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| Veranstalter..... | Daniela Schröder |
| Thema..... | Introduction to semantics [AA-A1, ENG-4/a, ENG-5, AA-V1b, AAV2b, AA-M1, AA-W] |
| Art der Veranstaltung..... | 1b Seminar |
| Veranstaltungsnummer..... | 53-509 |
| Zeit..... | Do 12-14 Uhr |
| Raum..... | Phil 1219 |
| Beginn..... | 03.04.2014 |

Course description:

“Language without meaning is meaningless” (R. Jakobson)

This introductory course is concerned with two basic questions:

1. What is meaning?
2. How can linguistic theory account for a speaker's knowledge of the meaning of natural language utterances?

These questions have been tackled within a variety of disciplines in addition to linguistics, especially philosophy and psychology. Therefore, the course will involve forays into both these disciplines, while maintaining a clear focus on semantic theorizing within the discipline of linguistics itself.

The course will provide an overview of different approaches to the analysis of meaning, with a special emphasis on cognitive semantics. This will include brief incursions into philosophical approaches, with a view to tracing their impact on contemporary theories of linguistic semantics. The basic concepts of semantic theory, including sense, denotation and reference, will be introduced and critically discussed.

We will look at lexical semantics, such as lexical fields and meaning relations like synonymy and hyponymy and the relationship between words, meanings and the world. Of particular interest is the definition of a concept as the underlying meaning of a lexical item, and the contribution of realist and cognitivist approaches to the relationship between language and the world.

We will further examine propositional and sentence meaning, including the notion of compositionality.

Data for analysis and exemplification will largely be drawn from English and German, using different empirical research designs.

Prerequisites: Students need to successfully have completed the introductory module.

Students are expected to have a fair command of basic linguistic terminology.

Terms for credits: In order to get credit for this class, the students are required to attend the seminar regularly and actively participate in class. Further requirements will be released in the first session.

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| Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit: | Mo 11-12 Uhr |
| Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien: | nach Vereinbarung per Email |

