

INVITATION TO THE ONLINE ÖLT-WORKSHOP

CHALLENGING LINGUISTIC CONCEPTS – IN DIALOGUE WITH (ENGLISH AS A) LINGUA FRANCA RESEARCHERS

FRIDAY, 10.12.2021 | 2:00–5:30PM

PROGRAM

In our increasingly globalized world, communication between people from different linguacultural backgrounds is daily fare. In these communicative encounters, English is often used as a common resource to overcome language differences, i.e. it has become “the de facto extraterritorial lingua franca” (Seidlhofer 2010: 355). The study of English as a lingua franca (ELF) has, however, found that ELF users do not necessarily adopt a specific English variety, but rather draw on *all* language resources they have at their disposal to fit their communicative purposes. Consequently, well-established theoretical, conceptual and methodological frameworks to study language often fail to grasp this variable and dynamic nature of language use. Despite the acknowledgment of such shortcomings, traditional approaches to the study of language seem to prevail.

In this three-hour interactive workshop, we provide insights into related controversies and challenges in ELF research and invite participants to discuss with us how these are relevant to the study of language and language use today. The workshop will be divided into three complementary one-hour sessions.

TO PARTICIPATE ...

IT'S FREE!

- Register for the ÖLT conference
(<https://oelt2021.univie.ac.at/anmeldung/>)
You will then receive the link to our online meeting space (Zoom) a few days before the actual workshop
- Visit the ÖLT-conference page for further information
<https://oelt2021.univie.ac.at/>

<p>2:00–3:00PM Lisa Bierbaumer Sandra Radinger</p>	<p>Part 1 - Conceptual challenges</p> <p>In the first part of our workshop we introduce conceptual challenges that researchers have encountered when defining ELF. In particular, we focus on the shortcomings of traditional linguistic labels such as ‘language’, ‘variety’, and ‘community’, and critically examine the notion of ‘successful communication’. These issues will be presented in connection with our own research projects. Participants are invited to reflect on their own research and discuss personal experiences regarding conceptual limitations of established categories in their specific research areas.</p>
<p>3:00–3:30PM Veronika Thir Vanja Vukovic</p>	<p>Part 2 - Methodological challenges</p> <p>This session reviews major methodological challenges that emerged during the first twenty years of ELF research. Building upon the first session, we ask participants to brainstorm which methodological approaches need to be reconsidered when researching lingua franca communication. Then, we discuss the proposed ideas in plenum and link them to existing methodological difficulties encountered by (E)LF researchers. The issues raised may relate, but will not be limited to, data collection, corpus studies, experiments, and interviews.</p>
<p>3:30–4:00PM</p>	<p>☕ COFFEE BREAK ☕</p>
<p>4:00–4:30PM</p>	<p>Continuation of Part 2 - Methodological challenges</p>
<p>4:30–5:30PM Eva Knechtelsdorfer Stefanie Riegler</p>	<p>Part 3 - Applied linguistic challenges: the case of language education</p> <p>In the final part of our workshop we review proposals made by ELF scholars for language pedagogic implementation and how these depart from established conventions in English Language Teaching (ELT). The aim is to illustrate how ELF (research) influences our conceptualization of teaching and learning and leads us to reflect on current aims and approaches in English language classrooms. More specifically, we question prevalent teaching methodologies, the notion of the language ‘learner’ and link the issues raised to our own research projects on current language education policy documents.</p>