



Dialects in Culture and Communication

Course type: BA seminar

Year of studies: 3ZSL (2024/2025)

Instructor: Adam Biały, PhD

Prerequisites: Rudimentary knowledge and interest in linguistics

Aims and objectives: The seminar focuses on dialects as varieties of language used in particular socio-geographical contexts. Whenever we communicate we have to choose a variety of language determined by the context and this choice entails particular information. Terms such as dialect, sociolect, accent, jargon, register may appear to be purely technical but we apply them on an everyday basis in communication. Our aim will be to show in what ways this use of language is systematic and how it functions in communication and how it can be rendered in cross-cultural communication (e.g. translation).

The discussion of the topics covered during the course will enable students to select the area of further study and formulate the topics of their BA theses as well as expand their understanding of the function of dialects and language competence in this area.

Range of (BA thesis) topics:

The topics of BA theses can range within sociolinguistics (language and society), pragmatics (language and context), ethnolinguistics (language and culture), intercultural communication (translation) or any other applicable area of linguistics.

Examples of topics:

- ❖ National and international varieties of English.
- ❖ Social dialects (e.g. gender, age, subcultures).
- ❖ Slang, its function in a linguistic community.
- ❖ Professional varieties of language: jargon and register.
- ❖ Attitudes to language variability: accents and regional dialects.
- ❖ Regional dialects of English and their historic development.
- ❖ The language of new media.
- ❖ The language of humor and politeness.
- ❖ Dialects in intercultural communication (e.g. translation).

References (selected):

- Aronoff, M. and Rees-Miller, J. (eds.) 2003. *The Handbook of Linguistics*. Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- Bartmiński, J. 2006. *Językowe podstawy obrazu świata*. Wydawnictwo UMCS.
- Bayley, R, Cameron, R., and Lucas, S. (eds) 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Britain, David & Jenny Cheshire (eds) 2003. *Social Dialectology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Burke, Peter & Roy Porter (eds) 1991. *Language, Self, and Society. A Social History of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chambers, J. K. & Natalie Schilling (eds) 2013. *Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Holmes, J. 2013. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Routledge.
- Snell-Hornby, M., Jettmarova, Z., Kaindl, K. 1997. *Translation as Intercultural Communication*. John Benjamins.
- Siemund, P. 2013. *Varieties of English: A Typological Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tabakowska, E. 2001. *Kognitywne podstawy języka i językoznawstwa*. Universitas, Kraków.
- Yule, G. 1996. *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.