

Faculty of Arts and Letters



GERM2115 Modern German linguistics

[30h] 4 credits

This course is taught in the 1st semester

Teacher(s): Joachim Sabel
Language: German
Level: Second cycle

Aims

The aims are that the students:

- develop a knowledge of the synchronic, diachronic, and psycholinguistic problems of the syntax/morphology of the German verb,
- develop a knowledge in theoretical and applied linguistics,
- acquire the competence in linguistic argumentation,
- become able to present competently one of the topics of this course.

Main themes

Study of the problems of the syntax/morphology of the German verb. We deal especially with the aspects that are difficult for francophone students. For example, the positions of finite/infinite verbs (verb-first, verb-second, and verb-last in different finite and infinite sentences), will be discussed from a synchronic and diachronic point of view (and in comparison with French); the specific problems with the acquisition of these verb patterns in Modern High German; the morphological forms of German verbs (auxiliaries, modals, full verbs, participles, and other infinite verbs).

Content and teaching methods

We will discuss the relevant empirical generalizations concerning the positions of the verb in German and we introduce modern grammatical theories that have been proposed to analyse the German verb patterns. The phenomena that we look at are : word order in German with respect to the position of (finite and infinite) verbs; the connection between verbal morphology and parameters of verbal positions; diachronic development of the changing positions of the German verb (i.e. the rise of the verb-second constraint); psycholinguistic studies of the acquisition of the correct German word order with respect to verbal morphology and the position of verbs in first- and second language acquisition; selection of auxiliaries and infinitives in German; separable and inseparable particle verbs. The students will be invited to present personal work on one of these topics.

The course is a lecture that requires the student's active participation in discussions, in dealing with exercises, and in reading scientific texts. Furthermore, every student has to give a short presentation on the "morphology and syntax of the German verb" at the end of the course.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Pré-requis Introduction to German linguistics

Evaluation Presentation of one of the topics of the course and a written exam.

Support 1. Syllabus, 2. scientific articles/chapters in books, 3. a written guideline for " how to present a linguistic work ", 4. the students get aid with the workout of their presentations (content, structuring, #) during office hours.

Programmes in which this activity is taught

LING2MA Master en linguistique, à finalité approfondie en linguistique générale et appliquée

Other credits in programs

GERM21	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM21/BD	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DB	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DN	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/ND	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM22/BD	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM22/DB	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
GERM22/DN	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
LING2MA	Master en linguistique, à finalité approfondie en linguistique générale et appliquée	(4 credits)