Language, Culture and Power

Instructor: Toktogulova Mukaram
American University Central Asia,
Anthropology Department
Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek,
Abdymomunova 205.
 e-mail:mucaramt@yahoo.com. Tel:
Class time   M. 14.10
               W. 14.10
Office hours: W. 3-5pm.
Credit: 3.0 credits

Course description

This course introduces the students with one of the four traditional fields of Anthropology - Linguistic Anthropology- as "the study   of language as a cultural resource and speaking as a cultural practice". The aim of this course is to understand the crucial role played by language in the constitution of the society and its cultural representations.

Our course will be based on ethnolinguistic approach, which means all linguistic structures will be analyzed as used by real people in real time and real place. And speakers first of all are social actors of particular communities, each organized in a variety of social institutions and with sets of expectations, beliefs, and moral values about the world.

The course also introduces the students with mainstream theories in Language Policy literature and discusses its basic concepts and methods. Socio-historical and political consequences of Soviet Language Policy will be examined trough lectures and seminar discussions.

Topics include linguistic relativity hypothesis of Sapir and Whorf, Language Ideology, Language and Power, Language and moral values, Language and racism, Language and Ethnic conflict, Language and Cultural Contact, the politics of mono-and multi-lingualism etc.

Course Requirements and Grading:

 Attendance and Participation (25%).   Regular attendance is very important. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by 2 %. Each student is expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to class and to make regular, constructive contributions to class discussions.

Class presentation (25%)**:** On the second week the students will be asked to sign up for in class presentation. The list of papers which address diverse topics in Linguistic Anthropology will be suggested by the instructor for students to read and make an individual presentation during the seminar class. The presentation should consist of both: the content of the paper and critical view of the presenter on the author's main argument.

Midterm Exam (20%): Reflection paper (3 - 4 pages).   Students should choose one of three ethnographic articles, which will be recommended by the instructor, and write a reflection paper on it. A reflection Paper should provide critical view on how author formulated the main argument, what examples and cases were used by the author to discuss the main question. How all evidences were interpreted in relation to particular context and in connection with other secondary sources? You are also encouraged to find connections of the paper with modern events and themes.

Research Project (30%): (due to the last class). For this course students are expected to do a library or field research that will be focused on the relationship between Language and Society in one of Central Asian countries. The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to explore in depth a topic you have found interesting. The project should consist of the following parts: research question, research hypothesis, literature review, research argument, analysis of collected data, conclusion and bibliography. Make sure you understand the appropriate use of sources in your work and be informed that plagiarism will result in zero grade for the course. Research paper (8-10 pages) should be typed and double spaced.

Grading system
100-96 = A
95-91 = A-
90-86 = B+
85-81 = B
80-76 = B-
75-71 = C+
70-66 = C
65-61 = C-
60-56 = D+
55-51 = D
50-46 = D-
45 and lower = F

Course readings:

All textbooks are available at AUCA library and on AUCA Electronic Resources: ***Courses Information Support/Anthropology/ Language and Culture.*** Students are expected to come to all classes having completed the assigned readings.

Alessandro Duranti, Linguistic Anthropology.CambidgeUniversity Press 1997.
Linguistic Anthropology:reader.Edited by Alessandro Duranti .Blackwell Publishing 2001.
A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology/ edited by Alessandro Duranti. Blackwell Publishing 2006
Zdenek Salzmann.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.
Bonvillain, N. Language, Culture and Communication: The meaning of Messages.2000.
Hudson R.ASociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.
Ricento, Thomas (2007). Introduction to Language Policy: Theory and Method. Blackwell Publishing.
Grenoble, A. Lenore (2010). Language Policy in the Soviet Union. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
Landau, Kellner- Heinkele (2001) Politics of Language in the Ex- Soviet Muslim States. London Hurst and Company

Schedule:

Course Topics:

Introduction: course aims, course topics and materials, course design, course requirements
Zdenek Salzmann. Language, Culture and Society. Westview Press. 2004.p 1-18.
Hudson R.A. Sociolinguistics. Cambridge University Press. 2001.p.1-17.
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.1-23.

Seminar1.
Reading:
1. David S Thomson. The Sapir – Whorf Hypothesis: Worlds shaped by Words.

