

Projektarbeit Englisch: Sprachwissenschaft**Der formale Rahmen**

Für Studierende, die sich innerhalb des Moduls 7 im Fach Englisch für den Schwerpunkt *Sprachwissenschaft* (TM 1: *Project Work Linguistics*) entscheiden, biete ich im Herbstsemester 2023/24 folgende Möglichkeiten zur individuellen Projektarbeit an:

1. **Comparative Analysis of a Semantic/Lexical Field**
(focus on Sense Relations, Componential Analysis and Denotational Incongruencies between English and German)
2. **Analysing the Language of Politics**
in, e.g., Rally Speeches, News Reports, and TV Debates
(focus on Vocabulary, Syntax, Speech Acts, Metaphors & 'Rhetorical Devices')

Im Prinzip handelt es sich bei beiden Projektangeboten jeweils um Themenbereiche, aus denen Sie in Absprache mit mir ein individuelles Projekt zu formulieren hätten. Eine nähere Beschreibung auf Englisch finden Sie auf der Homepage des Seminars für Anglistik und Amerikanistik.

Der Sinn dieser Möglichkeiten zur Projektarbeit besteht unter anderem darin, Ihnen Gelegenheit zur Vorbereitung einer sinnvollen BA-Thesis im Fach Englisch zu geben. In jedem Fall ist das Ergebnis der individuellen Projektarbeit in Form einer schriftlichen Hausarbeit (in englischer Sprache, im Umfang von etwa 10-12 Seiten) zu dokumentieren, welche benotet und als "bestanden" mit 5 CPs kreditiert wird und somit Grundlage der späteren BA-Thesis sein kann.

Spätester Abgabetermin für diese schriftliche Projektarbeit ist der **1.12.2023**.

Anmelden sollten Sie sich möglichst bald bei mir: offiziell **zwischen 13.6.2023 ab 14:00 Uhr** (in der Woche nach der Infoveranstaltung) **und 23.6.2023**, und zwar per E-Mail (Betreffzeile: "Project Work"). Wie bereits in den allgemeinen Informationen mitgeteilt, benötige ich **zur Anmeldung** von Ihnen **folgende Daten**:

- (a) Name und Matrikelnummer
- (b) Noten im Modul 1 und Modul 3; Angabe der im 4. Semester (Modul 5) geschriebenen/geplanten Hausarbeit (Titel der Arbeit und Bereich: *Literature* oder *Linguistics*)
- (c) Themenbereich, zu dem Sie sich anmelden (je präziser, desto besser – s.u.!)
- (d) eine Erklärung, ob Sie beabsichtigen, Ihre BA-Arbeit im Fach Englisch anzufertigen (noch Unentschiedene sollten mit "ja" antworten)

Nach meiner Zusage können (und sollten!) bald nach Vorlesungsende Sprechstunden (per WebEx) mit mir verabredet werden, um ein individuelles Projekt vorzubesprechen.

Ein erstes Treffen aller, die sich bei mir zur Projektarbeit angemeldet haben und zugelassen sind, findet voraussichtlich (bitte achten Sie auf aktualisierte Aushänge bzw. Informationen auf der Homepage!) am Mittwoch, 20. September 2023, 11:00 Uhr (s.t.) statt. Die Teilnahme an diesem Treffen ist obligatorisch (d.h. verbindlich vorgeschrieben).

Linguistic Project Work – What is that all about?

The general purpose of doing **Project Work** in **Linguistics** is to practise analysing authentic English – either studying the language of written texts, or of spoken discourse. If you have decided to go for a particular domain (e.g., one of my two broad offers or *Themenbereiche*), you (or we) need to narrow it down to matters that you deem most interesting. For your own project you will then choose some appropriate field, texts or linguistic material as your corpus to be closely investigated. Your analysis will apply relevant technical terminology, from basic grammar terms to linguistic models and theories in any subfield, such as, e.g., Lexicology, Semantics, Speech Act Theory, or the Cognitive Theory of Metaphor, some of which you may have already encountered in your studies, and others that are waiting to be discovered by you. The result will be an educated description of your observations characterising your chosen material.

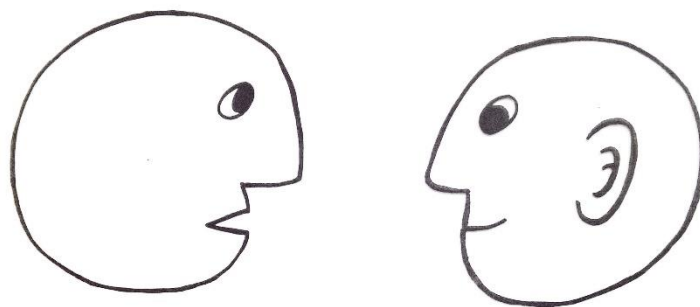
Once you have been accepted for Project Work with me, you should use the summer months to develop your individual project by simultaneously (a) reading and studying the relevant background literature, and (b) collecting and studying relevant texts or language material for your project. If you put your best efforts into this process (in which I will provide help), these simultaneous activities (a and b) will inform each other in a spiralling feedback-loop.

