

Call for Papers

Anglistentag 2013, Konstanz, Germany (18.-21. September 2013)

Klaus P. Schneider (Bonn), Anne Schröder (Bielefeld)

Comparison and comparability in language studies

The comparison of languages, language varieties and language levels has its roots in 19th century comparative philology, which was focused on the relationships between languages from a historical perspective. In the programme of contrastive linguistics in the 1960s and 1970s, the systematic comparison of languages was mainly directed at foreign language teaching and the development of efficient teaching materials and strategies. Later, most notably with the publication of John Hawkins's seminal book on *A Comparative Typology of English and German: Unifying the Contrasts* (1986), contrastive linguistics was linked to language typology, aiming at the identification of language patterns and limits of variation in language. More recently, the creation of corpora and corpus linguistic methods have broadened the field of inquiry, allowing for more detailed and comprehensive descriptions in contrastive analysis. The last few years have seen the publication of major linguistic atlases, such as the *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Structures* (APiCS) or the *World Atlas of Variation in English* (WAVE). However, as pointed out e.g. by König and Gast (2012: 5), "[t]he problem of establishing comparability and of finding the 'third of comparison' (*tertium comparationis*) is a major issue in any kind of comparative work."

To address this problem from many different angles, we invite researchers from all fields of linguistics who compare languages or (historical, regional, social or functional) language varieties to engage in discussions on the issue of the 'third of comparison' and further theoretical, methodological and practical issues evolving around comparison in language studies.

Please send proposals (no more than 250 words) for 30-minute papers to Klaus P. Schneider (k.schneider 'at' uni-bonn.de) and Anne Schröder (anne.schroeder 'at' uni-bielefeld.de) **by 30 September 2012.**

References

- Hawkins, John. 1986. *A Comparative Typology of English and German: Unifying the Contrasts*. London: Croom Helm.
- König, Ekkehard and Volker Gast. 2012. *Understanding English-German Contrasts*. 3rd and revised edition. Berlin: Erich Schmidt.