

Teuthonista: History, WBÖ and DBÖ
(Abstract)

The transcription system Teuthonista, which is widely used for High German dialects, can look back to a tradition of more than 100 years in German dialectology. Its name is derived from the dialect journal "Teuthonista" where it was presented by Teuchert in 1924/25. The original script, however, had already been developed by Lenz in 1900, and in the same year it had also been introduced in the journal "Zeitschrift für hochdeutsche Mundarten". Both Lenz and Teuchert came up with a relatively small, basic set of characters, the emphasis being placed on the differentiation of vowel qualities which is regarded to be vitally important in High German dialectology.

A number of doctoral theses, dialect dictionaries and linguistic atlases have taken up Teuthonista and adapted it for their own system of transcription, among them projects as renowned as the Bavarian linguistic atlases, the Atlas of historical German dialects in the Czech Republic (ADT), the Bavarian Dictionary (BWB) and also the Dictionary of Bavarian Dialects in Austria (WBÖ) and its database (DBÖ). Even though the name itself is never officially mentioned in the WBÖ, the script that both the dictionary and the database are based on can be easily identified as Teuthonista.

Throughout the years the Teuthonista script has been further developed by different kinds of projects, as a consequence more special characters have come into existence. Like many other projects the WBÖ and the DBÖ thus use a few special characters which have not been encoded in Unicode, yet. These characters are needed to ensure that the most accurate transcriptions of Austrian Bavarian dialects are rendered and documentation will show that they actually do turn up in several sources and records.

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