

# LANGUAGE AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NEUHAUS SPRACHZUNGE IN SOUTHERN BOHEMIA

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Up to 1945—46, one of the most ancient dialects of the whole Bavarian dialect area was spoken in the Neuhaus *Sprachzunge* [linguistic neck] (NhSZ). The conservative character of the NhSZ is documented not only in phonetic respects but also in vocabulary. Linguistic-geographical connections can be established beyond the immediately neighboring areas as far as southern Moravia, southern Bohemia, and Lower Austria. They clearly show the influence of the *Witigonen* and the bishopric of Passau on southern Bohemia and the NhSZ. Of particular interest are the linguistic-geographical ties with western Bohemia and the Upper Palatinate, which complement the residual north Bavarian phonetic features and prove that during the medieval colonization period, settlers also came from the Upper Palatinate into the NhSZ.