

Seminar II: "A fresh look at Aspect, Tense, and Modality"

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| 2st. | Prof. Dr. Günter Radden |
| Donnerstags | 16-18 Uhr, Raum 1263 |
| AdressatInnen: | Studierende der Linguistik des Englischen |
| Beginn: | 20. 10. 2016; Sitzung am 27.10. fällt aus |
| Feriensprechstunden: | nach Vereinbarung |

Kursbeschreibung:

Aspect, tense and modality are grammatical categories that belong to the verb complex. They express notions of time and likelihood of a situation. Aspect specifies the temporal structure of a situation and hence is part of the situation itself. Tense specifies the time of a situation relative to speech time and invokes notions about its reality status. Modality characterizes the speaker's assessed likelihood of a situation to occur.

The course takes a cognitive approach to these notoriously difficult areas of English grammar. The basic tenet underlying cognitive linguistics is that language is the product of our cognition and as such is meaningful and motivated. The structure of grammar turns out to be particularly well motivated, and we will see that this also applies to the notoriously difficult notions of aspect, tense and modality. The insights gained from this approach can also be immediately relevant for a didactic grammar of English.

The course will be based on Part III of the textbook *Cognitive English Grammar* by Radden & Dirven and the script of a workbook accompanying the book, which will be made available to the participants.

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:

- Declerck, Renaat. 2006. *The Grammar of the English Verb Phrase*. Volume 1: *The Grammar of the English Tense System: A Comprehensive Analysis*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Langacker, Ronald. 1991. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*. Vol. 2: *Descriptive Application*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Langacker, Ronald W. 2008. *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Radden, Günter and René Dirven. 2007. *Cognitive English Grammar*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- Smith, Carlota S. ²1997. *The Parameter of Aspect*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Sweetser, Eve E. 1990. *From Etymology to Pragmatics: Metaphorical and Cultural Aspects of Semantic Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.