

## Contrastive Linguistics: English-German

Time: Do 12:15 – 13:45  
Room: SR 601  
Instructor: Prof. Holger Diessel  
Office hours: Mi 14:00  
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Given that English and German are historically closely related, their grammars are surprisingly different. This course takes a close look at the major differences between English and German grammar. Some of the topics discussed in this class include the marking of grammatical relations, tense and aspect, relative clauses, infinitival constructions, word order, word formation, and contrastive phonology. It is the goal of the course to make students aware of the differences between English and German grammar and to introduce them to functional-cognitive explanations in the study of morphosyntax.

### ***Readings***

Ekkehard König and Volker Gast. 2007. *Understanding English-German Contrasts*. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag. (20 EUR)  
Hawkins, John A. 1986. *A Comparative Typology of English and German. Unifying the Contrast*. London: Croom Holm.  
Greenbaum, Sidney and Randolph Quirk. 1990. *A student's grammar of the English Language*. Harlow: Longman.  
Eisenberg, Peter. 2004. *Grundriß der deutschen Grammatik. Der Satz*. Stuttgart: Metzler.

### ***Requirements***

Quiz	10%
Final exam	45%
Take home exam	45%

### ***Course schedule***

#### 1. Introduction

The historical relationship between English and German

#### 2. Phonology

*Readings:* König & Gast: 2  
[König & Gast: 3 (optional)]

#### 3. Parts-of-speech 1: nouns and adjectives

*Readings:* König & Gast: 4.1 – 4.2  
[Greenbaum & Quirk: 5 – 7, 9; Eisenberg: 5.1 – 5.3; 6 (optional)]

4. Parts-of-speech 2: verbs I

*Readings:* König & Gast: 4.3 - 4.5

[Greenbaum & Quirk: 3-4; Eisenberg: 3.4, 4 (optional)]

5. Parts-of-speech 3: verbs II, adverbs, particles

*Readings:* König & Gast: 5

[Greenbaum & Quirk: 3-4, 7; Eisenberg: 4, 7 (optional)]

6. Word order

*Readings:* König & Gast: 10

[Hawkins 3, 10, 11; Eisenberg: 13 (optional)]

7. Grammatical relations and thematic roles

*Readings:* König & Gast: 6 + Hawkins: 4

[Eisenberg: 9 (optional)]

8. Linking: active – passive, subjects in English and German

*Readings:* König & Gast: 8

[Hawkins: 3-4 (optional)]

9. Sentence types 1: questions, imperatives, exclamatives, V-first

*Readings:* Hawkins: 12

[Greenbaum & Quirk: 11 (optional)]

10. Sentence types 2: copular clauses, VPC-constructions, cleft sentences

*Readings:* Greenbaum & Quirk: 11

11. Coordination and subordination

*Readings:* Greenbaum & Quirk: 14

[Eisenberg: 10, 12 (optional)]

12. Relative clauses

*Readings:* Greenbaum & Quirk: 15-16. Eisenberg: 8.5

[König & Gast: 11.3 (optional)]

13. Complement clauses

*Readings:* Greenbaum & Quirk: 15-16. Eisenberg: 10.2

[König & Gast: 12.1 – 13.3 (optional)]

14. Adverbial clauses

*Readings:* Greenbaum & Quirk: 15-16. Eisenberg: 10.4

[König & Gast: 12.4 (optional)]

15. Final exam