WILLKOMMEN! WELCOME!

Herrenhausen Symposium on Visual Linguistics, 2014-11-19, Hannover

VISUALISATIONS AS A DIFFERENT KIND OF »CONCEPTUAL LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS« IN LINGUISTICS

- in analogy to the connectionism debate in cognitive science in the early 90s
  - Fodor...Levelt vs. Smolensky...Dell
- very big and rich observed data
- cannot be adequately captured by symbol-level descriptions (»photosynthesis: if subjected to sunlight, then produce energy«)
- cannot be be adequately captured on a too low level (»map in scale of 1:1«)
- is there anything to this analogy?
- what relations between *visualizing* and *modelling* will we have?

VISUALIZATION AS A MEANS OF HYPOTHESIS ABDUCTION

- rather as a means of inspiration
- than as a means of representing (intermediate) results
- with all consequences
  - no claims on any reality
  - not necessarily traceable
- are DH and linguistics capable of making such a distinction?
- art …

VISUALIZATIONS AS A METHODOLOGICAL LINK

between quantitative and qualitative, interpretative research

- at least one way to go
- probably not a way to go just once
- interactive visualizations
- iterative cycles of application necessary
- are we wise and rich enough to maintain the necessary »technical« overhead?

  - will it be sustainable?

TRADITIONAL PARTITION OF LABOUR?
(in linguistics)

- linguist
- statistician
- programmer
- all integral parts of the linguistic (!) methodology
- everybody needs to get their hands dirty in data and code
- more than just inter-disciplinarity necessary
- are linguistics and DH ready for this?

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER DISCIPLINES?

- How much canonization is required?
- How can we avoid ending up with ascribing emotions to dead salmons?
- Or: How can we get there in the first place?
- ...