

Veranstalter:	JProf. Dr. Eva Berlage
Thema:	Differences in British and American Grammar [AA-V2, ENG-11, AA-W, AA-M1, AA-M3, AA-M9]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-521
Zeit:	2st., Di 18 st. - 19:30
Raum:	Phil 1219
Beginn:	18. Oktober 2011

Course description:

It is well known that British and American English show systematic contrasts on the levels of pronunciation (e.g. the use of postvocalic /r/ in North American English), spelling (e.g. theatre vs. theater) and vocabulary (e.g. boot vs. trunk). What is less well known is the fact that the two varieties of English also differ on the levels of morphology and syntax. This course sets out to explore such differences on the basis of current empirical research (e.g. Rohdenburg/Schlüter (eds.) 2009).

We will discuss different cases of grammatical variation in British and American English, focussing on the strength of the respective contrast. Among the contrasts to be discussed are

- the regular and irregular past tense formation of verbs such as learn and dream
- differences involving the use of the present perfect and the preterite (e.g. he has learnt vs. he learnt)
- the use of the subjunctive, which has been claimed to be a genuine American feature (e.g. He insisted that Peter go).

The systematic study of such phenomena forms the basis for a theoretical classification of British and American English along a set of different parameters.

Students will be expected to base their presentations and term papers on their own corpus studies. Questions on how to retrieve the data (with the help of online corpora) will be answered in the course.

Requirements:

- Regular attendance
- Oral presentation
- Term paper

Selected Literature:

Rohdenburg, Günter and Julia Schlüter (eds.) 2009. *One Language, Two Grammars? Differences between British and American English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

A comprehensive list of references will be provided in the course.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:

Di 16-18 Uhr, Raum nach Ankündigung