

LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND THOUGHT

CHDV 21901/31901, PSYC 21950/31900, ANTH 27605/37605, LING 27605/37605

Spring 2014
Time: TuTh 3:00-4:30
Location: Stuart 105
Office Hours: By appt.

Instructor: John A. Lucy
<jlucy@uchicago.edu> Office: HD S 103
Teaching Assistant: Laura Horton
<Laurahorton@uchicago.edu> Office: G 504

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or advanced undergraduate (third or fourth year).

Course Description: This is a survey course exploring the role of natural language in shaping human thought. The topic will be taken up at three levels: semiotic-evolutionary (the role of natural language in enabling distinctively human forms of thinking--the rise of true concepts and self-consciousness), structural-comparative (the role of specific language codes in shaping habitual thought--the "linguistic relativity" of experience), and functional-discursive (the role of specialized discursive practices and linguistic ideologies in cultivating specialized forms of thought--the pragmatics, politics, and aesthetics of reason and expression). Readings will be drawn from many fields but will emphasize developmental, cultural, and critical approaches.

Requirements: Extensive assigned reading. Three short written assignments based on the course readings, one for each segment of the course. Each assignment will represent one quarter of the final grade. Students will also be expected to turn in each week a one-paragraph critical/reflective question or commentary on one of the week's readings. The best eight of these weekly commentaries will constitute the remaining quarter of the grade. Students taking the course Pass/Fail are required to do the weekly commentaries and one of the three papers.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

INTRODUCTION

01 04/01 Three Levels in the Relation of Language, Thought, and Culture

SEMIOTIC-EVOLUTIONARY LEVEL

- 04/03 Semiotic Theory: Towards A Typology of Signs
02 04/08 Phylogenesis of Speech and Practical Intelligence I
04/10 Phylogenesis of Speech and Practical Intelligence II
03 04/15 Ontogenesis of Language and Conceptual Thought I
04/17 Ontogenesis of Language and Conceptual Thought II

STRUCTURAL-COMPARATIVE LEVEL

- 04 04/22 Semantic Theory: Towards A Typology of Grammatical Categories
04/24 Structure-Centered Approaches: Temporal Marking
05 04/29 Domain-Centered Approaches: Color Categorization
Behavior-Centered Approaches: Counterfactual Reasoning
05/01 Contemporary Structure-Centered Approaches I: Number Marking
06 05/06 Contemporary Structure-Centered Approaches II: Number Marking
05/08 Contemporary Domain-Centered Approaches: Spatial Categorization
07 05/13 Thinking for Speaking, Second Language Acquisition, and Semantic Accent
05/15 Linguistic Change in Middle Childhood: Deixis in Discourse

FUNCTIONAL-DISCURSIVE LEVEL

- 08 05/20 Pragmatic Theory: Towards A Typology of Discursive Usage
05/22 Referential Function I: Standardization and Education
09 05/27 Referential Function II: Literacy and Science
05/29 Expressive Function I: Self and Consciousness
10 06/03 Expressive Function II: Emotion and Literature

Detailed Schedule of Topics and Readings (full citations follow the schedule):

Week Date Topic

INTRODUCTION**01 04/01 Three Levels in the Relation of Language, Thought, and Culture**

For those missing the first day of class, read Lucy in G&L (37-69)
 REC: Quine (ch 1-2, 1-79), Aarslef (vii-lxv)

SEMIOTIC-EVOLUTIONARY LEVEL**04/03 Semiotic Theory: Towards A Typology of Signs**

Sapir, Language (3-23)	20	
Hockett, Logical considerations ... (124-162 [or orig vers. 392-430])	38	
Peirce, Division of signs (134-155)	21	79

