

# Terminological variation in legal texts

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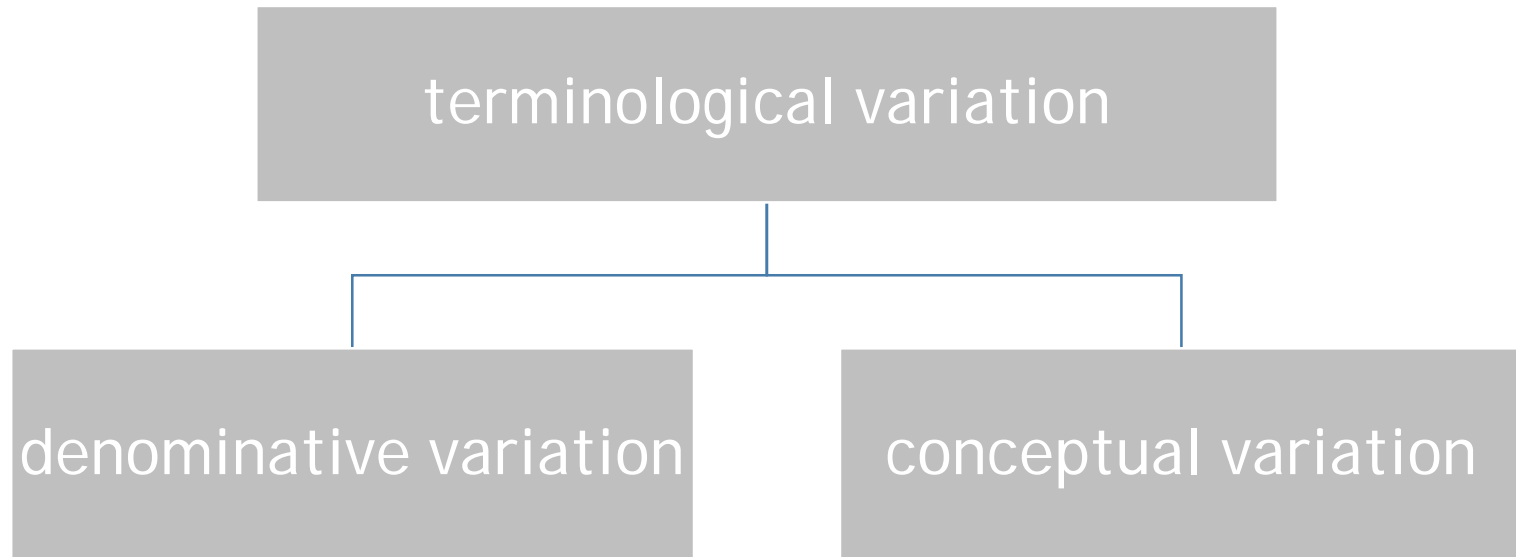
# Pluricentric languages and variation

## German

- is a pluricentric language
- possesses “several national varieties, each with its own norms” (Clyne, 1984)
- possesses different linguistic centres (cf. Ammon, 1995)
- is an official language in seven countries or parts of countries (Austria, Belgium (East Cantons), Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Italy (South Tyrol), Switzerland)

Specific variants are called Austriacisms (AT specific), Helvetisms (CH specific), Teutonisms (DE specific)

# LSP and variation



# Legal and administrative terminology and variation

## Geographical / geopolitical variation

- Legal context of reference and legal framework are fundamental
- Denominative variants are not interchangeable
- “Equivalents”

