? Sie sachngs aa,
Ich hätt era scho druntn Bahnhof eena schmier soll!”

5.6 Zu weit gegangen by Author

Unten am Bahnhof haben sie schon gestritten, und wie!
sie sind laut, jede hört's, sie kreischt her, er schreit hin.
mit dem Zittern und Gekeife, und mit heftigem Zanken,
streiten sie sich weiter wie echte Franken.

Und als sie am Berg ganz oben waren, am oberen Turm,
steigert sich der Ehekrach zum Gewittersturm.
Sie babbelt und meckert, bis er explodiert,
und hat seiner Frau kurzerhand geohrfeigt.
“Mein Herr, Sie sind zu weit gegangen” sage ich.
und er sollte sich entschuldigen.
“Wirklich? Sie sagen es auch,
ich hätte Sie viel früher am Bahnhof ohrfeigen sollen!”

Unlike the previous works which were translated with no regard to meter and rhyme, but were presented with the ultimate goal of accuracy, the following translation does attempt to employ meter and rhyme in order to preserve the overall tone and attitude of the poem, which is intended to be a humorously over-exaggerated representation of the conflict of a long married couple. It is by no means a cultural representation of the actual relationship between men and women in this region of Germany.

5.7 Gone too Far by Author

Down at the train station they were already arguing, and how!
They are loud, everyone hears it; she screams at him, he yells back now.
They carried on, out to the riverbanks
And continued their battle like two true Franks.
As they got to the mountain, to the highest peak,
their marital strife was no longer meek.

She babbled and nagged and took nothing back,

And without further ado he gave her a smack.

“Dear sir, now you’ve gone too far say I”;

and he should have apologized.

“Oh really” he retorts. “and just so you know,

I should have done it down at the depot!”

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

As is often seen in cultures that produce various linguistic dialects, there is from time to time a resurgence of interest in dialects or linguistic features that distinguish one area from another. This is currently the situation in Lower Franconia and there is not only a project intended to record the dialect, but one can also see a renewed interest in the general population to maintain features that are distinctly identifiable as *Unterfränkisch*. Currently, there is ongoing research sponsored by the University of Würzburg intended to record the dialect as it is still spoken throughout the region. In addition to the research already completed, the University of Würzburg has now engaged local high school students to present questionnaires to their parents and grandparents that ask questions designed in such a manner as to elicit lexical terms (vocabulary) in response to the questions. An example of the questions can be seen in Appendix B. The responses to the questionnaires are then recorded by township and region in order to provide an overview of lexical differences prevalent in the region. This project is known as *Fränki*. The words underneath this logo capture the spirit of the project, but more importantly, convey the heart of the dialect. The standard German version of these words would be: *nicht perfekt, aber voller Ausstrahlung* which approximately means: “not perfect (grammatically or otherwise), but filled with feeling and meaning”.



Fig 6.1 Logo for ongoing project at the University of Würzburg

A dialect is very much a living language with a heart all its own and that beats in time to changing conditions and evolves with culture and technology. A language community that has a basis in agriculture, but moves in rhythm with the modern world cannot help but show the signs of influence from the world around them. The younger generation no longer use *ä Telefon* to *bimmel* (buzz) their friends, but instead receive *ä SMS* (text message) on their *Händi* (cell phone). As a result of these technological changes, the lexicon of the dialect also changes. Many farmers still drive their *Bulldogg* (tractor) but larger farms now use *Mähdrescher* (harvesters). As a result some of the

dialectal words are fading into obscurity through disuse, spurred by technological and cultural events.

This is not necessarily to be lamented, for it is the nature of things to evolve and change with time. It is however, a feeling of accomplishment when one can hold back the hands of time, even if only on paper, and make a contribution to the preservation of something which might otherwise become extinct.

APPENDIX A

ENGLISH, UNTERFRÄNKISCH, GERMAN DICTIONARY

APPENDIX A

ENGLISH, UNTERFRÄNKISCH, GERMAN DICTIONARY

The following vocabulary list is by no means comprehensive. It is however, representative of the lexical differences that exist between Lower Franconian and standard German. It is also meant as a reference point for anyone who is interested in this particular dialect but does not have a great amount of contact with a *Fränke* or *Fränkin*. Finally, it is not only intended as an analysis tool for comparing Lower Franconian to standard German, but also as a Franconian/German/English dictionary, with all translations provided by the author.

While the majority of the entries in this mini-dictionary are compiled from personal knowledge, it would be far less inclusive without input from the studies of Drs. Fritz-Scheuplein and König at the University of Würzburg, whose efforts have been instrumental in recording and preserving the dialect.

