

Linguistic Anthropology
(ANTH 8810-002)
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota
Spring 2008

Syllabus: <http://www.geocities.com/davidvalentine2002/syllabi/LingAnthGrad08.pdf>
E-Reserve: <http://eres.lib.umn.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=1169>

Instructor: David Valentine
Class Times: Monday 12:00-2:15pm
Office: 364 HHH Center
Office Hours: Tu/Th 1:00-2:00pm and by appointment

Class Location: Blegen 210
Class Dates: 01/28/2008 - 05/05/2008
Phone: 612.626.8692
email: valen076@umn.edu

Course Description:

This seminar seeks to outline some of the major issues, historically and thematically, in the field of linguistic anthropology. Starting out with an examination of the place of linguistic anthropology in the broader study of language and linguistics, the primary focus will be on linguistic anthropology's particular contributions to the study of language. Primarily, we will focus on the impact of linguistic relativity and the field of language ideology that has grown from it, and put this in the context of the methodological focus of ethnography of speaking. Moreover, at the center of the course will be a series of questions about the possibilities of studying language in the first place: what does it mean to be an "I" who can speak, and how do we assess this capacity and the emergent properties of meaning making that arise from situated speaking? What kind of self is understood to produce meaning, or is "self" even a concept relevant cross-culturally? What relationships pertain among speaker, intention, and context? Finally, what operations of power shape not only the contexts of language's use and the ability to speak, but also the very idea of "language" itself?

Assignments and Assessment

I have not as yet assigned any writing exercises for this class as I want to discuss with you what will be the most useful kinds of writing for a class of this kind.

However, one key requirement is that you post a *synthetic* discussion point to the class's WebCT board *at least 24 hours before the class*. By "synthetic," I mean that you are expected to have completed all the readings ahead of time and to pose a discussion point (or series of points) which show evidence that you have read the materials with and against one another (or, in those weeks that we have a monograph, that you pose discussion points that interrogate the text as a whole). By *24 hours*, I mean 24 hours.

As this is a seminar, a central part of your final grade will be calculated in terms of your participation in class discussions.

Course Outline

1. **Introduction to the Course: I, Signifier (1/28/08)**

Silverstein, Michael

1976 Shifters, linguistic categories, and cultural description. *In* Meaning in anthropology. Keith Basso and Henry Selby (eds.) pp.11-55.

Reddy, Michael J.

1979 The conduit metaphor: a case of frame conflict in our language about language. *In* Metaphor and thought. Andrew Ortony (ed.) pp.284-324. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ochs, Elinor and Bambi Schieffelin

2001 [1984] Language Acquisition and socialization: three developmental stories and their implications. *In* Linguistic anthropology: a reader. Alessandro Duranti (ed). pp. 263-301. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

2. **Histories, Ideologies, and Politics of Language (2/4/08)**

Bauman, Richard and Charles Briggs

2003 Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

3. **Models and Theories (2/11/08)**

Boas, Franz

1889 On alternating sounds. *American Anthropologist* 2(1): 47-54.

Boas, Franz

1964 [1911] On grammatical categories. *In* Language, culture, and society: a reader in Linguistic anthropology. Dell

Hymes (ed.) Pp. 121-123. New York: Harper & Row.

Saussure, Ferdinand de

1985[1916] The linguistic sign. *In* Semiotics: an introductory anthology. Robert E. Innis (ed.) pp.28-46. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Sapir, Edward

1968[1933] Communication. *In* Selected Writings of Edward Sapir in Language, Culture and Personality. David G. Mandelbaum, ed. 1968. pp.104-109. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Sapir, Edward

1968[1933] Language. *In* Selected Writings of Edward Sapir in Language, Culture and Personality. David G. Mandelbaum, ed. 1968. pp.7-32. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Peirce, Charles S.

1985[1893-97] Logic as semiotics: the theory of signs. *In* Semiotics: an introductory anthology. Robert E. Innis (ed.) pp.4-23. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Jakobson, Roman

1960 Closing statement: linguistics and poetics. *In* Style in Language. Thomas A. Sebeok (ed.) pp. 350-77. Cambridge: MIT Press.

4. **Linguistic Relativity and Metaphor (2/18/08)**

Whorf, Benjamin Lee

1939 The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language. *In* Language, Thought and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf. John B. Carroll, ed. 1956. pp.134-159. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Hojier, Harry

1974 The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis. *In* Language, Culture and Society: A Book of Readings. Ben G. Blount, ed. pp.120-131. Cambridge, MA: Winthrop.

- Gumperz, John and Stephen C. Levinson
 1996 Introduction: Linguistic Relativity Re-Examined. *In Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*. John J. Gumperz and Stephen C. Levinson (eds.) pp. 1-18. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lucy, John A.
 1996 The Scope of Linguistic Relativity: An Analysis and Review of Empirical Research.
- Cohn, Carol
 1987 Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals. *Signs* 12(4):687-718.
- Everett, Daniel
 2005 Cultural Constraints on Grammar and Cognition in Piraha: Another Look at the Design Features of Human Language. *Current Anthropology* 46(4):621-646.
Review Reddy from Week 1

