

# Prayer about prayer in German and SWA-algorithm

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## Abstract

*The purpose of this article is to go one step further from our initial exploration, on the relationship between prayer and German language. In this case we continue our quest, by adding one more layer of depth to the main core of the exploration. Thus, instead of focusing on “prayer”, we will focus on the idea of “prayer about prayer” to then applying it to German language and see what we find on the way, with the help of an algorithm.*

**Keywords:** German, prayer about prayer, SWA-algorithm.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The quest for depth in the exploration of the connection between the concept of prayer and German language, has yielded the next step of research: focusing on prayer about prayer, instead of prayer (Alvarez, 2023), and then applying this new depth to German language. We will explore more about this in the following sections.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Prayer about prayer

Prayer about prayer is a concept (and/or process) that can be briefly conceptualized as the second layer of depth within the dynamics of prayer (Alvarez, 2018, 2019a, 2023). “Prayer about prayer” for that matter, will help us gain an understanding about language and cognition, to then apply it to a specific language, in this case German. It has to be said, however, that the steps mentioned do not follow a linear sequence. Rather, they are combined to form a single and unified analysis.

### 2.2 German language

German language or German, is the official language of both Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland. It belongs to the West Germanic group of Indo-European languages, along with English, Frisian, and Dutch (Netherlandic, Flemish) (Britannica, n.d.).

### 2.3 SWA-algorithm

SWA-algorithm is a system of automatic writing process/productin the field of science (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D’Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008). This is the “purest” and clearest definition we can find on this matter, for the purpose of this research.

## III. DISCUSSION

### 3.1 General considerations

We can start the discussion by paying attention to the following:

*“Mein Gebet ist für Gott und mein Gebet über Gebet auch”*

This is technically not a prayer *per se*, but a statement about a person’s prayer life. This personal statement or reflection on prayer is, as it can be seen, in German, and it includes both the concepts of prayer and prayer about prayer, in German as well.

If we focus on the concept of prayer in German, the extract from the sample shown some lines above, is technically not a prayer as previously mentioned. However, it may be part of it, and to some extent, in some

prayer contexts. For example, it could be part of a prayer in which *God* has already been addressed (or “*Gott*”, for that matter).

That leads us to the matter of whether addressing “*Gott*” in prayer specifically speaking, is a condition for prayer to happen, whether in German or other languages. Of course this may take us out of the linguistic analysis realm to disciplines like religion, theology etc. That is surely not the purpose of this research.

What matters for us in this case, is the issue of whether the distance between segments of prayer samples like the one shown, to the divine entity being addressed, is important and to what extent. Insights on this matter can help us tell the difference between a statement and a prayer and also understand the internal linguistic dynamics of (specific) prayer(s) more deeply, based on the nearness from one word addressing the divine entity to the next one.

However, these last considerations, though productive, are not specifically related to the main topic of this article and we need to get back on track. Maybe an analysis of this nature is not enough on its own and we may need an algorithm to assist us in the analysis process. The algorithm we are thinking of is SWA (Scientific Writing Automation) (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D’Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008).

Therefore, next part of the discussion section will cover the application of SWA-algorithm to prayer about prayer in German (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; 2024; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D’Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008).

### 3.2 SWA-algorithm applied to prayer about prayer in German

We can begin our exploration of prayer about prayer in German, through SWA-algorithm (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020, 2024); Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D’Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008). To begin with we have to let the machine roll, SWA-algorithm in this case, to see what happens from then on.

If we focus on what SWA has to say regarding prayer about prayer in German, we may speculate on finding an algorithm underlying the dynamics of prayer about prayer in German. Maybe there is an internal mechanism within the mind/brain, in the Chomskian conception of mind/brain (Chomsky, 1995) allowing prayer in German and prayer about prayer in German, to be performed (Alvarez, 2023, 2024; Chomsky, 1995).

The question now is whether the mechanism we are talking about is German-specific, or part of a wider and rather universal cognitive system, in charge of prayer and other metaphysical activities (Alvarez, 2018, 2019a, 2023, 2024).

Therefore a final word on these matters, leads to the speculation of whether the potential mechanism we are talking about, works through or includes some kind of SWA-algorithm (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2018, 2019b, 2020, 2023, 2024); Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D’Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008), or not. Once previous point has been made, it does not seem likely to state anything else on the matter at hand. Therefore, the analysis taking place has to end here.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Through this article, we have explored the relationship between prayer about prayer and German language, with the help of an algorithm. It was found a potential mechanism with algorithmic characteristics, allowing prayer in German and prayer about prayer in German to be performed, is to be found. No additional insights could be noted on the matter since the algorithm used through this article did not allow for that.

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