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## Is English a 'queer' language? The ideological opposition of English and German in the narratives of queer L1 German speakers in Berlin

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The role of English in Berlin has been subject to increasing media (e.g., Spahn, 2017) and scholarly (e.g., Heyd & Schneider, 2019; Schneider, 2020) attention over the last years. This paper delves into ideological perceptions of English and German by L1 German speakers participating in a queer community of practice (CofP, Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 1992) in Berlin. Despite the availability of the majority language German, the CofP, a queer activist group, operates in English. The paper analyzes ethnographic interview data with five group members, focusing on their metapragmatic narratives on the use of the two languages. The central finding is that in the context of the CofP, English and German are juxtaposed alongside a 'queer' versus 'heteronormative' dichotomy, which coincides with other opposing indexical meanings of English and German, including cosmopolitan vs. provincial, modern vs. old-fashioned, and young vs. old. Outside of the group context, however, the participants understand English as elitist and exclusionary, adhering to a local counter-discourse about English in Berlin (Hilal & Varatharajah, 2022). Building on theories of indexicality (Ochs, 1992; Eckert, 2008), language and identity (Bucholtz & Hall, 2005) and language ideology (Irvine & Gal, 2000), the paper argues that the use of English as opposed to German is constitutive of the participants' and the group's queer identity.

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