

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology.

Level and status: 2 credit points B.A. elective course.

Lecturer: Dr. Esmail Nashif.

Taught: 2008/9; 2010/11.

Course description:

The aim of the course is to introduce an in depth survey of linguistic anthropology as a sub-discipline in anthropology. Linguistic anthropology focuses on exploring the social and cultural practices of language use. The language, as a structure and activity, is not restricted to a specific domain of the society. It engulfs all of the socio historical processes. For that linguistic anthropology explores the different aspects of communication events in most of the domains of social life. Examples of topics in linguistic anthropology could be: language as personal and social identity, language as a space for meaning production, daily face to face uses of language. The course will use the social and the cultural contexts of Hebrew and Arabic as the main examples to illustrate the different theoretical concepts that constitute linguistic anthropology.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings, read prepare the material, and participate actively in the class discussions (10% of grade), a report of observation on communicative event (20%), submit the final written paper on time.

Grade: Final written paper (70%).

Course schedule and reading list (items with [*] are elective):

1- Introduction.

2- What is linguistic anthropology?

Duranti, A., 1997. *Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-22.

3- The intellectual history of studying language in anthropology.

Duranti, A., 1997. *Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 51-83.

4- Defining the social space of language: The personal versus the social.

Saussure, F., 2005. *Course in General Linguistics*. Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 117-133.

*Yair, A., 2004. On the Book and its Author. In B. L. Whorf *Language, Thought, and Reality*. Tel-Aviv: Ov, pp. 7-78.

5- Research model I: Ethnography of communication.

Hymes, D., 1964. Introduction: Toward Ethnographies of Communication. *American Anthropologist*, vol. 66, 6, pp. 1-34.

*Sherzer, J., & Darnell, R., 1972. Outline Guide for the Ethnographic Study of Speech Use. In J. Gumprez, & Hymes, D., (eds) *Directions in Sociolinguistics: The Ethnography of Communication*. N.Y.: Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, Inc. pp. 548-554.

6- Research model II: language structure power.

Bourdieu, P., 1991. *Language and Symbolic Power*. Cambridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press, pp. 37-89.

*Gal, S., 1989. Language and Political Economy. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 18, pp. 345-367.

7- The deconstruction of language: Ideology.

Williams, R., 1977. *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 21-44, 55-71.

*Woolard, K. A. & Schieffelin B., 1994. Language Ideology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 23, pp. 55-82.

8- The deconstruction of language: Poetics.

Bauman, R., & Briggs, C. L., 1990. Poetics and Performance as Critical Perspectives on language and Social Life. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 19, pp. 59-88.

*Sherzer, J., 1998. *Verbal Art in San Blas: Kuna Culture through its Discourse*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, pp. 16-35.

9- Case study I: The Arab World.

Suleiman, Y., 2003. *The Arabic Language and National Identity*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, pp. 113-146.

*Haeri, N., 2000, Form and Ideology: Arabic Sociolinguistics. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 29, pp. 61-87.

10- Case study II: Israel\Palestine.

Katriel, T., 1999. *Keywords: Patterns of culture and communication in Israel*. Tel-Aviv: Zomrah Beitan, pp. 17-84.

*Nashif, E., 2005. Structures of a Revolutionary Pedagogy: Palestinian political Captives in Israeli Prisons. In E. T. Ewing (ed.) *Revolution and Pedagogy*. N.Y.: Palgrave.

11- The limits of language: alienation, colonialism.

Russi-Landi, F., 1992. *Between Signs and Non-Signs*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, pp. 253-67.

*Romaine, S., 1994. *Language in Society: An introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 162-190.

12- Opening the limits.

Barthes, R., 1998. *Mythologies*. Tel-Aviv: Babel, pp. 233-294.