

ZfAL 42

Gabriele Klocke

Formelhafte verbale Beamtenbeleidigung im Deutschen

212 police- and prison officers from four German regions have been interviewed in writing about their way of dealing with stereotypical insults: The perceived frequency of defamations, their average defamatory potential, and the officers' standard reactions show that only in a few cases there are authority-specific ways of handling insults. Half of the interviewees react to common affronts in a formal way. Although classical insults such as „Arschloch“ („arse-hole“) only bear an average defamatory potential, they frequently entail an action for defamation. Officers feel touchy towards insults associated to the Third Reich („Nazi“). Although strong verbal attacks such as „I fuck your mother/ you“ emerge rather infrequently, they spill severe trouble on many officers. Insults lacking an appropriate denotation are analysed etymologically.

Peter Colliander, Doris Hansen

Sprachenpaarbezogene Übersetzungslinguistik aus theoretischer und praktischer Sicht

The paper argues that translation is also a *linguistic* activity and as such presumes extensive linguistic knowledge, which is often disregarded within the science of translation. In the contribution, three linguistically relevant aspects of translation are taken as a starting point – production, reception and evaluation. Standard grammars are for the most part productive grammars and less suitable for understanding the original text and for assessing the quality of a translation. Not only the reception of texts in a foreign language, but also of texts in the mother tongue (when it is a translation of this type) requires linguistic knowledge, and the same goes for the production of not only texts in a foreign language but also of texts in the mother tongue and for the evaluation of the quality of mother tongue translations as well as foreign language translations. The paper suggests the introduction of a linguistic and grammatical translation science which takes into account these aspects of translation and a tentative conception of such a grammar is suggested on the basis of different concrete examples from German and Danish.

Melani Schröter

Die Vielfalt des ‚Nichts‘

Zur Kommunikativität von Schweigen im Spannungsfeld zwischen Intention und Erwartung von Kommunikation

This paper is focusing on the idea that some kinds of silence are more communicative than others. It shows that the 'communicativeness' of silence depends on the intention to be silent on the one hand as well as on the expectation of communication on the other hand. Thus, a model will be introduced for describing silence on a continuum of more to less communicative forms of silence, depending on different constellations of intention and expectation of communication. Silence is considered not only as the absence of speech, but also as being silent about something while speaking. The continuum describes both forms of silence. Silence as absence of speech will be discussed in communicative everyday situations, whereas silence as being silent about something will be discussed in its most relevant context of political communication.

Una Maria Röhr-Sendlmeier/ Claudia Dahnken

Die Entwicklung frühkindlicher Vokalproduktionen aus phonetischer Perspektive

This longitudinal study focuses on the first and second vowel formants of the German open and half-open front vowels ([a], [ɛ:] and [ɪ]) produced by infants during the first eighteen months of life. Vowel productions of eleven infants aged between four and eighteen months were analysed using specific software for speech analysis. In addition to rendering a description of a regular development of vowel production during the first eighteen months, it can be shown that the development of the infant vowel formants indicates a strong tendency towards the native German adult formants of the same vowels. In spite of significant anatomical restrictions even infants aged only a few months do not produce doubled vowel formant values as would be expected considering the fact that the vocal tract is only half as long as an average adult vocal tract. The data allow to conclude that the infants actively adapt their vocal tracts in producing the vowels in question.