

Veranstalter	JP Dr. Eva Berlage
Thema	Contrastive Linguistics [ENG-4/a, AA-V1ab, AA-V2ab, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-W, AA-WB, MOTION]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-515
Zeit	Di 16-18
Raum	Phil 1219
Beginn	29. März 2016

Note: This course runs for a full two hours each session (4:00-6:00pm on Tuesdays). In addition, we will have the following four sessions: Tuesday, 29 March and Wednesday, 30 March 2016: 8:30-10:00 and 10:15-11:45. The course finishes with a final exam on 10 May 2016.

Why do German speakers of English often devoice a word-final voiced plosive in words such as <bed>, <pub> or <blog>? Why is there no present-perfect equivalent of German sentences such as *Gestern bin ich im Kino gewesen* in English and what is the meaning of constructions such as *This dress washes well*?

In this course, we will be studying differences between English and German on all main levels of language description: phonetics and phonology, morphology, lexicology, syntax and semantics, with the main focus being on morphology and syntax. By closely analysing the language structures of English and German, we will find out which mistakes German learners of English typically make and whether there is a way to avoid them. The course will, however, not only be useful for future teachers of English but also for students with a theoretical interest in contrastive studies and German-English translation.

In addition to discussing individual differences between German and English, we will aim for the bigger picture and unearth systematic correspondences between the two languages. This concerns e.g. the question of which language is more vague and which codes information more explicitly. Also, we will be looking at possible explanations for why English and German pattern so differently.

Some of the essential literature is given below. A much more comprehensive list of references will be provided in class.

Recommended Readings:

Hawkins, John (1986). *A Comparative Typology of English and German. Unifying the Contrasts*. London: Croom Helm.

König, Ekkehard and Volker Gast (2009). *Understanding English-German Contrasts*. 2nd edition. Berlin: Erich Schmidt.

Requirements: Regular attendance, presentation

Final exam: 10 May 2016