

1701 Seminar The Multilingual Challenge

donnerstags 11.15-12.45 Uhr ? Seminargebäude S

Fiedler, Sabine

A reader will be provided (Printy, Ritterstr. 5).

The increasingly prominent use of English in our world is one of the most significant sociolinguistic phenomena of our time. This seminar goes beyond a strictly linguistic perspective to include linguo-political, economic and cultural aspects of monolingualism and multilingualism. Our discussions address issues such as the use of English by non-native speakers and its role in migration processes, the importance of language in identity construction, and fairness and efficiency as criteria for evaluating communication.

1701 Vorlesung Linguistic Communication in Europe: Debates and Possible Solutions

mittwochs 11.15-12.45 Uhr ? HS ?

Fiedler, Sabine

Reading list: The required reading for this lecture will be made available on MOODLE.

A polity of 28 states with 24 official languages poses enormous challenges. In public discourse, EU politicians stress the need to maintain all the languages of the EU, holding them to be an essential component of European identity. The EU's linguistic reality looks different. It is characterized by the ever-greater predominance of just one language, English. There is a growing awareness of the detrimental effects of the dominance of one language over all other languages. Several options for language policy have been advanced to find fair and democratic approaches to international communication. They include (1) multilingualism, (2) limitation of the number of languages used in international communication (for example English, French, and German), (3) restriction to passive skills (Intercomprehension), (4) English as a Lingua Franca (ELF), (5) initiatives to revive an ancient language (e.g. Latin), (6) language technologies, and (7) the use of a planned language (Esperanto). The lecture gives an introduction to these approaches, with a focus on the final one, the phenomenon of the conscious creation of languages. It describes and classifies the most important planned language projects (e.g. Volapük, Interlingua, Ido, Basic English) and includes an excursus on languages that were constructed for films and science fiction and fantasy literature (e.g. Tolkien's Elvish tongues, Klingon).

The language of instruction will be English or German, depending on the composition of the course. Readers will be available in both languages.

1701 Übung Sprachkurs Esperanto

freitags 11.15-12.45 Uhr ?

Brosch, Cyril

Reading list: The course materials will be made available on-line.

In this course students will learn basic Esperanto vocabulary, the complete morphology of the language and the most important strategies for communication in Esperanto. It is designed to enable students to read any text with the help of a dictionary and to express themselves orally and in written form in common everyday situations.