

*LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY:
AN INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTIC & SEMIOTIC ANTHROPOLOGY*

Reed College
Fall 2006

Linguistics 313
Tu/Th 18:10-19:30
Vollum xxx

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Office Hours:
Tuesday 3:00-4:30
Thursday 4:00-5:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced undergraduate course explores the central topics in linguistic (or semiotic) anthropology. We will begin with a close study of the theoretical "tools of the trade," including, most centrally, Saussurian structuralist linguistics and Peircean semiotics.

The remainder of the semester is arranged thematically: each week, we will examine a major topic of linguistic and/or semiotic anthropological concern, giving theoretical, methodological, and empirical work--both "classic" and contemporary--(roughly) equal time. From "The Construction of Personhood," and "Learning to be Gendered," to "The Question of 'Linguistic Relativity,'" and "Language, Madness, and Schizophrenia," we will approach each weekly topic from the distinctive theoretical perspective developed in the first part of the semester.

Students are responsible for writing a short, weekly reaction paper, to be handed in before each week's final class. Reaction papers might be one page, or five pages—it depends on you and your level of interest in the week's reading. Important: these are *not* meant to be literature reviews; rather, you may think (in writing) about one or more of the focus questions, or, otherwise, consider any (relevant) topic that moves you, excites you, bothers, confuses, distracts, annoys, or otherwise touches you.

Students should, at a minimum, be prepared to discuss *each* of that class period's focus questions in conference.

Focus questions of particular importance and/or difficulty are marked with arrows ('>'); focus questions that I would *strongly* urge students to consider addressing in their responses are marked with a pencil ('/').

GRADING

Type	Percentage of Final Grade	Description
Midterm Essay	30%	A 5-10 page essay on a topic of your choice, with my consent
Final Essay	30%	A 10-15 page essay on a topic chosen from a set of contenders I will provide (unless you have a better idea)
Reactions/ Participation	40%	Students are expected to email their weekly responses to me prior to the first class of the week. Participation in conference is <i>obligatory</i> ; at a minimum, satisfactory participation means being prepared to discuss the focus questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

TOPIC 1 *Introduction; Tools of the Trade, Part I: Structuralism*

Class 1 Introduction: Linguistic Anthropology, Culture, Meaning, and Context

📖 **Hanks:** 1-17; 229-242

📖 **Foley:** 3-40

Focus On:

- Be able to explain the opposition between “irreducibility” and “relationality” [Hanks]
 - are the two perspectives compatible? How so, if so?
- What are the distinctive features of linguistic anthropology [Hanks, Foley]?
- What does it mean to conceive of socioculture as “embodied practice”? [Foley, Hanks]
 - What perspective(s) and or theoretical position(s) are (implicitly) critiqued in approaching socioculture in terms of *practice*?
- What is the distinction between “tacit” and “articulate” knowledge? [Foley]
 - Is this distinction relevant to the study of language and/or discursive interaction? If so, how?
- ✍ **What is meant by “linguistic practice”? [Hanks, Foley]**
 - ✍ **What is the *point* of employing this term?**
 - ✍ **What perspective(s) and/or theoretical position(s) are (implicitly) rejected in adopting a practice-based approach to language?**
- What does it mean to say that linguistic elements are typically “plurifunctional”? [Hanks]

Class 2 Language as System: Saussurian Structuralism

📖 **Chandler, *Semiotics for Beginners: Signs***

📖 **Hanks:** 21-38

📖 **Foley:** 92-105

📖 **Jakobson, *Signs and System of Language: A Reassessment of Saussure’s Doctrine***

Focus On:

