

Arbeitskreis Deutsch als Wissenschaftssprache (ADAWIS) e.V.

Guidelines

The *Arbeitskreis Deutsch als Wissenschaftssprache* (ADAWIS, Association for Maintaining of the German Language in Academia) calls for linguistic diversity in research and teaching and for the maintaining and further development of German as an academic language within the German-language area. It supports all initiatives of researchers worldwide to pursue similar goals for their language areas.

The existence of a principal common language is indispensable for global academic communications; for some time English has served this function. However, the English language is now on the point of completely excluding other fully developed academic languages from their own linguistic areas and rendering them unusable for communication across whole academic fields.

This limits the scope of intellectual inquiry and hinders cultural understanding and the anchoring of academic research in society.

German as an academic language is being ousted from the German-language area

Scientific research has always depended on an international exchange of ideas. Here the English language plays an indispensable role.

Academic administrators and politicians are keen to present themselves in a favourable light with regard to the international community by calling for the exclusive use of English even for internal academic activities. As a result

- national congresses, seminars and business meetings with predominantly or exclusively German-speaking participants are often held only in English,
- in universities, increasing numbers of accredited courses are being switched over completely to English,
- national funding bodies frequently refuse to accept funding applications written in German.

ADAWIS sees these developments as detrimental to effective academic communications within Germany and counter to integration, the pursuit of knowledge and democratic principles. Instead, ADAWIS supports concepts of differentiated multilingualism as a basis for international networking.

Knowledge depends on linguistic diversity

The aim of science is the attainment of comprehensive knowledge and its continual refinement. Since reality is structured and represented in a different way in each language, the co-existence and competition between as many academic languages as possible must serve to encourage the generation of new insights. For instance, understanding is sharpened and deepened through a comparison of terms in different languages for similar things and concepts. Languages in which new terms are no longer formed become lost to science as cognitive tools and as a source of knowledge.

Questions raised by science are questions for society

Academics should be in continuous dialogue with politicians and society as a whole with regard to the social and ethical aspects of their research. This public dialogue can only take place within the linguistic and cultural context of the specific society funding that research. Such dialogue will otherwise rapidly come to a halt through a lack of common terminology and widely recognised, explanatory images. The inevitable outcome - a withdrawal of academia from everyday life and a reliance on second-hand information.

Intercultural exchange depends on thriving multilingualism

The academic world is particularly well placed to promote intercultural exchange, as it encourages tolerance, open-mindedness and curiosity. With just one principle language, however, perspectives are limited to the single culture that that language represents.

Scientific publishers already prohibit authors from citing publications that are not written in English. The result: falsification of history, suppression of knowledge and loss of whole research traditions.

Visiting academics who have learned or want to learn German, feel excluded by the “English only” community that they encounter. They leave our country although we urgently need to integrate them on a long-term basis.

What we aim to achieve

To encourage visiting academics to remain in our country and to promote intercultural exchange, ADAWIS advocates the concept of context-dependent, active and passive multilingualism in which our national language has a uniting and binding role to play. In this endeavour, we are cooperating with language societies, cultural institutions, scientific organizations and political bodies as well as similar initiatives in other EU-countries.

For the German-language area we advocate:

- *Context-dependent multilingualism in university teaching programmes: Basic*

courses should be held in German but also cover literature in foreign languages. Postgraduate and doctoral study programmes with English or other foreign-language components should only be accredited where the specialist degree course is supplemented by [German] language modules.

- *Individual multilingualism*: On long residence, every guest student or lecturer must learn the language of the host country and should be assisted in this. For short stays, the principle of receptive multilingualism should be applied where possible. Educational strategies should aim at encouraging an understanding of foreign languages other than English at an early stage.
- *Theses and final papers*: English must not be made compulsory. Final dissertations should preferably be written in German with an extensive summary in English and, depending on the subject, in further languages.
- *National specialist conferences*: German is to be expressly permitted, if necessary with simultaneous translation into English.
- *Textbooks, monographs*: Publishers must receive subsidies to cover translations into English so that the publication of books and papers in the original German edition remains an attractive proposition.
- *Funding applications, results reports*: In the case of German-speaking funding agencies, submission in German must also be possible.
- *Academic appraisal*: In the assessment of researchers and research institutions, appraisals should take into account not only publications in selected, English-language journals but also monographs, non-English language original and review articles, editorial and teaching activities, public relations activities and participation on the boards of scientific commissions.
- To ensure that original and review articles, textbooks and manuals written in the German language are acknowledged, a multilingual publications database must be set up at EU-level, which should be independent of the American citation databases.
- *Maintaining of German as an academic language in schools*: The German language also needs to be maintained in the natural- and social sciences. "Bilingual" language classes should not be held exclusively in the foreign language.

ADAWIS also calls for

- critical 'Citizen Science' to counter self-referential tendencies in science and technology,
- interdisciplinary dialogue,
- deeper exploration of cultural, ethical and social aspects of the natural sciences,
- empirical studies of the role of language in the cognitive process and in education.