02 04/08 Phylogenesis of Speech and Practical Intelligence I

Geertz, The impact of ... (33-54)	21	
Humphrey, The social function of intellect (303-317)	14	
Deacon, Human paradox (ch 1: 21-46)	25	
Deacon, Symbols aren't simple (ch 3: 69-101)	32	101
REC: Eccles, Evolution of the Brain (71-96), Bradshaw (615-37), Tobias (741-757), Bickerton (ch 6-7, 130-197), Deacon (ch 11-12: 312-410)		

04/10 Phylogenesis of Speech and Practical Intelligence II

Wallman, Aping Language (3-28, 49-59, 74-76, 79-106, 128-143)	79	
Tomasello & Call, Primate Cognition ch 12-13 (367-429)	62	141
REC: Agha, Tomasello (TBA)		

03 04/15 Ontogenesis of Language and Conceptual Thought I

Piaget, Language and thought ... (88-99)	11	
Vygotsky, Thought and Language ch 1, 4-5 (1-11, 68-145)	88	
de Villiers and de Villiers (335-384)	50	149
REC: Sacks, Seeing Voices		

04/17 Ontogenesis of Language and Conceptual Thought II

Vygotsky, Thought and Language ch 6-7 (146-256)	110	110
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STRUCTURAL-COMPARATIVE LEVEL

04	04/22	Semantic Theory: Towards A Typology of Grammatical Categories		
		Sapir, Language ch 4-5 (57-119)	62	
		Jakobson, Shifters ... (only 130-136)	7	
		Lucy, LD&T intro & ch 1-2A (1-37)	37	106
		REC: Whorf (87-101)		
	04/24	Structure-Centered Approaches: Temporal Marking		
		Sapir, SWES (150-166)	17	
		Sapir, Conceptual categories in primitive languages (128)	18	
		Whorf, LT&R (134-159, 207-219, 233-245)	49	
		Lucy, LD&T ch 2B, 4A (38-68, 88-101)	43	110
		REC: Lucy (LD&T) ch 3-4, 6A (69-126, 188-207), Boroditsky (TBA)		
05	04/29	Domain-Centered Approaches: Color Categorization		
		Lucy, LD&T ch 5 (127-187)	50	
		Berlin & Kay, Basic Color Terms (1-17)	17	
		Lucy, The linguistics of 'color' (320-346)	26	
		Davidoff, Davies, & Roberson, Colour categories ... (203-204)	1	94
		REC: Kay & McDaniel (610-646), Levinson, Yéfi Dnye...(1-53), Kay ms (1-14)		
		Behavior-Centered Approaches: Counterfactual Reasoning		
		REC: Lucy, LD&T ch 6B, 7 (208-276)		
	05/01	Contemporary Structure-Centered Approaches I: Number Marking		
		Lucy, GC&C intro, ch 1, 2, 3A (1-136)	136	136
06	05/06	Contemporary Structure-Centered Approaches II: Number Marking		
		Lucy, GC&C ch 3B, 4 (136-161)	25	
		Lucy & Gaskins, Grammatical categories and ... (257-283)	26	
		Imai, Universal ontological knowledge... (139-160)	21	72
		REC: Lucy & Gaskins, Interaction of language...(465-492)		
	05/08	Contemporary Domain-Centered Approaches: Spatial Categorization		
		Bowerman, The origins of children's ... (145-176)	31	
		Levinson, Language and cognition ... (98-131)	33	
		Pederson et al., Semantic typology ... (557-589)	32	
		Bickel, Grammar and social practice ... 161-191	30	126
		REC: Pederson, Geographic and manipulable space (294-311)		
07	05/13	Thinking for Speaking, Second Language Acquisition, and Semantic Accent		
		Jarvis and Pavlenko, Crosslinguistic influence (1-39)	39	
		Bassetti and Cook, Relating language and cognition (144-66)	23	
		Athanasopoulos, Cognitive restructuring (36-61)	25	87
		REC: Slobin, "Thinking for speaking" (70-91)		
		Han, Grammatical morpheme inadequacy (154-181)		