- The basic structure of the Saussurian sign (signifier, signified) [all]
- What is the principle of (Saussurian) *arbitrariness*? [all]
- Be able to discuss the core Saussurian binary oppositions (*langue, parole*; paradigmatic, syntagmatic; motivation, transparency) [all; esp. Chandler, Hanks]
- What is “structuralist” about *Prague School* functionalism—in particular, the concept of the phoneme? [Foley]
- What is “structuralist” about Levi-Straussian anthropological methodology? [Foley]
- Which aspects of Saussure’s project does Jakobson criticize, or outright reject? Do his criticisms seem sound? [Jakobson]
- ✎ **Are there any aspects of Saussurian structuralism that stand up against Jakobson’s critique [all]**
 - ✎ **If so, what are they**
 - ✎ **In sum: what, in Saussure’s ‘doctrine’ seem compelling or productive?**

TOPIC 2 *Tools of the Trade, Part II: Peircian Semiotics*

Class 1 Peirce’s System from the “Ground” Up, Part I

- 📁 **Peirce**, *What is a Sign?*
- 📁 **Ransdell**, *Charles Sanders Peirce*
- 📁 **Merrell**, *Peirce’s Basic Classes of Signs in a Somewhat Different Vein*
- 📁 **Merrell**, *Semiotics versus Semiology*
- 📁 **Thellefsen**, *C.S. Peirce’s Evolutionary Sign*

Focus On:

- Grasp, to the best of your ability, the three most fundamental trichotomies in Peirce’s architectonic [all]
 - Trichotomy of the Sign [*Representamen*]-Relation (Qualisign, Sinsign, Legisign)
 - Trichotomy of the Ground-Relation (Icon, Index, Symbol)
 - Trichotomy of the Interpretant-Relation (Rheme, Dicent, Argument)
 - What do each of these mean?
 - How are they related to one another?
- In Peirce’s Semeiotic, what role does “culture” play? [all; esp. Thellefsen]
 - What role does the individual interpreter or mind play?
 - What role does the “real” world of objects play?
- What are the most important differences—and, if any, similarities as well—between Peircean Semeiotic and Saussurian structuralist semiology? [readings from TOPIC 1; Merrell’s *Semiotic versus Semiology*]
- (Esp. for those with an interest in philosophical issues): what is the status of the “Subject/Object” dichotomy in Peirce’s Semeiotic? [all]
- ✎ **In what sense are Qualities/Qualisigns and Regularities/Types/Legisigns “real”?**
 - ✎ **Are you prepared to believe in the reality of Qualities? Of Types?**
- What is the relation between Peirce’s metaphysics/cosmology and his Semeiotic?
 - Do we have to subscribe to Peircean metaphysical principles to subscribe to his Semeiotic?
 - Do you find Peirce’s categories (whether conceived as stipulating the structure of Reality or the structure of phenomenological experience) [i.e., Firstness, Secondness, and Thirdness] compelling?

Class 2 Peirce’s System from the “Ground” Up, Part II

- 📁 **Lee**, *Peirce’s Semiotic* [unnecessarily difficult in places; focus on *Classes of Signs*]
- 📖 **Hanks**: 39-65

📄 Peirce Handout, with exercises

Focus On:

- Explain, in as much formal detail as you can, Peirce's notion of semiosis as a (potentially) infinite process [all]
 - What are the basic constituents of any (linguistic) proposition for Peirce? [Lee]
 - ✍ **What is the type/token dichotomy? [all]**
 - ✍ **What role does the type/token distinction play in Peirce's Semeiotic?**
 - What is the definition of a "sign" for Peirce? [all]
 - Is the Peircean sign "arbitrary" in the Saussurian sense?
 - Is Peirce's approach to semiosis compatible with Saussure's? [all; esp., Merrell, Hanks]
 - ✍ **In Peircean terms, is (human) language unique among semiotic systems? [all; esp. Hanks]**
 - ✍ **If so, in what sense(s)**
 - Grasp, to the best of your ability, Peirce's 10 basic sign-types (or sign-functions) [all; esp. Lee]
 - ✍ **Do all the exercises in the Peirce Handout**
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TOPIC 3 *The Critique of Traditional Approaches to Sociolinguistics*

Class 1 The Theory and Practice of Sociolinguistics

- 📁 **Labov(a)**, *The Social Stratification of (r) in New York City Department Stores*
- 📁 **Labov(b)**, *The Isolation of Contextual Styles*
- 📁 **Chambers**, *Correlations*

