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GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOK PISIN LEXICON

Mitglied der

Leibniz
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AN ONLINE DICTIONARY PROJECT

Suche nach deutschen Herkunftswörtern

Wortschatz deutschen Ursprungs im Tok Pisin
(Engelberg/Möhrs/Stolberg 2017ff.)
A B D E G H K L M P R S T W Y

Herkunftswörterbuch

Deutsch

Lehnwörterbücher

Polnisch

Teschener Polnisch

Slovenisch

Hebräisch

Tok Pisin

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[Zitationshilfe...](#)

abus

abus
akas
ananas
as

- ausweichen
- vorbeifahren/vorbeigehen
- verfehlen

Etymologie

- < Deutsch *abrutschen* (Verb) (STARK)
- < Englisch *abreast* (Adjektiv) (SCHWACH)

Varianten

- aberis* BORCHARDT 1926A: 2; BORCHARDT [CA.] 1926B: 36
- aburis* ANONYM 1935: 1
- abris* SCHEBESTA / MEISER 1945: 1; MIHALIC 1971: 57

gehe zu...			
Etymologischer Kommentar	Buchungs- geschichte	Beispiele	Wortbildungen/ Wortverbindungen



Etymologischer Kommentar

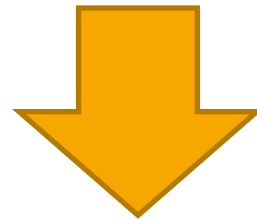
[Beleglage](#)

abus/abusim, mit der Variante *aberis/aberisim*, ist in den lexikographischen Quellen seit 1926 (BORCHARDT [CA.] 1926B: 2) und bis heute (z. B. VOLKER ET AL. 2008: 1; PARKER 2008: 1) belegt. In

A DICTIONARY PROJECT IN TWO WAYS:

Data base:

dictionaries, word lists, etc., of Melanesian Pidgin
English/Tok Pisin



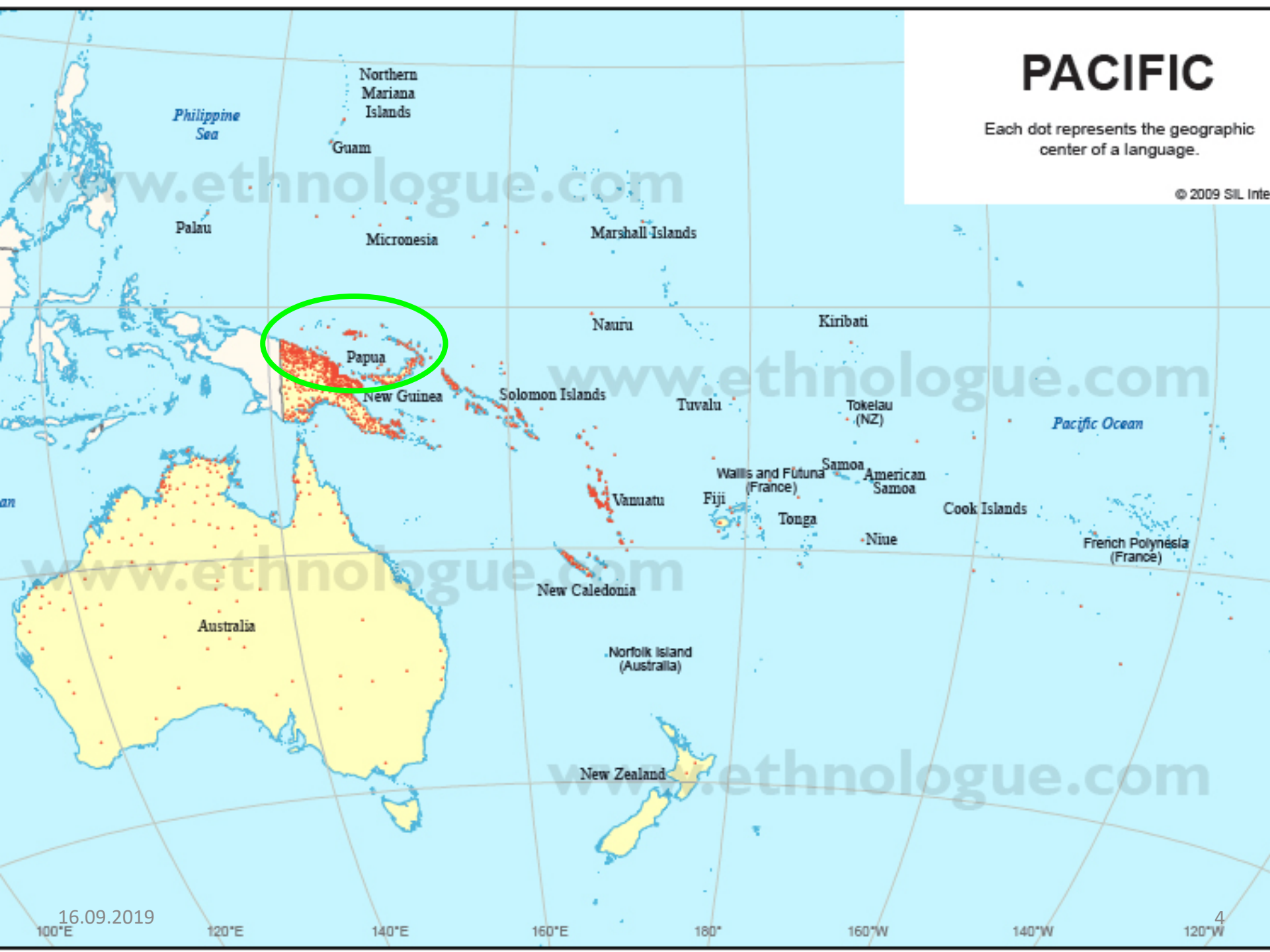
Goal:

producing a dictionary of German-based words in Tok Pisin

PACIFIC

Each dot represents the geographic center of a language.

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TOK PISIN

- one of the national languages & the most important lingua franca of Papua New Guinea
- ca. 3-5 mio. speakers (mainly L2 speakers; 500,000 L1 speakers [Smith & Siegel 2013])

Lexifier languages of Tok Pisin:

English (77-79%), Tolai/Kuanua (11%), other New Guinean languages (6%), **German (4%)**, (Latin (3%)), Malay (1%)

(Mühlhäusler 1985b:179; Tryon/Charpentier 2004:385f.)

THE GERMAN-TOK PISIN CONTACT SETTING: A COMBINATION OF FACTORS

- German colonial period (1884 – 1914)
- German missionaries in New Guinea (from 1886)
- German = language of administration & local mission lingua franca (*Societas Verbi Divini*, in GNG from 1895/6)

and

Tok Pisin was developing and in use

STAGES OF TOK PISIN DEVELOPMENT

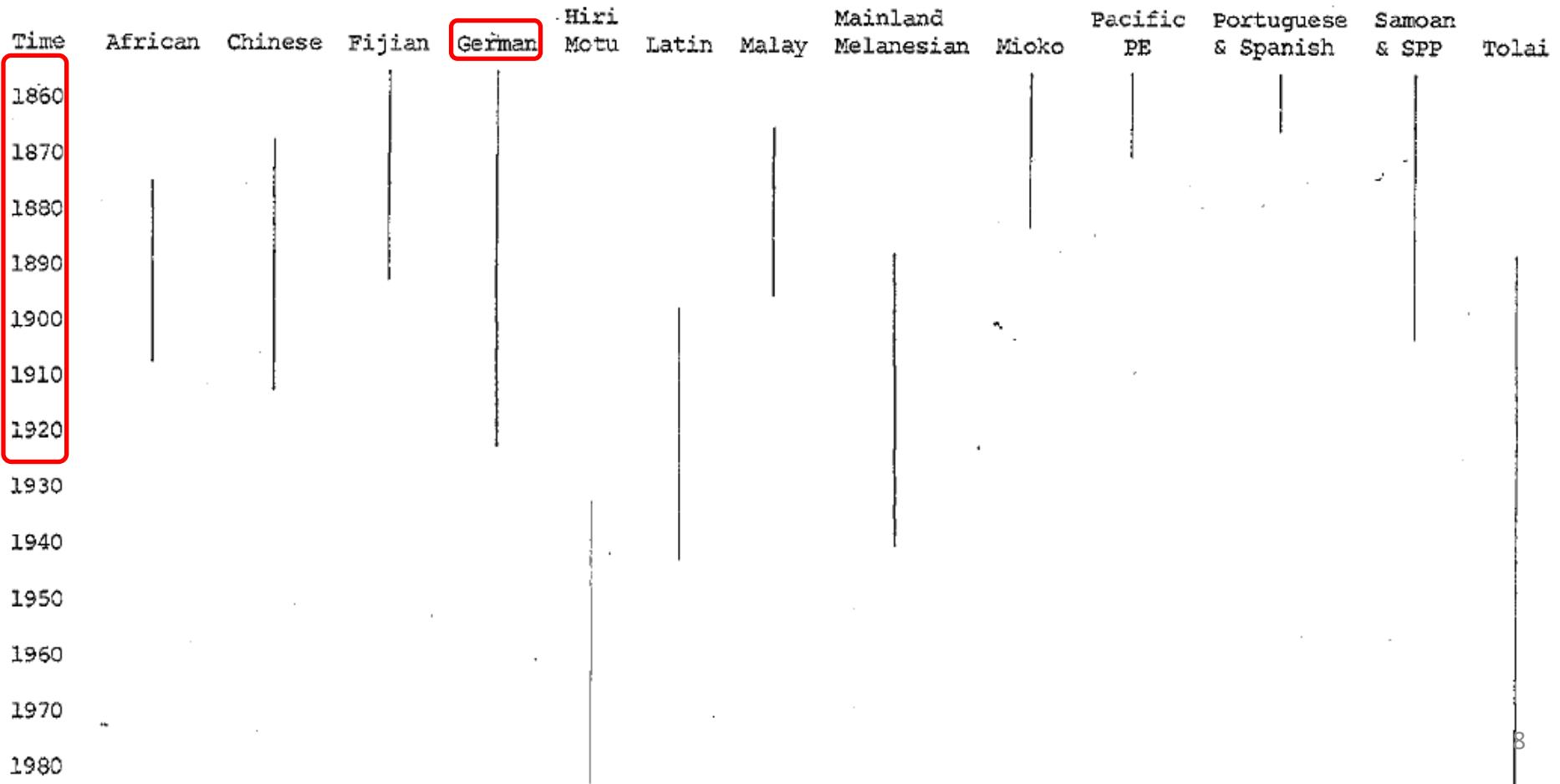
1. **Jargon (White man's speech):** influence of English (lexis, morphology), restricted sentence length, grammatical multifunctionality, no copula
2. **ca. 1890+:** Stabilized Tok Pisin (speakers of TP: native); "a language in its own right", not some form of English; standard pronunciation (simplified) different from English; coordination, subordination, and causative are used
3. **ca. 1930:** expanded Tok Pisin (regions close to the coast); "classical" Tok Pisin; lexical and grammatical autonomy in relation to English
4. **Creolized Tok Pisin:** rapid and extensive restructuring; increased speech tempo

