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Multilingualism and mixed-mode communication

Sociolinguistic insights into the German-Namibian diaspora

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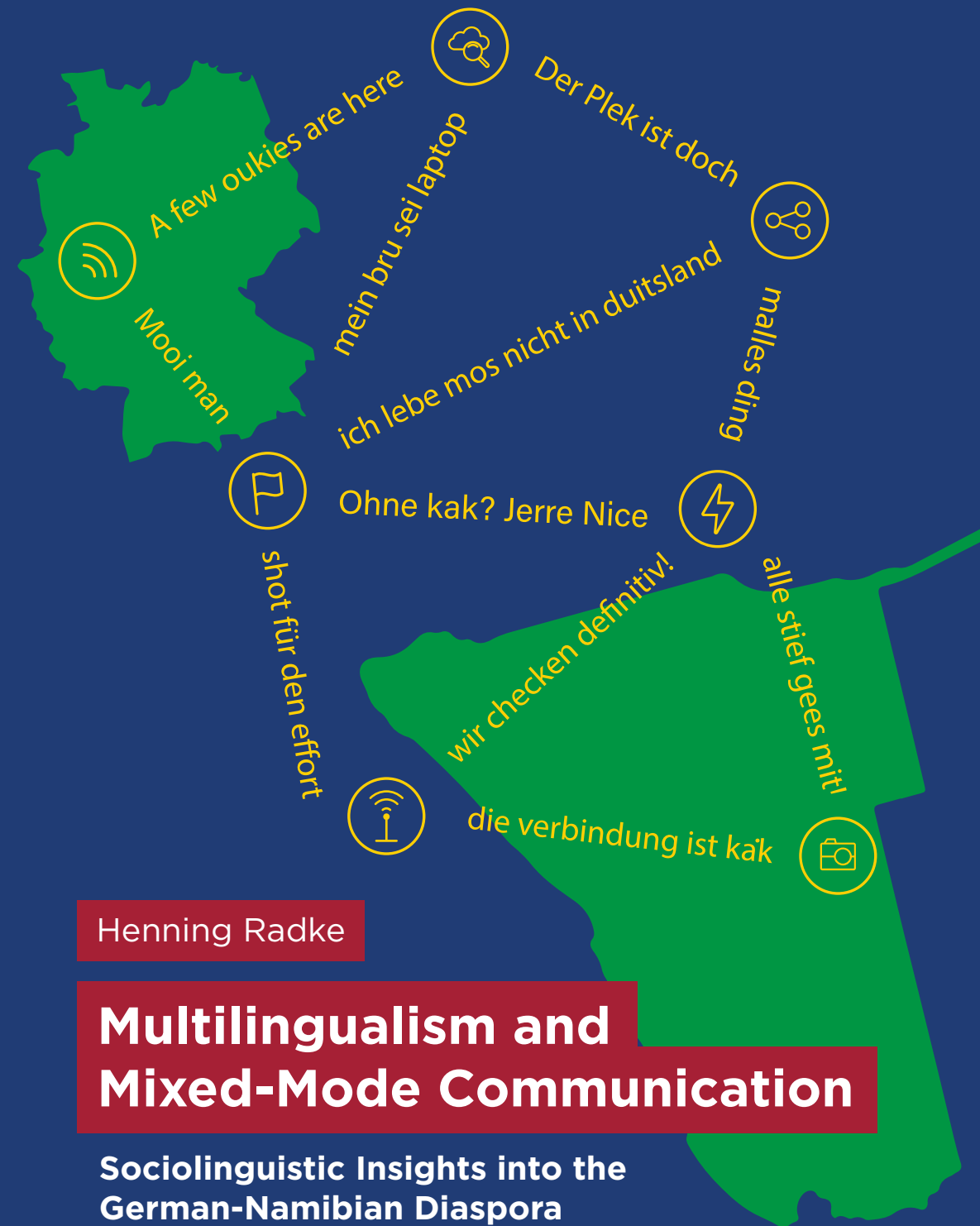
Multilingualism and Mixed-Mode Communication

Sociolinguistic Insights into the German-Namibian Diaspora

Like other disciplines, the field of sociolinguistics is not a homogenous one. It rather comes in three “loosely connected waves” (Eckert 2012) with each wave applying specific sets of methods. How can we use methodological triangulation and combine these methods, both quantitative and qualitative in nature, to integrate the three waves of sociolinguistics? This dissertation focusses on this question through five case studies concerning the German-Namibian diaspora, i.e., German-speaking Namibians who migrated to Germany. Their multilingual repertoire (Standard German, *Namdeutsch* [Namibian German], English, and Afrikaans) is the main research object. The studies presented in this book use correlational analysis, participant observation and semi-structured interviews to unveil the interplay between extralinguistic variables (e.g., gender, mode, place of origin), individual styles and linguistic variation in both, face-to-face interaction and computer-mediated communication (CMC). In doing so, the dissertation adds the notion of translocalisation to the field of German *Sprachinselforschung* (research on German-language exclaves). I argue that this notion complements existing perspectives on local and regional dynamics and thus leads to a more holistic view on *Sprachinseln*. Therefore, this dissertation shows how methodological triangulation offers an opportunity to add new perspectives to already established constructs.

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Henning Radke

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I view social studies of linguistic variation as coming in three loosely-ordered waves, all of which are essential to the understanding of variation and change.¹

Penelope Eckert

¹ <https://web.stanford.edu/~eckert/thirdwave.html> (3 August 2022)



Windhoek, Namibia (2018)

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Autor contributions

Chapter 1

Einführung

This chapter was written by Henning Radke. He revised the chapter based on detailed feedback from Arjen Versloot and Horst Simon. He also presented the chapter during the *Sommerkolloquium* (SK) in Oerlinghausen, Germany and received feedback from the audience. The SK was organized by the linguistic working groups of Freie Universität Berlin, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and Technische Universität Dortmund (1 – 3 July 2022). The chapter has not been submitted for publication elsewhere.

Chapter 2

Die translokalisierte Community deutschsprachiger Namibier

This chapter was written by Henning Radke. He revised the chapter based on detailed feedback from Arjen Versloot and Horst Simon. He also presented the chapter during the *Sommerkolloquium* (SK) in Oerlinghausen, Germany and received feedback from the audience. The SK was organized by the linguistic working groups of Freie Universität Berlin, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and Technische Universität Dortmund (1 – 3 July 2022). The chapter has not been submitted for publication elsewhere.

Chapter 3

Mehrsprachigkeit zwischen Print- und Onlinekommunikation

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Chapter 4

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Discussion

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