



Technische
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Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
Sprachwissenschaft

Linguistisches Kolloquium



PD Dr. Anke Lenzing
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**“What do you elephant? Formulaic
sequences in early L2
communicative interaction“**

Monday, 15 June 2020,
11:30-13:00 hrs.,
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What do you elephant? Formulaic sequences in early L2 communicative interaction

This talk engages with some of the challenges that early L2 learners of English face when communicating in their second language with limited linguistic resources. One way to express their intention is the use of various types of formulaic sequences, as these enable the learners to communicate in the target language right from the beginning.

Although it is generally acknowledged that formulaic sequences are a frequent and therefore important feature of early learner language, there is no consensus in the field of SLA on their nature and their role in the L2 acquisition process.

In this talk, I take a psycholinguistic perspective on this issue, viewing formulaic sequences as holistically stored units that require fewer cognitive processing resources. I propose a definition and means of identifying such sequences. Using data derived from a two-year study of 24 ESL learners in four different primary schools in Germany, I show the extent of use of formulaic language. I also demonstrate how over time the use of these sequences becomes a smaller component of learner production.