

53-510 English –German Contrasts

[AA-A1, ENG-4/a, ENG-5, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-W, AA-WB]

2st. Di 16-18

Eliane Lorenz

Course Description:

“A contrastive analysis can be seen as the complement of a typological study. Instead of comparing a large number of languages with respect to a small subsystem or a single variant property (word order, case marking, passive construction, etc.), only two languages are compared with respect to a wide variety of properties.” (König & Gast 2012: 3)

The aim of this course is to thoroughly compare the two genetically related languages English and German. By contrasting these languages, we will get a better understanding of each of them individually, discover useful implications for language teaching, the study of bilingualism as well translation practices, and we will also find out about the nature of the changes that have ultimately led to the separation of English and German within 1,500 years. We will not focus on similarities but on major differences by comparing grammatical structures. We will look at many different aspects of language, such as phonology, morphology, tense and aspect, modality and word order. In order to successfully follow and complete the course it is necessary that you have taken and passed the module introduction to linguistics.

The course is almost entirely based on König & Gast 2012, with some additional readings.

Literature:

König, Ekkehard & Volker Gast (2012). *Understanding English-German Contrasts*. 3rd ed. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance
Weekly reading assignments
Active participation in class
Short presentation
Written Exam