

KORLIT 211 (Spring 2019)

Ideologies of Language in Modern and Contemporary Korea

Si Nae Park

Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University

Course Description

How we speak, write, and think/feel about the language(s) we know and others use, in what kinds of sociocultural contexts, and the very form and nomenclatures of those language(s) are never free of “sets of beliefs about language articulated by users as a rationalization or justification of perceived language structure and use” (Silverstein, “Language structure and linguistic ideology,” 1979)—or, *ideologies of language*. Ideologies of language are concerned with how we become *predisposed* to understand parameters of normalcy about language- and writing-related matters and how we navigate the politics of gender, race, and class in the sociocultural worlds which we occupy. Where and how are ideologies of language and writing produced, articulated, naturalized and documented? What ideas are revealed, implied, suppressed, and authorized in linguistic and inscriptional ecologies? How do language ideologies shape circumscribe the speakers of language(s) and the cultural practices associated with such language(s)? How does attention and sensitivity to language ideologies deepen and complicate the way we understand society, culture, and history?

KORLIT 211 examines the centrality of language-related matters—the written, the spoken, and the imagined—in topics such as nation-building, national/cultural identity/unity, empire and colonies, colonial and postcolonial subjectivities, English as a global language, the postwar “Two Koreas”, literary canonization, popular media, soundscape, and ethnicity and multiculturalism.

Focused on Korea, KORLIT 211 equips students with comparative, transcultural, and interdisciplinary insights.

Requirements

Attendance, active participation, and completion of all of the assignments.

1. **Regular attendance & Preparation of all readings and active participation (30%):** In-class discussion & weekly online posting of reading responses
2. **“Siting language ideology” essay (10%):** 750-1000 words. Post online on Canvas. Due by Feb 16.
3. **Three reading summaries in class of assigned readings (book chapters) (30%):** (a) Oral presentation of the reading in class (20 min. max.); (b) a max. 3-page written summary to be posted before class on canvas; (c) 2-3 questions to spark class discussion. **For instructions see Appendix.**
4. **Final research project (30%):** 15-20 pages (double-spaced, 12pt) excluding bibliography. Work-in-progress unacceptable. **Instructions TBA**

Submit **(1) a research proposal** (title, abstract, annotated table of contents) due by May 1; **(2) annotated bibliography** due by May 5; and, **(3) final paper** due by May 15.

Final projects must be approved by me.

* Extensions

As a rule, extensions will not be given on the paper assignments. However, if you contact me at least 72 hours before the deadline and can demonstrate extenuating circumstances (documentation required), extensions will be considered on a case-to-case basis.

Schedule & Readings

Week 1 (January 28)

What is Language Ideology? Why Language Ideology Now?

Language ideologies represent the perception of language and discourse that is constructed in the interest of a specific social or cultural group. ... [L]anguage ideological approaches emphasize political economic forces (and other interest-informed action), diversity and contestation, the influence of speakers' consciousness on both linguistic and social systems, the constitutive role of language in social life, and the myriad ways that ideologies of language and discourse construct identity.

- Paul Kroskrity, *Language Ideologies*, 507, 512.

Ideologies cannot be attributed to one particular actor, not located in one particular site . . . but that it penetrates the whole fabric of societies or communities and results in normalised, naturalised patterns of thought and behavior.

- Jan Blommaert, *Discourse*, 159

Kroskrity, Paul V. "Chapter 22: Language Ideologies." In Alessandro Duranti, ed., *A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, 496-517. **Canvas**

Blommaert, Jan. "Introduction," *Discourse: A Critical Introduction* (Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 1-20. **Canvas**

Moody, Andrew, "Language Ideology in the Discourse of Popular Culture," in Carol A. Chapelle ed., *The Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2013), 1-3.

