

Veranstalter.....	<b>Florian Dolberg</b>
Thema .....	<b>Cognitive Linguistics</b> <b>[AA-A1, ENG-4, ENG-5, AA-W, AA-M1]</b>
Art der Veranstaltung .....	<b>Seminar Ib</b>
Veranstaltungsnummer .....	<b>53-513</b>
Zeit.....	<b>2st. Mi 16-18</b>
Raum.....	<b>Phil 701</b>
Beginn.....	<b>20. Oktober 2010</b>

Cognitive Linguistics is probably the most popular scientific approach to language today, and rightly so. Roughly speaking, Cognitive Linguistics investigates the interrelation of language and cognition, in other words: how much and in what way does the language we use influence the way we think and divide the world into meaningful bits?

The idea of a dependency between speaking (listening, writing, reading) and thinking/understanding is by no means new: In 1820, Wilhelm von Humboldt proposed: “[t]he diversity of languages is not a diversity of signs and sounds but a diversity of views of the world.” Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein put forth a very similar proposition in 1921: “[t]he limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” In the mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century US, this idea was known, misunderstood and ridiculed as the *Sapir-Whorf-Hypothesis*.

Cognitive Linguistics attempts to describe the relationship between language, thought and categorisation in a way that is consistent with our knowledge of the mind and the brain. It is a usage-based approach starting from the assumption that all language is first and foremost a tool for organizing, processing, and conveying information – in short: language is all about meaning.

Participants are invited to study these and other questions: what a role do seemingly unimportant phenomena like metaphor and metonymy play in our understanding and partitioning of the world? How can a grammar work without rules? Are there true language universals (i.e. characteristics that all languages possess)? And of course: how much influences/determines our language how and what we think?

Participants are required

- to pass a brief test on a short text to be prepared for the first session,
- to actively and regularly partake in in-class and agora-based discussions,
- to complete preparatory reading assignments prior to each session,
- to collaboratively build and present a scientific poster on one topic in Cognitive Linguistics as well as
- to write an empirical term-paper.

Parallel or prior successful attendance of ‘Methoden der Linguistik’ is highly recommended.

Required and recommended reading materials will be relayed via StiNe/agora, including a preparatory reading assignment.

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail</b> <b>(florian.dolberg@uni-hamburg.de)</b>
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