

[fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛrɪʃ]

A Quick Guide to the Language of Frankfurt

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To Gisela and Volker, who decided to leave Frankfurt¹

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¹Original text was as of 17/11/2004 – this is updated revision 3.3 as of 14/08/2017. Hey! Now in colors! Visit as well the project websites frankfurterisch.org and vokaljaeger.org. Check out [Frankfurterisch](https://www.facebook.com/frankfurterisch) on Facebook. Contact: info@frankfurterisch.org.

[ɛs vil mæɐ nɛt in də kop ɔnai, vi: kan ɔn mɛndʃ nɛt fon fraŋfœt sai]

In front of you, you have a short introduction to our marvellous *Frankfurterisch*, pronounced *Frängfoadärisch* or, more precise: [fraŋfœdɛriʃ]². The *Frankfurter Stadtmundart* or *Frankfurter Dialekt* is the city dialect of Frankfurt! Fluency in [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] is a must for getting around in Frankfurt. This Grammar of [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] provides a rule by rule introduction into Goethe's mother tongue. To help non-German speakers the phonetic IPA-transcription is given³.

1 To Start With...

...one of the most famous poems in [fraŋfœdɛriʃ]: It already shows a lot of the distinctive features of our most beloved language, ehm, dialect. For training purposes, non-native speakers of [fraŋfœdɛriʃ], the so-called *Hergelaufene*, [hæɐgəla:fənə], should read it loudly at least once a day. Here we go:

<i>Uffm Täamsche</i>	[ufm tæɐmfə]	on a little tower
<i>sitzd e Wäamsche</i>	[sitsd ə væɐmfə]	sits a little worm
<i>mitm Schäämsche</i>	[midm ʃæɐmfə]	with a little umbrella
<i>unnerm Äamsche</i>	[unæɐm æɐmfə]	under its little arm
<i>kimmtn Schdüamsche</i>	[kimdn ʃdæɐmfə]	there comes a storm
<i>wäaft des Wäamsche</i>	[væɐfd dəs væɐmfə]	throws the little worm
<i>mitm Schäämsche</i>	[midm ʃæɐmfə]	with a little umbrella
<i>unnerm Äamsche</i>	[unæɐm æɐmfə]	under its little arm
<i>vom Täamsche.</i>	[fom tæɐmfə]	of the little tower.
<i>Ach,</i>	[ax]	Oh,
<i>des äâm Wäamsche.</i>	[dəs æɐm væɐmfə]	the poor little worm.

Now, technically, we have some four dialects in the Bundesland of Hessen⁴. Around Kassel, Northern Hessian (Nordhessisch) is spoken; the Fulda region shows Eastern Hessian (Osthessisch); then we have Central Hessian (Zentralhessisch) near Gießen down to the Taunus and, finally, Southern Hessian or *Rhenish-Franconian* (Südhessisch or Rheinfränkisch) close-by Darmstadt. Our [fraŋfœdɛriʃ], actually, happens to be a variant of Rhenish-Franconian. That's important: [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] ist *not* Hessian.

There are quite some significant differences. One striking example is the Hessian shift of a T between two vowels and an R, as e.g. in *Wetterau*, which becomes *Werrä'aa*, [vɛɛɛa:] – for linguists this weird behaviour comes by the name of *rhoticism*. [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] on the other side has *Weddä'aa*, [vɛdɛɛa:]. The

²And, you know, don't take it too serious. For a more scientific view, check out the literature on p. 11–13 and maybe my PHD thesis Carsten Keil (2017), *Der VokalJäger. Eine phonetisch-algorithmische Methode zur Vokaluntersuchung. Exemplarisch angewendet auf historische Tondokumente der Frankfurter Stadtmundart*, in: Deutsche Dialektgeographie, vol. 122; or the websites frankfurterisch.org and vokaljaeger.org, respectively. You can actually **listen** on frankfurterisch.org to some old Frankfurt audio recording out of the *Lautdenkmal reichsdeutscher Mundarten* collection [Purschke 2014 f.]. There you get a feeling how true old [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] sounded around 1937.

³Esp. dark O-ish A, ä, [a]; ä, [ɛ]; very open ä, [æ]; R-to-A in *er*, *ää*, [æɐ] (see p. 11).

⁴More on that in Wiesinger (1980, especially map 24).

Hessian guys – and not long ago Hessian was spoken in Sachsenhausen, Bornheim, Oberrad and even Bockenheim – actually twist nearly every vowel.

