

PRESENTATION

HISTORICAL BALTIC GERMAN STUDENT LANGUAGE AS A SOCIOLECT

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The University of Dorpat/Tartu, refounded in 1802, remained the only University in the Baltic provinces until the end of the tsaristic period. The student fraternities, constituted by principals of common geographical background and lifelong bonds, acted as a sociological melting-pot. Their significance for society was enhanced even more by genealogical interweavings and memberships spanning over several generations. The peculiarities of the Baltic German idiom - distinguished by a certain antiquated appearance and regional influences - are reflected in the language usage of the students as well.



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ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Reet Bender is an Associate Professor of German Language and Culture at the University of Tartu. She studied in Tartu, Erlangen and Marburg. Her teaching and research focuses are Baltic German, Baltic German lexicography and culture, historical multilingualism and sociolects in the Baltic States, Baltic German places of remembrance, identity, autobiographies and memoirs, folklore, history of translation, and history of the university. Dr. Bender also works as a freelance translator.