

... Nun ließ sich ein schönes Tierchen auf meiner Hand nieder und ich freute mich, wie es darauf herumlief. Aber plötzlich fing ich an zu schreien.

Albert Schweitzer, *Aus meiner Kindheit und Jugendzeit*

Exactly, the story hasn't finished. And our translation here would be: ... Now, a small pretty creature landed on my hand and I was glad to see how it moved around there. But suddenly, I burst out crying.

The word worthy of mentioning seems to be “herumlief”, the past tense of the verb “herumlaufen”, the highlighted part of which again seems to be the prefix “herum-”. When we describe a movement someone repeatedly makes in every imaginable direction, we usually add to the movement “here and there” or “around”. For example: To buy a suitable pair of shoes, he has to go around in the city. That's to say, he goes here and goes there to try shoes. In German, happily, the small but powerful prefix “herum-” has the same function and it's, since self-gluing, easy to use. Examples are: laufen 走, 跑 – **herum**laufen 到处跑, reden 讲话, 演讲 – **herum**reden 说个没完, 唠叨, raten 猜测 – **herum**raten 反复猜测etc. Of course these prefixed words can still have some other meanings, but the listed are most near-related.