

<b>Veranstalter:</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund</b>
<b>Thema:</b>	<b>Varieties of English: A Typological Approach</b> [AA-V2, ENG-11, AA-W, AA-M1, AA-M3, AA-M8, AA-M9, AA-M10]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer:</b>	<b>53-519</b>
<b>Zeit:</b>	<b>2st., Di 10-12</b>
<b>Raum:</b>	<b>Phil 1219</b>
<b>Beginn:</b>	<b>18. Oktober 2011</b>

### **Course description:**

*The main thing in the twentieth century was undoubtedly the arrival of the English language as a global language. [...] So you get the development of the New Englishes, as they're called, in Nigeria, Ghana, Singapore and so on – just as, previously, American and Australian English developed. Now there are something like 50 or 60 of these New Englishes around the world and VERY different indeed from traditional British English [...] You often go to a part of the world and you have difficulty understanding what has been said. (David Crystal)*

English has without any doubt conquered the world. Originally a Germanic dialect spoken not far away from the City of Hamburg, it spread to the British Isles, North America and Australia where it is used as the first language. In addition, it is now used in India, Singapore, South Africa, West Africa, East Africa, and the Caribbean, where it often enjoys the status of an official language besides the indigenous languages, and is in widespread use as a second language.

An increasingly visible result of this global dispersion is the development of new local norms. As more and more speakers use English, they begin to modify and customize it to suit their needs. New varieties emerge that sharply set themselves off from the British and North American standards.

This seminar explores varieties of English around the world and aims at introducing the student of English linguistics to this fascinating research area. Rather than travelling through varieties of English one by one (Indian English, Irish English, Nigerian English, etc.), we will adopt a bird's eye view paying particular attention to recurrent properties shared between them. As many of the so-called 'New Englishes' spoken in the former colonies are contact languages, we can expect similarities resulting from contact-induced language change.

The overall approach to the analysis of variation in English is inspired by cross-linguistic typological work, mainly in the spirit of cognitively oriented functional typology. This approach reflects my belief that variation in English should in principle be analyzable in the same way as cross-linguistic variation. In fact, important insights and generalizations would be missed if the focus were just on English and did not include cross-linguistic data. Throughout the seminar, particular attention will be paid to universal as well as language specific aspects of variation.

**Requirements:**

Regular attendance

Oral report

Term paper

Textual basis:

Siemund, Peter (2004): "English." In: Thorsten Roelcke (ed.): *Variationstypologie*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1-29.

Siemund, Peter (forthc.): *Varieties of English. A Typological Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (selected chapters will be made available)

**Sprechstunde während der  
Vorlesungszeit:****Di und Do 14-15 Uhr (mit Anmeldung),  
Phil 107****Sprechstunden während der  
vorlesungsfreien Zeit:****Di 16.8.11, 30.8.11, 13.9.11, 11.10.11,  
15 Uhr (mit Anmeldung), Phil 107**