Week 2 (February 4)

The Korean Language in Contemporary South Korean Culture and Media

Park, Joseph Sung-Yul. "Language Games on Korean Television: Between Globalization, Nationalism, and Authority," in Sally Johnson and Tommaso M. Milani eds., *Language Ideologies and Media Discourse: Texts, Practices, Politics*. New York and London: Continuum, 2010, 61-78. **Canvas**

Lee, Shinhee. "I'm the Illest Fucka: An analysis of African American English in South Korean hip hop," *English Today* 23, 2 (2007): 54-60. **HOLLIS**

Kang, Mi Ok. *Multicultural Education in South Korea: Language, Ideology and Culture in Korean Language Arts Education*. *Routledge Critical Studies in Asian Education* (London: Routledge, 2015), 15-28 (intro); 118-156 (case). **HOLLIS**

Brown, Lucien. "Korean Honorifics and 'Revealed', 'Ignored' and 'Suppressed' Aspects of Korean Culture and Politeness," Bargiela-Chiappini, F. and Kádár, D. eds., *Politeness Across Cultures* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 106-127. **HOLLIS**

Lo, Adrienne and Jenna Kim. "Manufacturing Citizenship: Metapragmatic Framings of Language Competencies in Media Images of Mixed Race Men in South Korea," *Discourse & Society* 22. 4 (2011): 440-457. HOLLIS

*** In-class analysis activity:**

Sites of language ideologies.

Further reading

Lo, Adrienne and Jenna Chi Kim. "Linguistic Competency and Citizenship: Contrasting Portraits of Multilingualism in South Korean Popular Media," *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 16(2): 2012: 255-276.

Week 3 (February 11)

Infected Korean Language

There is no such thing as the original unity of language with which hybridity can be contrasted. ... [L]anguage is essentially a site of hybridity.
- Sakai Naoki, *Voices of the Past*, 19

Koh, Jongsok. *Infected Korean Language: Purity versus Hybridity: From the Sinographic Cosmopolis to Japanese Colonialism to Global English*. Translated with a critical Introduction by Ross King (Amherst, New York: Cambria Press, 2014).

ASSIGNMENT #1 (Due Feb 16):

"Siting Language Ideologies" Essay: Identify an example of language-based inequalities or debates in contemporary society. In your discussion, clarify what you mean by "language ideology" and on which linguistic, sociocultural, political, and economic aspects you are focusing. You can write a review essay of a recent publication—e.g., *The Fall of Language in the Age of English* by Minae Mizumura, translated by Mari Yoshihara and Juliet Winters Carpenter (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015)—or you turn to a debate in a more distant past.

***** No Class on February 18 *****
University Closed

Week 4 (February 25)

Language Ideologies in the Two Koreas

King, Ross. "North and South Korea." In Andrew Simpson ed., *Language and National Identity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 201-234.

*** GUEST SPEAKER: Professor Ross King**

(Tentative) "Linguistic Etiquette, Women's Language, and 'Language Morality' in North Korean Language Planning Discourse."

Further reading

Sonia Ryang. *North Koreans in Japan: Language, Ideology, and Identity* (Boulder; Oxford: Westview Press, 1997).

Week 5-6 (March 4 and March 11)

"Nationalization" of the Linguistic Field

March 4

- Bauman, Richard and Charles L. Briggs.** "Language, Poetry, and Volk in Eighteenth-Century Germany: Johann Gottfried Herder's Construction of Tradition," *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 163-196.
- Schmid, Andre.** "Decentering the Middle Kingdom and Realigning the East," *Korea Between Empires, 1895-1919*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000, pp. 55-100.
- Suzuki, Tomi.** "56: Introduction: Nation Building, Literary Culture, and Language," Haruo Shirane et al eds., *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 553-571.

In-class analysis activity:

Treatise: Yi Kwangsu, "What is Literature?" (1919).

March 11

- King, Ross.** "Western Protestant Missionaries and the Origins of Korean Language Modernization," *Journal of International and Area Studies* 11. 3 (2004): 7-38.
- Pieper, Daniel.** "The Making of a Foreign National Language: Language Politics and the impasse between Assimilationists and Language Nationalists in Colonial Korea," *Journal of Korean Studies* (forthcoming).
- Ueda, Atsuko.** "Competing 'Languages': 'Sound' in the Orthography Reforms of Early Meiji Japan," Benjamin A. Elman eds., *Rethinking East Asian Vernaculars, and Literacies, 1000-1919* (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 222-253.
- Caprio, Mark.** "Linguistic Colonialism and Nation Extensionism: Korea under Japanese Rule" [*Kotoba to ningen: Rikkyō Daigaku Gengo Jinbun Kiyō*], *Rikkyo University Journal of Language and the Humanities* 1(1) (1999):87-116.