Focus On:

- Be able to give an account of Labov's *Department Store* study [Labov(a)]
 - What are "sociolinguistic variables"?
 - What are "index scores"?
 - What, in general, was Labov able to demonstrate in this study?
 - What is the semiotic, sign-functional, status of Labovian "indexes" [all]
 - What are Labovian contextual "styles"? [all; esp. Labov(b)]
 - What is the "problem" of casual speech? [all; esp. Labov(b)]
 - In what sense does casual speech have a special status for sociolinguistics?
 - How is Labovian stylistic variation structured? [all; esp. Labov(b)]
 - What seems to *cause* Labovian stylistic variation? [all]
 - ✍ **What is the core goal of sociolinguistics, traditionally defined (i.e., what kind of knowledge do traditional sociolinguistic studies produce)? [all; esp. Chambers]**
 - ✍ **What is the semiotic, sign-functional status of traditional sociolinguistic correlations?**
 - ✍ **Evaluate/critique Chambers' claim to the effect that correlations are the only scientifically valid and methodologically sound form of sociolinguistic study**
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Class 2 A Critical Approach to Traditional Sociolinguistics

- 📁 **Bucholtz(a)**, *Sociolinguistic Nostalgia and the Authentication of Identity*
- 📁 **Bucholtz(b)**, *Reflexivity and Critique in Discourse Analysis*
- 📁 **Eckert**, *Linguistic Variation as Social Practice: Introduction, Variation and Agency*
- ❖ **Silverstein**, *Indexical Order and the Dialectics of Sociolinguistic Life*

Focus On:

- In what sense is traditional sociolinguistics a “nostalgic” approach? [Bucholtz(a)]
 - In what sense does an ideology of “authenticity” underwrite traditional sociolinguistics?
 - Be able to give an account of Bucholtz’s proposals for a more reflexive, politically-engaged, sociolinguistics [Bucholtz(a,b)]
 - How does Eckert’s approach to the “meaning of variation” differ from the traditional Labovian approach? [Class 1; Eckert]
 - In what sense(s) is Eckert’s approach a critique of traditional sociolinguistics?
 - What, in Eckert’s view, *should* be the role of individual agency in sociolinguistics?
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TOPIC 4 *The Linguistic Construction of (Social) Reality: Identities and Selves*

Class 1 The (Re-)Production of Personhood

📖 **Foley:** 260-285

📁 **Bucholtz & Hall,** *Identity and Interaction*

Focus On:

- What does it mean to say that linguistic practice (partially) “constitutes” persons and/or selves [Foley]
 - Is the “person” vs. “self” distinction useful, coherent, or productive? [Foley]
 - What is the status of Grice’s maxim(s)? [Foley]
 - What can they do for linguistic and/or sociocultural analysis?
 - What role does the “Cooperative Principle,” and its “flouting,” etc., play in the production of sociocultural meaning/value?
 - What is the status of (speaker’s) *intentions* in semiosis? [Foley]
 - ✍️ **How would you categorize the semiotic sign-function of the “T/V” system?** [Peirce, handout, Lee, Foley]
 - What is the “Emergence Principle”? [Bucholtz & Hall]
 - What is the “Positionality Principle”? [Bucholtz & Hall]
 - What is the “Indexicality Principle”? [Bucholtz & Hall]
 - Be able to define adequation and distinction, authentication and denaturalization, authorization and illegitimation
 - Do Bucholtz & Hall’s theoretical scheme seem useful or productive? [Bucholtz & Hall]
 - What, if anything, do they clarify for us?
 - What, if anything, can they help us do?
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Class 2 Learning to be Gendered: Language, Sex, and Sexuality

📖 **Foley:** 286-306

📁 **Eckert & McConnell-Ginet,** *Think Practically and Look Locally*

📁 **Cameron,** *Gender, Language, and Discourse: A Review Essay*

📁 **Kulick,** *Gay and Lesbian Language*

Focus On:

- What does it mean to think “practically” about gender? [Eckert & McConnell-Ginet]
 - What good does it do to conceive of “gender” as a dynamic process—as a verb?
- Be able to compare and contrast the “Dominance” and “Difference” models in the language and gender literature [all; esp. Cameron]
- Be able to compare and contrast “gender deixis” and “gender markers” [all; esp. Foley]

- ✎ **How would you categorize the semiotic sign-function of “gender deixis” [Peirce, handout, Lee, Foley]**
 - ✎ **...and “gender markers”**
 - What does it mean to say that women are “linguistically conservative”? [all; esp. Foley]
 - Is female “linguistic conservatism” a sociocultural universal?
 - How would you explain female “linguistic conservatism” (whether or not it is universal)?
 - Is there such a thing as “women’s language”? [all; esp. Cameron]
 - Is there such a thing as “gay” speech [Kulick]
 - Why does Kulick call for scholars to abandon the search for gay and lesbian language?
 - What does he propose we do instead?
 - ✎ **What does Kulick mean by “desire” [Kulick]**
 - ✎ **What would it mean for scholars to turn their attention to matters of “desire”?**
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TOPIC 5 *The Linguistic Construction of (Social) Reality: Groups and Borders*

Class 1 Language and Borders

📁 **Urciuoli**, *Languages and Borders*

📁 **Gal & Irvine**, *The Boundaries of Languages and Disciplines: How Ideologies Construct Difference*

Focus On:

- How has the question “What constitutes a ‘language’” been problematized in recent scholarship [Urciuoli]
 - What is code-switching? How does it work? What does/can it mean? [Urciuoli]
 - ✎ **How would you categorize code-switching in terms of its semiotic sign-function(s)? [Peirce, handout, Lee, Urciuoli]**
 - What are the most important ways in which things-linguistic/semiotic are involved in the construction and re-production of borders? [Urciuoli, Gal & Irvine]
 - What do Gal & Irvine mean when they claim that *disciplinary* boundaries are constructed by just those processes that construct *linguistic* boundaries? [Gal & Irvine]
 - What are these processes?
 - How do they work?
 - Does Gal & Irvine’s theoretical proposals seem valid? Useful? Generally applicable?
 - What is the status of Gal & Irvine’s “iconicity” in terms of Peirce’s architectonic? [Peirce, handout, Lee, Gal & Irvine]
 - How would you categorize Gal & Irvine’s “iconicity” in terms of its semiotic sign-function?
 - How would you categorize Gal & Irvine’s “erasure” in terms of semiotic sign-function?
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Class 2 Socialization: Language and the Formation of Community

📖 **Foley**: 345-358

📁 **Ochs**, *Linguistic Resources for Socializing Humanity*

📁 **Field**, *Triadic Directives in Navajo Language Socialization*.

Focus On:

- Be able to explain what is meant by language, or linguistic, *socialization*. [Foley, Ochs]
 - Which sign-functions are most centrally involved in this process?
- How is the Navajo concept of *k’é* transmitted from generation to generation? [Field]
 - What semiotic sign-function is exemplified through this process?

- What aspects/elements of linguistic practice are atypically resistant to the “normal” processes of language change, according to Field? [Field]
 - What are the semiotic properties of these aspects of linguistic practice?
 - Be able to define, and explain the relevance of, the three principles Ochs discusses: [Ochs]
 - the “indexicality principle”
 - the “universal culture” principle
 - the “local culture” principle
 - ✎ **How does Ochs add to our understanding of indexicality, and its place in social life?**
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TOPIC 6 *Theory in Linguistic/Semiotic Anthropology–I: Language Ideology*

Class 1 The Concept of Linguistic Ideology and its Application – I: Theory

📁 **Woolard & Schieffelin**, *Language Ideology*

📁 **Silverstein**, *Language and the Culture of Gender*

Focus On:

