

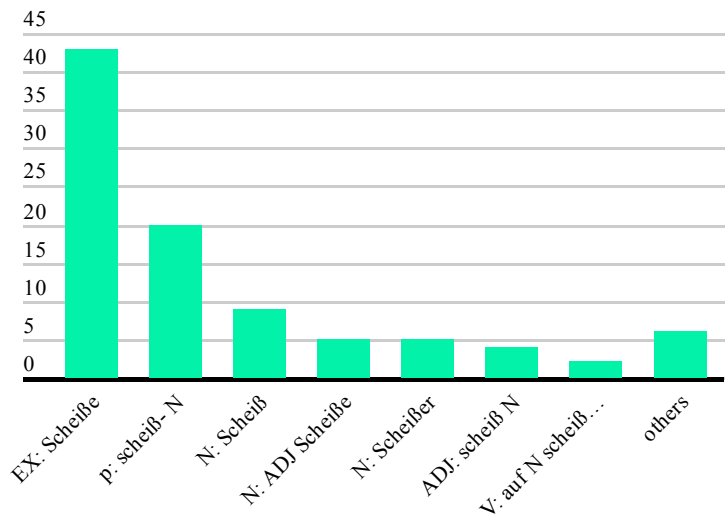
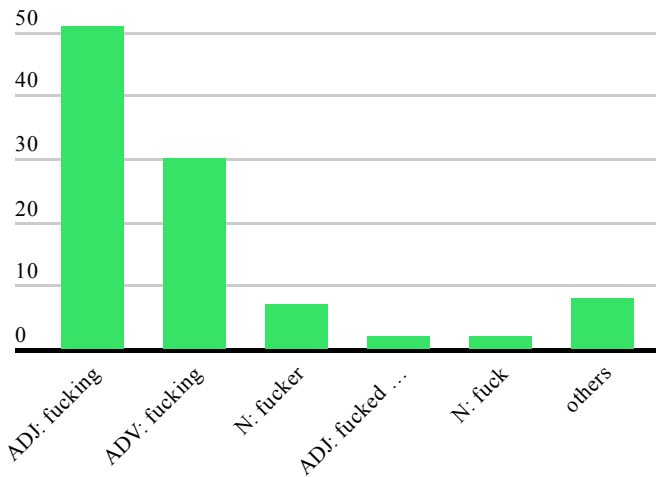
# Fuck and Scheiße

## use and translation in semi-spoken language

### Introduction:

I want to discuss and investigate the differences and similarities of the two taboo words *fuck* and *Scheiße*. I will only discuss the metaphorical meaning of both. *Scheiße* is defined as "etwas sehr Schlechtes, Unerfreuliches, Ärgerliches" (Duden online). *Fuck* is used when "expressing extreme anger, or to add force"(Cambridge Dictionary Online). There are many inflections, derivations and conversions from both verbs *fuck* and *scheißen* in use. Gauger (2012: 44) claims that when translating the sexual language from English the German equivalent, scatological language, is used. He claims that the sexual language of English is parallel to the scatological language in German. This I want to investigate further by looking at subtitles from films and see which problems in translating surface. All my examples are taken from the OpenSubtitles Corpus that provides translated subtitles.

occurrence out of a random sample of 100 matches



### auf N scheißen

(1) *Auf den scheiß ich auch.*

### to fuck up

(2) [...] *Done something other than fucking this shit up.*

### being fucked up

(3) [...] *you got some fucked up friends [...].*

### Fuck N

(1a) *Fuck him too.*

### Scheiße V

(2a) [...] *hättest uns nicht in die Scheiße*

### abgedreht sein

(3a) *Du hast vielleicht ein paar abgedrehte Freunde!*

### Conclusion:

In the random sample I found that *fucking* is mostly used as an adjective as in "You fucking pigs." and as an adverb as in "This is so fucking stupid." while for *Scheiße* the exclamation and the prefix *scheiß-* clearly outweigh the other uses. From the verb *scheißen* two zero-derivations are found: *die Scheiße* and *der Scheiß* (Gauger 2012: 53). Also the verb *scheißen* as in (1) has a metaphorical meaning, as well as the adjective *scheiß*. In German we have those and even more different ways to use the word, and the derivations and conversions from it. It seems to be similar when looking at the word *fuck*. Derivations like *fucker* or conversions like *the fuck* are made, which correspond to the German word *Scheißer* or *Scheißkerl*. I found many fixed expressions like *fucked up*, *for fuck's sake* and *fucking around* in English as well as in German. Generally the parallelism between the languages can definitely be found (see examples (1) and (2)) but there are the existing problems when translating. I found that *Scheiße* in almost 50 % of the cases was translated with *shit*, even though there is the intuition of native speakers (Gauger 2012: 77) that *shit* in English is more offensive than *Scheiße* in German. As we see in example (3) there are also problems when translating fixed expressions. The meaning is correctly transferred but it does not convey the same intensity, since there is no taboo word involved (Domínguez 2018: 199).

For my research paper I am going to code all the matches in the Corpus and further investigate the difficulties surrounding translation as well as the parallelism of the taboo language of English and German.

### Bibliography

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