	05/15 Linguistic Change in Middle Childhood: Deixis in Discourse		
	Jakobson, Shifters ... (only 130-136) [already read 4/22]	0	
	Karmiloff-Smith 1979, Ch 5, 8, 9 (141-7; 200-7; 214-27; 236-41)	31	
	Karmiloff-Smith 1980 (231-50)	19	
	Berman & Slobin, Ch IIA (57-84), Ch IIIA (130-7), App (647-54)	34	
	Romaine [handout 1 & 2]	2	86
	FUNCTIONAL-DISCURSIVE LEVEL		
08	05/20 Pragmatic Theory: Towards A Typology of Discursive Usage		
	Jakobson, Concluding statement (only 350-358)	8	
	Hymes, Foundations in Sociolinguistics (3-27)	24	
	Silverstein, Shifters ... (11-55)	44	
	Bakhtin, The problem of speech genres (60-102)	42	118
	REC: Sapir (7-32), Bühler (147-164), Silverstein (132-44), Austin (1-24)		
	Lucy (LD&T) ch 4B,C (102-126)		
	05/22 Referential Function I: Standardization and Education		
	Havranek, The functional differentiation ... (3-16)	13	
	Silverstein, Monoglot "standard" (284-306)	22	
	Vygotsky, Thought and Language ch 6-7 (146-256)	--	
	Scribner & Cole, Cognitive consequences ... (553-559)	6	
	Bourdieu, The economics of linguistic exchanges (645-668)	23	
	Labov, Academic ignorance and black intelligence (63-81)	18	
	Hymes, Speech and language (19-56)	37	119
09	05/27 Referential Function II: Literacy and Science		
	Goody & Watt, The consequences of literacy (27-68)	41	
	Street, Literacy in Theory and Practice (TBA)	20	
	Markus, The cultural organization ... (1-24)	24	
	Cohen, Sex and death in the rational world ... (687-718)	31	116
	REC: Benveniste (55-64), Whorf (207-219)		
	05/29 Expressive Function I: Self and Consciousness		
	Benveniste, On subjectivity in language (223-230)	7	
	Brown & Gilman, The pronouns of power and solidarity (253-276)	23	
	Rosaldo, I have nothing to hide (193-223)	30	
	Voloshinov, Toward a history of forms of utterance (only 109-140)	31	91
	REC: Banfield (339-364)		
10	06/03 Expressive Function II: Emotion and Literature		
	Miller & Sperry, The socialization of anger and aggression (1-31)	31	
	Sapir, Language (221-231)	10	
	Friedrich, The Language Parallax (16-53)	37	
	Slobin, Verbalized events (107-138)	31	109

READINGS

Course readings will be drawn from the following materials, which will be on reserve on Chalk or available in the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

