

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund
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The current global linguistic situation is paradoxical. The English language continues to expand to new countries and domains of use at an unprecedented pace. It is more widely used than ever in Europe, while post-colonial countries such as India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines keep promoting it as an official language. In the Gulf Region, with its huge ex-patriate population, the English language has developed into a widely used lingua franca and a serious threat for Arabic. Hybridity is extant. At the same time, linguistic diversity is lost at an alarming pace even though there is unanimous agreement on its cultural value and widespread work on language documentation. Pessimistic conjectures forecast a decline of the currently attested 7,000 languages to about 500 over the next fifty years or so.

As early as 1972, Einar Haugen envisioned the systematic study of language ecologies as defined by the following nine parameters, formulated as research questions. Considering a particular language, these questions are (i) 'What is its classification in relation to other languages?' (ii) 'Who are its users?' (iii) 'What are its domains of use?' (iv) 'What concurrent languages are employed by its users?' (v) 'What internal varieties does the language show?' (vi) 'What is the nature of its written tradition?' (vii) 'To what extent has its written form been standardized, i.e. unified and codified?' (viii) 'What kind of institutional support has it won, either in government, education, or private organizations, either to regulate its form or to propagate it?' (ix) 'What are the attitudes of its users towards the language, in terms of intimacy and status, leading to personal identification?'

In the course of this lecture series, I will map out varieties of English around the world – also known as World Englishes – against Haugen's parameters of language ecologies. We will see that additional parameters are necessary, especially as many of the language ecologies are highly multilingual. We will assess the status, forms, and functions of English in its standard and vernacular forms in these multilingual ecologies.

Haugen, Einar. 1972. The ecology of language. In Anwar Dil (ed.) *The Ecology of Language*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 325–339.

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