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“Why is German so annoying?” - an attempt at an answer from a phraseological point of view

In this talk, I will explore the mechanics behind the so-called “Nerv-Sprech”, a group of phrases consisting of (more or less terrible) puns, certain one-line jokes and many kinds of creative language usage more. I take Schulze 2013 as a starting point who analyzed a corpus of said phrases put together by Spiegel Online. The online newspaper asked their readers to send in everyday expressions they deemed annoying. The turnout included treasures such as “Ciao, Kakao”, “Schönen Schrank” (instead of “Schönen Dank”), “Der Apfel fällt nicht weit vom Pferd” (originally “Der Apfel fällt nicht weit vom Stamm”), “Noch so 'ne Phrase, Faust auf die Nase”, “Dagegen bin ich algerisch” (instead of “Dagegen bin ich allergisch”) just to name a few. While there is a - through the linguistic disciplines - broadly (seemingly randomly) distributed set of strategies employed in the construction of these phrases their sociolinguistic/discursive status remains equally mysterious. Gathering data through the usual phraseological tests and further analysis/ critical reception of the data acquired so far by other authors I want to tackle the question what makes a phrase annoying.

References:

1. Haas, Daniel. 2005. „Nervsprech-Lexikon: Na dann, Proust Mahlzeit!“ In: Harms, Florian: *Spiegel Online*, 24.02.2005. Retrieved 11.11.2015 from <http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/nervsprech-lexikon-na-dann-proust-mahlzeit-a-340869.html>
2. Schulze, Florian. 2013. „Noch so'ne Phrase, Faust auf die Nase! - Eine phraseologische Untersuchung des Nerv-Sprech“ In: Hentschel, Elke. 2013. *Linguistik Online, Band 60 Nr.3*.