

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Language and Identity in Modern Chinese Societies, Fall 2014

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Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description:

Language use is inevitably intertwined with identity portrayal and perception in any society. This course will introduce to students fundamental concepts in sociolinguistics and current issues in language and society. We will then examine how identities are retained, shaped and formed through language choice and language use in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and other Chinese diaspora. Students will gain a critical understanding of how ethnic diversity, geography, rich linguistic heritage, radical social experiments, and rapid modernization have affected language use and the forming of social identity in modern Chinese societies. Topics include language and ethnic identity, language and the migrant identity, language and gender identity, language and national identity, and language and identity under globalization. No prerequisites.

Learning Goals:

This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum learning goals:

- Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experiences of and perspectives on the world (21C)
- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization (SCL)
- Formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information (QQ)

Class materials:

- Textbook: Trudgill, Peter. (2000) *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*, 4th ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin (Available from Barnes and Noble).
- Other readings: The journal articles and other book chapters listed in the weekly readings will be available on Sakai.
- Films: We will be discussing three films over the course of the semester. We will watch clips of the films in class. You are strongly encouraged to watch the films in their entirety in your own time (they will be on reserve at the library).
- PowerPoint slides: The PowerPoint slides used in the lectures will be available on Sakai.

Course Evaluation:

- Attendance, Preparation & Participation 20%
- Short Responses 20%
- Lead Class Discussion 10%
- Mid-term Exam & Final Exam 50%

Attendance, Preparation & Participation 20%

You are expected to attend class and *actively* participate in the discussions. You are allowed no more than two absences without a Dean's excuse. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class. Absences can be excused only for religious reasons (must be reported in advance), or documented emergencies (official documents must be provided). If you expect to miss a class, please use the university absence reporting website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>) to indicate the date and reason for your absence.

Short Responses 20%

There will be five short response assignments over the course of the semester. For each assignment, you are to write a 250-300 word short response. The questions will be distributed a week in advance.

Lead Class Discussion 10%

You will have two opportunities to lead 20-minute class discussions. For each discussion, working with a partner, you will prepare 5-10 questions for discussion from the day's readings. You are encouraged to use PowerPoint slides or handouts. You will be graded as a pair.

Exams 50%

Mid-term Exam (20%)

The mid-term is an in-class exam consisting of term identification and short answer sections.

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam is a take-home exam. You will be choosing three out of five questions and writing a short essay for each question (300-500 words each). You must refer to at least two course readings for each essay. The essays must be typed, and any other sources used must be properly cited. The questions will be handed out on the last day of class. A hardcopy of the final exam is due at my office at 12:00 noon a week later.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy

Any form of Plagiarism/Cheating is strictly forbidden in this course. Plagiarism/Cheating on assignments, tests and exams will automatically result in an "F" for the task. Please visit Rutgers Academic Integrity website (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for details, and read in particular the "Policy on Academic Integrity" available at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf.

Schedule:

Weeks 1-2 Introduction to language, identity and society

Course overview

Trudgill, Ch1: “Sociolinguistics—Language and society”

Tabouret-Keller (1998): “Language and identity”

Wardhaugh (2010), Ch2: “Language, dialect, and varieties”

Ramsey (1987): *The Languages of China*, Chapters 1-3

Weeks 3-4 Language and ethnic identity

Trudgill, Ch3: “Language and ethnic group”

Romaine (2000): “Language choice”

Ferguson (2003): “Diaglossia”

Chen (1999): *Modern Chinese: History and Sociolinguistics*, Chapter 4

Diaglossia in Chinese societies

Gunn (2006): *Rendering the Regional: Local Language in Contemporary Chinese Media*, Chapter 4

Discuss film: The City of Sadness 悲情城市 (1989)

Week 5 Language and the migrant identity

Short response #1 due

Trudgill Ch2: “Language and social class”

Language and identity crisis in China’s migrant workers

Jie (2011): *Discourse, Identity, and China’s Internal Migration: The Long March to the City*, Chapters 1 & 4

Discuss film: Last Train Home 归途列车 (2009)

Weeks 6 Language and identity at the workplace

Short response #2 due

Wardhaugh (2010), Ch11: “Solidarity and politeness”

