

Linguapax Asia 2006

3rd International Symposium

University of Tokyo
Saturday, October 7, 2006

Theme for Discussion: "Who Owns Language?"

8:30 a.m. Registration, building 18, Komaba Campus (see map)

9:00 Opening Words: **Frances Fister-Stoga** (Tokyo University, Director of Linguapax Asia)

9:05 Framing Remarks by **Leo Yoffe** (Waseda University)

Distinguished Canadian diplomat and currently professor at Waseda will address the crucial importance of this Conference's theme of language ownership.

Morning Session Chair: **Prof. Jelisava Sethna** (Gakushuin University)

9:15-9:45 Keynote Speaker: **Charles De Wolf** (Keio University)

Translator, writer, former columnist of the *Asahi Evening News*, professor at Keio, an expert on East Asian and Oceanic languages, will set the agenda by discussing "Multilingualism and Multiculturalism".

9:45-10:05 Coffee

10:05-10:30 **David Burleigh** (Ferris University)

Author of a recently published book on the Irish writer Helen Waddell, literary reviewer for the *Japan Times*, and associate professor at Ferris, will illuminate the much neglected Scots-Irish dialect of Ulster and its larger significance.

10:30-10:55 **Nicholas Williams** (Saitama Institute of Technology)

Currently editor of two essay-collections on the Edwardian theatre and George Bernard Shaw, professor at S.I.T., will look at Shaw's famous "language play" *Pygmalion* from a radically different standpoint.

10:55-11:15 Coffee

11:15-11:35 Poetry and Identity: a reading by **Mong-Lan**, Vietnamese-American poet and recipient of numerous awards will read selections from her works dealing with

language and ethnicity.

11:35-12:00 Saran Shiroza (Tokyo University)

Doctoral candidate at Tokyo University and winner of the prestigious Ichiko-sho award, Ms. Shiroza will present an account of the attempt to reconstruct Japanese English as a separate linguistic entity.

12:00-13:30

Lunch

Afternoon Session Chair: Prof. Nicholas Williams (Saitama Institute of Technology)

13:30-13:50 The Honorary President of Linguapax Asia, **Tasaku Tsunoda** (Tokyo University) and **Mie Tsunoda** (Rissho and Seijo Universities) will give a progress report on their work in revitalizing the Australian Aboriginal language Warrongo.

14:00-14:30 Keynote Speaker: **Arudo Debito** (Hokkaido Information University)

Professor Arudo has established his name as a human rights campaigner in his home area of Hokkaido and beyond and has authored several works dealing with human rights issues. He will discuss the question of language and nationality.

14:30-15:00 Fernand De Varennes (visiting professor at Gakushuin University)

Dr. De Varennes has had a distinguished career as lawyer, editor, and teacher. Among his many achievements, he is a former Director of the Asian-Pacific Center for Human Rights and Editor-in-Chief of the Asian-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law.

Dr. De Varennes will speak on "Ethnic Conflict and Language in Asia."

Chaired by: **Dr. John Maher** (International Christian University)

15:00-16:00 Film "In Languages We Live: Voices of the World", presented by **Dr. Felix Marti** (Linguapax Institute)

16:00-16:15 Coffee

16:00-16:25 William Gater (Sacred Heart University)

Formerly of Tokyo University, now teaching at the Sacred Heart, specialist in dialectology, currently engaged in researching the problems of nationalism and language, will speak on the present position of the Baltic language Latvian.

16:25-16:50 Dr. Olenka Bilash (University of Alberta) on What Happens When No One Takes Ownership of Language?

Dr. Bilash is Professor of Second Language Education at the University of Alberta and has taught professional development workshops on five continents.

16:50-17:20 Coffee

17:20-17:50 Round Table Discussion

17:50-18:05 Conference closes with final remarks by **Dr. Felix Marti**, Honorary President of the Linguapax Institute.

Registration:

There is no prior registration for the symposium. Registration will take place on site October 7 between 8:30 am and 9:00 am. The registration fee is 1,000 yen per participant for either morning and/or afternoon session. Early registration on site (building 18: see map) is encouraged.

