

Fachfragen

Mich interessiert die Übersetzung des folgenden deutschen Satzes ins Englische:

Beowulf erhielt viele Geschenke, die er mit nach Schweden nahm, um *sie* seinem König zu geben.

Meine Frage lautet: Ist *ausschließlich* folgende Übersetzung richtig:

Beowulf received a lot of presents, which he took back to Sweden with him to give to his king.

Oder ist in diesem Satz die Einfügung des

Pronomens *them* möglich und daher nicht als Fehler zu werten?

Die entsprechende Version wäre in diesem Fall "... to give *them* to his king".

KARL KESTING · SIEGEN

The reason for the uncertainty is presumably the existence of two superficially similar structures in English, one used as noun post-modification, the other as adverbial: 'He brought the presents to give to the king' (i.e. that were brought for the king), 'He brought the presents, to give them to the king' (i.e. in order to give them to the king). In the above case, the distance of the *to give . . .* clause from the head noun is so great that the possibility of an adverbial interpretation arises, and under these circumstances *them* would be possible. But the proper interpretation of the sentence, as it stands, is that the whole of it after *presents* is a relative construction, and here it is not of course possible to use a pronoun which refers back to the head noun.

DAVID CRYSTAL

Ein Schüler schreibt:

All the pupils are busy now, *every one* of them writing this test to the best of his or her knowledge.

Der Lehrer korrigiert: *each*. Der Schüler, der längere Zeit in England lebte und zu Hause Englisch spricht, macht geltend, *every one* im Sinne von *every single one* sei möglich. Die Fachkollegen der Schule sind einhellig anderer Auffassung.

DIETRICH PEINERT · STOCKHOLM

'I'm going to cane each and every one of you' shows how close in meaning the two words are. Nonetheless it is possible to detect subtle differences in emphasis, especially in speech; and the above sentence is an example. In speech, the sentence is perfectly possible; it would indeed have the implication of 'every single one', and would be said with increased intonational prominence. The reason for the teacher's intuition that the written form of the sentence as it stands is unacceptable, is probably due to the lack of any mark of prominence being given visually to the phrase – if it had been underlined, for example, it would seem more natural (in an informal situation, such as writing a letter to a friend). Without this mark of prominence – or without the need for prominence being clear from the preceding context – it is difficult to see why the phrase is being used, instead of the more

neutral possibilities, *each (one)*. It is as if one were to go to an athletics meeting, change into complete running gear, and then sit quietly at the side of the track, without participating in any race.

DAVID CRYSTAL

Am 7. Februar 1961 hielt der Very Rev. Harald C. N. Williams, Provost der Coventry Kathedrale, vor der Deutsch-Englischen Gesellschaft in Hannover einen Vortrag über das Thema: "Coventry – a Symbol of Reconciliation".

Auf der drittletzten Seite dieses Vortrags (Zeile 10–11) findet sich folgender Satz:

I am glad that I have been given the opportunity of *speaking on* these wide subjects in Germany.

Die deutsche Übersetzung auf der folgenden Seite lautet:

Ich bin froh, daß mir die Gelegenheit gegeben wurde, *über* diese weiten Themen in Deutschland *zu sprechen*.

Die einschlägigen Nachschlagewerke geben den Ausdruck *sprechen über* wieder mit *to speak of* oder *about*.

Das *Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, London, 21963, differenziert:

To speak to (rarely with) sb. about (less usu. of) sth.

Handelt es sich bei der zitierten Textstelle vielleicht um einen Druckfehler?

BERNHARD KERSTEN · BEVENSEN

There is no error. *Speak* can be used with many prepositions to give different shades of meaning. 'I heard him speak of/about that' is certainly the most general sense; here, something is being discussed in a broad, inspecific way. 'I heard him speak on that' provides a much more specific meaning, implying the singling out of a particular topic or issue, as in a lecture. 'I'm going to hear Tom Brown speak on "The Future of the Flea" at the Town Hall'.

Note also some of the other uses of *speak* with an inanimate object. 'I should like to speak to that', i.e. address my remarks specifically to a particular issue (used particularly in formal contexts, such as debates). 'His attitude spoke for everything I believed in', i.e. acted as a symbol for ...

DAVID CRYSTAL