

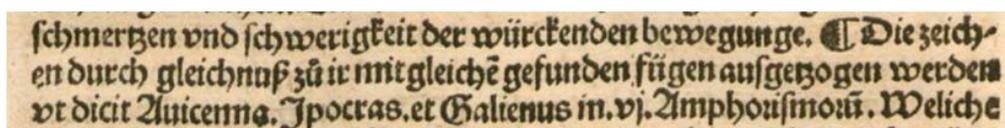
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Stylistic variation and code-switching in Hieronymus Brunschwig's Das buch der cirurgia

Hieronymus Brunschwig, a learned 15th-century surgeon, famously composed *Das buch der cirurgia*¹ or 'The Book of Surgery' in the German vernacular. This text was then published with the aid of the movable type printing press in 1497 (Eis 1955)—a noteworthy decision as most books at that time were printed in Latin. Brunschwig wrote *Das buch der cirurgia* using a combination of his own experience and various Arabic, Latin, French, and Italian resources. This makes Brunschwig's text a particularly suitable testbed for analyzing stylistic variation and register in surgical jargon as well as instances of code-switching. This paper first uses corpus linguistic methods to find stylistic variation and code-switching occurrences in *Das buch der cirurgia*. It then compares these findings to the historical code-switching studies of Pahta (2011) in which switches generally coincide with the necessity of specialized language and citation. The following is a citation example in which Brunschwig changes to Latin when referencing the medical scholars Avicenna, Hippocras, and Gallienus in the text *Amphorismorum*. The code-switching is highlighted in bold:

... •Die zeich/
en durch gleichnuß zû ir mit gleichẽ gefunden fügen aufgezogen werden
vt dicit Auicenna. Ipocras. et Galienus in. vj. Amphorismorũ. ...



(Brunschwig 1497: 222)

Finally, the paper questions the legitimacy of referring to historical code-switching as such due to allegations of historical data inherently being "bad data" and code-switching being defined as a strictly oral phenomenon.

References

- Brunschwig, Hieronymus 1497. *Dis ist das Buch der Cirurgia, Hantwirckung der Wund Artzney*. Augsburg: Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, 2 Inc.c.a. 3451, urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb00026481-2: Augsburg: Johann Schönsperger.
- Eis, Gerhard 1955. Brunschwig, Hieronymus. In: *Neue Deutsche Biographie* 2, 688 [Online-Version]; <https://www.deutsche-biographie.de/pnd119238217.html#ndbcontent>, last accessed Dec. 27, 2019.
- Pahta, Päivi 2011. Code-switching in Early Modern English medical writing, in Taavitsainen, I. and Pahta, P. (eds.), *Medical Writing in Early Modern English, Studies in English language*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 115–134.

¹ Brunschwig's *Das buch der cirurgia* is one text in the German Medical Incunabula Corpus (*GeMedIC*), a doctoral project utilizing open source optical character recognition (OCR) software in its creation.