If you ask a true Hessian, say, around Butzbach, to say *Im Winter fliegen die trockenen Blätter in der Luft herum*, she would bring up: *Em Wentä fläiße de truckne Blärrer in de Loft errum*, [əm vɛntɛ flɛijə də truknə blɛrɛ in də loft ərum]. All vowels shifted! [frʌŋkfɔdɛri:] is not *that* strange: *Im Wintä flie'ie de trockne Blädder in de Luft errum*, [im vintɛ flijə də troknə blɛdɛ in də luft ərum].

2 Useful Expressions...

... of [frʌŋkfɔdɛri:] terms to master everyday business situations. They show the high efficiency of [frʌŋkfɔdɛri:] for conveying messages⁵:

1. *Hä?*
[hæ:]
I beg your pardon. Would you please repeat what you just have said?
2. *So isses aach widdä net.*
[so: isəs a:x vidɛ nɛt]
The issue is much more complex than we initially thought.
3. *Des krieje mäaa heut aach net mäaa gebacke.*
[dəs kri:jə mæ:rɛ hoit a:x nɛt mæ:rɛ gəbʌgə]
Despite all our efforts we won't be able to finish the tasks today as planned.
4. *Geed nüt! Gibds nüt! Mache mäaa nüt!*
[ge:d nɛt! gibds nɛt! maxə mæ:rɛ nɛt!]
I fell very sorry, but it does not seem not be possible for us to fulfil your requirements.
5. *Des äâ(n)ne säsch isch diia.*
[dəs ä:nə sɛʃ ɪʃ di:rɛ]
Listen, Sir, I would like to emphasize this very particular issue.
6. *Du kannstn gånze Krembl eweil schon fäadischmache.*
[du: kanstn gantsə krembl ɛvail ʃon fæ:diʃmaxə]
In meantime, would you please pack the entire stuff together?
7. *Des krieje mäaa scho hie.*
[dəs kri:jə mæ:rɛ ʃo hi:]
Don't be concerned. We get that sorted for you.
8. *Hach, isch waas net. Kammä so mache, äwwä isch deet eejä...*
[hax, ɪʃ va:s nɛt. kamɛ so: maxə, avɛ ɪʃ de:t ɛ:jɛ]
I see what you say and i fully appreciate your input. But in this very particular case i would rather propose to...
9. *Häaa mäaa uff!*
[hæ:rɛ mæ:rɛ uf]
Really? I don't believe it!
10. *Feijäääwund! Hip, Hop, Schobbe in de Kopp!*
[faijɛ:ɹvnd! hip, hop, ʃɔbɛ in də kɔp!]
After such a challenging, successful and pleasant working day: Let's have a drink!

⁵Inspired by Gruhn/Gruhn (2000).

3 Phonetics and Phonology

Phonetics describes the 'sound' of a language, and phonology tells you why it's like that. Thus, it is possible, to speak with High German grammar, but use the sound of [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ].

3.1 Consonants

One of the most distinctive features of [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ] is the softening of consonants. This gives the language its very pleasant, fluent and relaxed sound.

Rule 1: Soften the consonants:					
t	[t]	→	d	[d]	
p	[p]	→	b	[b]	
k	[k]	→	g	[g]	mid/end word.
b	[b]	→	w	[v]	mid word between vowels.
g	[g]	→	sch	[ʃ]	mid/end word; after <i>e, i, ei, ie.</i>
		→	ch	[x]	mid/end word; after <i>a, o, u.</i>
ch	[ç]	→	sch	[ʃ]	mid/end word; after <i>e, i, ei, ie.</i>

to lumber	tapsen	→	<i>dabbse</i>	[dabsə]
weather	Wetter	→	<i>Weddä</i>	[vɛdɛ]
paper	Papier	→	<i>Babieä</i>	[babi:ɛ]
lid	Deckel	→	<i>Deggl</i>	[dɛgl]
evening	Abend	→	<i>Äåwnd</i>	[a:vnd]
rain	Regen	→	<i>Rääsche</i>	[rɛ:ʃə]
stomach	Magen	→	<i>Mååche</i>	[ma:xə]
bow	Bogen	→	<i>Booche</i>	[bo:xə]
really	wirklich	→	<i>wääklisch</i>	[væɛglɪʃ]

3.2 Vowels

The language of [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ] exhibits a considerably complex vowel shift. The complexity arises from the near absence of any rule as to where the shift is to be applied, and where not⁶. Hence, the pattern has to be memorized, and the use of a dictionary is recommended.