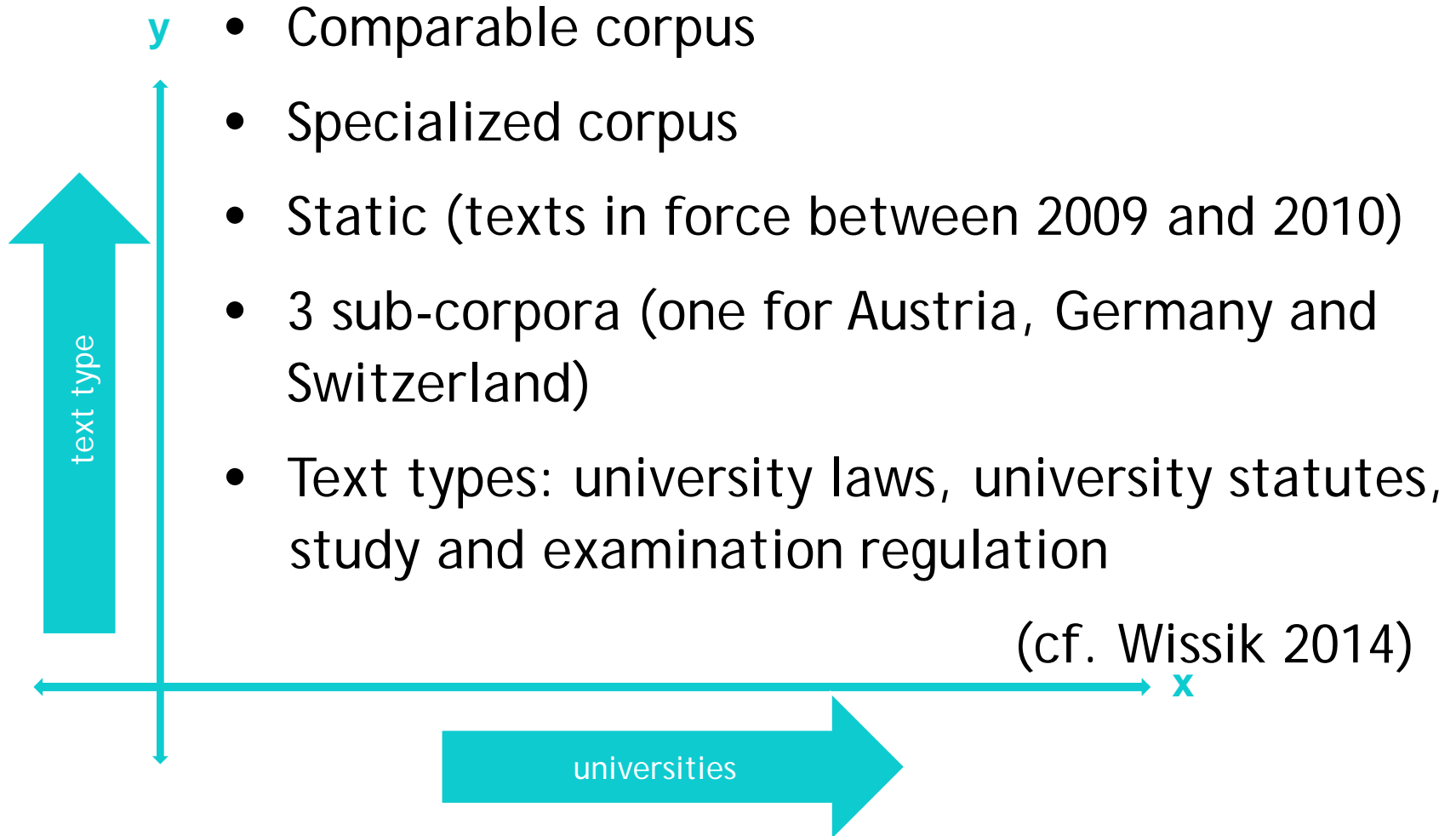
## Internal variation

- Within the same legal framework

# First case study: geographical / geopolitical variation

In legal texts in the area of higher education in Austria, Germany and Switzerland

# Data: UNI-Corpus



# Corpus analysis

- Contrastive approach using dedicated tools
- Qualitative Analysis
  - to simultaneously filter out LSP and variety-specific variants from the candidate lists
  - to classify the variants according to variant types
  - to see weather variants are documented in reference works or not
- Quantitative Analysis

(cf. Wissik 2014)

