



HUMA3060 Language and Migration

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Class times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-10:20	Office hours: Tuesday 11:00-13:00
Class location: 4502	

Course description

This course will stimulate your thinking and broaden your knowledge about language in relation to migration in the contemporary multilingual world. Despite the immobility caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, this is still a world which is a product of mobility of people, information and products across physical and virtual boundaries. Languages themselves are changed through migration. Within a context of linguistic diversity, language is central to the organization of institutions, access to information, the exchange of goods and the ability to communicate. On this course you will investigate how language is used by people on the move, and by those with whom they interact, in areas including health, education, the law and the workplace. You will explore how language practices are shaped by face-to-face and mediated encounters and by the constraints of political and institutional contexts. Key questions are: What languages and forms of communication get used, when, why and where? What linguistic factors enable and limit access for migrants to services and resources? What are the consequences?

Course ILOs

- Summarise key concepts in the field of language and migration
- Explain how language use in diverse societies relates to interaction and institutional practice
- Explain how beliefs about language use can promote or inhibit social justice
- Critique relevant approaches to the analysis of language use in contexts of mobility
- Create, confidently and critically, academic arguments within the field of language and migration

Reading

We will refer to these books:

Canagarajah, S. (2017) *The Routledge Handbook of Migration and Language*. Routledge.

Horner, K., and Weber, J.-J. (2018) *Introducing Multilingualism: A Social Approach* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Piller, I. (2016) *Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice*. Oxford University Press.

These books are available from the HKUST library as e-books.

A full list of reading is on Canvas.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements

Grading Policy follows HKUST's default approach

Excellent: A+, A, A-; Good: B+, B, B-; Satisfactory: C+, C, C-; Marginal D; Fail: F.

Assignment Submission

Assignments need to be submitted by 23:59 (midnight) on the due dates.

Assignment

Personal reflection (30%): Following weeks 3, 6 and 10, you will write a personal reflection of 500 words in the form of an asynchronous discussion forum post on one of the topics addressed in the lectures.

Written assignment (60%): Choose a setting familiar to you, e.g. an institution, a classroom, a city space, a workplace, an online space.

- How has migration shaped language use in this setting?
- What factors allow or constrain language use in this setting, and why?
- How does this promote or inhibit social justice in the setting? (2500 words).

Participation in class and in online discussion (10%).

Session-by-session outline

Wk		Topic	Outline
1	Mon 5 Sept	Language and migration (Concepts I)	The sessions in this introductory week provide a framework for the study of migration and language. Key concepts are globalization, migration and language. We will outline course aims, objectives, workload and expectations of students.
	Wed 7 Sept		
<p><u>Reading</u> Horner and Weber (2018) Chapter 3 What is a Language?</p>			
2	Mon 12 Sept NO CLASS	The sociolinguistics of mobility (Concepts II)	This week we cover concepts relating to the study of language in society when contexts and people are mobile. Key concepts are superdiversity, repertoire and translanguaging.
	Wed 14 Sept		
<p><u>Reading</u> Blommaert, J. and Backus, A. (2011). Repertoires revisited: 'Knowing language' in superdiversity. <i>Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies</i> Paper 67.</p>			
3	Mon 19 Sept	Linguistic diversity and ideology (Concepts III)	What people say and write (their discourse) is informed by their ideologies. This week we look at discourses about linguistic diversity in policy and in the media, and attempt to understand how language ideologies and practices contribute to social exclusion.
	Wed 21 Sept		
<p><u>Reading</u> Piller, I. (2016) Chapter 2 Linguistic diversity and stratification.</p>			
4	Mon 26 Sept	Diasporic spaces, multilingual landscapes (Space and Place I)	The linguistic landscape of contemporary cities can tell us a great deal about the roles of, and attitudes towards, language in multilingual societies. This week we will explore the linguistic landscape of superdiverse Hong Kong, relating this to studies of other cities.
	Wed 28 Sept		
<p><u>Reading</u> Lou, J. J. (2017) Spaces of consumption and senses of place: A geosemiotic analysis of three markets in Hong Kong. <i>Social Semiotics</i> 27(4).</p>			