⁶Okay. That's not entirely true. But in order to know where to twist what vowel, you would need to read some language stuff or, ehm, be fluent in Middle High German. The complete weirdness of [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ] vowel shifting can be found e. g. in Keil (2017, p. 409–425) or in excerpts on frankfurterisch.org under *Lautlehre*.

Rule 2: For some words, shift the vowels:

aa	[a:]	→	a dark long O-like A	ââ	[ɑ:]
a	[a]	→	a dark short O-like A	â	[ɑ]
au	[au]	→	a bright long A	aa	[a:]
ei	[ei]	→	same bright long A	aa	[a:]
ei+n	[ein]	→	nasalized dark A	ââ(n)	[ã:]
ee	[e:]	→	a long Ä	ää	[ɛ:]
ü	[y]	→	an I	i	[i]
ö	[œ]	→	an E	e	[e]

to say	sagen	→	<i>sââche</i>	[sa:xə]	long dark A
you have	du hast	→	<i>de hâst</i>	[hast]	short dark A
sheet	Blatt	→	<i>Plâtt</i>	[plat]	short dark A
ape	Affe	→	<i>Aff</i>	[af]	no shift!
as well	auch	→	<i>aach</i>	[a:x]	long bright A
house	Haus	→	<i>Haus</i>	[haus]	no shift!
blue	blau	→	<i>ploo</i>	[plo:]	very weird shift to O!
joy	Freude	→	<i>Fraat</i>	[fra:t]	long bright A
devil	Teufel	→	<i>Daiwl</i>	[darvɪ]	AI, not EU!
meat	Fleisch	→	<i>Flaasch</i>	[fla:f]	long bright A
leg	Bein	→	<i>Bââ(n)</i>	[bâ:]	long dark nasalized A
nice	fein	→	<i>fein</i>	[fam]	no shift!
rain	Regen	→	<i>Rââsche</i>	[rɛ:fə]	Hey, that's a long Ä!
kitchen	Küche	→	<i>Kisch</i>	[kɪf]	a short I
oil	Öl	→	<i>Eel</i>	[e:l]	a long E

To pick the correct vowel can become a very nasty business. Consider the willow tree. In German that's a *Weide*. Then consider the meadow. In German that's *Weide* again. In [fr̩aŋfœdɛrɪf] the tree is a *Waid*, [vaɪd], too. But the grassland is a *Waad*, [va:d]⁷. Why is that? That's because the tree — once upon a time — had a long I, *wide*, and the grasslands had an old EI, *weide*. And old long I are EI in [fr̩aŋfœdɛrɪf] and old EI became A! Ehm. Okay. Complex. Remember this observation from around 1850: *Dâ wâan Kieh uff dâa Waad, unner dene Bapplweide*. Anyway.

Now, this vowel-shifting business was even too complex for the old native speakers of [fr̩aŋfœdɛrɪf]. They got confused over the last 200 years and, fair point, today not all Frankfurters are *that* rock-solid anymore in original [fr̩aŋfœdɛrɪf] vowels).

So, examples: Once there was an AI for certain words with EU: *deutsch* once was pronounced *daitsch*, [daitʃ] – this is: with an AI. That became an EU around 1820, hence: *deutsch*, [dortʃ]. The last AI to die was the one in the *devil*, the *Teufel*. The devil held on his AI in *Daiwl*, [darvɪ], until 1920.

Next to go were the *short* dark A-s (sounding both A-ish and O-ish at the same time, â). *Blatt* had a dark A, this is: *Plâtt*, [plat], around 1820. In 1850 it was gone and became bright A as in High German: *Platt*, [plat]. The old

⁷Same actually for the heathlands: the German *Heide* is *Haad*, [ha:d], in [fr̩aŋfœdɛrɪf] – the *Bornheimer Heide*, existing until around 1850, was the *Bâanemâ Haad*.

Frankfurters had as well some *long* dark A for example in *Garten* with *Gääade*, [ga:ədə]. By 1940 those were gone and became *short* bright A: *Garde*, [gadə].

Some other EU once had been A as well. *Freude* was *Fraat*, [fra:t], in the old days. That was already dying around 1900 and dead soon later. One researcher stated in 1939: *Heute fraat sich der Frankfurter nicht mehr, er freut sich*⁸.

