

**5th MHRD- SPARC Course cum Workshop
On
LANGUAGE AND IDEOLOGY IN COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL SOUTH
ASIA**

March 17-April 2, 2020

Foreign Faculty: Professor Hans Harder, Dr Jürgen Schaflechner (Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany)

Host Faculty: Professor Nishat Zaidi, Dr Saroj K Mahananda (JMI)

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. The seminar will reach its culmination and conclusion in a three-day workshop with guest speakers on on

'Language Ideologies Between South Asian Vernaculars and English' (Tuesday 31.3.-Thursday 2.4.)

Programme:

Tuesday 17.3.

What is Ideology?

Eagleton, Terry. 1991. *Ideology: an Introduction*. London/New York: Verso.

Wednesday 18.3.

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.

Ivekovic, Rada. 1998. 'The Bosnian Tangle: Is Bosnien-Herzegovina Multicultural?' In Mushirul Hassan (ed.): *Islam, Communities and the Nation*. Delhi: Manohar.

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.

Milroy, James. 2001. 'Language Ideologies and the Consequences of Standardization'. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 5/4, 2001, pp. 530-55.

Thursday 19.3.

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.

Trautman, Thomas R. 2006. *Languages and Nations: the Dravidian proof in colonial Madras*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Friday 20.3.

Case study 1: Hindi

Alok Rai: *Hindi Nationalism*

Monday 23.3.

Case study 2: Bengali in Bangladesh, Sindhi in Sindh

Akanda, Safar Ali. 2013. *Language Movement and the Making of Bangladesh*. Dhaka: University Press, 2013.

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

Tuesday 24.3.

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.

Wednesday 25.3.

Case study 3: Tamil

Ramaswamy, Sumathi. 1997. *Passions of the Tongue: language devotion in Tamil India, 1891-1970*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Thursday 26.3.

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

Costenaro, Verusa. 2014. *Indian English: a sociolinguistic profile*. München: LINCOM Europa.

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.

Monday 30.3.

Concluding session

Time to summarize our findings from the eight preceding sessions, and also to prepare for the WORKSHOP directly following upon the seminar; the workshop is conceived as an opening up of our discussions to some colleagues and scholars joining for the occasion, and will enable us to present and test our findings to them as an audience

**MHRD-SPARC supported Three-day Workshop
on
'Language Ideologies Between South Asian Vernaculars and
English'
(Tuesday 31.3.-Thursday 2.4.)**

A three-day workshop, being the concluding round of the seminar **Language and Ideology in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia** (Hans Harder, Jürgen Schaflechner), and a combination of presentations by students, Host Faculty (Professor Nishat Zaidi, Dr Saroj Kumar Mahananda) and the external invitees (to be announced).

Tuesday 31.3. On language ideologies
(Intro Harder & Schaflechner; students' presentations)

Wednesday 1.4. Vernacular language ideologies
(Students' Presentations, talks/statements by External Invitees)

Thursday 2.4. Ideologies of English in South Asia
(Zaidi & Mahananda; students' presentations; final discussion)