Week 8 (March 25)

Colonial Linguistics and the Japanese Empire

- Cohn, Bernard.** "The Command of Language and the Language of Command." *Subaltern Studies IV: Writings on South Asian History and Society*, 276-329. Reproduced in Cohn (1996): *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge: The British in India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985, 16-56.
- Errington, Joseph.** "Colonial Linguistics," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30 (2001): 19-39.
- SUMMARY McDonald, Kate.** "Speaking Japanese," *Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2017), 135-159. Also appeared in *The Affect of Difference: Representations of Race in East Asian Empire*.
- SUMMARY Robinson, Michael.** "Broadcasting in Korea, 1924-1937: Colonial Modernity and Cultural Hegemony," Sharon Minichiello ed., *Japan's Competing Modernities: Issues in Culture and Democracy, 1900-1930* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1998), 358-378. This is also available as "Broadcasting, Cultural Hegemony, and Colonial Modernity in Korea, 1924-1945," Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson, eds., *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999), 52-69.

SUMMARY Henry, Todd A. “Assimilation’s Racializing Sensibilities: Colonized Koreans as Yobos and the “Yobo-ization” of Expatriate Japanese,” *position: east asia cultures critique* 21 (1) (2013):11-49. Also appearing in Todd A. Henry, ed., *The Affect of Difference* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2016), 81-107.

SUMMARY Tai, Eika. *Kokugo and colonial education in Taiwan. positions: east asia cultures critique* 7.2 (1999) 503-540.

Week 9 (April 1)

Colonialism, Language, and Modern Korean Literature

SUMMARY Suh, Serk-Bae. *Treachorous Translation: Culture, Nationalism, and Colonialism in Korea and Japan from the 1910s to the 1960s.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2013. **HOLLIS Select chapters.**

SUMMARY Hanscom, Christopher P. *The Real Modern: Literary Modernism and the Crisis of Representation in Colonial Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard East Asia Center, 2013)

SUMMARY Kwon, Aimee. *Intimate Empire: Collaboration and Colonial Modernity in Korea and Japan* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015).

SUMMARY Poole, Janet. *When the Future Disappears: The Modernist Imagination in Late Colonial Korea* (New York, NY: University of Columbia Press, 2014).

In-class analysis activity:

Lecture: Ch’oe Namsŏn, “Images of Korea in Japanese Literature” (1931).

Short Story: Yi T’aejun, “Before and After Liberation” (1946).

Week 10 (April 8)

Sound of Modernity/Modern Language

SUMMARY Inoue, Miyako. *Vicarious Language: Gender and Linguistic Modernity in Japan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006).

SUMMARY Heinrich, Patrick. *The Making of Monolingual Japan: Language Ideology and Japanese Modernity* (Bristol: Multilingual Matters, 2012).

SUMMARY Harkness, Nicholas. *Songs of Seoul* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014).

Week 11 (April 15)

Language and/as Identity

“In April 1946, less than one year after the end of Japan’s long Fifteen Year War (1931-1945), the prominent Japanese writer Shiga Naoya (1883-1971) published a controversial essay in which he advocated changing Japan’s national language from Japanese to French.

...

Language ideology is of course by no means restricted to colonial contexts—but it can become particularly visible in them, as the seemingly self-evident relationships between language and national identity can no longer be taken for granted.

...

[L]anguage use itself was a site of contestation and negotiation, with urgent political ramifications.”

- Christina Yi, Colonizing Language, xv, xviii.

Yi, Christina. *Colonizing Language: Cultural Production and Language Politics in Modern Japan and Korea* (Columbia University Press, 2018).

*** GUEST SPEAKER: Professor Christina Yi**

In-class analysis activity:

Short Story: Kim Saryang, "Into the Light."

Week 12 (April 22)

Special Session: Colonial and Postcolonial Korea in Asian American Context
with Emily Jungmin Yoon.

Read Emily Jungmin Yoon's poetry, attend two events associated with Yoon's visit, and participate during Q & A.

Yuh, Ji-Yeon. "American Fever," *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown Korean Military Brides in America* (NYU Press, 2004), 42-83.

Chun, Elaine W. "Ideologies of Legitimate Mockery: Margaret Cho's Revoicings of Mock Asian," *Pragmatics* 14:2/3 (2004): 263-289.

Lo, Adrienne. "Codeswitching, Speech Community Membership, and the Construction of Ethnic Identity," *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 3.4 (1999): 461-479.

Week 13 (April 29) Last Day of Class

Final Paper Conference (final project) & Wrap-Up