

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema	Varieties of English [AA-V2, ENG-10, AA-W, AA-M3]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Vorlesung
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-504
Zeit.....	2st. Do 14-16
Raum	Phil G
Beginn	22. Oktober 2009

This lecture course constitutes one element in the trinity of courses together with language structure and change. This trinity is not coincidental because there are close connections among the three parts. Variation is intimately related to change as the former gives rise to the latter. Variation is also related to structure in that the former takes place in, and is constrained by, a structured and structural system. Moreover, variation most usually means structural variation.

This course provides a survey of the varieties of English as spoken all around the globe. Special emphasis will be laid on the British Isles (primarily) and North America (secondarily), as these have served as models for the exportation of English to the other continents. The focus will be on the (segmental) phonology, morphology and syntax as the three areas which have been rather extensively studied. The approach will be mainly descriptive because explanatory analyses of dialectal variation are still in their infancy.

From a more general perspective, variation will be discussed as a necessary feature of human language and communication. Different types of variation, ranging from ethnolects to sociolects to dialects will be examined. In particular, the distinction between standard dialects and dialects proper will be elaborated.

Besides all the variability among dialects, the limits of variation need to be addressed. In particular, an analysis will be offered of the structures that are subject to variation and those that are more resistant to it. It is also of some interest to examine the surprising recurrence of similar phenomena (such as negative concord and consonant cluster reduction) across varieties.

Recommended Reading:

Kortmann, Bernd & Clive Upton (eds.): Varieties of English. Vol. 1. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2008

Schneider, Edgar W. (ed.): Varieties of English. Vol. 2. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2008

Trudgill, Peter: The dialects of England. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1999

Wells, John C.: Accents of English. 3 Vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982

Course Requirements: Regular attendance

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema	Einführung in die Linguistik des Englischen [AA-E1, ENG-1, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ia
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-506
Zeit.....	2st. Do 16-18 (+ 2 Std. Übung)
Raum	Phil F
Beginn	22. Oktober 2009

Dieser obligatorische Kursus ist Teil des Einführungsmoduls in der Anglistischen Sprachwissenschaft. Er bietet eine systematische Einführung in grundlegende Fragestellungen und Ergebnisse dieses Teilbereichs der Anglistik. Die Teilnehmer werden in methodischer, empirischer und theoretischer Hinsicht mit der Linguistik vertraut gemacht. Dabei verfolgt der auf deutsch gehaltene Kursus ein doppeltes Ziel: Es gilt zum einen das Interesse der Studierenden für diesen eher unbekanntem Gegenstand zu wecken, zum anderen aber auch auf die Klausur vorzubereiten, die als Teil der Gesamtklausur des Einführungsmoduls am Ende des Semesters geschrieben wird. Ihr Bestehen ist Voraussetzung für den Besuch weiterführender linguistischer Seminare.

Die Veranstaltung beginnt mit einem kürzeren allgemeinsprachwissenschaftlichen Teil, in dem Sprache in ihren Funktionen und ihrer Struktur betrachtet wird. Im darauffolgenden stärker anglistischen Teil werden die sogenannten Kernbereiche der Sprachwissenschaft (Phonologie, Morphologie, Lexis, Syntax und Semantik) vor dem Hintergrund der englischen Sprache vorgestellt. Die sprachwissenschaftlichen Inhalte werden im Unterrichtsgespräch, nicht in Form von Referaten vermittelt. Eine spezielle Textgrundlage gibt es dafür nicht; Empfehlungen für die Anschaffung von Einführungsbüchern werden in der ersten Sitzung gegeben.

Scheinanforderungen:

- regelmäßige Teilnahme
- Bestehen der Abschlussklausur

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema	Morphophonology [AA-V2, ENG-11, AA-W, AA-M1, AA-M3, AA-M9, AA-M10]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-519
Zeit.....	2st. Mi 16-18
Raum	Phil 1269
Beginn	21. Oktober 2009

Linguistics has recently seen an awakening of an interest in „interfaces“, i.e. phenomena that cannot be adequately captured by accommodating them on a single level of analysis. Rather, a multi-level perspective seems to be called for. Against this background, hybrid fields such as morphosyntax and morphophonology are receiving increasing attention. The latter will be focused upon this term.

Morphophonology is standardly defined as the phonological variation of morphological units. Morphophonological variation is an ostensibly strange phenomenon that violates “Humboldt’s universal”, which assigns one meaning to one form and vice versa. By definition, allomorphy involves more than one form that corresponds to only one meaning. It is such a common phenomenon in the world’s languages (including English) that it is worth asking what benefit the linguistic system reaps from it. This course will examine morphophonology in all its manifestations, that is, from the synchronic, the diachronic, the contrastive and the dialectological perspective. English is a particularly suitable language to study the historical side because it has gone through a full life cycle of allomorphy. This variation is under the sway of numerous factors including phonemic context, prosodic and lexical effects as well as sociolinguistic and stylistic variables. Both inflectional and derivational allomorphy will be considered.

Recommended Reading:

Carstairs, Andrew: Allomorphy in inflection. London: Croom Helm, 1987

Dressler, Wolfgang U.: Morphology. The dynamics of derivation. Ann Arbor: Karoma, 1985

Moessner, Lilo: Morphologie. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1978

Course Requirements:

Active participation, regular attendance, preparation of a presentation and a term paper