

Einladung zum Gastvortrag



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Can't be, won't be, and might be: Indian English

This talk challenges a tenet of current linguistic orthodoxy which claims that Indians use a linguistically distinct variety of English called “Indian English”; this, supposedly, is the outcome of “nativization” or “Indianization” or “acculturation”. Arguing that this concept of Indian English is located in “the colonial gaze” (a mythical construction of the language of the other), it will be shown that the social and the linguistic realities of the Indian subcontinent cannot possibly sustain such a concept at any linguistic level: phonological, morphological, syntactic, or even lexical.

This talk will provide an analytical model of English in India that not only describes the status quo but also generates a number of short and long-term predictions. The strongest prediction is that at the grammatical level there is virtually no likelihood that there will ever be a uniquely Indian standard that can be called “Standard Indian English”.

Dienstag, 19. Juni 2018

9.15–10.45 Uhr

Universitätshauptgebäude, HS 218

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen.