

# Peppa Pig – First in English or in German?

## A programme tested by preschool children

The goal of the German preschool programme *Die Sendung mit dem Elefanten* (*The programme with the elephant*, WDR) is to help preschool children develop their linguistic awareness and feel for language (cf. Sistig in this issue).



The short episode of the English version of the animated series *Peppa Pig* (in German: *Peppa Wutz*) is about the little pig-girl Peppa Pig and her family. Peppa and her little brother George are getting a kick out of splashing around in mud puddles. At the end, Mommy and Daddy Pig join in the fun, which eventually leads to all four lying laughing in the mud.

In this test a short, easily understandable and funny story about the family Pig is used: one episode of the programme is shown both in its (original) English version and in a (synchronised) German version. In the study about learning English this programme already demonstrated great potential and success (cf. Kirch/Speck-Hamdan in this issue). The subject of another study was: should the German version of the programme be aired before the English one (variant 1) or should the English version be shown before the German one (variant 2)? 36 preschool children in Germany, aged 3 to 5 years, viewed one of these variants and were afterwards interviewed.



## The result

Overall, almost 3/4 of the questioned children evaluated the programme in English as positive and would like to see more English spoken on television. The children's attentiveness remains equally high in both above mentioned language variants, even upon repetition.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> variant, where the episode is first shown in English and then in German, it is apparent that there is more laughter and comments. The children name what they understand and create hypotheses about the meaning of individual terms, and close the gaps of the misunderstood parts in the thereupon following German version.

Accordingly, more is learnt during the variant "English – German", since the process of reception is much more active.

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