5	Mon 3 Oct	Transnationalism and virtual space (Space and Place II)	Technological developments have enabled the creation of transnational virtual spaces beyond the boundaries of nation states. We examine the implications of online communication for language, identity and belonging.
	Wed 5 Oct		
	<i>Reading</i> Tagg, C. and Lyons, A. (2021) Polymedia repertoires of networked individuals: A day-in-the-life approach. <i>Pragmatics and Society</i> 12(5), 725-755.		
6	Mon 10 Oct	Displacement, asylum and immigration (Space and Place III)	Some migration is associated with the collapse of nation states, and the consequent needs of refugees and other forced migrants. This week we consider how language is problematized in times and places of disruption, and how the study of language can support the search for solutions.
	Wed 12 Oct		
	<i>Reading</i> Callaghan, J., Yemane, T. and Baynham, M. (2019) Steps to Settlement: A case study. In M. Cooke and R. Peutrell (eds.) <i>Brokering Britain Educating Citizens</i> . Multilingual Matters.		
7	Mon 17 Oct	Migration, language and the law (Contexts I)	Language is intertwined with the law, and for migrants, its use in immigration law is of concern. This week we examine how language tests and other tools are used for immigration purposes.
	Wed 19 Oct		
	<i>Reading</i> Blackledge, A. (2009) "As a Country We Do Expect": The further extension of language testing regimes in the United Kingdom. <i>Language Assessment Quarterly</i> 6/1, 6-16		
8	Mon 24 Oct	Work, enterprise and (un)skilled migration (Contexts II)	This week the focus is upon diasporic spaces where work is the concern. We study enterprise generally, labor migration, job interviews and the informal economy, examining issues of discrimination.
	Wed 26 Oct		
	<i>Reading</i> Lorente, B.P. (2012) The making of workers of the world: Language and the labor brokerage state. In A. Duchene & M. Heller (Eds.), <i>Language in late capitalism: Pride and Profit</i> (pp. 183-206). Routledge.		
9	Mon 31 Oct	Health and services (Contexts III)	We study medical consultation and the role of interpreting. We also cover issues where language, migration and global health emergencies intersect. <i>Preparation for the assignment outline submission.</i>
	Wed 2 Nov		
	<i>Reading</i> Zheng, Y. (2020) Mobilizing foreign language students for multilingual crisis translation in Shanghai. <i>Multilingua</i> 39/5, 587-595.		

10	Mon 7 Nov	Education (Contexts IV)	We study i) education and training provision for adult migrants, either on arrival or ongoing; and ii) the language issues involved in the education of the children of migrants in mainstream and in complementary schooling.
	Wed 9 Nov		
<u>Reading</u> Simpson, J. (2019) Supporting bilingualism in first generation adults. In A. De Houwer & L. Ortega (eds.) <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Bilingualism</i> . Cambridge University Press.			
11	Mon 14 Nov	Ethnography, narrative and interactional sociolinguistics (Approaches I)	The first of two weeks on the study of approaches to language and migration. The focus is on approaches used to study interaction and other issues to do with language and migration, from the migrant's (insider) perspective. <i>Preparation / Q&A for the assignment.</i>
	Wed 16 Nov	Assignment tutorials	
<u>Reading</u> Bradley, J. and J. Simpson (2020) Translanguaging across space and place: Concept and context. In C. Mar-Molinero (ed.) <i>Researching Language in Urban Contexts</i> . Multilingual Matters.			
12	Mon 21 Nov	Literacy and critical discourse analysis (Approaches II)	Here, the focus is on approaches commonly used to analyse the literacy practices and media / policy / legal discourses around language and migration. <i>Preparation / Q&A for the assignment.</i>
	Wed 23 Nov	Assignment tutorials	
<u>Reading</u> tbc			
13	Mon 28 Nov	Assignment tutorials	A review of the key themes of the course, issues for further attention on the horizon. <i>Preparation / Q&A for the assignment.</i>
	Wed 30 Nov	Review; looking ahead, preparation for the assignment	