

## Morphological and syntactical properties of verbal anglicisms in German

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In present-day German, several thousand loan words can be found. Among them an estimated five to ten per cent originate from English, with an upward trend. However, mainly those cases that cause the most problems are being noticed and discussed by scholars and in public. So far, phonological, orthographical and morphological properties of loan words have been of main interest. As for the word category, mainly nouns, such as German *Event*, *Fact* or *Server*, are being studied. However, research in nominal loans largely concentrates on the assignment of gender and plural formation.

Yet, quite a number of verbs have been borrowed from English in the past years, such as German *chatten*, *checken*, *chillen* or *mailen*. As for borrowed particle verbs, such as *downloaden* or *updaten*, native speakers of German are often insecure of how to form the perfect participle (*gedownloadet*, *downgeloadet*, *downloadet*). Considering that this fact is well-known, researchers paid rather few attention to the phenomenon. In fact, verbal loans have largely been neglected in research so far (with the exception of Geller 1983, Scherer 2000). This holds even true as far as central properties of verbs, such as inflection and argument structure, are concerned.

It is the aim of my talk to show that even recent verbal anglicisms are integrated easily and smoothly in German morphology and syntax, irrespective of their pronunciation and spelling. However, phonological and orthographical properties may influence the speed and extent of integration. In this talk, the morphological and syntactical integration of verbal anglicisms in German will be explored theoretically and empirically. I will present own data collected from experimental and corpus studies (DWDS, IDS).

In my talk, I will address two main questions:

1. How are verbal anglicisms such as *jobben* and *updaten* inflected in German? Do they conform to the German inflection paradigm or not? If not, how can differences and problems be explained?
2. How are verbal anglicisms treated in German syntax? Is the original argument structure of *chat*, *check*, *chill*, *load down* etc. maintained or not? If not, what changes in argument structure occur? Why do they occur?

### References

- Geller, Eva (1983): Zur Assimilation des Fremdworts im verbalen Bereich der deutschen Gegenwartssprache. In: *Kwartalnik Neofilologiczny* 30, 255-266.
- Scherer, Carmen (2000): Vom Fremdwort zum Lehnwort: Eine Untersuchung zur morphologischen Anpassung im Gegenwartsdeutschen.  
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