English**Unterfränkisch****Standard German**

a sour wine drink that is a seasonal (Autumn) specialty for which there is no translation to English or German	Federweißer; Bremser	
accident; mishap	Malör	Missgeschick
always	alawall	immer
ant	Emetz	Ameise
attic	ebern Boarn	Dachboden
back (anatomical)	Buggel	Rücken
backwards	hinaschi	rückwärts
bag; sack	Guggn; Gugger	Tüte; Tasche
baloney	Gschmarr; Kabbes (des is doch Kabbes)	Quatsch
barn	Schtotl	Scheune
basket (made of willow)	Kretzn	Korb (aus Weide Äste)
be careful!	obachd	Vorsicht
bed	Schrenzn	Bett
beer (half-liter)	Saidla	Bier (0.5 L)
beet	Pfoschen	Rübe
beet (sugar)	Rangersen	Zuckerrüben
beet mill	Stauchkaudera	Rübenmühle
bicycle	Felozzibae	Fahrrad
boogeyman	Nachtgiecher	Butzemann
bother; irritate	dretzn	plagen; triezen
boy	Bou; Bua	Junge
boy	Racker; derived from Recke which is the term used to describe a warrior or knight during the Middle Ages	Junge
boy (small)	a kloana Bua	ein kleiner Junge
Bratwurst	Zwiggde	Bratwurst
bread (basket)	Schanze	Brotkorb
bread crumbs	Weckmehl	Semmelbrösel
bread (heel)	Knertzler; Kendla	Der Rest eines Brotes
bread (piece or slice)	a Kandn Brod (Kante is the word for edge or corner)	ein Stück Brot; eine Scheibe Brot

bread (roll)	Weck; Kipfla	Brötchen
brick	Baggschda	Backstein
broken	hie	kaputt
brush	Berschn	Bürste
bucket	Kübel	Eimer
bumblebee	Bremers	Hummel
butterfly	Mückenstecher	Schmetterling
calf	Mogala; Bleslein	Kalb
can	Bückse	Dose
canned goods	Bücksnfudda	Konserven
cardboard	Babbadeggl	Pappkarton
carrot	gelbe Rübe	Karotte
cat	Bember	Katze
cauliflower	Käskeel	Blumenkohl
character (goof)	Kaschperla	doof
cheesecake	Käseblotz	Käsekuchen
cherry (both singular and plural)	Kerschen	Kirsche; Kirschen
cherry picking	Kerschen bloden	Kirschen pflücken
chestnut tree	Donnagaggelesbame	Kastanienbaum
chestnuts	Donnagaggeli	Kastanien
chick	Klickerla; Ziewerla	Küken
chicken	Gigala	Hähnchen
chicken (hen)	Buddla	Huhn
chicken (rooster)	Giecher; Goggl; Googer	Hahn
child (small) or baby	Bobbala	Kleinkind
Christmas tree ornament	Korelln	Christbaumkugel
church festival	Kirmes; Kirwa	Kirchweih
clothespin	Zwicker	Wäscheklammer
clunker (automobile)	a alde Scheesn (probably from chaise for baby carriage)	ein klappriges Auto
coaster	Bierfilzla	Bierdeckel
coffee (poor quality)	Bambelbrü	schlecht schmeckender Kaffee oder Cappucino
complain	brotzen, rumbrotzen	beschweren
complaint	Meckereies	Beschwerde
crazy	gaach	verrückt
crooked; askew	scheps	schief
croutons	Bröggerli	Croutons

crumbs	Bräggala	Brösel
cry	pfliedschen; greinen	weinen
cucumber	Kümmerli	Gurken
cucumber salad	Kümmerles Salat	Gurkensalat
curb; sidewalk	Drodoa	Bürgersteig; Gehsteig
currants	Konzedräuweli	Johannisbeeren
cutting board	Breddla	Brettchen
dandelion	Musdistl	Löwenzahn
day before yesterday	etzen	vorgestern
dent	Dulagen	Delle
dig	eibuddln	eingraben
dinner	Abendbrod	Abendessen
dishtowel	Abdruckntüchla	Geschirrtuch
dog (mongrel)	Keeder	Hund
door sill	Dridscheifala	Türschwelle
dork	Dummbeidl	Depp
drawer	Schubber	Schublade
drumstick (of chicken)	Buddlasbaa	Hühnerkeule
drunk	bsuffa	betrunken
duck	Wasserduggala	Ente
duck (drake)	Oudracher	Erpel
duckling	Wiebala	kleine Ente
duckling or gosling	Biwerlich	Entenküken; Gänseküken
dummy	Bleydala	Dummkopf
dumpling	Kniedla	Kloss, Klösse
egg	Gockele	Ei
egg shell	Eierschelfern	Eierschale
eggs over easy	Glotzaung	Spiegeleier
eraser	Ratzifumml	Radiergummi
eureka!	etzerla	heureka
flower pot	Blummascherm	Blumentopf
fly swatter	Muckepatsche	Fliegenklappe
friend; companion	alde Woschdhaud	guter Kumpl
frog	Kröte	Frosch
girl	Madla	Mädchen
gloves	hodschn	Handschuh
gnaw	kiefn	abnagen
goat	Gaaß	Ziege
good luck!	haudi nei	viel Glück

