

Faculty of Arts and Letters



GERM2313 German linguistics : Special topics (contrastive linguistics)

[30h] 4 credits

This two-yearly course is taught in 2007-2008, 2009-2010,...

This course is taught in the 2nd semester

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

Aims

The aims are that the students:

- develop a knowledge of the methodology of contrastive and typological linguistics, especially in comparing German, French, with different non indoeuropean languages,
- understand the importance of linguistic research for other scientific disciplines (anthropology, history, biology, #),
- acquire the competence in linguistic argumentation,
- become able to present competently one of the topics of this course.

Main themes

Study of German, French and other non indoeuropean languages (syntax and morphology) : grammatical functions, agreement, question formation, case, word order correlations. Sociolinguistic aspects (language contact, pidgin and creole language), and the evolution of language (human vs. animal communication).

Content and teaching methods

In this course we will study three central aspects of language:

- (1) Similarities and typological differences in grammar. We analyse the degree in which grammars of human languages differ or show similarities. These similarities and differences will be discussed with respect to phenomena such as case marking, question formation, agreement, word order, grammatical functions, and the distribution of pronouns, in languages such as German, French, and other "exotic" languages.
 - (2) We discuss the relationship between languages in terms of " language families " and explain how the different language families have evolved. The following topics will be discussed: The spread over of languages in the world (i.e. the development of language families), the different types of language families (in Europe, in Eurasia, in South- and South-East-Asia, in Africa, in the Middle Orient, in the Pacific, in Australia and in America). In connection with the question of how the different language families have evolved we turn to another " biological " aspect of language and we try to answer the following question:
 - (3) When and how has the human language faculty evolved in the course of the evolution ?
- The course requires the student's active participation in discussions, in reading scientific texts. Furthermore, every student has to give a short presentation on "contrastive and typological linguistics" at the end of the course.

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

Pré-requis Introduction to German linguistics (syntax, phonetics/phonology and morphology)

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, #).

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)
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