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Hist 133C

Source Exploration V.3

* I searched "JFK Ich bin ein Berliner" on <http://melvyl.worldcat.org/> and it showed that CBS had broadcast the speech in video recording in 1985.
* I searched "John F Kennedy Ich bin ein Berliner" on <http://scholar.google.com/> and got the full speech in text from USHistoryAtlas.com. This was the first link that I found to have the full speech in text.
* I searched "Ich bin ein Berliner" on [Google](https://books.google.com) ngrams in English and found spikes in 1967 and a higher spike in 1993. I did the same search in German. This is very similar to the one in English with spikes in the late 1960s and again a higher spike in the early 1990s. This likely because of many publications of Kennedy and more media attention about the speech on the 30th anniversary. More publications like *US Presidents as Orators* in 1995 and *Monatshefte* in 1993
* Once again I searched up "Ich bin ein Berliner" on google, and went on the link About.com/urbanlegends. The article is by David Emery and he explains to the audience to debunk “the legend,” the jelly donut misconception. He explains that Robert Lochner was the chief translator, who was an American raised in Germany for JFK. The article also states that linguist Jürgen Eichhoff decided to grammatical analysis of Kennedy's speech for the academic journal *Monatshefte*in 1993.
* So I looked up “Monatshefte in 1993 JFK’s speech” in Google and found an article that summarizes the academic journal. I found this article on <http://csumc.wisc.edu/AmericanLanguages/writings/2_myths_kennedy.html>. The article explains how the German grammar works compared to English grammar. In English we frequently use indefinite articles, while the German language tend to not use it. For example, English we say, “I am an American” keeping the indefinite article “an”. In the German language they most commonly say “Ich bin Amerikaner” therefore, dropping the indefinite article “ein.” But in JFK’s case the article states a special rule about the German language “A rarely mentioned corollary of the rule about *ein* in front of professional terms and nationalities in German prescribes that if the subject of the sentence only has certain characteristics of the profession or nationality referred to, but is not really a student, American, Berliner, etc., then the *ein* is required. For example, Ronald McDonald would say in German *Ich bin Clown*. On the other hand, if someone is just acting silly, that person would have to say *Ich bin ein Clown*.” Finally the article also states that even if JFK was wrong, the natives would still understand because they know what he meant, but also the term “Berliner” referring it as a pastry is not used in Berlin, but in West Germany.
* I also searched up “Robert Lochner” on google, and look up his bio on Wikipedia, and he was the US chief interpreter in German. I then decided to look up Lochner even further and found a specific bio about his time in Germany with Kennedy on Boston.com/news. It was Lochner who helped Kennedy with the key phrase “Ich bin ein Berliner.”
* To look further deep into Robert Lochner, I searched “Robert Lochner JFK”s speech.” I happily found an article written by Robert Lochner for CNN. The article explains how the phrase “Ich bin ein Berliner” came to be. He states that JFK asked how to say, “ I am a Berliner” in German on a piece of paper. Lochner then wrote “Ich bin ein Berliner.” They practiced the phrase in West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt’s Office. Mcgeorge Bundy, JFK’s, political advisor, thought the phrase would add additional force to the speech.
* I found an article from the New York Times, when in April 30, 1988, journalist William J. Miller recalled JFK's speech in Berlin, and mocked him for saying "I am a Jelly Doughnut." William J. Miller was chief editorial writer for The New York Herald Tribune from 1957 to 1959.
* In Google books, I found the book, *US Presidents as Orators* (published in 1995), and the book states that, the German audience to find the quote to be positive because "it was not unusual for them to use key food items as political objects of humor." Also the book states “Berliners and other Germans explain the error as a wonderful joke and helped Kennedy to connect even more with West Berliners.”
* When I searched " first to criticize JFK's speech in berlin ich bin ein berliner" on Google, my searched results are endless copies of the speech.
* According to Wikipedia, the earliest reference about the misconception on the speech is from the book *Berlin Game* by Len Deighton. The book was published in 1983 in Great Britain. One of the characters, Bernard Samson quotes "Ich bin ein Berliner,' I said. It was a joke. A [Berliner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berliner_%28pastry%29) is a doughnut. The day after President Kennedy made his famous proclamation, Berlin cartoonists had a field day with talking doughnuts."
* The Book, *Berlin Game* is about a MI6 agent Bernard Samson, a retired field agent, has to get one of his valuable agent out of the iron curtain. But he soon finds evidence amongst his colleagues of being traitors. The search for the traitor takes him from London to Berlin. *Berlin Game* is the first book of three trilogies. *Berlin Game* has received positives reviews. On <http://www.deightondossier.net/> (a website endorsed by Len Deighton himself in April of 2011), H.R.F Keating, a English crime fiction novelist, commented that Berlin Game to be “Shear Consistent righteous, page after page.” The website also commented on why it’s enjoyable because “Deighton creates a new twist on the theme of betrayal in the spy genre.” A blogger, TracyK, reviewed the book on February 25, 2012 on <http://bitterteaandmystery.blogspot.com/>. TracyK states that the book has a lot of dialogue, but likes this book “A lot of the book is dialog and I have a prejudice against books that are heavy on dialog. I enjoyed this one, so it may have to do with the overall style of writing.” The book received 5 stars from Amazon.com out of 3 reviews. P.A. Doornbos on Amazon states that the book is “A delightful read full of twists and turns. And an ending forced by BS himself that leaves him gasping, stunned, privately and professionally. Highly recommended.” Barnes and Noble have the book an average rating of 4.5 stars out of 11 reviews.
* In the endless search for who was the first one to mock JFK’s speech, search list always comes back to Wikipedia. However, I believe when JFK finished his speech, Robert Lochner, and William Bundy as well as JFK acknowledge on what JFK just because back in the article written by Robert Lochner recalls a moment “I stayed close to the president in case he should talk to any Germans. I could not help overhearing Bundy saying to Kennedy, “I think that went a little too far.””

Citations:

* Ryan, Halford Ross. *U.S. Presidents as Orators: A Bio-critical Sourcebook*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1995. Print.
* Deighton, Len. *Berlin Game*. London: Panther, 1983. Print.
* Lochner, Robert J. "Teaching JFK German." *CNN Cold War*. N.p., http://archive.is/N0KL4#selection-523.0-523.19. Web. 21 Feb. 2014.