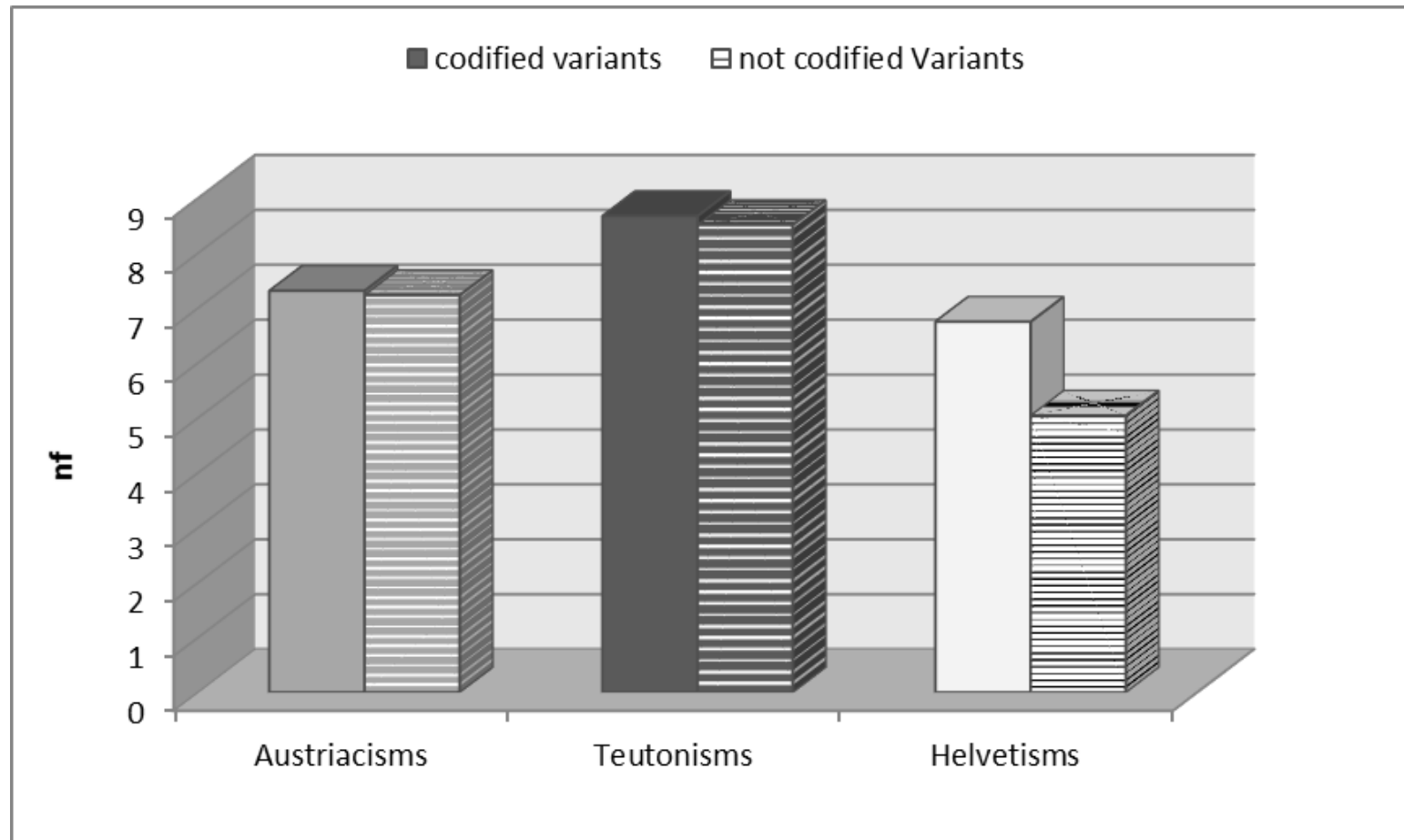
# Examples of Austriacisms, Helvetisms & Teutonisms

Geopolitical variants for the concept “PhD student”

1. Dissertant (AT)
2. Doktorierender (CH)
3. Promovend, Promovierender (DE)



# Quantitative analysis



(cf. Wissik 2014)

