

Veranstalter.....	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema	Competence and Performance [AA-V2, ENG-11, AA-W, AA-M1, AA-M3, AA-M10]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-518
Zeit.....	2st. Mi 16-18
Raum.....	Phil 1219
Beginn.....	20. Oktober 2010

The distinction between competence and performance is one of the central tenets of modern linguistics. Competence is standardly defined as the tacit knowledge that the speaker-hearer has of his or her language; performance is abstract language turned concrete in language use. The undeniable importance of this distinction has not immunized it against criticism, which is mainly directed at the vagueness of the notion of competence. Among the many readings that it has received, one is of special interest. When competence is understood as language structure, it can be put to good use. It is the major aim of this course to explore the relationship between competence thus defined and performance. In particular, we will examine the claim that performance shapes competence, that competence is fossilized performance and that competence is there to facilitate performance. This approach, which has gained some popularity over the past 20 years or so, allows us to explain language structure in terms of language use. We will discuss usage-based as well as processing models and their possible impact on language structure.

Requirements: Regular attendance, active participation, oral report, term paper

Reading:

Berg, Thomas: Language structure and change. An explanation from language processing. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Hawkins, John A.: A performance theory of order and constituency. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Hawkins, John A.: Efficiency and complexity in grammars. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di und Mi 18-19 (mit Anmeldung), Phil 101
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