



Marie-Luise Pitzl: Biography

Marie-Luise Pitzl is Postdoc/Assistant Professor in English Applied Linguistics at the University of Vienna (Austria) and has held previous positions at the University of Salzburg and TU Dortmund University. She is one of the compilers of the Vienna-Oxford International Corpus of English (VOICE), a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of English as a Lingua Franca (JELF) and co-founder and co-convenor of the AILA Research Network on ELF (together with Alessia Cogo). She has been active in ELF research since 2004 and has researched, given presentations and published on a range of ELF topics, such as resolving miscommunication, BELF, corpus building, lexical innovation and intercultural understanding. Recently (2015), she co-edited with Susanne Ehrenreich a special issue of JELF on the theme 'Teaching ELF, BELF and/or Intercultural Communication?'. One of her main research interests is in creativity in ELF with a focus on idiom variation and the use of metaphors. She is currently completing a monograph on this topic for the DELF series (De Gruyter Mouton).

The creativity of English as a Lingua Franca

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ORE 15.30

Sala conferenze "Ignazio Ambrogio"
via del Valco di San Paolo, 19
Roma

Il Direttore del Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Straniere prof. **LUCA PIETROMARCHI** ha il piacere di invitarLa alla conferenza *The Creativity of English as a Lingua Franca* della prof.ssa **MARIE-LUISE PITZL** Università di Vienna

Abstract

Creativity in language use (as well as in other domains of life) essentially always has to do with moving beyond the norms and conventions of what is normally done or has existed before. To this end, creativity has to rely on existing conventions, but at the same time expands – and possibly shifts – these conventions through their (creative) application. Norm-following creativity may thus become norm-developing creativity (Pitzl 2012, 2013) which opens up new, previously unoccupied, linguistic or conceptual – or academic – spaces.

Like other terms in linguistics, English as a lingua franca (ELF) refers to both a linguistic phenomenon, i.e. the use of ‘English’ in multilingual contexts among speakers with different first languages, as well as to the academic discipline that studies it. So the creativity of ELF can mean two things: the linguistic creativity that can be observed and has been described in naturally-occurring ELF use and the creativity of ELF as a field in (applied) linguistics.

This talk will be an attempt to highlight the most essential aspects of both these meanings. After offering a theoretical conceptualization of creativity, I will illustrate the linguistic creativity of ELF use (and ELF users) with examples from VOICE (the Vienna-Oxford International Corpus of English), for example in relation to the use of idioms and speakers’ multilingual repertoires. Secondly, I will take a meta-perspective on ELF as domain of research and try to identify some premises and concepts that seem to be most creative of ELF as a field. Looking at intersections with other linguistic disciplines, the point to make is not that ELF – as a language use and as a discipline – is more (or less) creative than others, but to take note of how it is creative, i.e. what is creative about it.

References

- Pitzl, Marie-Luise. 2012. Creativity meets convention: Idiom variation and re-metaphorization in ELF. *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca* 1(1). 27-55
- Pitzl, Marie-Luise. 2013. Creativity in language use. In Östman, Jan-Ola; Verschueren, Jef (eds.) *Handbook of Pragmatics* (2013 Installment). Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1-28.