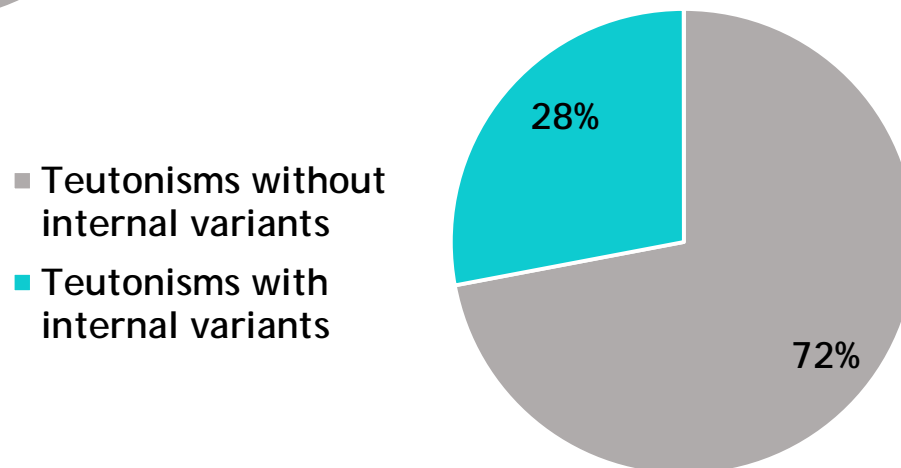
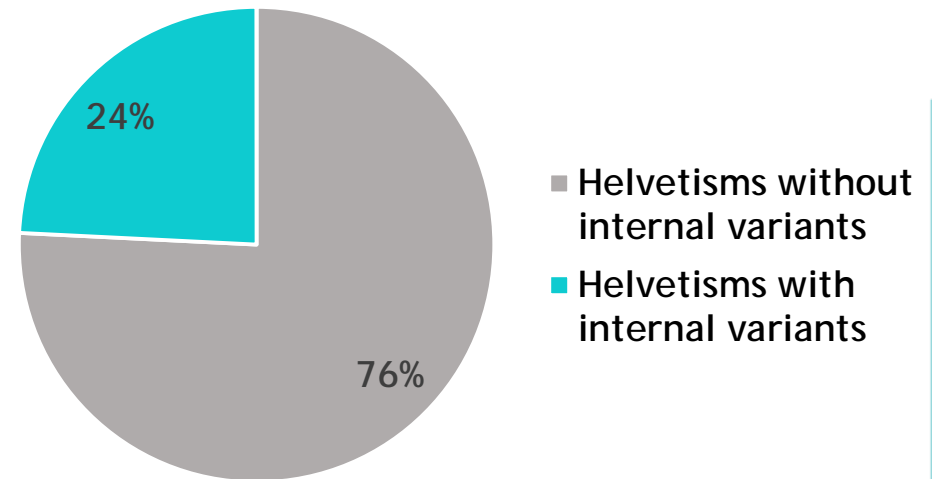
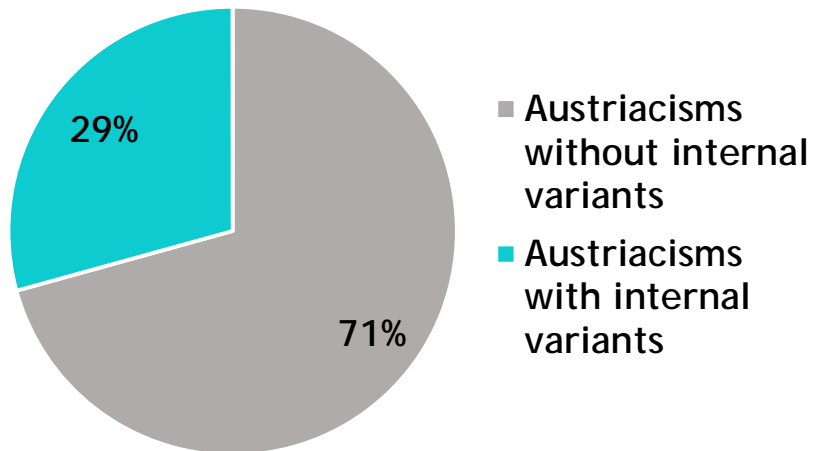
# Second case study: internal variation

