

Gastvortrag von

Anna Mauranen
(University of Helsinki)

**"English as a lingua franca –
a driver of change in English"**

Abstract:

English is unquestionably the world's lingua franca today. But what does it mean for a language to be so ubiquitous, to be used by so many in so many kinds of environments and circumstances? We can view English as a lingua franca (ELF) as a complex and dynamic form of language contact, or what I would like to see as a contact of contacts (second-order contact) of 'similects', each of which consist of English in contact with some other language. This complex second-order language contact is now the predominant kind of English in terms of the number of speakers: second-language users of English outnumber native speakers by an estimated 4 to 1 majority. This cannot but change English taken as a whole, together with our conceptions of what is correct or normal English, or what is acceptable. In this paper I take a three-perspective view of ELF as a macro-social, micro-social and cognitive phenomenon, and look at the processes and products that we can detect in authentic ELF use in spoken and written corpus data (the ELFA corpus and the WrELFA corpus). The principal mechanisms of change through ELF use are 'approximation' and 'fixing'. They help us catch a glimpse of ongoing and incipient change under present-day environments of English use.

Anna Mauranen is Emerita Professor of English at the University of Helsinki. Her recent research focuses on ELF, corpus linguistics, modelling speech, and academic discourse. She is co-editor of *Applied Linguistics* and a former co-editor of the *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca*. She is director of several research projects on spoken and written ELF (the ELFA project), and a consortium of *Changing Englishes*. Recent books: *Exploring ELF: Academic English shaped by non-native speakers* (2012); *English as a lingua franca: Studies and findings* (ed. with E. Ranta 2009); *Linear Unit Grammar* (with J. Sinclair 2006).

Wann: Freitag, 30. November 2018 um 12:30 Uhr

**Wo: Besprechungsraum, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
Universität Wien, Spitalgasse 2-4, Hof 8.3, 1090 Wien**