



A PhD venue organised by Hermann Paul School of Linguistics Basel – Freiburg:

Workshop on „Corpora and language patterns“



Dr. Ute Römer

(Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA, uroemer@gsu.edu)

Tuesday, 5 June 2012 – Wednesday, 6 June 2012, 9:00-12:30h

(individual support in the afternoons)

Universität Basel, Deutsches Seminar, Nadelberg 4, room 5

The workshop is related to a **public lecture** at the 4th International Conference of the Forum Academic Writing in Basel: „Korpora und Sprachmuster im akademischen Diskurs“ on Thursday, 7 June 2012, 13:00-13:45.

Students attending the PhD workshop (1 credit point) are expected to do some preparatory reading and to attend both days.

Please register by sending an e-mail to annina.fischer@unibas.ch by Thursday, 31 May 2012.



Workshop on “Corpora and language patterns”

Dr. Ute Römer

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Workshop description:

This two-day workshop introduces participants to the analysis of language patterns in corpora. We will discuss how corpus-analytic techniques can facilitate the search for meaningful units in language. After an introduction to the core steps in corpus analysis, a guided hands-on session will allow participants to apply a particular software package to a corpus of their choice. An English language corpus will be made available during this guided practice session, but participants are encouraged to bring other electronic text collections that they would like to work with (files should ideally be in plain text [.txt] format).

Day 2 of the workshop will continue the corpus-analytic explorations, with an emphasis on different types of phraseological items, including contiguous and non-contiguous sequences of words. Participants will work with a freely available phraseological search tool and create lists of n-grams and phrase-frames (again based on a corpus of their choice). In the last session of the workshop, we will analyze some of the created lists and attempt a functional classification of high-frequency phraseological items. We will end with a discussion of advantages and limitations of a corpus approach in phraseology.

Preparatory readings (these readings will be referred to throughout the workshop):

- Cheng, Winnie/Greaves, Chris/Warren, Martin (2006): From n-gram to skipgram to congram. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 11(4), 411-433.
- Römer, Ute (2010): Establishing the phraseological profile of a text type: The construction of meaning in academic book reviews. *English Text Construction* 3(1), 95-119.
- Römer, Ute/Wulff, Stefanie (2010): Applying corpus methods to written academic texts: Explorations of MICUSP. *Journal of Writing Research* 2(2), 99-127. [pdf available at http://www.jowr.org/articles/vol2_2/JoWR_2010_vol2_nr2_Roemer_Wulff.pdf]
- Sinclair, John M. (1996): The search for units of meaning. *TEXTUS IX*: 75-106. Reprinted in: Sinclair, John M. (2004): *Trust the Text: Language, Corpus and Discourse*. London: Routledge (ch. 2).



Dr. Ute Römer

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Research interests:

- Corpus linguistics
- Phraseology; the interface of lexis and grammar
- Applied linguistics; second language acquisition
- Academic discourse analysis
- Genre and register variation

Ongoing projects:

- Creating meaning in academic discourse. The development of a local lexical grammar of evaluation (book project; working title); a project in phraseology and academic discourse analysis; includes the development of a new analytical model that leads to a profile of the central phraseological items in a selected text type
- Phraseological items, disciplinary variation and proficiency development in apprentice academic writing; a project based on the Michigan Corpus of Upper-level Student Papers (MICUSP)
- Exploring the positional variation of academic n-grams and phrase-frames in MICUSP (Michigan Corpus of Upper-level Student Papers); with Matthew B. O'Donnell
- Native and non-native speakers' knowledge of verb-argument constructions; the project combines corpus and psycholinguistic/ experimental evidence; with Nick C. Ellis and Matthew B. O'Donnell
- Measuring formulaic language; with Nick C. Ellis, Matthew B. O'Donnell, Stefan T. Gries & Stefanie Wulff

Publications (selection):

- Römer, Ute (2011): Observations on the phraseology of academic writing: Local patterns – local meanings? In: Herbst, Thomas/Faulhaber, Susen/Uhrig, Peter (eds.): *The Phraseological View of Language. A Tribute to John Sinclair*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 211-227.
- Römer, Ute (2011): Corpus research applications in second language teaching. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics* 31, 205-225.
- Römer, Ute/Schulze, Rainer (eds.) (2008): *Patterns, Meaningful Units and Specialized Discourses*. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 13(3), Special Issue. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Römer, Ute (2005): *Progressives, Patterns, Pedagogy. A Corpus-driven Approach to English Progressive Forms, Functions, Contexts and Didactics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.



Location

Deutsches Seminar

Universität Basel
Nadelberg 4
CH-4051 Basel
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Deutsches Seminar Basel Linguistik Mediävistik Neuere Deutsche Literaturwissenschaft
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Linguistik Universität Basel Deutsches Seminar Universität Basel Deutsches
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Basel Deutsches Seminar Linguistik Mediävistik Universität Basel **DEUTSCHES SEMINAR UNIVERSITÄT BASEL**

From Basel Bahnhof SBB train station:

Take tram 8 (direction Kleinhüningen); get off at tram stop „Marktplatz“, then follow the instructions on the map **A** to **B** (walk up Sattelgasse, then up (steep) Imbergässlein until it hits Nadelberg, turn right and walk up Nadelberg; Deutsches Seminar is on the left hand side).

From Basel Badischer Bahnhof train station:

Take tram 6 (direction Allschwil); get off at tram stop „Marktplatz“, then see above.

