

Seminar: "How to turn thoughts into sentences: A cognitive view of sentence structure"

2st. Prof. Dr. Günter Radden  
Donnerstags 16-18 Uhr, Raum 1269  
AdressatInnen: Studierende der Linguistik des Englischen  
Voraussetzungen:  
Beginn: 22. Oktober 2015  
Feriensprechstunden: nach Vereinbarung

**AdressatInnen:** Studierende der Linguistik des Englischen

**Kursbeschreibung:**

The grammar of a language is just as meaningful as its lexicon. Like words, grammatical structures are based on, and reflect, aspects of our recurrent experiences. But whereas words are used to express specific aspects of our experience, grammatical structures tend to express general aspects of our experience. Grammatical notions are thus more abstract but, at the same time, more basic and more motivated. The notion of motivation has, in fact, become a key concept in Cognitive Linguistics. The course is concerned with the sentence patterns of English. Sentence patterns are grammatical constructions that express general types of conceptual situations. These schematic situations will be described as event schemas. Typical event schemas include the emotion schema, the action schema, the motion schema and the transfer schema. The manifold experiences we encounter in our daily lives are conceived of in terms of event schemas and are given expression in their corresponding sentence patterns. The challenge of the course will be to comprehend the motivated interaction between our world of thought and its coding in the grammar of English. The course is based on Chapter 11 of the textbook *Cognitive English Grammar (CEG)* by Radden and Dirven and will be supplemented by both traditional and cognitive work on English grammar.

**Leistungskontrolle:**

Students who wish to take this course for credit are expected to do the required reading for each session and either give a presentation (3 credit points) or give a presentation and submit a term paper (6 credit points). Special office hours will be offered for the discussion of the term papers.

**References:**

- Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey K Pullum. 2002. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Langacker, Ronald W. 1991. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*. Vol. II: *Descriptive Application*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Levin, Beth. 1993. *English Verb Classes and Alternations: A Preliminary Investigation*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Quirk, Randolph, et. al. 1985. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman.
- Radden, Günter and René Dirven 2007. *Cognitive English Grammar*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.