

Tyrolean syllables under a typological perspective  
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Tyrolean syllables are famous for their particularly complex and typologically rare onset clusters as e.g. in *[kʃpr]ungen* (StG. *gesprungen*, 'to spring PST PTCP') or *[kʃ]olln* (StG. *gefallen*, 'to fall PST PTCP'; Alber & Meneguzzo 2016, Meneguzzo 2018). How do these syllables compare, in terms of complexity and markedness, to the syllable structure of other languages? To answer this question, the Tyrolean syllable is examined as to its behavior concerning universal principles of syllable wellformedness (Jakobson 1962, Prince & Smolensky 1993/2004). In a second step, it is compared to the structures assumed as canonical for Germanic languages (van Oostendorp 2020) and for Standard German (Wiese 1996).

We will find that the Tyrolean syllable is indeed typologically quite marked both with respect to the number and to the type of segments that can be hosted in onsets. This finding is in line with what Lameli (2022) observes for the syllables in the Southern dialects of Germany, which he describes as having comparatively more complex margins and a higher probability for obstruent-obstruent clusters.

Data for the examination of the Tyrolean syllable comes from previous fieldwork (Alber & Lanthaler 2004, Alber & Meneguzzo 2016, Meneguzzo 2018), as well as from a production experiment carried out over the crowdsourcing platform AlpiLinK ([alpilink.it](http://alpilink.it); Rabanus et al. 2024). In the experiment, participants are asked to produce novel words affixed with *Ge- ... -e* (e.g. *[k-f]auch-e*, StG. *Ge-fauch-e* from *fauchen* 'to hiss'). This allows us to establish the productivity of complex onset clusters in Tyrolean.

## References

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