- Agha, A. (199?) 'Concept' and 'communication' in evolutionary terms. *Semiotica*.
- Athanasopoulos, Panos. 2011. Cognitive restructuring in bilingualism. In A. Pavlenko, ed., *Thinking and Speaking in Two Languages*, 29–65. Bristol, Buffalo, & Toronto: Multilingual Matters.
- Bakhtin, M. (1987). The problem of speech genres. In C. Emerson and M. Holquist (eds.) *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays* (Vern McGee, trans.), 60-102. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Bassetti, B. and Cook, V. (2011). Relating language and cognition: The second language user. In V. Cook & B. Bassetti, eds., *Language and Bilingual Cognition*, 143–190. Abingdon: Routledge, Taylor, and Francis Group.
- Benveniste, E. On subjectivity in language. In E. Benveniste, *Problems in General Linguistics* (M. Meeck, trans.), 223-230. Coral Gables, FL: University of Miami Press.
- Berlin, B. and Kay, P. (1969). *Basic Color Terms: Their University and Evolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Bickel, B. (2000). Grammar and social practice. On the role of 'Culture' in linguistic relativity. In S. Niermeier and R. Dirven (eds.), *Evidence for linguistic relativity*, 161-191. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Bourdieu, P. (1982). The economics of linguistic exchanges. *Social Science Information* 16: 45-668.
- Bowerman, M. (1996). The origins of children's spatial semantic categories: cognitive versus linguistic determinants. In J.J. Gumperz and S.C. Levinson, *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*, 145-176. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bradshaw, J.L. (1987). The evolution of human lateral asymmetries: new evidence and second thoughts. *Journal of Human Evolution* 17, 615-637.
- Brown, R. and Gilman, A. (1960). The pronouns of power and solidarity. In T. Sebeok (ed.), *Style in Language*, 253-276. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Cohn, C. Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals. *Signs* 12: 687-718.
- Davidoff, J., Davies, I., & Roberson, D. (1999). Colour categories in a stone-age tribe. *Nature* 398:203-204.
- Deacon, T. (199?). The symbolic species: co-evolution of language and brain
- de Villiers, J. and de Villiers, P. (2003) Language for thought: coming to understand false beliefs. In D. Gentner & S. Goldin-Meadow (eds.), *Language in Mind* (335-384). Cambridge, MA: MIT.
- Eccles, J.C. (1989). *Evolution of the Brain: Creation of the Self*. London: Routledge.
- Friedrich, P. (1986). *The Language Parallax: Linguistic Relativism and Poetic Indeterminacy*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Geertz, C. (1973). The impact of the concept of culture on the concept of man. In *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 33-54. New York: Basic Books.
- Goody, J. and Watt, I. (1968). The consequences of literacy. In J. Goody (ed.), *Literacy in Traditional Societies*, 27-68. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Havranek, B. (1932/1964). The functional differentiation of the standard language. In P. Garvin (ed. and tr.), *A Prague School Reader on Esthetics, literary structure, and style*, 3-16. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Hockett, C.F. (1959/1975). Logical considerations in the study of animal communication. In *The View from Language: Selected Essays 1948-1974*, 124-162. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press. Reprinted from *Animal "languages" and human language*, in W.E. Lanyon and W.N. Tavolga (eds.), *Animal Sounds and Communication*, 392-430. Washington: American Institute of Biological Sciences.
- Humphrey, N.K. (1976). The social function of intellect. In P.P.G. Bateson and R.A. Hinde, *Growing Points in Ethology*, 303-317. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hymes, D. (1974). *Foundations in Sociolinguistics*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Hymes, D.H. (1980). Speech and language: On the origins and foundations of inequality among speakers. In D.H. Hymes, *Language and Education: Essays in Educational Ethnolinguistics*, 19-61. Washington, DC: Center for Applied Linguistics.
- Imai, M. (2000). Universal ontological knowledge and a bias toward language-specific categories in the construal of individuation. In S. Niermeier and R. Dirven (eds.), *Evidence for linguistic relativity*, 139-160. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Jakobson, R. (1957/1971). Shifters, verbal categories, and the Russian verb. In *Selected Writings, Vol. 2: Word and Language*, 130-147. The Hague: Mouton.
- Jakobson, R. (1960). Concluding statement: Linguistics and Poetics. In T.A. Sebeok (ed.), *Style in Language*, 350-58 [only]. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Jarvis, S. and Pavlenko, A. (2008). *Crosslinguistic Influence in Language and Cognition*. New York: Routledge.
