

LANGUAGE AND IDEOLOGY IN COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL SOUTH ASIA

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Guest seminar to be held at JMI, offered under a SPARC cooperation programme between the English Department, JMI, and the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, from March 09.03-23.03.

Abstract:

The South Asian language situation is highly complex. Multilingualism is an umbrella term often used to describe the coexistence of a plurality of languages in a given society. South Asian countries like India and Nepal, but also Pakistan, are multilingual to an extent that is seldom matched in international comparison.

The term multilingualism may be understood to imply an unproblematic side-by-side coexistence of many linguistic varieties, but the actual picture is usually quite different. Multilingualism covers up a host of hierarchical relationships, contact scenarios, historical and ongoing entanglements.

Our focus on language ideology proceeds from the contention that languages rarely exist in an unmarked state of just being there. Various perceptions, narratives, stereotypes add up to a thick conundrum of attributes that get attached to a language and its community of speakers. The dividing line between the linguistic medium and its carriers is thin and usually blurred, and attributes float quite unrestrictedly over it.

Such conundrums are what we understand as language ideologies: a set of assumptions, definitions, oppositions, trajectories, parentages, myths of origin, sometimes highly elaborate and sophisticated, at other times very trivial and stereotypical patterns of thought.

The seminar gives a general introduction and discussion of language ideologies and aims to probe in some detail into chosen aspects of the South Asian situation. In the first part, we will calibrate our approach to the theme. In the second, we turn to specific cases of South Asian language ideologies.

Programme:

Tuesday 09.03.

What is Ideology?

Eagleton, Terry. 1991. *Ideology: an Introduction*. London/New York: Verso. [pp. 1-61]

Wednesday 10.03.

What is Language Ideology?

Rahman, Tariq. 2002. *Language, Ideology and Power: Language Learning Among the Muslims of Pakistan and North India*. Karachi: Oxford University Press Karachi. [pp. 38-72]

Woolard, Kathryn A. 1998. "Introduction: Language Ideology as a Field of Inquiry". In Schieffelin, Bambi B. et al. (eds): *Language Ideologies: Practice and Theory*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-47.

Thursday 11.03.

Language and Nationalism

Bauman, Richard and Charles L. Briggs. 2000. "Language Philosophy as Language Ideology: John Locke and Johann Gottfried Herder". In: Paul V. Kroskrity (ed.): *Regimes of Language: Ideologies, Politics, and Identities*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, 2000, pp. 139-204. [particularly pp. 166-194]

Friday 12.03.

Case study 1: Hindi

Rai, Alok. 2007. *Hindi Nationalism*. Hyderabad: Orient Longman. [pp. 1-16, 50-105]

Monday 15.03.-Wednesday 17.03.

Conference: LANGUAGE IDEOLOGIES BETWEEN SOUTH ASIAN VERNACULARS AND ENGLISH

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Thursday 18.03.

Live, Laugh, Language

Joshua A. Fishman (1996): "Perfecting the Perfect: Improving the Beloved Language", in: Laura García.Moreno and Peter C. Pfeiffer (eds): *Text and Nation: Cross-Disciplinary Essays on Cultural and National Identity*. Columbia: Camden House, 3-16.

Friday 19.03.

Case study 2: Bengali in Bangladesh, Sindhi in Sindh

Rahman, Tariq. 1995. "Language and Politics in a Pakistan Province: the Sindhi Language Movement." *Asian Survey* 35 (11). [pp. 1005-16]

Muhith, A.M.A. 2008. *State Language Movement in East Bengal 1947-1956*. Dhaka: University Press. [Appendices 1-5, pp. 118-143; optionally also 79-113]

Monday 22.03.

Excursus: Language in the Third Reich

Klemperer, Victor. 2000. *The Language of the Third Reich*. (Originally published in German in 1946.) London/New York: Continuum. [pp. 1-61]

Tuesday 23.03.

Case study 3: Tamil

Ramaswamy, Sumathi. 1997. *Passions of the Tongue: Language Devotion in Tamil India, 1891-1970*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [pp. 7-59 (page numbers refer to the PDF file of the unpaginated digital version)]

Wednesday 24.03.

Case study 4: The Changing Role of English in South Asia

Costenaro, Verusa. 2014. *Indian English: a Sociolinguistic Profile*. München: LINCOM Europa. [pp. 56-116]

Harder, Hans. 2010. "Indian Literature in English and the Problem of Naturalisation". In: idem (ed.): *Literature and Nationalist Ideology: Writing Histories of Modern Indian Languages*. New Delhi: Social Science Press, pp. 323-352.

Thursday 25.03.

Ideology OF Language and Ideology IN Language

Butler, Judith. 1997. *Excitable Speech. A politics of the Performative*. New York etc.: Routledge. [pp. 1-41]