



Linguistic Theory in the 21st Century: Integrational Perspectives

A colloquium organized by the International Association for the Integrational Study of Language and Communication (IAISLC) and the School of English, Faculty of Arts, The University of Hong Kong (HKU).

May 6-8, 2010

The colloquium aims to address fundamental questions in the academic study of language. It marks a point of transition in the discipline of linguistics as it has developed in the West, and examines the positioning of linguistics both historically and in its future development. It will bring together international scholars working in integrational linguistics (integrationism), linguists in other paradigms, and will also feature presentations by a selected group of highly promising postgraduate students along side those of established international scholars.



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Background & Rationale

This colloquium marks an important crossroads in the academic study of language. The nature of the discipline of linguistics, its role and positioning within the sciences, social sciences and humanities, and its goals, methods and theoretical foundations are beset by uncertainty. This meeting seeks to address fundamental questions concerning the nature of the academic study of language, its future direction, and the themes, methods and issues by which it should be shaped. Integrational linguistics is a lay-oriented inquiry or mode of investigation - it regards all language users as in some sense linguists. Rather than presenting itself as a science with a "God's truth" insight into language, integrationism takes seriously the diversity of beliefs about language found at the individual, contextual and cultural level. Following on from this, the conference aims to draw on Hong Kong's positioning to explore ideas about language in a cross-cultural context, with a special session applying the "China-West" framework to the study of language.

The publication of Franz Bopp's *Über das Conjugationssystem der Sanskritsprache* (1816) and of Ferdinand de Saussure's *Cours de Linguistique Generale* (1916) in retrospect both marked fundamental moments in the academic study of language in the West. In the 19th century the discipline of comparative-historical linguistics ("comparative philology") emerged, staking a claim to scholarly, even scientific rigor, with Indo-European studies at its centre. The 20th century saw the rise of an autonomous academic discipline, "linguistics", with its central idea of a synchronic linguistic system. The post-1945 world-wide expansion of linguistics coincided with decolonization, and this brought the politics of language and language planning to centre stage. The advent of Chomskyan theory, however, seemed to offer linguistics an alliance with, or even a dominant role within, psychology and biology. Within this framework language as a social institution was marginalized in favour of what was perceived as the core "language faculty" and the requirement of an autonomous and systematic object of study. Modern sociolinguistics as it developed was divided between this commitment to a "hard" scientific (quantitative) framework and an anthropological exploration of community, identity and social roles. The conference seeks to mark a new century of linguistic theorizing by posing fundamental questions about the future of the discipline.

Background & Rationale

The integrational critique of linguistics has focused on a set of interlocking presuppositions, including the autonomy of linguistics, its identification of the linguistic system as an object of study, and related notions of linguistic form and meaning. While this critique - and its corollary in the advocacy of a lay-oriented linguistics - has been to a degree in tune with discussions of meaning and interpretation in literary theory, reflexive sociology and anthropology, as well as in important strands in philosophy and the philosophy of science, mainstream linguists have responded, if at all, by pointing to the lack of a reproducible method with which to analyze 'data'.

Intergrational linguistics takes seriously the embedding of ideas about language in cultural traditions, socio-political contexts, and their role in cross-cultural interactions and intellectual development. It challenges the idea of linguistics as a neutral science, and asserts the fundamental importance of context in all the various meaning of that term for the understanding of language.

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to the Lee Hysan Foundation for its sponsorship of this event.

General topics and themes

- ◆ The disciplinary autonomy of linguistics
- ◆ Sociolinguistic theory
- ◆ Linguistics and semiotics: theories of the sign
- ◆ Indeterminacy and theories of meaning
- ◆ Lay-oriented linguistics;
- ◆ Culturally-embedded and "pre-modern" understandings of language
- ◆ Integrational linguistic method (of enquiry, analysis, argumentation); the nature of linguistic 'data'
- ◆ Integrational linguistics in the university curriculum

Special session/theme: China-West

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Hong Kong has as its Strategic Research Theme "China-West Studies", including language and culture studies (see http://arts.hku.hk/research/china_west.html). It is proposed to organize a special session devoted to "China-West" language studies, with special reference to cross-cultural issues in the understanding and representation of language, interactions between linguistic traditions, the nature of writing systems, the status of the term "dialect", etc.

