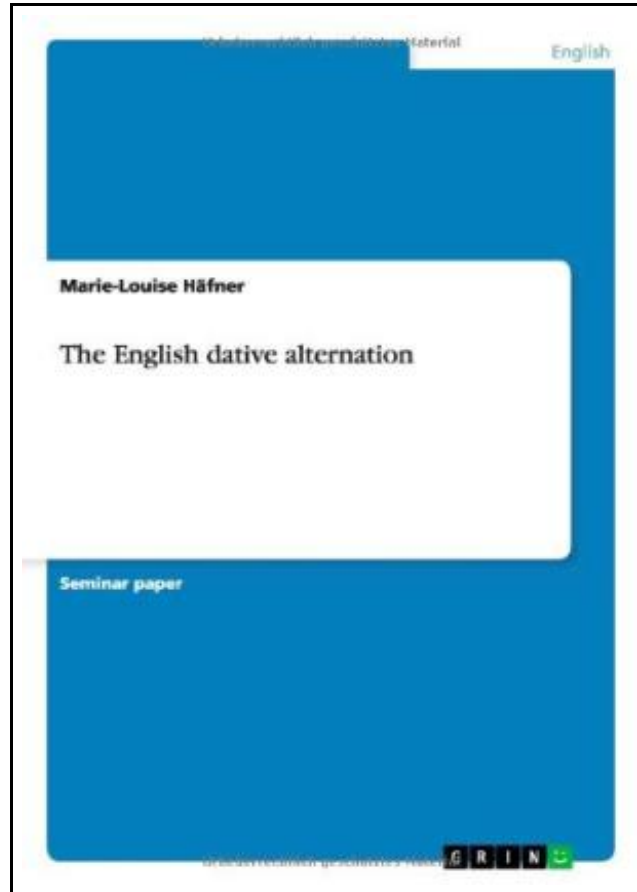


## The English dative alternation



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GRIN Verlag Apr 2014, 2014. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 211x149x3 mm. Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,7, Humboldt-University of Berlin (Anglistik), language: English, abstract: Most speakers of English are unconsciously proficient in combining all kinds of information in order to form the grammatical structure they use for language production. In this essay I attempt to describe one of these complex structures linguistically, namely the nature of dative verbs. Understanding the syntactic patterns of the verb is a challenging task - not only for the acquisition of English as a second language, but for linguistic research just as much. We're occupied with transitive verbs that take more than one internal argument. There is a great number of alternations in English grammar which do not involve a change in the transitivity of the verb (Levin 1993), one of them being the Dative Alternation, which will be the topic of this essay. I will begin by introducing some general findings of research in this field whereupon a list of verbs will follow which presents groups of verbs that do or do not perform the alternation. At the core of my dissertation I will compare two different approaches on the subject, namely the works of Manfred Krifka and Rappaport Hovav & Levin. They represent two sites of the debate concerning the semantics of the dative alternation. Whilst the former defends the so-called polysemy view, the latter are enthusiastic for the single meaning approach. I will go into more detail in section 4. In the final analysis I'm going to introduce a brief study of the dative alternation in different variants of English, namely British, Australian and American English. 20 pp. Englisch.



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