

The proposed thesis in English Linguistics will be concerned with the traditional vocabulary of Scots and will comprise a lexical and semantic study based on the *Digital Lexical Atlas of Scotland Database*. The data to be analysed was collected by James Y. Mather and Hans-Henning Speitel in the *The Linguistic Atlas of Scotland* which was based on a written questionnaire in which the respondents were provided with a Standard English word and then asked to give their “usual local word(s)” (Mather & Speitel 1975). The complete amount of data at our disposal are 170 **variables** (concepts asked) with 226,220 orthographic **variants** (responses).

The first aim of this project is to lexemise the data – i.e. identify the lexical types underlying the ortho-phonological responses of the primary material. In so doing, different linguistic patterns will emerge and form the groundwork for further interpretations. The digital database will serve to create a wide variety of different digital maps which will then be subject to analysis. The analysis contains not only linguistic fields like lexical semantics and morphology, but also requires etymological, geolinguistic and even ethnographic information in order to decipher those patterns.

Furthermore, the project aims to revisit several research questions about the nature and distribution of Scots such as the Highland Line border (cf. Speitel 1981, Withers 1984, 1988) or the English border (cf. Glauser 1974); the the Englishness of Scots (cf. Murison 1978, Görlach 1987) or the historical vocabulary of Scots. Another field that could be investigated is the overall dialect structure of Scots (cf. Tulloch 1997).