Lunch will be served at the Tokyo University Komaba faculty restaurant (Lever Son Verre) at 1,500 yen. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis and may be made when registering on site.

Symposium Administration:

Frances Fister-Stoga, Director (Tokyo University)
Dr. Tasaku Tsunoda, Honorary President (Tokyo University)
Nicholas Williams, Program Director (Saitama Institute of Technology)
General Affairs: Cary Duval, Jelisava Sethna, Susan Miyake-Bergman

Biographies and Abstracts of Participants (in order of appearance)

Frances Fister-Stoga is Director and founder of Linguapax Asia and has been the American foreign lecturer at the University of Tokyo since 1992. She holds a certificate in Peace Education from Teachers College Columbia University and has taught in Poland, Slovenia, Austria, and Canada.

Leo Yoffe is a former Canadian diplomat and a professor at Waseda University. Professor Yoffe was instrumental in the planning and organization of the 2005 Linguapax Asia Conference.

Charles De Wolf is a linguist, literary translator and writer. He has a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii. Currently he is a professor at Keio University. He first came to Japan in 1970 and has spent most of his life here. His academic interests and publications range from morphology, syntax, and historical linguistics to such sociolinguistic concerns as expressed in the topic here.

Dr. De Wolf writes: "Asked to choose between Herder and Napoleon, between post-Babelian romantics and McLanguage managers, linguists will overwhelmingly join the former camp. Why is this so? Surely a partial explanation lies in what they know about language. Linguistic knowledge rather than politics explains their opposition to triumphalism, prescriptivism, and coerced standardization."

Or so we would like to think. The fact is, of course, that linguists too are susceptible to self-interest and ideological conformity. And so the debates between specialist and non-specialist alike degenerate into mutual demonization."

David Burleigh was born in the North of Ireland and studied Social Science at the University of Ulster at Coleraine. He worked in London for several years before coming to Japan, where he has now spent over twenty years. He did research for an advanced degree in English Literature at the University of Sussex, and is currently associate professor at Ferris University in Yokohama.

"English is, indisputably, my mother tongue (since my mother was English), though I grew up speaking the Scots-Irish dialect of the North of Ireland. I wish to explore the contradictory responses to this form of English among other native speakers using my own experience. Straddling Hibernian and British English, the Ulster dialect is often unrecognized in the British Isles, yet played a key role in the development of American English and informs a literary renaissance."

Nicholas Williams was born near London and later educated at London University. Although originally specializing in South Asian History, he developed an interest in the theatre and went on to do an MA in European Drama at Exeter University. He is currently a professor at Saitama Institute of Technology.

"My interest in Bernard Shaw's famous 'language play', *Pygmalion*, provoked me into the understanding that once again Shaw was ahead of his time in recognizing that the importance of Eliza's transformation lies not in a cockney girl learning to speak like a lady, but in the idea that the language Eliza acquires must be entirely her own or else it has no social value whatsoever."

Mong-Lan is a writer and visual artist. She left her native Vietnam on the last day of evacuation in 1975. Her books of poetry include *Song of the Cicadas* and *Why is the Edge Always Windy?* Her poetry has been anthologized in several publications including *Best American Poetry*. She is an adjunct professor with the University of Maryland, University College.

Saran Shiroza is a doctoral student at the University of Tokyo, whose research interests include critical approaches to World Englishes and English as a global language, and English education policy and planning in Japan.

"I will focus on some attempts in the past to establish a 'Japanese variety of English', none of which gained much support in Japan, and explore why these attempts were not successful in light of Japanese attitudes towards the two languages of Japanese and English."

Tasaku Tsunoda is a professor at the University of Tokyo. He gained his PhD at Monash

University. His defence of the Australian Aboriginal language, Warrango, has been his life's work.

Mie Tsunoda is a part-time lecturer at Rissho University and Seijo University. She gained her PhD at Ochanomizu University. She is a scholar of Australian Aboriginal languages.