- What is language/linguistic ideology? [all]
 - Which, of the many definitions given, strikes you as the most useful/productive?
 - How is linguistic ideology related to language change? [all]
 - What kind of perspective, or theory, does the concept of language/linguistic ideology (implicitly) critique? [all]
 - What is the “total linguistic fact”? [Silverstein]
 - Be able to explain, in detail, what Silverstein means by the realm of *pragmatics* [Silverstein]
 - What is pragmatics in terms of semiotic sign-function?
 - Silverstein claims that pragmatic aspects of linguistic practice are predictably misrecognized:
 - In terms of what?
 - with what kinds of consequences?
 - try to produce examples of your own that either support or contradict Silverstein’s claim
 - What is “metapragmatic discourse? [Topic 2; Silverstein]
 - How is metapragmatic discourse related to ideology
 - What is the semiotic, sign-functional, status of metapragmatic discourse?
 - What does Silverstein mean by *reference and predication*? [Silverstein]
 - What is reference and predication in terms of semiotic sign-function?
 - Silverstein claims that many feminist-inspired approaches to language are fundamentally flawed: [Silverstein]
 - In what sense? What is the problem, in Silverstein’s view?
 - ✎ **What are the semiotic, sign-functional, properties of ideology?**
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Class 2 The Concept of Linguistic Ideology and its Application – II: Application

📁 **Haviland**, *Ideologies of Language: Some Reflections on Language and U.S. Law*

📁 **Hill**, *Language, Race, and White Public Space*

📁 **Bucholtz**, *The Whiteness of Nerds: Superstandard English and Racial Markedness*

📁 **Cutler**, *“Keepin’ It Real”: White Hip-Hoppers’ Discourse of Language, Race, and Authenticity*

Focus On:

- What is “referential transparency,” and what kinds of effects can it have in courtroom practice? [Haviland]

- What is “indirect indexicality” in Hill’s sense? What is its semiotic, sign-functional, status? [Topic 5, Class 2, esp. Ochs; Hill]
 - What is “white public space”? What is its function? [Hill]
 - What ideologies of language seem to be involved in the production of white public space? [Hill]
 - Explain Bucholtz’s application of the theoretical concepts developed in Gal & Irvine’s to varieties of American English on the one hand, and racial ideologies on the other [Topic 5, Class 2; Bucholtz]
 - What is “Superstandard English” (formally, functionally, ideologically)? [Bucholtz]
 - What is “hyperwhiteness” (formally, functionally, ideologically)? [Bucholtz]
 - What is “Hip Hop Speech Style” (formally, functionally, ideologically)? [Cutler]
 - What are the semiotic, sign-functional, characteristics of HHSS? [Topic 2; Cutler]
 - Evaluate/critique Cutler’s application of the core concepts of linguistic and semiotic anthropology [Topics 2, 5; Cutler]
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TOPIC 7 *Theory in Linguistic/Semiotic Anthropology–II: Power and Politics*

Class 1 Formal Linguistic Means of Indicating (and [Re-]Producing) Social Hierarchies

🏠 **Chandler**, *Semiotics for Beginners: Modes of Address*

📖 **Foley**: 307-344

📖 **Hanks**: 248-267

📁 **Silverstein**, *Talking Politics*

Focus On:

- What is “social deixis” [Foley]
 - How would you categorize the semiotic sign-function of social deictics? [Topic 2, 4; Foley]
 - Be able to explain Brown and Gilman’s analysis of T/V forms [Foley]
 - Are you familiar with any language(s) that have T/V systems?
 - If so: does Brown & Gilman’s analysis adequately account for it?
 - If not: how does it differ (formally, functionally, ideologically) from the systems Brown and Gilman analyze?
 - What are honorifics? How do they relate to social deictics? [Foley]
 - Be able to describe the system of Javanese speech levels [Foley]
 - How would you categorize the semiotic sign-function of Javanese speech levels?
 - What are “sociolinguistic markers”? [Foley]
 - How would you categorize the semiotic sign-function of sociolinguistic markers? {careful!}
 - ✍ **Silverstein’s writes: “The substance of it all, I would contend, is style.” Explain, in as much semiotic, ideological, and political detail as possible, what he means by this [Silverstein]**
 - What is the *point* of the analysis Silverstein presents in *Death and Life at Gettysburg*, esp. pp. 41-62.
 - What claim is Silverstein making in the presentation of this analysis?
 - Does the analysis seem useful or productive to you?
 - ✍ **What, in Silverstein’s view, is the actual “message” of George W. Bush’s error-prone, relaxed, and “folksy,” one-of-the-guys style?**
 - ✍ **Do you agree with Silverstein’s analysis of George W. Bush’s style?**
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Class 2 Language and Inequality: Linguistic Subordination and Discrimination

