

Diachronic Syntax

Lehrkraft: Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Modul/Studiengang: VM 8/B.Sc. ATL

Leistungspunkte: 6

Semester: Sommersemester 2014

Zeit: Montag 16–18

Ort: II.25.B001

Description

the aim of this course is to provide an introduction to diachronic syntax, focussing on the theory of grammar change, as well as some general issues concerning diachronic studies of language. There will be special attention devoted to the cyclic changes and the question of how and why certain lexical elements grammaticalise into functional ones. Theoretical considerations will be examined in relation to specific case studies, and various layers of the clause will be taken into consideration, such as the CP-domain (with special attention paid to the difference between finite and non-finite clause), the VP-domain, and the DP-domain. We will also examine the nature of changes from synthetic to analytic versus the ones from analytic to synthetic; also, the issue of language contact and its role in diachronic changes will also be addressed. Since the course has a strong theoretical orientation, the discussion will not be limited to English and German, but will include a wide range of other languages as well.

Requirements:

- one reading assignment (50%)
- one short home paper (50%)