

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT III

INSTITUT FÜR ASIEN-UND AFRIKAWISSENSCHAFTEN

Seminar für Afrikawissenschaften



Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin • Unter den Linden 6 • D-10099 Berlin

---

Vortrag im Rahmen des Linguistischen Kolloquiums

**25. Januar 2011**

**Shumirai Nyota**  
(HU-Berlin)

**What's new in Shona street lingo? Semantic  
change in lingo adoptives from mainstream  
Shona**

This paper explores new developments in Shona lingo whereby Shona lingo borrows words from mainstream Shona and assigns new meanings to them. The paper examines this adaptation of adoptives at the semantic level. Data was collected through observation, participant observation and a questionnaire. The paper established that Shona lingo borrows different items of grammar as they are from mainstream Shona but attaches new meanings to them. The identified resultant semantic changes include changes in the ranges of meaning resulting in extension or narrowing the semantic content of the word, radical shift in meaning and changes in emotive value resulting in amelioration and pejorative meanings. The paper also shows how Shona lingo overlexicalized areas reflexive of the socio-economic situation of the Zimbabwean society.

**Ort:** Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,  
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 217

**Zeit:** 16:15 Uhr

**Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!**