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UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Philologische Fakultät
Institut für Anglistik

Marc Okrand PhD

Creator of the Klingon language

“Linguistics and Science Fiction: An Introduction to Klingon”

Tuesday, 27 May 2008, 7.00 pm

Dresdner Bank room E 13,

Dittrichring 5–9 (opposite Thomaskirche)

Klingon, a language devised for and used in the *Star Trek* series of motion pictures and television programs, has become one of the most widely known constructed languages. Though developed to be spoken by fictional non-humans in imagined circumstances, it is based on linguistic principles of human languages; and while originally put together as an arbitrary collection of language elements, it was shaped and reshaped first by the requirements of moviemaking then later by the practical needs of those learning the language and using it in both daily conversation and in original and translated literature. How the language came into being, how and why it changed, and its place in popular culture will be discussed.



Marc Okrand earned a PhD in linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley, focusing primarily on American Indian languages of the West Coast. He conducted additional research as a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In addition to his writings on Klingon, he has contributed articles on both linguistics and closed captioning to several journals and anthologies. Currently, when not involved with invented languages, he oversees the closed captioning of various network and syndicated television programs and serves on the board of directors of Washington Shakespeare Company in Arlington, Virginia.