Austriacisms, Helvetisms and Teutonisms and their variants

# Data: Austriacisms, Teutonisms & Helvetisms extracted from UNI-Corpus

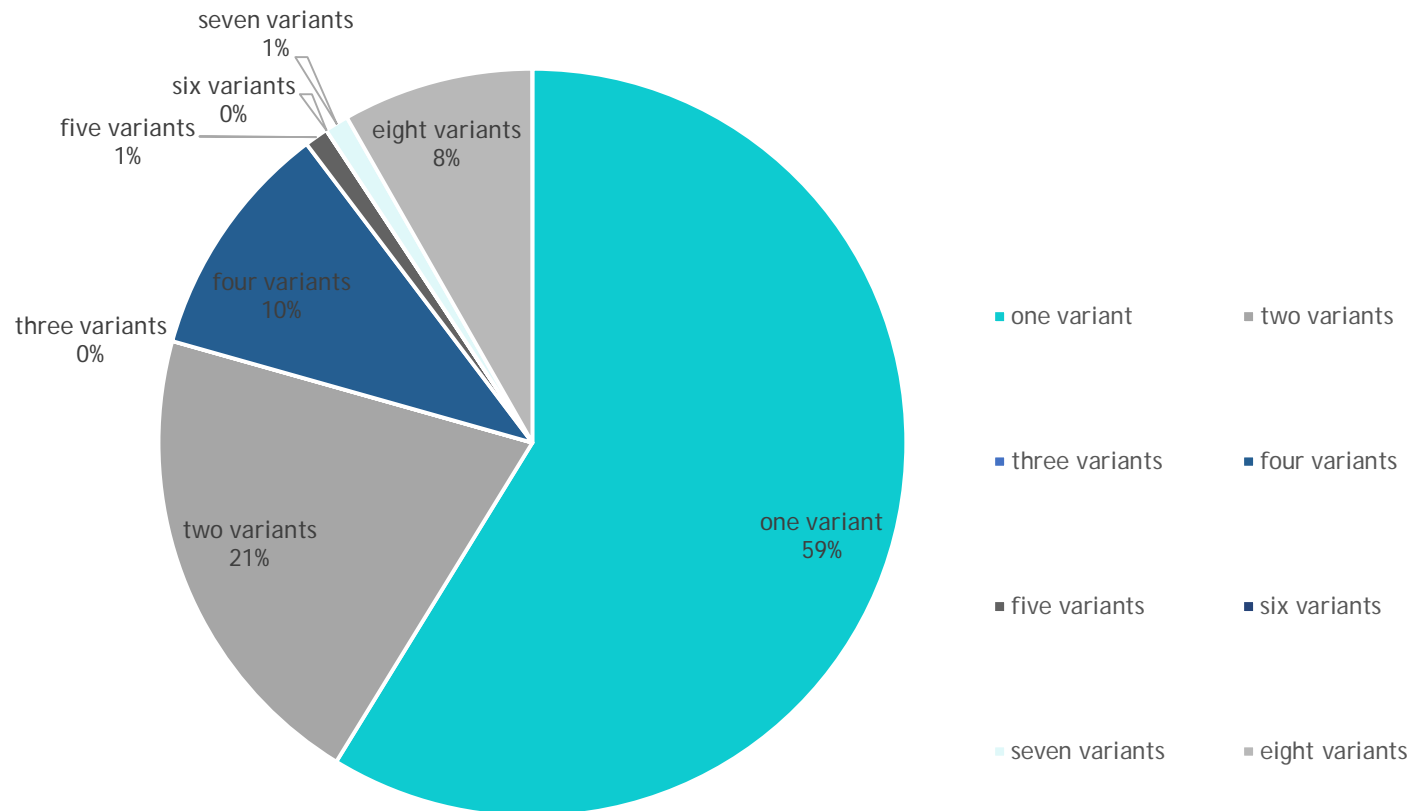
- 331 Austriacisms (Lemmas)
- 429 Teutonisms (Lemmas)
- 351 Helvetisms (Lemmas)

# Austriacisms, Helvetisms, Teutonisms & internal variation\*



\* These internal variants are not necessarily specific variants.

# Austriacisms and internal variation\*



\*These variants are not necessarily specific Austrian variants.

# Examples of Austriacisms with variants (I)

Denominative Variants for the concept “collegial organ for study related issues”

The variants marked with Austriacisms are specific for the Austrian subcorpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Curricula Kommission (*Austriacism*)
2. Curriculakommission (*Austriacism*)
3. Curricula-Kommission (*Austriacism*)
4. Curricularkommission (*Austriacism*)
5. Curricular-Kommission (*Austriacism*)
6. Curriculumkommission (*Austriacism*)
7. Curriculum Kommission (*Austriacism*)
8. Studienkommission

# Examples of Austriacisms with variants (II)

Denominative Variants for the concept “Unit for measuring and comparing the study workload of a single course or a whole study program”

The variants marked with Austriacisms are specific for the Austrian subcorpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. ECTS-Anrechnungspunkt (*Austriacism*)
2. ECTS-AP (*Austriacism*)
3. Anrechnungspunkt
4. ECTS Credit
5. ECTS-Credit
6. ECTS Credit Point
7. ECTS-Punkt
8. ECTS