5. **Ethnography of Speaking/Communicative Competence (2/25/08)**

- Hymes, Dell
 1962 The Ethnography of Speaking. *In Anthropology and Human Behavior*. T. Gladwin and W. Sturtevant (eds.) Washington D.C.: AAA.
- Hymes, Dell
 1972 On Communicative competence. *in Sociolinguistics: selected readings*. J.B. Pride and Janet Holmes, eds. pp 269-293. Middlesex: Penguin.
- Heath, Shirley Brice
 1986 What no bedtime story means: narrative skills at home and school. *In Language socialization across cultures*. Bambi B. Schieffelin and Elinor Ochs, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Goodwin, Charles
 2004 A Competent Speaker Who Can't Speak: The Social Life of Aphasia. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 14(2):151-170.
- Basso, Keith
 1972 "To give up on words:" silence in Western Apache culture. *In Language and social context*. Pier Paolo Giglioli (ed). New York: Penguin.
- Philips, Susan U.
 2001 Participant structures and communicative competence: Warm Springs children in community and classroom. *In Linguistic anthropology: a reader*. Alessandro Duranti (ed). pp. 302-317. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

6. **Emergent-cy: Text and Context (3/3/08)**

- Silverstein, Michael and Greg Urban
 1996 The natural history of discourse. *In Natural Histories of Discourse*. Michael Silverstein and Greg Urban (eds.). pp. 1-17. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Urban, Greg
 1996 Entextualization, Replication, and Power. *In Natural Histories of Discourse*. Michael Silverstein and Greg Urban (eds.). pp. 21-44. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Duranti, Alessandro
 1992 Language in context and language as context: the Samoan respect vocabulary. *In Rethinking context: language as an interactive phenomenon*. Alessandro Duranti and Charles Goodwin (eds). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Robin A. Shoaps
 2002 "Pray Earnestly": The Textual Construction of Personal Involvement in Pentecostal Prayer and Song. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 12(1):34-71
- Schieffelin, Bambi B.
 2007 Found in Translating: Reflexive Language Across Time and Texts in Bosavi, Papua New Guinea. *In Consequences of Contact: Language Ideologies and Sociocultural Transformations in Pacific Societies*. Miki Makihara and Bambi B. Schieffelin (eds.) Oxford: OUP.

Webster, Anthony K

2008 "To all the former cats and stomps of the Navajo Nation:" Performance, the individual, and cultural poetic traditions. *Language in Society* 37:61-89.

7. **Discourse Structures (3/10/08)**
TBA

Spring Break

8. **Performativity and Identity (3/24/08)**

Austin, J. L.

1975 [1962] *How to do things with words*. Harvard: Harvard University Press.

Rudolf P. Gaudio

2001 White Men Do It Too: Racialized (Homo)sexualities in Postcolonial Hausaland. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 11(1):36-

Jones, Graham and Lauren Shweder

2003 The Performance of Illusion and IUusionary Performatives: Learning the Language of Theatrical Magic. *Journal of linguistic Anthropology* 13(1):51-70.

Cameron, Deborah and Don Kulick

2003 Looking Beyond Identity: Language and Desire (Chapter 5). *In Language and Sexuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

9. **Intentionality, Responsibility, and Interpretation (3/31/08)**

Hans-Johann Glock

2001 Intentionality and language. *Language & Communication* 21:105-118

Duranti, Alessandro

1999 Intentionality. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 9(1-2):134-136

Duranti, Alessandro

1992 Intentions, Self and Responsibility: An Essay in Samoan Ethnopragmatics. *In Responsibility and Evidence in Oral Discourse*. Jane H. Hill and Judith T. Irvine (eds.) pp. 24-47. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brody, Jill

1991 Indirection in the Negotiation of Self in Everyday Tojolab'al Women's Conversation. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 1(1):78-96.

Rosaldo, Michelle Zimbalist

1982 The things we do with words: Ilongot speech acts and speech act theory in philosophy. *Language and Society* 11:203-237.

10. **Language Ideologies (4/7/08)**

Woolard, Kathryn A.

1998 Introduction: Language Ideology as a Field of Inquiry. *In Linguistic Ideologies: Practice and Theory*. Bambi B. Schieffelin, Kathryn A. Woolard, and Paul V. Kroskrity (eds.) pp. 3-47. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Silverstein, Michael

1998 The uses and utility of ideology: a commentary. *In Linguistic Ideologies: Practice and Theory*. Bambi B. Schieffelin, Kathryn A. Woolard, and Paul V. Kroskrity (eds.) pp. 123-145. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kuter, L.

1989 Breton vs. French: Language and the Opposition of Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Values. *In Investigating Obsolescence: Studies in Language Contraction and Death*. N.C. Dorian, ed. pp.75-89. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Schieffelin, Bambi B. and Rachelle C. Doucet

1998 The "real" Haitian creole: metalinguistics and orthographic choice. *In Linguistic Ideologies: Practice and Theory*. Bambi B. Schieffelin, Kathryn A. Woolard, and Paul V. Kroskrity (eds.) pp.285-316. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Susan Gal

2005 Language Ideologies Compared: Metaphors of Public/Private Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 15(1):23-37

Cavanaugh, Jillian R.

2006 Little Women and Vital Champions: Gendered Language Shift in a Northern Italian Town. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 16(2):194-210.

11. **Ethnographic Case Study I (4/14/08)**

Kulick, Don

1992 Language shift and cultural reproduction: socialization, self, and syncretism in a Papua New Guinean village. Cambridge: CUP.

12. **Ethnographic Case Study II (4/21/08)**

Hoffman, Katherine E.

2008 We Share Walls: Language, Land, and Gender in Berber Morocco. Wiley-Blackwell.

13. **Ethnographic Case Study III (4/28/08)**

Samuels, David

2004 Putting a Song on Top of It: Expression And Identity on the San Apache Reservation. University of Arizona Press.

14. **Course Review (5/5/08)**

Final papers due: 5/12/08