

What's with THAT historical pattern? New High German edition

As somebody who knows German and now knows the history of the language, you're gonna get a lot of questions from now on, some from people learning the language and some from people who happen across something in the language or maybe because people realize how cool you are for knowing this stuff and want to bathe in the sweet light of your coolness. (OK, maybe the last one isn't all that common, but you get the picture.)

One thing that happens a lot is that people will explain to you how language is and what's wrong with it or ask questions about it. Sadly, many such explanations are entirely off base ... people use language, so think of themselves as experts on it, even when they aren't. I have heard some version of pretty much all of the comments below.

1. English is killing German. I mean, we're borrowing so many words from English, it's hardly like German used to be, right? It is unprecedented in history.
2. I know that languages used to change, but with standardization, that's stopped right. We just learn to speak in school and so it can't really change now.
3. If you need proof that German is in decline, just consider that young people are using *weil* and not putting the verb at the end of the clause. That shows that young people aren't mastering German grammar anymore.
4. With television and such, dialects are dying out today and everybody's just speaking Standard German.
5. Duden regulates what's correct German and we just learn what Duden prescribes and that's that. Duden builds on the work of great writers and poets, models for the best German.
6. Sächsisch just sounds terrible. I suppose it's always been that way but I don't see why they don't adopt more prestigious forms of speaking.
7. **Bonus:** Discuss the contradictions in the above attitudes ... are there people who hold such contradictory views?