(Mühlhäusler et al. 2003:9-11)

PERIODS OF LEXICAL INFLUENCE

- Estimate of German-origin lexemes in Tok Pisin: up to 200 words (Romaine 2001)

APPENDIX: The sources of the Tok Pisin lexicon (Mühlhäusler 1985)



“[E]tymologising in Tok Pisin cannot reasonably be carried out unless sociohistorical and, above all, temporal factors are taken into consideration. A mere analysis of present-day Tok Pisin vocabulary in terms of the origins of its lexical inventory is bound to be quite misleading.”

(Mühlhäusler 1985b: 215)

IDENTIFYING *RELEVANT* LEXICAL ITEMS

- (1) clearly German origin:
raus, bros/brus 'chest', popeia
- (2) ambiguous origin (E/G):
ring, house/haus, ros 'rust'
- (3) clearly non-German origin (i.e., English or other)

IDENTIFYING *RELEVANT* LEXICAL ITEMS

- Fairly easy (word form + semantics): group 1 (clearly German origin)
- Interesting but difficult: group 2 (ambiguous origin E/G)
 - ❖ multiple etymologies (cf. Mühlhäusler 1985, 2003:26, etc.)

Example: **sanga** ‘fork in a branch, tongs, open jaws of a crocodile, catapult’

< (B)English **shanghai** (slingshot)

+ German **Zange** ‘pliers’

+ Malayan **tjang** ‘forked branch’

LOCATING *SPECIFIC* LEXICAL ITEMS

Unusual spelling

- *rouse ,out' /raus* (Churchill 1911)
- *tèke maout* 'arracher'/'pull out, take out' (Pionnier 1913)

Variation in entries

- E *pineapple* – TP *ananas, painap*
- TP *ananas* – E *pineapple* (Murphy 1966)

“Hidden“ item

- no entry for *mas(t)* 'mast(pole)'
- but: *plakmas* (under the entry *plak* 'flag') (Baing et al. 2008)

LIMITED COMPARABILITY OF SOURCES

- Differences in focus

e.g., sports dictionary, New Testament dictionary, medical terminology

- Differences in approach

time of compilation, geographical area, length of study, L1 of lexicographer

- Differences in spelling

- etymological (English-based)
- L1-based (E, F, G)
- standardized

LEXICAL DYNAMICS: MULTIPLE ETYMOLOGIES

- (near-)homophones with some semantic relationship (often at a rather abstract level) can lead to a merged word form (lexical conflation)
- the new lexeme encompasses all of the meanings of its components

Example:

Tok Pisin: ***blut / bulut / bulit*** 'blood; sap; glue'

common denominator: 'liquid life source' (blood, sap) + extended meaning 'glue' (derived from the stickiness of sap)

Origins:

English *blood* + German *Blut* + Tolai, Mioko, Molot *bulit*

(Franklin 1998:21, Mühlhäusler 1985a:77, Mühlhäusler et al. 2003:26)