Arudo Debito is a naturalized Japanese citizen, living in Japan for eighteen years. He is the author of Japanese Only that discusses the Otaru Hot Springs case and racial discrimination in Japan. He is a frequent columnist in the Japan Times, and an associate professor at Hokkaido Information University.

"With many native speakers of Japanese claiming authority on how 'their' language is used, we must understand what impact this 'ownership' of language has on the credibility of non-natives. Even when there are verifiable sources available—such as dictionaries—many people claim to know the real 'vernacular' usage of important words in a debate by dint of nationality or race. I will discuss the effects of being a non-native speaker with Japanese citizenship, and offer views on how to avoid having one's opinions de-legitimized merely on the basis of not being 'one of us'."

Fernand De Varennes is a former director of the Asia-Pacific Center for Human Rights and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflict. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law.

He has written two works on the topic of language rights: Language, Minorities and Human Rights and A Guide to the Rights of Minorities and Language. He has also held the Tip O'Neill Peace Fellowship at INCORE (Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity) in Derry, Northern Ireland. He is currently a visiting professor at Gakushuin University.

William Gater was born in Canada in 1942. He read modern languages at McMaster University and received his doctorate in Linguistics in 1980 from the University of Montreal. He taught at the University of Tokyo from 1979 to 2004.

"I will talk about the language situation in Latvia from the viewpoint of nationalism and language. Definitions of language are usually based on the use of language, birthplace and residency. This brief description of the language situation in the newly-independent Baltic republics, with the focus on Latvia, will serve as illustration. I shall include my own impressions and experiences, and further comment on the broader implications for the European Union and for national language planning."

Olenka Bilash has recently completed a seven year research project in an isolated Cree community in Saskatchewan, looking at Cree language revival, curriculum development and community involvement. For her contribution to developing Cree language materials, she received the Tribal Chiefs' Association award. Among many other academic positions, she has served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate

Studies and Research at the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Alberta (Edmonton).

Dr. Bilash writes: "Multicultural and plurilingual Canada is the site for the dialogue between different constituencies of the Canadian population-aboriginals, anglophones, and francophones whose languages have official status, and members of hundreds of ethnic groups who speak their languages out of either necessity or choice or both. In this global age, more and more young people recognize the value of additional languages. Which ones are they or their parents choosing to learn?"

Felix Marti is the Honorary President of Centre UNESCO de Catalunya and the Honorary President of the Linguapax Institute.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.

Q: How can I register for the symposium?

A: Registration can be done between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. on the day of the conference. There is no prior registration. The registration fee is 1,000 yen for the morning and/or afternoon session.

2.

Q: How can I get to the symposium?

A: Please take the Keio-Inokashira Line from Shibuya (Local Train) and exit at Komaba-Todaimae station. Go UP the stairs (East Exit) and turn left. You will be at the Main Gate of the Komaba Campus. Please consult the map at the gate or ask for assistance at the guard gate for directions to building 18. The conference will be on the ground floor (large lecture hall) of building 18.

3.

Q: Is there parking on campus?

A: There are no parking facilities on campus.

4.

Q: What are the possibilities for lunch?

A: A lunch will be served at the Komaba Faculty Club for 1,500 yen. Reservations can be made at registration. Seating is limited for the luncheon and will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. There are numerous restaurants around the campus to suit different tastes.

第3回 国際シンポジウム

於東京大学

テーマ：「言語を所有するのは誰か？」

日時：2006年10月7日(土) 9:00～18:05 (受付は8:30から)

場所：東京大学 駒場キャンパス 18号館ホール
〒153-8902 東京都目黒区駒場3-8-1
京王井の頭線「駒場東大前」駅下車すぐ

事前の参加お申し込みは必要ありません。10月7日当日、午前8時30分より18号館にて受付を開始致します。参加費はお一人**¥1,000**となります。お席に限りがございますので、午後のワークショップやフィルム上映へのご参加を希望される方はお早めにご来場くださるようお願い致します。

昼食は東京大学構内のレストラン「ルヴェ・ソン・ヴェール」をご利用下さい。ご予算はお一人様**¥1,500**です。お席は先着順とさせていただきますので、ご希望の方は当日の参加登録時にお申し込みください。

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