Where does that strange O come from in *blau*? Around 1850 the [fraŋfœdɛriʃ] term always was *ploo*, [plo:]!? That's because some thousand years ago that, what's now an AU, once was a long A – Middle High German for *blau* was *blâ* – and all long A in Frankfurt are dark long [a:] and this particular A got even darker and went straight O.

And now comes a really interesting story: Today you hear in Frankfurt *aal*, [a:l], for *alt* and *khaal*, [k^ha:l], for *kalt*. But that's *not* original old-school [fraŋfœdɛriʃ]! Around 1850 it was *ald* and *kald* ! It seems the Frankfurter got so confused that they even nicked some Hessian tunes around 1900⁹.

The vowel twisters are considerably complex. So if you want to know the full story, check out the books in the literature list. And start practicing! And you know what? If you do it right, you can even *really score points* with the locals in Frankfurt.

3.3 Drop and Twist Endings

[fraŋfœdɛriʃ] is a very efficient language. For that reason the words are shortened and endings are dropped – or made more colorful.

Rule 3: Drop and twist endings:

-e	→	-	-	kill the trailing E entirely.
-en	→	-e	[-ə]	kill the trailing N and make the E weak.
-er	→	-ä	[-ɛ]	Replace boring <i>-er</i> with a straight Ä.

one card	eine Karte	→	<i>e Käät</i>	[ə ka:t]
two cards	zwei Karten	→	<i>zwo Kääde</i>	[tsvo ka:də]
older	älter	→	<i>eldä</i>	[eldɛ]

4 Vocabulary

4.1 [was ge:b iʃ foə maɪ dum gəbabl]

[fraŋfœdɛriʃ] is a very productive language. The vocabulary for describing people, especially, grows year by year. There are a vast number of dictionaries, but the Frankfurter Wörterbuch remains the standard. Sadly the six tome edition is extremely high priced, but there exist cut down versions and most of the books on Hessisch come with a small dictionary¹⁰.

⁸Rauh (1939).

⁹Those AA+L forms are pure Central Hessian. The guys beyond the Taunus have long-A as well in *Falte* with *Faald* or *Wald* with *Waald*.

¹⁰There is a growing online dictionary on frankfurterisch.org under *Wörterbuch* including cool sound samples. Another overview can be found in Keil (2017, p. 500–510).

Rule 4: Use local terms wherever possible:

High German term → [frʌŋfœdɛriʃ] term

<i>Därrabbl</i>	[dæərabl]	underweight person
<i>Schäddebämbel</i>	[ʃadɛbɛmbɛl]	underweight person, again
<i>Dunsl</i>	[dunsl]	intellectually challenged female person
<i>Simbl</i>	[simbl]	intellectually challenged male person
<i>Quäärädsimbl</i>	[kvædrɑ:dsimbl]	even more intellectually challenged person
<i>Labbes</i>	[labəs]	intellectually challenged... (ok, again)
<i>Dabbes</i>	[dabəs]	heavy handed person
<i>Hinnedruffhibbä</i>	[hinɛdrufhibɛ]	free rider
<i>Stutzä</i>	[ʃtutʃɛ]	overdressed person
<i>Knierutschä</i>	[knir:ʊtʃɛ]	obsequious person
<i>Volleul</i>	[foloɪl]	heavily intoxicated person
<i>Narrisch Hinkl</i>	[nariʃ hiŋkl]	moody female person
<i>Schlabbekickä</i>	[ʃlabɛkigɛ]	not the best football player
<i>Schissä</i>	[ʃisɛ]	person shying away from challenges
<i>Zoangickl</i>	[tsɔɛŋgikl]	hot-tempered person
<i>Kääschlhannes</i>	[kæ:ʃlhanəs]	bin-man/garbage collector
<i>Heinzbäat</i>	[haintsbæət]	someone (not further specified; male)
<i>Schmonzes</i>	[ʃmontsəs]	rubbish/bullshit
<i>Hibb de Bach</i>	[hib dɛ bax]	Old Frankfurt side of the Main river
<i>Dribb de Bach</i>	[drib dɛ bax]	Sachsenhausen side of the Main river

As a side note: *De Bach*, [dɛ bax], means *the* Main river. *Die Bach*, [di: bax], means *a* (specific) river (but, ergh, not the Main).