AMBIVALENT ASSIGNMENTS: EXAMPLES

raus : clearly of German origin; a highly established and widespread lexical item in TP

beten: clearly of German origin; getting out of use for most speakers of TP; some association of higher register ('the proper word in TP'), but by now mostly replaced by *pre*

abrusim: most likely of German origin (form/meaning) but never assigned as such (except for Grant 1997)

puy 'naked': etymological explanation by Mühlhäusler (1979) primarily extra-linguistic

ananas: could be of German or Dutch origin; extra-linguistic knowledge of historical and cultural setting needed to determine etymology

maski: was repeatedly assigned German origin (< 'macht nichts' – never mind, doesn't matter) but for phonological reasons unlikely; much more plausible: origin from Spanish/Portuguese 'mas que' – fits the meaning better, too

⇒ reference to a range of different sources is needed to find satisfactory explanations; not all sources are reliable

⇒ compare, cross-check & scrutinize sources for linguistic, historical and cultural contact plausibility

EXTRALINGUISTIC INFORMATION NEEDED

puy 'naked'

< missionaries' use of G *pfui!* (expression of disapproval/disgust) 'tut!' (Mühlhäusler 1979)

didiman 'agricultural officer'

< Dr. **Bredemann** (senior curator of the Rabaul Botanical Gardens, prior to WW I)

or Mr. **Dietmann** (German surveyor who laid out the original Rabaul Botanical Gardens) (Godbold 2010:v fn.1)

MALAY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOK PISIN

- influence of Malay on Tok Pisin by Dutch loan words
 - about 70 items in Tok Pisin correspond to German-Dutch(-English) cognates; probably mediated by Malay, e.g.
 - Tok Pisin *sup* - English *soup* - German *Suppe* - Ambonese Malay and Coastal Malay *sup* (< Dutch *soep*)
 - Tok Pisin *anka* - German *Anker* – English *anchor* - Ambonese Malay *angkar* - Coastal Malay *djangkar*
- (for Ambonese Malay cf. van der Sijs 2015, for Coastal Malay cf. Hindorf 1913)

ANANAS

- Tok Pisin *ananas* ‘pineapple’ recorded in dictionaries since the beginning of the 20th century
 - cannot be borrowed from English (*pineapple*)
 - attributed to German in Tok Pisin lexicography (Steinbauer 1969: 12–13; Mihalic 1971: 59; Garnier 2006: 14)
 - origin apparently New Guinea coast (<- earliest lexicographic recordings: Dempwolff [not dated b], van Baar 1930) (not Bismarck Archipelago; there: *painap* preferred)
- => Malay (< Dutch) origin more likely (supported by combined evidence regarding laborer migration, cultivation of pineapples and lexicographic recording patterns) (cf. Engelberg/Stolberg 2017: 49-50)

MASKI (1)

- *maski* documented for Tok Pisin as early as 1911 (Neuhof 2015: XXXI), lexicographically recorded from 1926 on (Borchardt 1926) and up until today
- an established lexeme in Tok Pisin, with a concessive or downtoning meaning ('never mind', 'ignore', 'forget about', 'nevertheless', 'in spite of', 'although')
- German etymology: first proposed by Steinbauer (1969), then by Mihalic (1971: 131), (from German *macht nichts* 'never mind'); Slone (1996: 91) follows but mentions that Baker (1987: 177) suggests 'other possible origins'
- no mention of the difficulty in explaining the phonology of *maski* if it were derived from German *macht nichts*.
- Mühlhäusler (1985a: 200), like Baker (1987), mentions doubts regarding a German etymology of *maski*

MASKI (2)

- Franklin (2015) suggests an etymology from 19th century Chinese Pidgin English; already Nevermann (1929: 252) had pointed out that *maski* is a shared lexical item between Chinese Pidgin English and Tok Pisin, offering as a German translation *das macht nichts* ‘that doesn’t matter’
- independent discussion of *maski* regarding Spanish and Portuguese based pidgins and creoles where it is widespread (Veiga & Fernández 2012)
- **in sum:** *maski* was assigned a German etymology in several sources, but is highly unlikely to be of German origin
 - well-established in various pidgin languages (for example, Chinese Pidgin English) as well as in Malay (Veiga & Fernández 2012: 197) = contact varieties of Melanesian Pidgin English and, later, Tok Pisin
 - German influence cannot be completely excluded but a Spanish / Portuguese origin (via other pidgin/creole languages + via Malay) seems much more likely

(cf. Engelberg/Stolberg 2017: 38-40)

CONCLUSION

Online dictionary of Tok Pisin words of German origin:

- attempts to pull together as many relevant sources & resources as possible
 - offers a starting point for further investigations
 - allows for new comparisons and insights regarding connections between lexicon, contact history and cultural history
- ⇒ aim: to contribute to a better understanding of (historical) lexical processes in Tok Pisin

<http://lwp.ids-mannheim.de/dict/tokpisin>

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