Going for **Project Work** in **Linguistics** is especially for those of you who want to work out a deeper understanding of language, its functions and uses beyond the study of Literature.

The resulting paper has to follow the requirements as outlined in our [Hinweise & Style Sheet](#) that you have already encountered in your Proseminars in English Linguistics.

And of course, a successful Project Work can supply the basis to be worked into an interesting BA-Thesis.

And here's my slogan: *“Can be done – can be fun – may not be for everyone!”*



LINGUISTICS !

What I am offering this term

1. Comparative Analysis of a Semantic/Lexical Field

(focus on Sense Relations, Componential Analysis and Denotational Incongruencies between English and German)

Are you aware that some of the most basic vocabulary in English and German displays interesting semantic differences? Why *night* is different from *Nacht*, or *finger* from *Finger*? What sometimes is loosely called ‘false friends’ can be semantically analysed as cases of *denotational incongruencies* (cf. Jäkel 2001, 2003b). These can best be studied by comparing a semantic field and its lexical realisations between English and German. Choose a semantic field in which you are interested, and start by inventorising its lexemes, their denotations and the sense relations between them.

Issues that you will probably include are, e.g., the use of *componential analysis and semantic features, prototypes, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, antonymy*, and *lexical gaps*, in order to come to grips with minute *denotational incongruencies*.

2. Analysing the Language of Politics

in, e.g., Rally Speeches, News Reports, and TV Debates
(focus on Vocabulary, Syntax, Speech Acts, Metaphors & ‘Rhetorical Devices’)

We live in interesting times, and in 2023/24 we are witnessing the run-up to another important presidential election in the United States that needs to be monitored by any student of English. (If you prefer to observe political discourse in Great Britain, I will easily be convinced of a concrete project.) Linguistically, an election campaign plays out in *genres* such as *rally speeches, news reports, newspaper commentaries*, and *TV debates* – all of which can supply your corpus material.

Issues that you may focus on are, e.g., the use of *vocabulary, semantics, syntax, speech acts, metaphors* & ‘*rhetorical devices*’.

Basic Literature for Projects *Themenbereich 1*

Aitchison (2003)

Cruse (2000)

* Jäkel (2001)

* Jäkel (2003b)

Jäkel (2010c)

Jäkel (2012)

Jäkel (2014)

Jäkel (2019)

* Lehrer (1974)

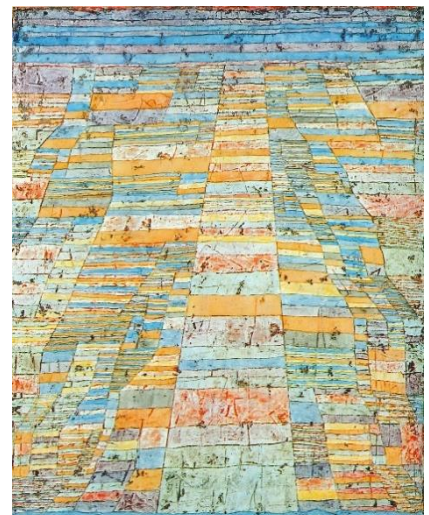
* Lipka (2002)

Lyons (1977)

Palmer (1981)

Saeed (1997)

+ good monolingual dictionaries
(e.g., *Longman DCE, Collins Cobuild CED*;
for full references, see appendix below)



Basic Literature for Projects *Themenbereich 2*

Charteris-Black (2012)
Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams (2011)
* Jäkel (2003a)
Jäkel (2012)
* Jäkel (2023)
Kövecses (2002)
* Lakoff (1993)
* Lakoff & Johnson (1980)
Lipka (2002)
Plag, Braun Lappe & Schramm (2009)
Semino (2008)

(for full references, see
appendix 2 below)



Syllabus / Subtopics *Themenbereiche 1 und 2*

- Reference, Sense & Denotation (Kreidler 1998: 41-51; Lyons 1977: 177-215)
- Connotation (Lipka 2002: 80-84)
- Sense Relations: Synonymy (Palmer 1981: 88-93)
- Sense Relations: Hyponymy (Kreidler 1998: 92-96)
- Sense Relations: Meronymy (Saeed 1997: 70)
- Sense Relations: Antonymy (Palmer 1981: 94-100)
- Ambiguity: Homonymy vs. Polysemy (Palmer 1981: 100-108)
- Semantic Fields (Cruse 2000: 177-196; Lehrer 1974: 15-45)
- Lexical Gaps (Lehrer 1974: 95-109)
- Componential Analysis & Semantic Features (Cruse 2000: 239-261; Lipka 2002: 114-132)
- Prototype Theory (Cruse 2000: 127-142; Aitchison 2003: 41-65)
- Conceptual Metaphor (Lakoff & Johnson 1980: 3-34; Jäkel 2003a, 2012; Kövecses 2002)
- Purposeful Metaphor (Charteris-Black 2012; Jäkel 2023)
- Denotational Incongruencies (Jäkel 2001, 2003b, 2010b, 2012, 2014)
- Rhetorical Devices (Charteris-Black 2005, 2014)



References Themenbereiche 1 und 2

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