



A Contact Language in the North Sea

# SHAETLAN

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# My linguistic hats

## **Linguistic typology**

The study of structural differences & similarities between languages of the world

“What’s where why?”

## **Contact linguistics**

The study of situations where speakers of different languages interact

The study of how contact situations affect the languages involved

## **Historical linguistics**

The study of how and why languages change over time

# Contact Language vs high contact language (simplified!)

## Contact Language

*emerged* through language  
contact

has *more than one* main ancestor

Russenorsk

Jamaican

Michif

...

## High contact language

*has undergone* a lot of language  
contact

has *one* main ancestor

French

Persian

English

...



# Major types of Contact Languages (simplified!)

Jargons	Pidgins	Creoles	Mixed Languages
Unstructured	Structured	Structured	Structured
Auxiliary language	Auxiliary language	L1	L1
Dynamic input	Dynamic input	Dynamic input	Stable input
Dynamic ecology	Dynamic ecology	Dynamic ecology	Stable ecology
Fluctuating multilingualism	Fluctuating multilingualism	Fluctuating multilingualism	Stable bilingualism
	Opaque source(s) for structures	Opaque source(s) for structures	Identifiable source(s) for structures
		Community identity marker	Community identity marker
			In-group communication

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# Shaetlan on da global map bilingual



Shaetlan on da global map  
Documentin & describin contemporary Shaetlan

Shaetlan is da language spokken along wi English in Shetland, da maist northerly pairt o da UK. Hit pre-daets English apø da isles an isna mutually intelligible wi English. Aa Shaetlan spaekkers is bilingual wi English. Hits main ancesor languages is Norn (extinct) an Scots, wi a lok o Dutch an Low German bits in aboot it.