goodbye; adieu	ade	Auf Wiedersehn, tschüß
goodness no!	Härrgotts naaa	Um Gottes Willen - Nein!
goof; dork	Doldi	Depp
gosh; darn it	Dunnerkeil	Donnerwetter
gosling	Hussala	junge kleine Gans
gossip (person)	Ratschtante	Klatschtante
Grandfather	Heela	Großvater
guys	Buam	Jungs
hallway	Dehna	Flur
hangover	Preller	Kater
hatchet	Beichala	Handaxt; Handbeil
hay	Käfe	Stroh; Heu
hayloft	Biedla	Heuboden
hiccups	Hedscher	Schluckauf
homesick (to be)	mer touts Ant	Heimweh haben
horseradish	Gree	Meerrettich
house-shoes; slippers	Schlappm	Hausschuhe; Pantoffeln
idiot	Knallkopf	Depp, Idiot
infarction (heart attack)	Herzkaschper	Herzinfarkt
innards	Geschling	Innereien (Herz, Nieren usw...)
jacket	Joopn; Schabbn	Jacke
junk	Gekrutsch; Geraffel	Schrott, Kram
kettle (small)	Diecherla	kleiner Topf
ladybug	Johanniskäfer	Marienkäfer
last year	fährd´n	voriges Jahr
leek	Burigmäis	Lauch
leg	Be; Baa	Beine
lemonade	Schabeeso	Limonade
let's go!	gema no	gehen wir hin
little bit	a weng; a bißla	ein bisschen
livestock	Viech; Viecher	Vieh
made-up	aufgschdeggld	geschminkt
man	Moo	Mann
marble (child's toy)	Schusser	Murmel
marry (to)	gatten	heiraten
mattock; pickaxe	Reudhaa	eine breite Feldhacke
mouth	Goscha; Goschn; Waffl	Mund
mushroom	Bfiffa	Pilz
neck	Knack	Genick

no problem	ka Deema, kana Bange	kein Problem
noise	Gwerch	Lärm
nose	Gimbl	Nase
not	net	nicht
now I get it	aah jetz hoba de	achso so meinst du!?
outside	aserheri	draussen
ox	Ous; Ouse	Ochse
pacifier	Bätzer	Kinderschnuller
packet	Bäggla	Päckchen
pancake	Amaleddn	Pfannkuchen
pancake soup	Flädlasubbn	Suppe mit Pfannkuchen hinein geschnitten
parsley	Bädlerla	Petersilie
pickle	Kümmerli	Gurke
piglet	Suggala	Ferkel
pinch (as in shoes that are too small)	nüften	drücken; klemmen
pine cone	Botzamogl	Tannenzapfen
plum cake	Qwuetscheblotz	Zwetschgenkuchen
popsicle	Lagala	Eis am Stiel
potato	Grundbirne, Krummberra; Ebbin; Abbern; Erdapfel; Potacken	Kartoffel
potato dumpling	Gniedla	Kartoffelkloß
potato harvester (machine)	Erbflgroba	Kartoffelernter
potato pancakes	Badscherla; Krummberra Pfannkeli	Kartoffelpuffer
potatoes (mashed)	Schdobfer	Kartoffelpüree; Kartoffelbrei
pretty	fesch; schee	schön
rake	Kratzerla	Laubrechen
rascal (this is only approximate and is used as a term of endearment rather than insult)	Frecker	Schlitzohr
ring (telephone, doorbell)	bimmeln	läuten
rocking horse	Hätschergaul	Schaukelpferd
row	Ressen	Reihe
Santa Claus	Pelzmärdl	Nikolaus
sat down	no g'hockt	hingesezt