Speech community and Communicative competence

Seminar 2, 3:
Readings:
1. Keith H Basso, To give up on Words: Silence in Western Apache Culture
2. Alison Lurie, The Language of Clothes, Human Ecology, Spring 1991.
3. Huang Shu-min. A Cross-Cultural Experience: A Chinese Anthropologist in the United States, , from Distant Mirrors; America as a Foreign Culture, Wadsworth Publishing, 1993.
4. Daniel Miller and Don Slater. The internet and relationships

Language variation
Zdenek Salzmann.Language ,Culture and Society. Westview Press.2004.p 167-196
Hudson R. A. Sociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press. 2001.p.20-68.
Wardhaugh R. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell Publishing.2006.p.135-161

Seminar 4, 5:
Readings:
1. William Labov, Social Stratification of (r) in New York City Department Stores
2. Racist Stereotyping in the English Language, Robert B. Moore, Racism and Sexism: An Integrated Study, Paul S. Rothenberg (ed.) St. Martin's Press, 1988
3. Mary Bucholtz, The Whiteness of Nerds: Superstandard English and Racial Markedness
4. Language, Race, and White Public Space Jane H. Hill

Seminar 6: Double speaking
Readings:
1. William D. Lutz. Language, Appearance, and Reality: Doublespeak in 1984
2. Sarah Boher. The Military Name Game

Language and Gender

Hudson R.ASociolinguistics.CambridgeUniversity Press.2001.102-104, 140-144
Zdenek Salzmann.Language ,Culture and Society.Westview Press.2004.p 208-213
Wardhaugh R.An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.Blackwell Publishing.2006.p. 315-335

Seminar 7, 8.
Readings:
1. Deborah Tannen. Conversation Style: Talking on the Job
2. A Cultural Approach to Male-Female Miscommunication Daniel N. Maltz and Ruth A. Borker (from Language and Social Identity, 1982)

Midterm Exam

Language Policy : Theoretical Perspectives in Language Policy

Seminar 9.
Readings:
1. Ricento, Thomas (2007). Introduction to Language Policy: Theory and Method, pp. 1-23
2. Hornberger, H. Nancy (2007). Frameworks and Models in Language Policy and Planning. In Ricento, Thomas (ed.), Introduction to Language Policy: Theory and Method, pp.24-41

Seminar 10, 11 : Language Policy of USSR in the Soviet Central Asia

Readings:
1. Grenoble L A (2010). Language Policy in the Soviet Union, pp. 1-26, 35 - 65

2. Language Policy in Soviet Central Asia
Grenoble L A (2010). Language Policy in the Soviet Union (2010),pp 137-161

3. Language Policy in the Soviet Kyrgyzstan (1917-1930)
Chotaeva, Cholpon. (2003) Language, Identity and Religion in Kyrgyzstan

4. Language Policy In the Soviet Kyrgyzstan.(1930-1980)
Chotaeva, Cholpon (2003) Language, Identity and Religion in Kyrgyzstan

Seminar 12,13: LPP and Nation building: Language Policies in post-Soviet Central Asian Republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
Readings:

1. Dave, Bhavna A Shrinking Reach of the State? Language Policy and Implementation in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

2. Fierman, William The division of Linguistic Space, in Nationalities Papers, Volume 23 Number 3 1995, pp 507-514
3. Landau, Kellner- Heinkele (2001) Politics of Language in the Ex- Soviet Muslim States. London Hurst and Company
3. Luke O'Callaghan.War of words: Language policy in post-independence Kazakhstan.Tsentralnaia Azia I kultura mira. 1-2. 2005.p.104-123

Seminar 14, 15 : **LPP and Identity**

Readings:
1. Laitin, David (1998) Identity in formation: The Russian- Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad. Cornell: Cornell University Press. Pp. 36-83, 199-260, 300-323
2. Scott F Kiesling ( ) Language and Identity in Sociocultural Anthropology
3. Brubaker & Cooper (2000). Beyond Identity, pp 1-21
4. Nami Odagiri. A Study On Language Competence and Use by Ethnic Kyrgyz People in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan

Week 15. Final exam.