Politeness and “face” at the Chinese workplace

Pan (2000): *Politeness in Chinese Face-to-face Interaction*, Chapters 1 & 3

****Mid-term Exam****

Weeks 7-8 Language and gender identity

Trudgill, Ch4: “Language and sex”

Zhang (2007): “Cosmopolitanism and linguistic capital in China: Language, gender and the transition to a globalized market economy in Beijing”

Week 9-10 Language and national identity

Short response #3 due

Trudgill, Ch7: “Language and nation”

Daoust (1998): “Language planning and language reform”

Linguistic engineering in China

Selections from Ji (2004): *Linguistic Engineering: Language and Politics in Mao’s China*

Chen (2001): “Development and standardization of lexicon in Modern Written Chinese”

Weeks 11-12 Language and identity under globalization

Short response #4 due

Trudgill, Ch9: “Language and contact”

Blommaert (2010): *The Sociolinguistics of Globalization*, Chapter 1

Liu & Tao (2012): “Negotiating linguistic identities under globalization: language use in contemporary China”

Selections from Lo Bianco et al. (2009): *China and English: Globalization and the Dilemmas of Identity*

Weeks 13-14 Language and online identity

Short response #5 due

Crystal (2006): *Language and the Internet*, Chapter 3

Gao (2012): “Synchronic variation or diachronic change: a sociolinguistic study of Chinese Internet language”

Liu (2012): “The use of Chinese dialects on the Internet: language and local youth identity in urban China”

Discuss film: 24 City 二十四城记 (2008)

Weeks 15 Conclusion

Wrap-up

****Take-home final exam distributed, due in a week****

References for the readings:

- Blommaert, Jan (2010) *The Sociolinguistics of Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chen, Ping. (1999) *Modern Chinese: History and Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chen, Ping. (2001) Development and standardization of lexicon in Modern Written Chinese. In Nanette Gottlieb and Ping Chen (eds.), *Language Planning and Language Policy: East Asian Perspectives*, 49-73. Surrey: Curzon Press.
- Coulmas, Florian (ed.). *The Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Crytal, David. (2006) *Language and the Internet*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Daoust, Denise. (1998) Language planning and language reform. In Coulmas, 436-452.
- Ferguson, Charles. (2003) Diaglossia. In Christina Bratt Paulston, and G. Richard Tucker (eds.), *Sociolinguistics: The Essential Readings*, 245-258. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Gao, Liwei. (2012) Synchronic variation or diachronic change: a sociolinguistic study of Chinese Internet language. In Liu & Tao, 7-26.
- Gunn, Edward M. (2006) *Rendering the Regional: Local Language in Contemporary Chinese Media*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Kozha, Ksenia. (2012) Chinese via English: a case study of “lettered-words” as a way of integration into global communication. In Liu & Tao, 105-126.
- Ji, Fengyuan. (2004). *Linguistic Engineering: Language and Politics in Mao's China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Jie, Dong. (2011) *Discourse, Identity, and China's Internal Migration: The Long March to the City*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Liu, Jin. (2012) The use of Chinese dialects on the Internet: language and local youth identity in urban China. In Liu & Tao, 59-78.
- Liu, Jin, and Hongyin Tao. (2012) *Chinese Under Globalization: Emerging Trends in Language Use in China*. Singapore; London: World Scientific.
- Lo Bianco, Joseph Lo, Jane Orton, and Gao Yihong (eds.) (2009) *China and English: Globalisation and the Dilemmas of Identity*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Norman, Jerry. (1988) *Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pan, Yulin. (2000) *Politeness in Chinese Face-to-face Interaction*. Advances in Discourse Processes 67. Stamford, CT: Ablex.
- Ramsey, Robert S. (1987) *The Languages of China*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Romaine, Suzanne. (2000) *Language in Society*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tabouret-Keller, Andrée. (1998) Language and identity. In Coulmas, 315-326.
- Wardhaugh, Ronald. (2010) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 6th ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Zhang, Qing. (2007) Cosmopolitanism and linguistic capital in China: Language, gender and the transition to a globalized market economy in Beijing. In Bonnie McElhinny (ed.), *Words, Worlds, and Material Girls: Language, Gender, Globalization*, 403-422. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.