4.2 The [maxə] Paraphrase

[frʌŋfœdɛriʃ] makes it very easy to create new verbs by applying the verb *machen* (to do): so, start to use: *mache*, [maxə]. This 'replicates' (i.e. paraphrases) High German verbs without the necessity to 'translate' them. The resulting [maxə] paraphrase is usually much simpler and warmer in sound.

Rule 5: Use frequently:

verb → [maxə] paraphrase

<i>sisch uffmache</i>	[siʃ ufmaxə]	to set out
<i>uffmache</i>	[ufmaxə]	to open (a shop)
<i>Kaffee mache</i>	[kafɛ: maxə]	to prepare coffee
<i>runnämache</i>	[runɛmaxə]	to negatively challenge someone
<i>drää(n)mache</i>	[drɑ: maxə]	to fit
<i>sisch riwwämache</i>	[siʃ rivɛmaxə]	to come over
<i>Nächt doaschmache</i>	[naxd dœʃmaxə]	to dance & drink through the entire night
<i>rummache</i>	[rummaxə]	to be (local)
<i>sisch ins Bett mache</i>	[siʃ ins bɛd maxə]	to go to bed
<i>ins Bett mache</i>	[ins bɛd maxə]	to urinate into the bed
<i>zumache</i>	[tsu: maxə]	to close (a shop)

5 Morphology

Grammatical constructions, be they morphological or syntactical, are more 'solid' than phonetic features. Thus, one will find speakers with a High German 'sound' (i.e. avoiding the accent as described on p. 4), but using the grammar of [fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛrɪf].

5.1 The Plural

Usually the plural form follows the German standards. Obviously the plural form is then subject to the phonetic rules (p. 4). Especially the drop of the endings and vowel shifts apply here. Thus, here only the grammatical differences to High German are listed.

Rule 6: Create specific plural forms by:						
	vowel mutation	a	→	ä	ä	[ɛ]
	-n plural	-e	→	-n	-n	[-n]
	-er plural	-en	→	-er	-ä	[-ɛ]
	-le plural	-ln	→	-le	-le	[-lə]

arms	Arm	Arme	→	Äam	Äam	[aem]	[æem]
hair	Haar	Haare	→	Hää	Hääan	[ha:]	[ha:en]
shirt	Hemd	Hemden	→	Hembd	Hembdä	[hembd]	[hembdɛ]
potato	Kartoffel	Kartoffeln	→	Kadoffl	Kadoffele	[kadoffl]	[kadofələ]

5.2 The Diminutive

In [fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛrɪf] the diminutive is widely used. It finds wide application to convey the message 'small' or 'cute'.

Rule 7: Construct the diminutive by adding the suffix to the stem:							
Singular:	-sche	-sche	-[fə]	Plural:	-scher	-schä	-[fɛ]

worm	Woam	Wäamsche	Wäamschä	[voem]	[vɛemfə]	[vɛemfɛ]
sausage	Woascht	Wäaschtsche	Wäaschtschä	[voɛfd]	[vɛɛfdfə]	[vɛɛfdfɛ]
shirt	Hembd	Hembdsche	Hembdschä	[hembd]	[hembdfə]	[hembdfɛ]

And to be a *real* Frankfurter say for *Morgen* always *Moije*, [moijə]¹¹. Don't say *Moasche*, [moɛfə], and, never ever say *Moin*! That's Northern German and Frankfurt was invaded by Prussia in 1866, so pick your sides!

¹¹Note: a R between two vowels somehow becomes an J plus an I – same actually in *Aquarium*, then: *Aquajium*.

5.3 The [du:n] Infinitive

[fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛriʃ] makes heavy use of infinitive constructions with *tun* (to do), in [fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛriʃ]: *duun*, [du:n]. That's to avoid the tedious and over complex High German verbal flections: the infinitive is so much easier. Due to the relevance of [du:n], the important flections are shown:

Rule 8: In indicative (Ind.) and conjunctive I and II (con.), use frequently:				
		Ind.	Con.	
(conjugated) verb	→	(1S) [ɪʃ du:]	[d̩ɛ:t]	+ verb (infinitive)
		(2S) [d̩u: du:st]	[d̩ɛ:dst]	
		(3S) [æ:r̩ɐ du:t]	[d̩ɛ:t]	
		(1P) [mæ:ɐ du:n]	[d̩ɛ:d̩ə]	
		(2P) [i:r̩ɐ du:t]	[d̩ɛ:t]	
		(3P) [s̩ə du:n]	[d̩ɛ:d̩ə]	

he works	er arbeitet	<i>er duud schaffe</i>	[æ:r̩ɐ du:t ʃaf̩ə]
he sleeps	er schläft	<i>er duud schlâåfe</i>	[æ:r̩ɐ du:t ʃl̩a:f̩ə]
he says...	er sagt...	<i>er säscht...</i>	[æ:r̩ɐ s̩ɛft...]
...he comes	...er komme	<i>...er deet komme</i>	[...æ:r̩ɐ d̩ɛ:t kom̩ə]
...they come	...sie kommen	<i>...se deede komme</i>	[...s̩ə d̩ɛ:d̩ə kom̩ə]
...he might come	...er käme	<i>...er deet komme</i>	[...æ:r̩ɐ d̩ɛ:t kom̩ə]
...they might come	...sie kämen	<i>...se deede komme</i>	[...s̩ə d̩ɛ:d̩ə kom̩ə]

6 Syntax

Syntactical features are the most solid — and the most hidden. Therefore there are a lot of speakers who avoid, both the accent (p. 4) and the morphological patterns (p. 8) of [fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛriʃ], but still apply its syntax. To make this point, this section gives the examples in High German only.

6.1 The Genitive

As in all German dialects, a genuine genitive does not exist. Thus, the genitive is transformed in [fr̩ʌŋfœd̩ɛriʃ] into a (syntactic) dative construct.

Rule 9: Use dative instead of genitive :		
genitive	→ von/vom + dative	(general)
	→ possessive pronoun + dative	(genetivus possessivus)

Die Farbe der Häuser	→ Die Farbe von den Häusern	
Wolfgangs Haus	→ Das Haus vom Wolfgang	
	→ Dem Wolfgang sein Haus	(alternatively)

6.2 The Conjunctions

[fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ] is optimized and has less conjunctions than High German.

Rule 10: Use the following conjunctions:

(relative)	der, die, das	→	(der, die, das) wo
(comparative)	als	→	(als) wie
(conditional)	wenn	→	dann
(temporal)	als	→	wie
(locative)	zu	→	bei

Wolfgang, der dort steht	→	Der Wolfgang, (der) wo da steht
Wolfgang ist älter als Werther	→	Der Wolfgang ist älter (als) wie der Werther
Wolfgang ist so alt wie Werther	→	Der Wolfgang ist so alt (als) wie der Werther
Wenn Wolfgang kommt	→	Wann der Wolfgang kommt
Als Wolfgang im Urlaub war	→	Wie der Wolfgang im Urlaub war
Wolfgang geht zu Gretchen	→	Der Wolfgang geht bei das Gretchen

7 Goethe and [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ]

Johann Wolfgang Goethe is usually considered as one of the high priests of High German literature. But he could not always hide his native tongue. So, if one reads very carefully, one finds a few oddities. And, as it turns out, there are some real [fr̥aŋfœd̥ɛriʃ] relicts.

(Faust 1) Da steh ich nun, ich armer Tor!
Und bin so klug *als wie* zuvor;

(Faust 1) Ach *neige*,
Du *Schmerzenreiche*,
Dein Antlitz gnädig meiner Not!

Now, question: How you would have to pronounce *nei-ge* and *Schmerzensrei-che* that those two rhyme. Hint: it ain't no High German.

8 Appendix

8.1 Short Overview of the IPA Annotation

This is really a short one and the text uses a simplified version. For a full blown narrow phonetic description of the sounds of Frankfurt, check the literature below.

	High German	English (US)	
[ɛ]	Ä-ish sound	<i>Bett</i>	bed
[æ]	Extra open Ä	-	bad
[ə]	fainted end-E	<i>gehe</i>	-
[a]	clear bright A	<i>Fass</i>	-
[ɑ]	a dark O-like A, here: <i>ɑ̃</i>	-	saw
[ɐ]	the R-turned-A-sound, e.g. the R in <i>hier</i>	<i>hiea</i>	-
[iː]	longe vowel, e.g. [iː]	<i>bieten</i>	bead
[ɪŋ]	NG-sound	<i>sing!</i>	sing
[ʃ]	SCH/SH-sound	<i>Schock</i>	shock
[x]	German CH-sound	<i>ach</i>	-

8.2 Literature

This is an abbreviated List. More stuff can be found e.g. in Keil (2017, p. 485–500).

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