# Examples of Austriacisms with variants (III)

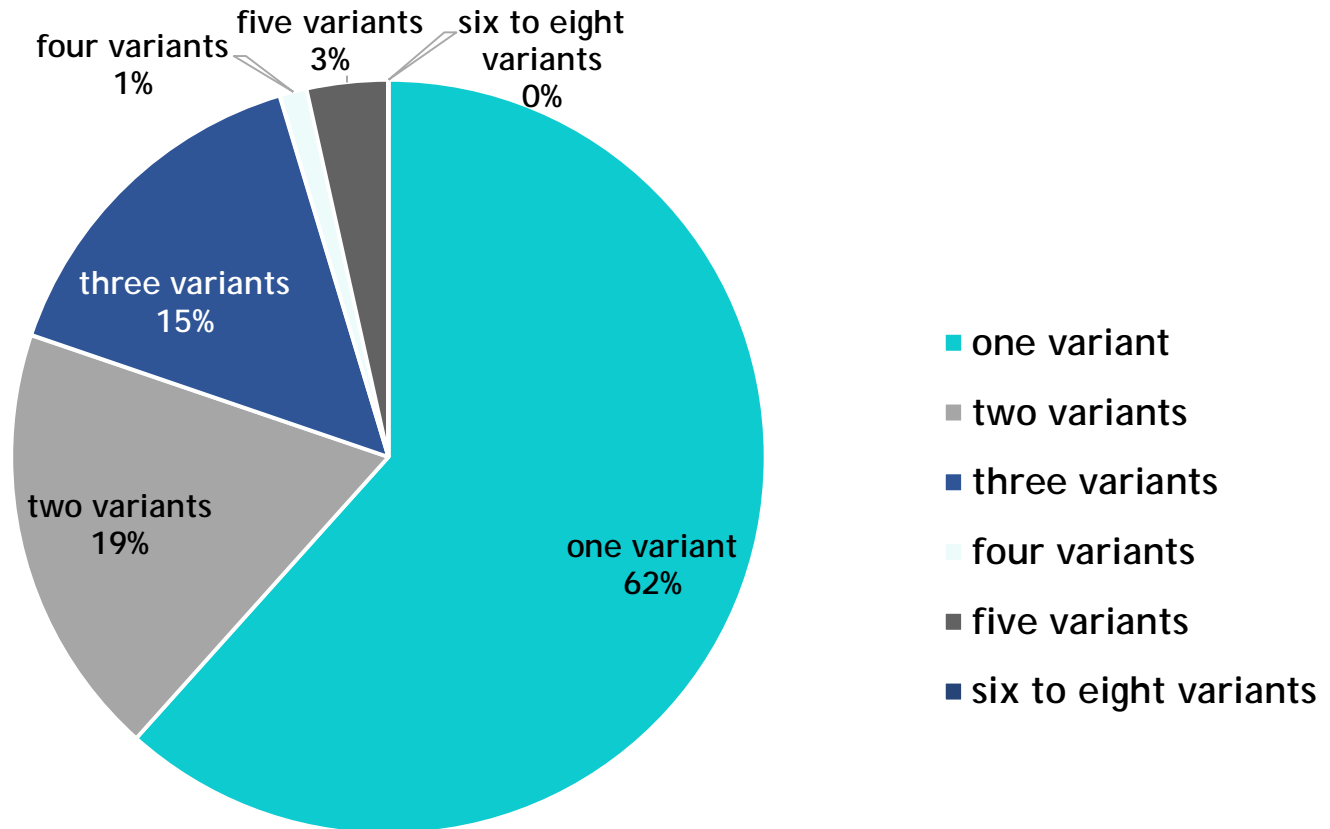
Denominative Variants for the concept “Lecture with integrated practical course”

The variants marked with Austriacisms are specific for the Austrian sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Vorlesung mit integrierter Übung (*Austriacism*)
2. Vorlesung verbunden mit Übung (*Austriacism*)
3. VU (*Austriacism*)
4. Vorlesung mit Übung



# Helvetisms and internal variation\*



\*These variants are not necessarily specific Swiss variants.

# Examples of Helvetisms with variants (I)

Denominative variants for the concept “certificate of the final exam at the secondary school”

The variants marked with *Helvetism* are specific for the Swiss sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other subcorpora.

1. Maturitätsausweis (*Helvetism*)
2. Maturitätszeugnis (*Helvetism*)
3. Maturazeugnis (*Helvetism*)\*
4. Reifezeugnis

\*In Austria it is only used in non specialised discourse.