- Labov, W. (1975). Academic ignorance and black intelligence. In M. Maehr and W. Stallings (eds.), *Culture, Child, and School: Sociocultural Influences on Learning*, 63-81. Monterrey, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Levinson, S.C. (1997). Language and cognition: the cognitive consequences of spatial description in Guugu Yimithirr. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 7(1):98-131.
- Levinson, S.C. (2000) Yéli Dnye and the theory of basic color terms. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 10:1-53.
- Lucy, J.A. (1992). *Grammatical Categories and Cognition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lucy, J.A. (1992). *Language Diversity and Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lucy, J.A. (1996). The scope of linguistic relativity: an empirical analysis and review of empirical research. In J.J. Gumperz and S.C. Levinson, *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*, 37-69. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lucy, J.A. (1997). The linguistics of 'color.' In L. Hardin and L. Maffi (eds.), *Color Categories in Thought and Language*, 320-346. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Lucy, J.A. and Gaskins, S. (2001). Grammatical categories and the development of classification preferences: a comparative approach. In S.C. Levinson and M. Bowerman (eds.), *Language Acquisition and Conceptual Development*, 257-283. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lucy, J.A. and Gaskins, S. (2003). Interaction of language type and referent type in the development of nonverbal classification preferences. In D. Gentner & S. Goldin-Meadow (eds.), *Language in Mind*, 465-492. Cambridge, MA: MIT
- Markus, G. (nd). The cultural organization of tradition in contemporary natural sciences. Manuscript.
- Miller, P. and Sperry, L. (1987). The socialization of anger and aggression. *Merrill Palmer Quarterly* 33: 1-31.
- Pederson, E. (1993). Geographic and manipulable space in two Tamil linguistic systems. In A.U. Frank and I. Campari (eds.), *Spatial Information Theory*, 294-311. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
- Pederson, E., Danziger, E., Levinson, S.C., Kita, S., Senft, G., and Wilkins, D. (1998). Semantic typology and spatial conceptualization. *Language* 74:557-589.
- Peirce, C.S. (1932). Division of signs. In *Collected Papers of C.S. Peirce*, Vol. 2. (C. Hartshorne and P. Weiss, eds.), 134-155. Cambridge, MA: Belknap/Harvard University Press.
- Piaget, J. (1967). Language and thought from the genetic point of view. In *Six Psychological Studies* (D. Elkind, A Tenzer, trans.), 88-99. New York: Random House.
- Quine, W. (1964). *Word and Object*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Rosaldo, M. (1973). I have nothing to hide: the language of Ilongot oratory. *Language in Society* 2: 193-223.
- Sacks, O. (1989). *Seeing Voices*. Berkeley: University of California Press..
- Sapir, E. (1921/1949). *Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech*. New York: Harvest: Harcourt Brace Javanovich.
- Sapir, E. (1949). *Selected Writings of Edward Sapir in Language, Culture, and Personality* (D.G. Mandelbaum, ed.). Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Sapir, E. Conceptual categories in primitive languages. In D.H. Hymes (ed.), *Language in Culture and Society: A Reader in Linguistics and Anthropology*, 128. New York: Harper and Row.
- Scribner, S. and Cole, M. (1973). Cognitive consequences of formal and informal education. *Science* 182: 553-339.
- Silverstein, M. (1996). Monoglot "standard" in America: Standardization and metaphors of linguistic hegemony. In D. Brenneis and R. Macaulay (eds.) *The matrix of language*, 284-306. Westview Press.
- Silverstein, M. (1976). Shifters, linguistic categories, and cultural description. In K. Basso and H. Selby (eds.), *Meaning in Anthropology*, 11-55. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press.
- Slobin, D. (1996). From "Thought and Language" to "Thinking for Speaking." In J.J. Gumperz and S.C. Levinson (eds.), *Rethinking linguistic relativity*, 70-96. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Slobin, D. (2000). Verbalized events: A dynamic approach to linguistic relativity and determinism. In S. Niermeier and R. Dirven (eds.), *Evidence for linguistic relativity*, 107-138. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Street, B. (1984). *Literacy in Theory and Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tomasello, M. and Call, J. (1997). *Primate Cognition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Voloshinov, V.N. (1929/1973). Toward a history of forms of utterance in language constructions. In V.N. Voloshinov, *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language* (L. Matejka and I.R. Titunik, trans.), 109-159. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
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- Wallman, J. (1992). *Aping Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Whorf, B.L. (1956). *Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf* (J.B. Carroll, ed.). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.