Spelling in Shaetlan

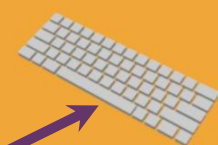
History of Shaetlan

Grammar & dictionary



Films

Culture notes



Keyboard

Who we ir' Spaek wi wi

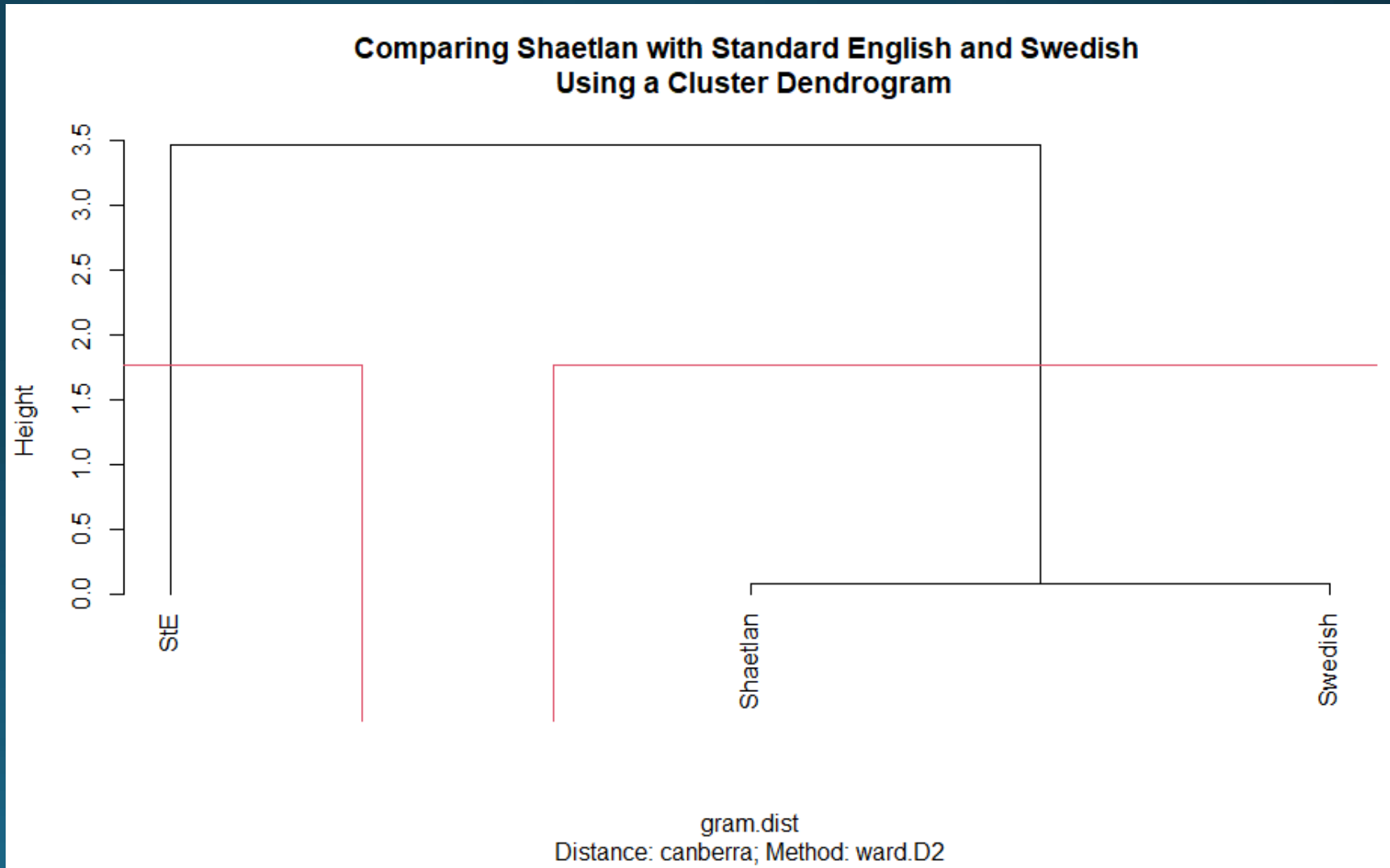


# Comparing grammars: an experiment

Biber, Douglas, Stig  
Johansson, Geoffrey N. Leech,  
Susan Conrad & Edward  
Finnegan. 2021. *Grammar of  
Spoken and Written  
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Teleman, Ulf, Staffan Hellberg,  
Erik Anderson. 1999.  
*Svenska Akademiens  
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Mullay. 2022. *Shaetlan. A  
Primer*. Available at:  
<https://www.iheardee.com/shaetlan/shaetlan-grammar-dictionary>.



