

“Healing the world with comedy”: Semantics and Humour

Here, we want to take a closer look at the processes that go into producing comedy by focussing on lexical semantics.

Sources to take into account:

- Attardo, S. (2020): *The Linguistics of Humor: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Blake, B. J. (2008): *All about Language*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Fägersten, K. B. (ed.) (2016): *Watching TV with a Linguist*. Syracuse University Press.
- Jackson, H. & E.Z. Amvela (2007): *Words, Meaning and Vocabulary: An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology*. Continuum: New York.
- Jeffries, L. (1998): *Meaning in English: An Introduction to Language Study*. London: Macmillan.
- Kennedy, G. (2003): *Structure and Meaning in English*. Pearson Education Limited: Harlow.
- Kortmann, B. (2015): *English Linguistics: Essentials*. Cornelsen Verlag: Berlin.
- Kövecses, Z. (2002): *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- Lakoff, G. and M. Johnson (1980): *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press.
- Raskin, V. (1984): *Semantic Mechanisms of Humor*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Company.
- Saeed, J. I. (2016): *Semantics*. Wiley Blackwell: Oxford. 4th Edition.

The literature for your projects will preferably consist of specific texts regarding humour and semantics but also literature we discussed during the proseminar. Therefore, students who did not take my proseminar, will need to read those texts beforehand. We will discuss how specific bits in comedy programmes work and what semantic processes take place in order to create a comedic response from the audience. Through examples from comedy TV shows as well as comedy/stand-up specials, we will take a closer look at the linguistics of comedy and find out what semantics has to do with all of it.

#subtweeting or @menexttime: Word Formation Processes on Social Media Platforms

Here, we will look at what word formation processes (especially in neologisms) appear frequently on Social Media platforms, for example Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok and explore how these are formed within the contexts of these.

Sources to consider:

- Bauer, L. (1983): *English Word-formation*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bauer, L. (2003): *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Blake, B. J. (2008): *All about Language*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Carstairs-McCarthy, A. (2002): *An Introduction to English Morphology*. Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh.
- Coates, R. (1999): *Word Structure*. London: Routledge.
- Katamba, F. (1993): *Morphology*. New York: Palgrave.
- Kennedy, G. (2003): *Structure and Meaning in English*. Pearson Education Limited: Harlow.
- Klymenko, O. (2019): "Twitterverse: The birth of new words". In *Processing Linguistic Society of America*. Vol.4, No. 11. P. 1-12.
- Kortmann, B. (2015): *English Linguistics: Essentials*. Cornelsen Verlag: Berlin.
- Liu, W. and W. Liu (2014): "Analysis on the Word-formation of English Netspeak Neologism". In *Journal of Arts & Humanities. MIR Centre for Socio-Economic Research*. Vol. 3, No. 12. P. 22-30.
- Tokar, A. (2012): *Introduction to English Morphology*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.

The literature for your projects will preferably consist of specific texts regarding word formation processes and Social Media discourse as well as literature we discussed during the proseminar. Therefore, students who did not take my proseminar, will need to read those texts beforehand. We will focus on certain Social Media Platforms and what sorts of word formation processes happen more commonly on which sites. The students decide what process or what platform they want to focus on to have a precise overview of their chosen topic. They will take a closer look at the difference of spoken language in videos and the written language of twitter and/or descriptions of TikTok/Instagram posts.