# Examples of Helvetisms with variants (II)

Denominative variants for the concept “number of the insured person in the old age and survivors’ insurance”

The variants marked with *Helvetism* are specific for the Swiss sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Versichertennummer der Alters- und Hinterlassenenversicherung (*Helvetism*)
2. AHV-Versichertennummer (*Helvetism*)
3. AHV-Nummer (*Helvetism*)
4. AHV-Nr. (*Helvetism*)

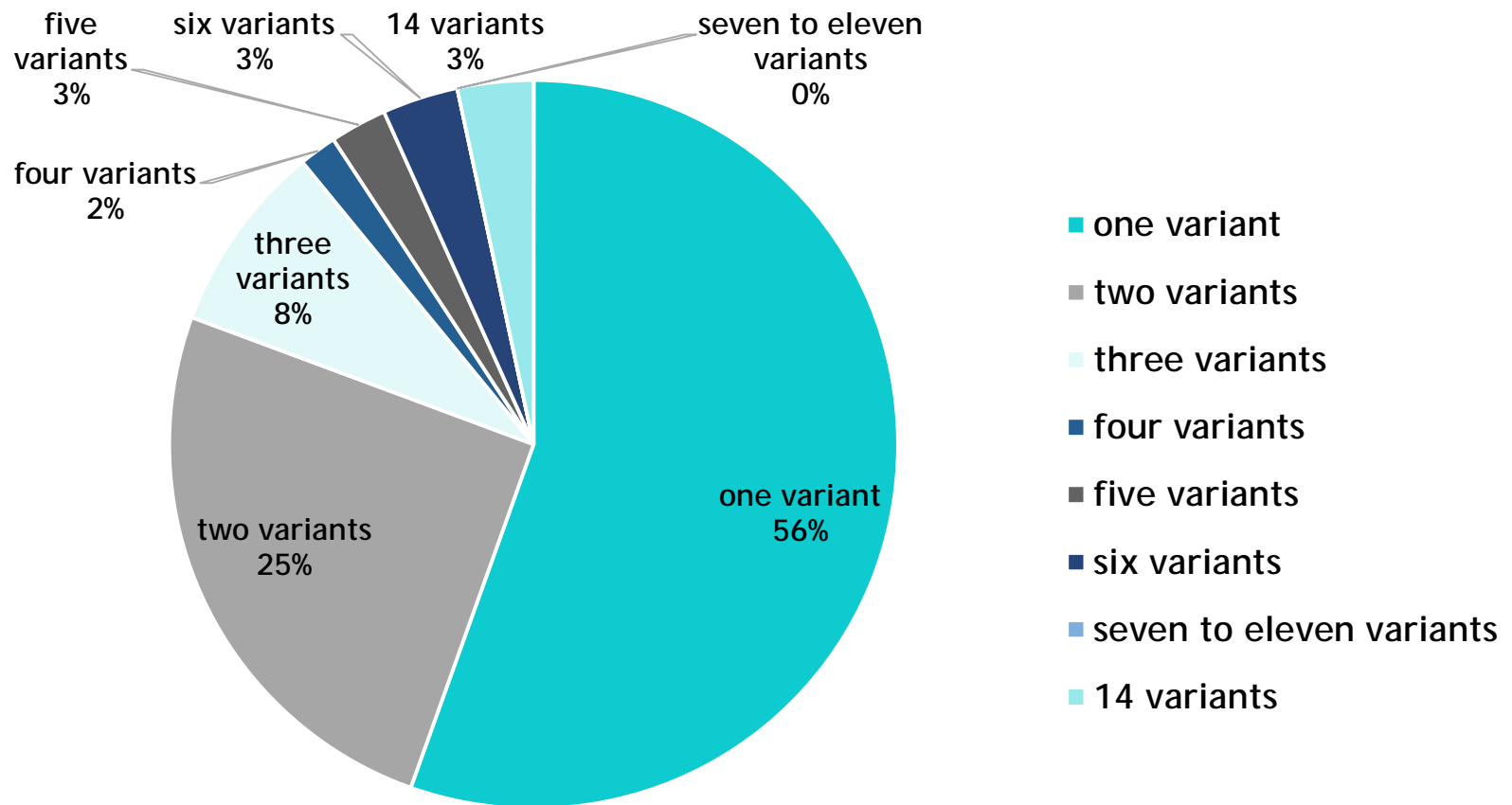
# Examples of Helvetisms with variants (Additional)

Denominative variants for the concept “Masters degree program”

The variants marked with *Helvetism* are specific for the Swiss sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Lizentiats-Studium (*Helvetism*)
2. Lizentiatstudium (*Helvetism*)
3. Lizentiatsstudium (*Helvetism*)
4. Lizenziat-Studium (*Helvetism*)

# Teutonisms and internal variation\*



\*These variants are not necessarily specific German variants.