📁 **Hopson**, *The Problem of the Language Line: Cultural and Social Reproduction of Hegemonic Linguistic Structures for Learners of African Descent in the USA*

📁 **Woolard**, *Sentences in the Language Prison: The Rhetorical Structuring of an American Language*

Policy Debate

📁 **Barrett**, *Language Ideology and Racial Inequality: Competing Functions of Spanish in an Anglo-owned Mexican Restaurant*

Focus On:

- What is the “language line”? [Hopson]
- Hopson writes: “The problem of the language line...represents to the twenty-first century what the problem of the color line represented to the twentieth century.” Do you agree? [Hopson]
- How is language involved in the process of constructing “racialized identities” (both in our schools, and in the larger society)? [Hopson]
- What are the linguistic aspects of racism? [Hopson]
- What is the “cultural and linguistic duality” faced by African-American children in school?
 - Is this same duality faced by other minority groups?
 - If you have direct experience with this “duality” (and you feel comfortable discussing it, please do so)
- In what ways do ideologies of language affect the interactional dynamics—and reinforce racial segregation and inequality—in Barrett’s study? [Barrett]
 - Evaluate/critique Barrett’s arguments
- What ideologies of language underwrite liberal opposition to English-only legislation? [Woolard]
- What are the most powerful, and important, functions of linguistic ideology in social life? [all]

TOPIC 8 *Linguistic Relativity (or: the “Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis”)*

Class 1 Classic Formulations of the “Principle” of Linguistic Relativity, in Context

📖 **Foley**: 192-208

📁 **Whorf(a)**, *Language and Logic*

📁 **Whorf(b)**, *The Relation of Habitual Thought to Language*

📁 **Whorf(c)**, *Grammatical Categories*

📖 **Hanks**: 169-200

Focus On:

- ✍ **What are the major arguments presented by Whorf in *Languages and Logic*? [Whorf(a)]**
 - ✍ **What do you think is his goal in publishing this article?**
- What is “SAE”? What *kinds* of things do SAE languages share? [Whorf(b)]
- ✍ **What is a “fashion of speaking” [Foley, Whorf(b)]**
 - ✍ **What role do fashions of speaking play in Whorf’s theoretical perspective?**
- What are “grammatical categories”? [Foley, Whorf(a,b,c)]
 - What role do grammatical categories play in Whorf’s theoretical perspective
- What is the distinction between “overt” and “covert” linguistic categories? [Whorf(c)]
 - What role does this distinction play in Whorf’s theoretical perspective?
- What is “linguistic relativity” for Whorf [Whorf (a,b,c)]
- Give an account of the theoretical and intellectual history of “linguistic relativity” [Foley, Hanks]

Class 2 Contemporary Approaches to Linguistic Relativity (“Neo-Whorfianism”)

📖 **Foley**: 208-214

📁 **Lucy**, *Linguistic Relativity*

- 📁 **Rumsey**, *Wording, Meaning, and Linguistic Ideology*
- 📁 **Hill & Mannheim**, *Language and Worldview*
- 📁 **Silverstein**, *The Limits of Awareness*
- 📁 **Gumperz & Levinson**, *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*

Focus On:

- Is Whorf's principle of linguistic relativity a "testable hypothesis"? [Foley, Lucy, Silverstein]
 - Note: scholars do not agree on this question: take a position and support it
 - Be able to describe the results of Lucy's experiments [Lucy]
 - How do these results confirm the "hypothesis" of linguistic relativity
 - What are Rumsey's major claims? How are they "(Neo-)Whorfian"? [Rumsey]
 - What are Hill & Mannheim's major claims with respect to the "hypothesis" of linguistic relativity? [Hill & Mannheim]
 - What are the most important ways in which language, and things-linguistic, related to "worldview"
 - Be able to give an overview of Silverstein's core arguments in *Limits of Awareness* [Foley, Silverstein]
 - What are the most theoretically important claims he makes in this paper?
 - In what sense are the proposals in Silverstein's *Limits of Awareness* "(Neo-)Whorfian"? [Foley; Silverstein]
 - Is there, according to the overview in Gumperz & Levinson, a generally-accepted understanding in contemporary linguistic and semiotic anthropology of what "linguistic relativity" means? [Gumperz & Levinson]
 - ✍ **What, in your view, is the most productive, and theoretically sound, understanding of linguistic relativity [all]**
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TOPIC 9 *Poetics & Performance, Genre & Intertextuality*

Class 1 Poetics, Performativity

📖 **Foley**: 359-378

📁 **Bauman & Briggs**, *Poetics and Performance as Critical Perspectives on Language and Social Life*

📁 **Mertz**, *Legal Language: Pragmatics, Poetics, and Social Power*

Focus On:

- Be able to define "performativity" [all; esp. Bauman & Briggs]
 - Try to develop an example of performativity not covered in the reading
 - Be able to define "poetics" [Foley, Bauman & Briggs, Mertz]
 - How is it possible—and in what sense(s) is it the case—that textual poetics can have "real" effects on socioculture? [all]
 - Be able to define the processes of "entextualization" and "decontextualization" [Bauman & Briggs]
 - How are these processes related to one another?
 - What are "reflectionist" and "instrumentalist" perspectives on the language~socioculture nexus? [Mertz]
 - What are the core arguments presented by Mertz (=How can the principles of linguistic and semiotic anthropology productively be applied to the legal system, esp. to the language of the courtroom/language in the courtroom)? [Mertz]
 - Give an account of the theoretical and intellectual history of "linguistic relativity" [Foley, Hanks]
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Class 2 Genre, Intertextuality, Ritual

👑 **Chandler**, *Semiotics for Beginners: Intertextuality*

📖 **Hanks**: 242-247

📁 **Csordas**, *Genre, Motive, and Metaphor: Conditions for Creativity in Ritual Language*

📁 **Culler**, *Presupposition and Intertextuality*

📁 **Robbins**, *Ritual Communication and Linguistic Ideology: A Reading and Partial Reformulation of Rappaport's Theory of Ritual*

Focus On:

- What is “intertextuality”? [Chandler, Culler]
 - What is the semiotic status of intertextuality; what is intertextuality in terms of semiotic sign-function?
 - What is “genre” (linguistic, sociocultural)? [Hanks]
 - How is “genre” and “generic regimentation” involved in the construction and reproduction of social power on the one hand, and ritual effectiveness on the other? [Class1; Hanks, Csordas]
 - What are the most important roles played by language and linguistic practice, in ritual? [all]
 - Be able to explain, in as much semiotic and otherwise theoretical detail as possible, how ritual “works”
 - What is ritual “creativity”?
 - What does “presupposition” mean in the context of theorizing ritual effectiveness?
 - Be able to give an account of Rappaport’s universal theory of ritual
 - Be able to give an account of Robbins’ reformulation of Rappaport’s theory
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EXTRA
TOPIC

Religious Language; Language and Madness

The Language of Religion; Language and Madness

📁 **Keane**, *Religious Language*

📁 **Wilce**, *The Poetics of “Madness”: Shifting Codes and Styles in the Linguistic Construction of Identity in Matlab, Bangladesh*

📁 **Visser**, *Gregory Bateson on Deutero-Learning and Double-Bind: A Brief Conceptual History*