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FAKULTÄT
FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY SETTINGS (LiDS)

The Text Complexity of German Children's Books at the Word Level

LiDS Lunch Lecture mit Dr. Roswita Dressler und Dr. Bernd Nuss

German children's books are used to support literacy in second language learners of German in North America. To this end, we are investigating what makes a children's book readable, considering text complexity, literary factors and the specific context (Nuss, et al, forthcoming). In this session, we will focus on decodability at the word level (lexis). From our disposable corpus of 602 German children's books, we created a weighted vocabulary list, which we analyzed using for parts of speech and decodability (Brügelmann & Brinkmann, 2023). Findings revealed important characteristics about indicators of readability and the nature of the vocabulary in children's books. These findings shed light on the text complexity of German children's books at the word level to inform future research into literacy in this setting.

Dr. Roswita Dressler is an educational linguist and focuses on pre-service and in-service teacher understandings of second language teaching and learning. As an educational linguist, she draws from research methodologies that integrate contextual factors, e.g. linguistic landscape analysis, in particularly of schoolscapes. She is Principal Investigator for a 2025-2027 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant Text Complexity of German Children's Books. This interdisciplinary grant examines text complexity through the lens of educational research and computing science.

Dr. Bernd Nuss is an international educator and researcher specializing in multilingual literacy, redability and early language development. He is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and teaches German immersion in Charlotte. His work focuses on text complexity, assessment, and cross-linguistic literacy development across multilingual educational contexts.

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12:15—13:45 Uhr, Raum 213

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