sawdust	Sechsbee	Sägespäne
scarecrow	Graudsbiebl	Vogelscheuche
scream; yell	Brülln	schreien
sheep	Betzer	Schaf
sheep (lamb)	Betzala	Lamm
shrunken; withered	esert	verkümmert, vertrocknet
slap	Schellen; Watschen	Ohrfeige; Backpfeife
smoked ham	Greichäds	geräucherter Schinken
sofa	Kannapee	Sofa
sometimes	ehramoll	manchmal
sop; soak up	aafdudschen	eintauchen, abwischen
splinter	Schpreissl	Holzsplitter
squirrel	Achala; Aachhörnla	Eichhörnchen
stairs	Staffel	Treppen
stairs (cellar)	Kellerstaffel	Kellertreppen
sticker	Babberla	Aufkleber
sticky	babbert	klebrig
stink bug	Trompetenkäfer	Stinkwanze
stomach	Keetzn; a second meaning is a type of basket used for carrying potatoes from the field	Bauch; Wampe
stone; rock	Schtee	Stein; Steine
strawberries	Bresdla	Erdbeere
stream or creek	Booch	Bach
streusel cake	Räberlesblotz	Streuselkuchen
swing	Bredlhetschn	Schaukel
towel; cloth	Hoodern	Handtuch
tractor	Bulldogg	Traktor
trailer	Wechala	Anhänger
trash can	Ascherkübel	Mülleimer
U.S. Soldier	Zupfer	Ami
umbrella	Barablüh	Regenschirm
up and down	nauf und no	auf und ab
village	Kaff	kleines Dorf
wallet	Geldbeidl	Portemonaie
wasp	gelber Jude	Wespe
watering can	Blummagießerla	Gießkanne
wheelbarrow	Robbern	Schubkarre

whisk broom; hand broom	Kierwisch	Handbesen
whisper	bliesln, zubliesln	flüstern, zuflüstern
woman	Fraa	Frau
wonderful	fei schee	wunderbar
wow; expression of surprise	Allmächd na	Ach du Lieber; Ach du meine Güte
A cheese dish of marinated cheese	Obatzter	angemachter Käse
A word used for emphasis in a sentence such as the word “now” in “Go now!” when used as an imperative	fei Geh fei!	The closest German approximation would be “schon” as used in Geh schon!
A tag question such as: OK, right? Understood? This word has many different, contextually based meanings and is frequently used, most often at the end of a sentence or question.	gell	nicht wahr?

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of project *Fränki*, the University of Würzburg has generated a series of questionnaires that employs local *Gymnasium* (high school) students to present to their parents and grandparents. It consists of a long, much longer than is shown here, list of questions intended to solicit lexical terms from family members of the preceding generations. The questions listed below reflect a variety of areas of interest, ranging from shopping, to livestock, and to kitchen utensils, etc. The intent is to record as many of the words as possible, which are still used by the older generation, before they pass completely out of existence. Along with the lexical questions is a series of demographic questions. The demographic portion of the questionnaire allows the researchers to record and track the differences in terms, pronunciation, and verb conjugation as they differ throughout the Lower Franconian region. The questions are of course in German and have been translated by the author.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Name of city/town/village: _____

How long have you lived there? _____

What is the population where you live? _____

What is your profession? _____

Description of your area (farming, industry, tourism): _____

Name of the river/stream in the area: _____

Names of neighboring cities/towns/villages: _____

Nicknames for these neighbors: _____

LEXICAL QUESTIONS:

Where did one used to go to the market? _____

Where does one go shopping now? _____

What does one call the local church festivals? _____

Term used for livestock collectively: _____

What is the plural of that word? _____

Term (of endearment) for a calf: _____

What is the container used to give animals water?: _____

What is the local word for sugar beets? _____

Container used for putting milk to be worked into butter: _____

What is the local word for cottage cheese? _____

Name of the animal that lays eggs: _____

Is there a word that describes all fowl or small animals collectively? _____

What is the second cutting of a hayfield called? _____

Term for a newly plowed field? _____

When a street passes over a river, it uses a: _____

A small natural rise in the earth (not a mountain): _____

What are the large seed holders that fall from pine trees called? _____

What is the outer layer of an apple called? _____

Name of the container used or harvesting grapes: _____

Cloudy wine that is not completely fermented: _____

Steps inside of a house: _____

Attic of a house is called: _____

What do you call a person who has difficulty hearing? _____

The sensory organs used for seeing are called: _____

What is the local word for a wasp? _____

What is a person called who bakes bread? _____

Local word for potato: _____

Local word for cucumber: _____

Local word for pickle: _____

I did not drive today, today I _____

The early meal between breakfast and lunch is called: _____

Local word for grater: _____

REFERENCES

- Bayha, Karin (2005). *Bayerischer Sprachatlas: Sprachatlas von Unterfranken Lautgeographie I & II*. Heidelberg, Germany. Universitätsverlag Winter
- Busch, Wilhelm (1959). *Und die Moral von der Geschichte*. Gütersloh, Germany: Sigbert Mohn Verlag.
- Ehrlitzer, Josef (1992). *Max und Moritz auf fränkisch: Ä Buwegsgschicht in siem Öbbeli*. Nidderau, Germany. Mundartverlag Michaela Naumann.
- Fritz-Scheuplein, M., König, A., Krämer-Neubert, S., Wolf, N.R. (1997). *Wörterbuch von Unterfranken: Eine Lexikographische Bestandsaufnahme*. Würzburg, Germany. Königshausen & Neumann GmbH.
- Gosciny, R. & Uderzo, A. (2007). *Asterix uff Meefränggisch 1: Dour de Frangn*. Plauen, Germany. Egmont Ehapa Verlag GMBH.
- Gosciny, R. & Uderzo, A. (2006). *Asterix uff Meefränggisch 3: Da boxe di Beudel*. Plauen, Germany. Egmont Ehapa Verlag GMBH.
- Keller, R.E. (1961). *German Dialects*. Manchester, U.K: Manchester University Press.
- Kerner, Maximilian (2001). *Max und Moritz aff fränggisch*. Cadolzburg, Germany. Ars Vivendi Verlag.
- König, A., Fritz-Scheuplein, M. (2005). *Bayerischer Sprachatlas: Sprachatlas von Unterfranken Lautgeographie I & II*. Heidelberg, Germany. Universitätsverlag Winter

- König, A. Fritz-Scheuplein, M. Blidschun, C. Wolf, N.R. (2007). *Kleiner Unterfränkischer Sprachatlas*. Heidelberg, Germany. Universitätsverlag Winter
- Lockwood, W.B. (1976). *An Informal History of the German Language*. London, U.K.: Andre Deutsch Limited.
- Stössel, Günter (2001). *Die fromme Helene aff Fränggisch*. Cadolzburg, Germany. Ars Vivendi Verlag.
- Twain, Mark. (1976). *The Awful German Language*. London, U.K.: Andre Deutsch Limited.
- University of Würzburg Press Release (2006). Fränkis ergründen ihren Dialekt. <<http://www.uni-protokolle.de/nachrichten/id/125919/>>. *www.uni-protokolle.de. Die Adresse für Ausbildung, Studium und Beruf*.
- Waterman, J.T. (1966). *A History of the German Language*. Seattle and London. University of Washington Press.
- Wells, C.J. (1985). *German: A linguistic History to 1945*. Oxford, Great Britain. University Press.
- Wichtermann, Jens (2005). *Bayerischer Sprachatlas: Sprachatlas von Unterfranken Wortgeographie III*. Heidelberg, Germany. Universitätsverlag Winter
- Wolpert, Wilhelm (2006). *Fränkische Frecker: Fränkische Gschichtn und Gedichte*. Nidderau, Germany. Mundartverlag Michaela Naumann.
- Wolpert, Wilhelm (1998). *Der fränkische Moo: War der eigentlich immer scho so?* Nidderau, Germany. Mundartverlag Michaela Naumann.

Fränki Logo reprinted with the express written permission (22 Jan 2008) of Dr. Monika Fritz-Scheuplein, The University of Würzburg Unterfränkisch Dialekt Institut.

Maps:

Figure 2.1 Map of Modern Germany: States and Cities in Germany.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany>. 15 Feb 2008

Figure 2.2 Map of the Bavarian Regions: Bezirke Unterfranken.

<http://www.sozialebetriebe.de/images/bezirkeUnterfranken.gif>. 23 Oct 2007

Figure 2.3 Map of the counties of Lower Franconia: Regierungsbezirk Unterfranken.

http://www.unterfranken.de/pic/karte-regbez-ufr_1.gif. 23 Oct 2007

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

After a twenty-year career in the military, John Kretzer received his Bachelor of Arts degrees in German and Psychology from the University of Texas at Arlington in the spring of 2009. He also completed his teaching certification in order to teach at the secondary level. He hopes to earn his PhD in German while studying the Texas German dialect. He is happily married and the proud father of three young boys.