
“Research into Language Teaching and Learning in Germany – then and now”

By Prof. em. Friederike Klippel, University of Munich

Mon 19th March @ Pat Hanan room, 4-6pm.

Abstract: Most research in any field these days concentrates on clearly focused questions and limited areas. In language education and applied linguistics this is partly due to the current preference for empirical research. With specialisation growing in all disciplines it becomes more and more difficult, however, to gain a general overview and see long term research developments and changing emphases within a whole field. In Germany, research into the teaching and learning of modern languages and language teacher preparation spans a period of more than a century. During that time we can distinguish different trends in relation to the following questions: What are the topics and areas of research? How is research conducted? Who are the researchers? Where does research happen? I report on trends and developments in the last 120 years and sketch the current state of research, also casting a look at its present blind spots.



Friederike Klippel is professor emerita of English Language Education (TEFL, TESOL) at LudwigMaximilians-University (LMU) in Munich, Germany. She has been active in English language teacher education for more than 40 years. Her research areas comprise the history of language teaching and learning, language teaching methodology, classroom research, intercultural education, teacher education and professional development. Her many publications include “Keep Talking” (Cambridge University Press 1984), "Englischmethodik" (Berlin 1987, with Helmut Heuer), a comprehensive historical study of learning and teaching English in 18th and 19th century Germany (“Englischlernen im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert.“ Muenster 1994) and "Teaching Languages - Sprachen lehren" (Muenster 2016). At present she is on the editorial board of the journals „Language Teaching“ (CUP) and “Zeitschrift fuer Fremdsprachenforschung (ZFF)”. She has always been active in supporting young researchers and continues to supervise a number of PhD candidates.



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