Symposium title: Queer Applied Linguistics: Potential & Limits

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Symposium format
- **Symposium Multimodal**

Symposium mode (one choice - delete the others):
- **Hybrid**

Sub-themes (multiple choices - delete the others):
- ☐ LINGUISTIC SOCIAL ISSUES: linguistic (in)justice, power, advocacy, attitude & bias, diversity-emancipation, discriminations, ethnicity and gender, ideology, language & social justice

Short abstract in English (15 lignes) :

For about 20 years, there has been a linguistic approach (or even a sub-discipline of its own) known as "Queer Linguistics", which is primarily concerned with analysing the phenomenon of "heteronormativity" that still prevails in language(s) and discourse. The proximity of this orientation to applied linguistics is also repeatedly emphasised, especially in the effort to reduce discriminatory communication and assign a greater role to diversity. Nevertheless, queer theoretical considerations in general seem very far away from usual folk theoretical understandings and experiences concerning gender, sexual orientation, etc. How can this discrepancy be overcome? For which concrete "real world problems" would applied approaches of Queer Linguistics be useful? How can the often very abstract queer theoretical concepts be translated into the everyday world experiences of "lay people"? The symposium has two aims: to deal with basic questions of existing or possible points of contact and overlaps between Queer and Applied Linguistics and to discuss interesting examples from concrete fields of application. Contributions can also be given in the other conference languages, but the accompanying slides should be in English (or bilingual with English).

Argument (2 pages maximum, i.e. about 500 words or 3000 characters including bibliography):
Multimodal symposium

About 20 years ago – after and in addition to Feminist / Gender / Gay & Lesbian and Lavender Linguistics – the term "Queer Linguistics" (QL) also began to gain more and more acceptance. QL contains elements from the previously mentioned "subdisciplines" but goes beyond them and takes a heteronormativity-critical position – known from general queer studies – and examines how heteronormativity is expressed in and by language and

discourse, but also how it can be overcome (at least linguistically). It further appears that the mentioned norm-critical attitude has a potential that can also go beyond the criticism of the assumed superiority of heterosexual desire.

On the one hand, there are many possible connections to applied linguistic concerns, e.g., the avoidance of discriminatory communication and respect for diversity (an aspect also mentioned in the welcome address of this conference). On the other hand, already due to the poststructuralist heritage and also many other factors, the issues raised in queer theoretical and queer linguistic discussions still seem to be very far away from (and at first glance hardly compatible with) most of the still prevailing folk conceptions of sex/gender and sexuality and the discourses related to them.

If we see it as a main task of Applied Linguistics to mediate between folk and academic language-related theories and views, we should ask more precisely which special functions Queer Applied Linguistics could take over with such an agenda: For which concrete "real world problems" would applied approaches of Queer Linguistics be useful? What kinds of solutions could or should they offer? How can the often very abstract queer theoretical concepts be translated into the everyday world experiences of "lay people"?

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Contributions can also be given in the other conference languages, but the accompanying slides should be in English (or bilingual with English).

References:

Motschenbacher, Heiko / Stegu, Martin (2013): „Queer Linguistic approaches to discourse", in: Motschenbacher, Heiko / Stegu, Martin (eds.): *Special Issue on Queer Linguistics* [*Discourse & Society* 24.5], Los Angeles, Sage, 519-535.

Stegu, Martin (2021): „Queere Linguistik: Potenzial, Probleme, Grenzen", in: *Muttersprache* 131 (2), 159-171.

Wilton, Antje / Stegu, Martin (2011): „Bringing the' folk' into applied linguistics: An introduction", in: *AILA Review* 24 (2011), 1-14