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# Göttinger Vorträge zum modernen China

Vortrag von

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**„Little grass has life, please watch your step.“  
A new view on Chinglish**

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## Abstract:

Once you step off the plane in Guilin or Guangzhou, you stumble across them immediately: publicly displayed bilingual signs with rather peculiar English translations. The Chinese government is gearing up an enormous amount to eradicate it, foreigners, expats and tourists alike, are loving it: Chinglish, the often unorthodox mix of Chinese grammar with an English dictionary, is boon and bane for many. But why do research on it? Is Chinglish not just wrong English, mistakes that need to be corrected without much ado?

This talk argues for an academic approach to Chinglish with its very existence hinting at a wide array of topics. What does the existence of Chinglish say about China's communication with the West? What about China's self-image? Why is English such an important, publicly displayed language all over the country?