

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A GERMAN DIALECT

Connie de Veer

<http://web.ku.edu/~idea/europe/germany/germany10.mp3> - Listen to this sample of a German dialect

Generally, the German dialect is back-placed, not unlike an American dialect. This means that most of the sounds feel like they're resonating and/or originating in the back of the throat and mouth.

Many voiced consonants go to voiceless, and vice versa.

Here are substitutions in IPA and English alphabet:

θ goes to t (think = teenk)

ð goes to z (these=zees)

ŋ goes to k (ring=reengk)

w goes to f or v (well=vell)

f goes to v (very=ferry)

dʒ goes to tʃ (judge=chuch)

ʌ goes to a (under=ahnder)

æ goes to a (man=mahn) or ε (that=thet)

ɑ goes to ɔ (hot=haut)

z goes to s (she's=shees)

ɜ goes to εɜ (work=ve (short "e") erk)

words ending in ɜ or ər ("er") are "non-rhotic," which means you don't pronounce the "r" (ever=evah)

Medial "r's" (in the middle of a word), use a uvular r