# Examples of Teutonisms with variants (I)

Denominative variants for the concept “certificate for deregistration at a specific university”

The variants marked with *Teutonism* are specific for the German sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Exmatrikulationsbescheinigung (*Teutonism*)
2. Exmatrikulationsnachweis (*Teutonism*)
3. Exmatrikel (*Teutonism*)

# Examples of Teutonisms with variants (II)

Denominative variants for the concept “official publishing organ of an institution”

The variants marked with *Teutonism* are specific for the German sub-corpus, the others where also found in the other sub-corpora.

1. Verkündigungsblatt (*Teutonism*)
2. Verkündungsblatt (*Teutonism*)
3. Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt (*Teutonism*)
4. amtliches Mitteilungsblatt (*Teutonism*)
5. Anzeiger (*Teutonism*)
6. Amtlicher Anzeiger (*Teutonism*)
7. Mitteilungsblatt

# Limitation of this study

The variation of terms used in all language centres are not recorded systematically and are not integrated in the analysis.

e.g. in Switzerland the concept of “ECTS credits” is affected by denominative variation as well, but none of the variants are specific for Switzerland, and therefore they are not recorded in this study.

1. ECTS-Punkt
2. ECTS-Credit
3. ECTS
4. Credit
5. Kreditpunkt
6. KP
7. ECTS-Kreditpunkt



# Third case study: variation in historical legal texts

Variation in the Constitutio Criminalis Theresiana

# Data: Constitutio Criminalis Theresiana

- 1768-1787
- first unified penal code for Austria and the Bohemian lands
- also called “Nemesis Theresiana” or “Theresiana”



Source: Google Books

# Examples of variants (I)

Denominative variants of the concept “murder of family members by family members” found in the corpus of the Constitutio Criminalis Theresiana

## 1. Vatter=Kinder und Eheleutmord

§. 7. **Beschwerende Umstände sind:**  
 Erstlich: Wenn ein **Vatter, Kinder, oder Eheleutmord** mit-unterlauffet, wels-  
 chen Falls die Todesstraffe nach der oben Art. 86. gethanen Ausmessung zu ver-  
 schärffen ist.

*Circumstantie ag-  
 gravantes.  
 imò. Si concurrat  
 parricidium.*

Source: Google Books

## 2. Vattermord

§. 1. **Ein Vattermord** begeheth, wer seinen leiblichen Vatter, oder  
 Mutter, Großvatter, oder Großmutter, und, weiters in  
 dem Grad hinauf verwandte Personen boshaftig tödtet, er

Source: Google Books

## 3. Vater=Mutter=Kinder=Bruder=Schwester=Herren= oder Frauenmord

**Sechstens: Vater, Mutter, Kinder, Bruder, Schwester, Herrn, oder  
 Frauenmord, wie auch jener Mord, so aus Rach, oder Feindschaft an fremden  
 unschuldigen Kindern begangen wird.**

Source: Google Books

## 4. Vatter=Kinder oder Eheleutmord

86. **Von dem Vatter, Kinder, und Eheleutmord.**

Source: Google Books

## 5. Eltern=Kinder oder Eheleutmord

**Eltern, Kinder, oder Eheleutmord (Art. 86. und 87.)**

Source: Google Books

# Examples of variants (II)

Denominative variants of the concept “child abandonment” found in the corpus of the Constitutio Criminalis Theresiana

## 1. Kinderverthun

ARTICULUS 27.  
de homicidio in pro-  
prium partum per-  
petrato.

**Siebenundachtzigster Artikel**  
von dem **Kinderverthun**, oder Mordthat, so an neugebohr-  
nen Kindern beschiehet.

Source: Google Books

## 2. Kindsverthung

Wicrtens : Gegen diejenige, welche zur **Kindsverthung** wißentlich, und gefährlicher Weise Hülf, Beystand, und Vorschub leisten, ebenfalls der Schwertschlag; gegen diejenige hingegen, welche von der Schwangerschaft einer ledigen

Source: Google Books

## 3. Verthung des Kinds

Ob ihr Jemand, und wer zu **Verthung des Kinds** Rath, Anleitung, und Hülf geleistet habe? wie, und auf was Weise solches beschehen seye?

Source: Google Books

# Conclusions and outlook

Legal terminology is subject to

- geopolitical variation
- internal variation

Variation is not bound to

- a specific subdomain
- a specific period

More case studies are needed!

Thank you!  
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