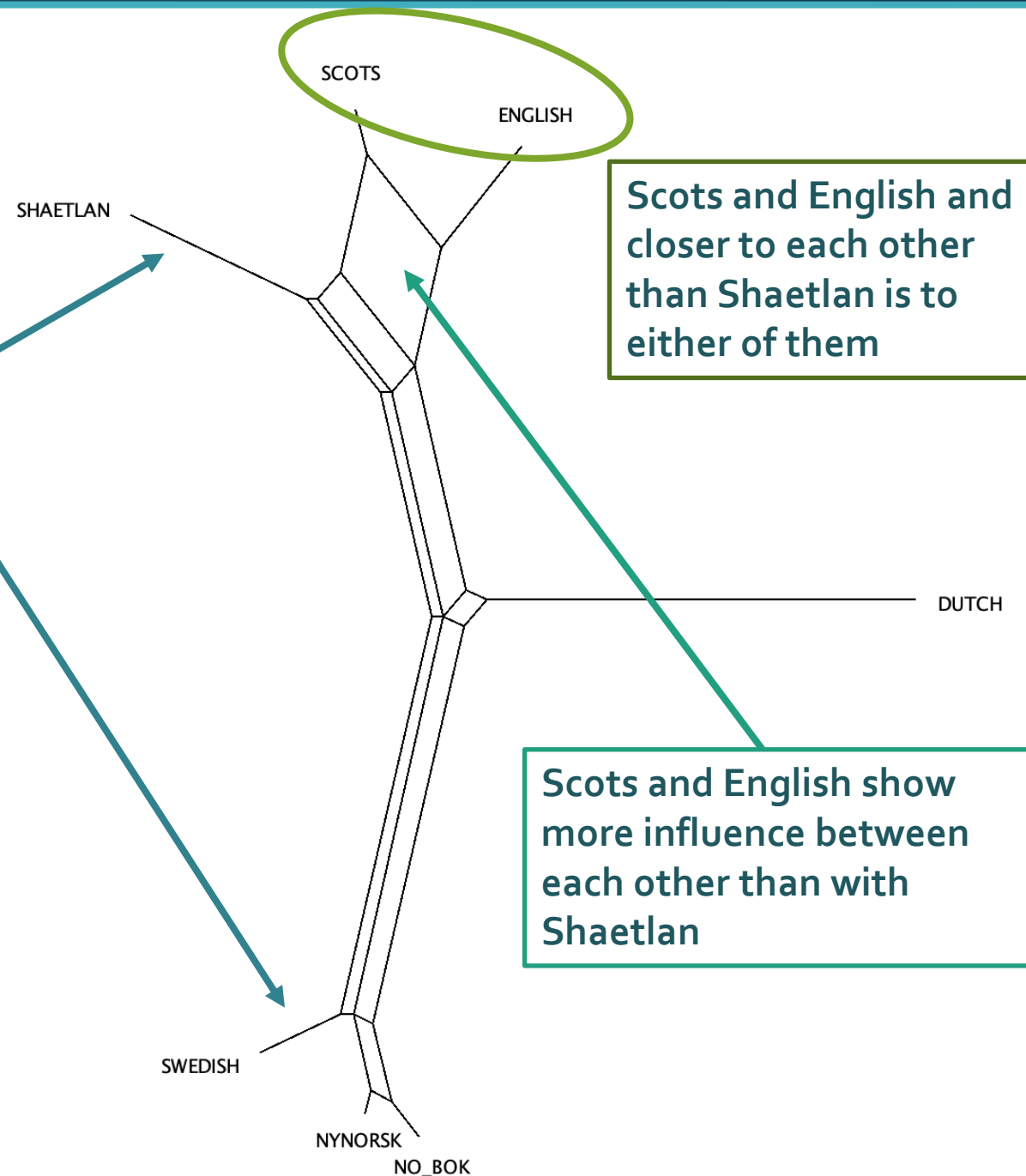
# Comparing lexicon *Swadesh 100-lists*

Shaetlan is more different from Scots and English than Swedish is from Nynorsk as well as Bokmål Norwegian

Illustrates how

*A language is a dialect with an army and a navy:*

The three Scandinavian varieties cluster very closely together, yet are all referred to as languages; Shaetlan is the second most separated branch (after Dutch), yet is the only variety here that is persistently referred to as 'dialect' despite linguistic evidence to the contrary



# Shaetlan as a Contact Language

Shaetlan	Pidgins	Creoles	Mixed Languages
Structured	Structured	Structured	Structured
L1	Auxiliary language	L1	L1
Stable input		Dynamic input	Stable input
Stable ecology		Dynamic ecology	Stable ecology
Stable bilingualism		Fluctuating multilingualism	Stable bilingualism
Identifiable source(s) for structures		Opaque source(s) for structures	Identifiable source(s) for structures
Community identity marker		Community identity marker	Community identity marker
In-group communication			In-group communication



# Shaetlan as a Mixed Language?

## Shaetlan

Structured

L1

Stable input

Stable ecology

Stable bilingualism

Identifiable source(s) for structures

Community identity marker

In-group communication

## **NOT IMPOSSIBLE**

prototypical GL language:

Grammar < original settlers  
(Scandinavian)

Lexicon < new settlers  
(Anglian)

*now globally used as case  
study for Bakker's 2017 model*

## Mixed Languages

Structured

L1

Stable input

Stable ecology

Stable bilingualism

Identifiable source(s) for structures

Community identity marker

In-group communication

Bakker, Peter. 2017. Typology of mixed languages. In Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald & R. M. W. Dixon (eds.), *Cambridge handbook of linguistic typology*, 217-253. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Ta*

