

## WORLD ENGLISHES: NAMIBIA PT. I

Since independence in 1990, English has been Namibia's sole official language and medium of instruction from, at least, secondary school – despite a strong Bantu-speaking majority. English had little (e.g. colonial) history in Namibia and only 3% of all Namibians use it as their home language. This (and the near-absence of post-independence linguistic research) is why Namibia presents an interesting case in the context of World Englishes.

# A MULTI-LAYERED CORPUS OF NAMIBIAN ENGLISH

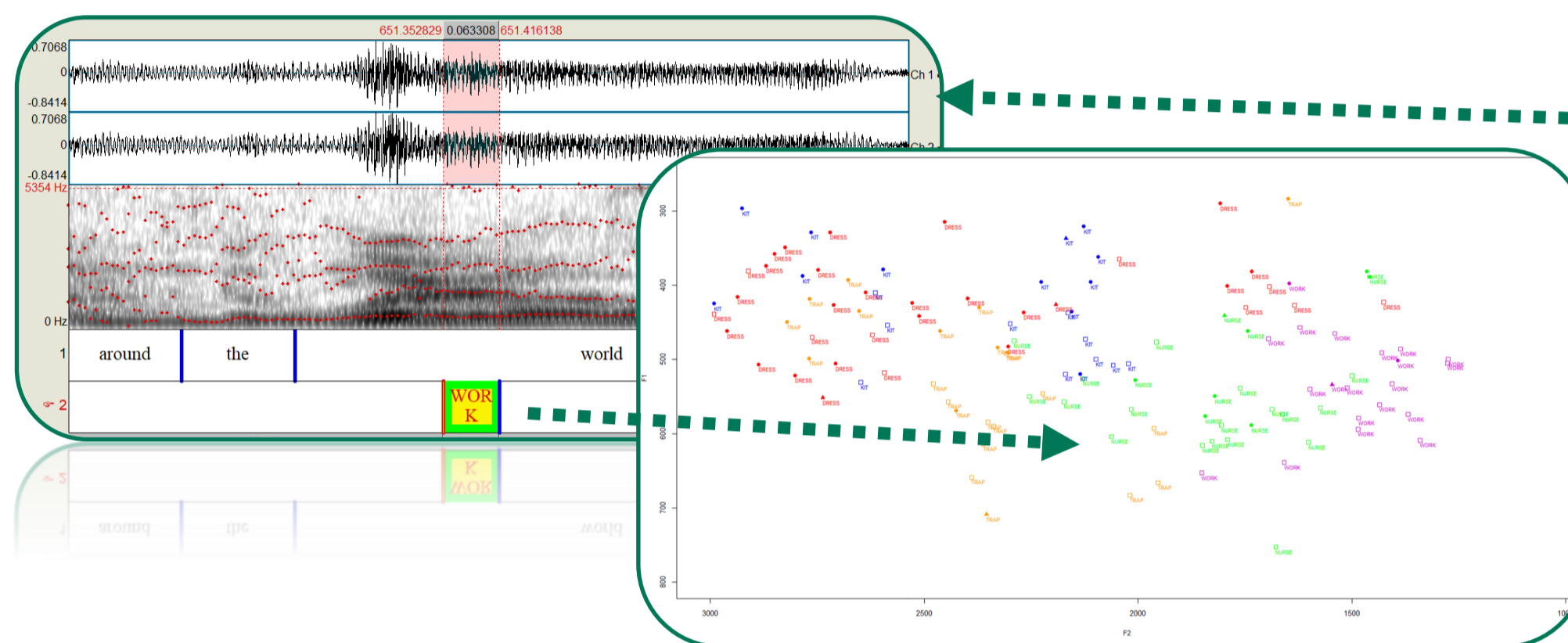
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## WORLD ENGLISHES: NAMIBIA PT. II

Due to the shared history with South Africa, Afrikaans still is a strong linguistic influence and serves as a lingua franca in parts of the country, which is why World Englishes handbooks classify Namibian English as an off-shoot of varieties of South African English. Recent research has shown that this is not the whole truth, however, and linguistic features suggesting undergoing nativization have been identified among younger speakers.

### ACOUSTIC ANALYSES



The audio data allows for acoustic and auditory analyses of segmental variation based on recent observations on NamE, which include the realization of a TRAP-DRESS(-NURSE) vowel merger as well as vowel splits of the KIT and NURSE vowels (Kautzsch, Schröder & Zähres 2017).

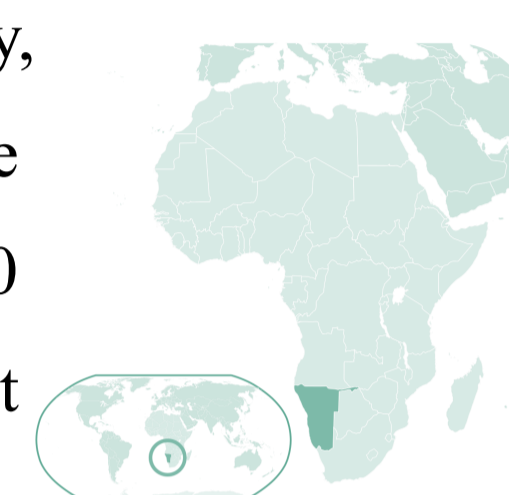
Preliminary results: Analyses are in agreement with previous studies of phonological phenomena, especially regarding the NURSE-WORK split.

### OPEN QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ◆ Ethical concerns (e.g. consent of inactive accounts?)
- ◆ How well does this corpus address sociolinguistic issues?
- ◆ Good ways for 'geo-searching' both videos and comments?
- ◆ What is recommendable software for this approach?
- ◆ Are there comparable social media corpora?
- ◆ Varying audio quality of videos affecting acoustic analysis

### NAMIBIAN YOUTUBERS

According to Schneider's (2016) taxonomy, *natural* videos constitute the vast majority of the available data. With basic search terms, over 50 unique non-professional content creators with at least three videos have been found who mainly use English – some inactive, some upload weekly.



The screenshot shows a YouTube video player with a woman speaking. A speech bubble above her says "[wɔ:ld]". Below the video, the title is "Reviewing Namibian Youtubers" with 1,074 views, 30 likes, and 3 comments. The channel name is "Namibian YouTuber" (published Jul 25, 2017) with 361 subscribers. Social media links for Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, and Instagram are provided. The category is "People & Blogs". Below the video, there are three comments: "Yoh sup bro we should do a collabo video....halla me for more details if you wanna grow ur channel", "The Cinamon wasnt easy bro...do it in your next vid and see", and "hey dude pls sub to anther nam".

### MORPHO-SYNTACTICAL & LEXICAL ANALYSES

On the one hand, the corpus consists of the transcript of the spoken data from the video, which is created from refined versions of the automatically-generated captions from YouTube. On the other hand, the corpus contains several sources of written data. The compilation of written data is conducted on the following levels and is tagged for POS:

- a. YouTube video title, captions & description
- b. YouTube comments
- c. Data from YouTube channel page
- d. Data from further linked social media such as Twitter or Facebook

This vlog and CMC corpus complements the already existing *Corpus of Namibian Online Newspapers* by Kautzsch (in prep.) with further registers and can be used to compare seemingly unique NamE morphosyntactic and lexical constructions.

For contact information, a detailed bibliography as well as a digital version of the abstract and poster, please scan the QR code.