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Participants

Key-note speaker

Professor Roy Harris, University of Oxford [*in absentia*]

Invited Scholars

David Bade, University of Chicago

Peter Jones, University of Sheffield

Alexander Kravchenko, Baikal National University

Zhu Lei, Shanghai East China Normal University

Nigel Love, University of Cape Town

Markus Messling, University of Potsdam

Michael Toolan, University of Birmingham

Guy Tunstill, Government of South Australia

Edda Weigand, University of Münster

Rukmini Bhaya Nair, Indian Institute of Technology

The University of Hong Kong

Chan Man Sing, School of Chinese

Christopher Hutton, School of English

Adrian Pablé, School of English

Paul Thibault, Faculty of Education

Postgraduate Students

Noel Christe, University of Lausanne

Bjarke Damm, University of Copenhagen

Zhou Feifei, Shanghai East China Normal University

Marc Haas, University of Oxford

Candice Ng Sheung Pui, University of Hong Kong

Jan Wawrzyniak, Warsaw University

Jérémie Wenger, University of Lausanne

Line Brink Worsøe, University of Copenhagen

Programme

MAY 5, 2010 (Wednesday)

Venue: 14/F, K.K. Leung Building, HKU

6.30-8.30pm

Reception

Senior Common Room (SCR)

15th Floor, KK Leung Building, HKU

MAY 6, 2010 (Thursday)

Venue: MB 113G, Main Building, HKU

10.00am

Opening Remarks/formal welcome

Dr Q.S. Tong, Head, School of English

10.10-10.30

Announcements & Opening Remarks by the Organizers

Time

Presenter

Title

10.30 -11.00

Roy Harris

University of Oxford

Language Myths, East and West [*in absentia*]

11.00-11.15

Discussion

11:15-11:45

Coffee break

Chair: Rukmini Bhaya Nair

11.45-12.30

Nigel Love

University of Cape Town

The child's acquisition of words:
an integrational view

12.30-1.15

Michael Toolan

University of Birmingham

Integrational Stylistics? Problems of theory and method

1.15-2.15

Lunch

Chair: Edda Weigand

2.15-3.00

Alexander Kravchenko

Baikal National University of
Economics and Law

Two perspectives on linguistics

3.00 - 3.45

Jan Wawrzyniak

Warsaw/ University of Cape
Town

Is there a contradiction in the claim that integrationism is
radically different from and better than segregationism?

3.45-4.15

Coffee break

Chair: Michael Toolan

4.15-5.00

Guy Tunstill

Government of South Australia,
Aboriginal Education and
Employment Services

Some Observations from Australia on Language
Endangerment and Linguistics

5.00-5.45

Edda Weigand

University of Münster

Paradigm Changes in Linguistics: From reductionism to
holism

Programme

MAY 7, 2010 (Friday)

Venue: MB 113G, Main Building, HKU

<u>Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Ttile</u>
	Chair: Alexander Kravchenko	
9.30-10.15	Markus Messling University of Potsdam	Representation and power: Jean-Pierre Abel-Rémusat’s critical Chinese philology
10.15-11.00	Rukmini Bhaya Nair Indian Institute of Technology	Homo phoneticus indicus and integrationism
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
	Chair: Paul Thibault	
11.30 -12.15	Zhu Lei Shanghai International Studies University	Sound and Writing in the Modernisation of Traditional Chinese Linguistics
12.15-1.00	Chan Man Sing University of Hong Kong	Fusion Food for Thought: Mashi wentong revisited
1.00-2.00	Lunch	
	Chair: Nigel Love	
2.00-2.45	Chris Hutton & Candice Ng Sheung Pui University of Hong Kong	Myths, fictions and constructs: the case of the Zhuang
2.45-3.30	Paul Thibault University of Hong Kong	Propositions and Predicational Language: On the Integrational Functions of Grammar
3.30-4.00	Coffee break	
	FREE TIME	
7.30	CONFERENCE DINNER	
	YMCA of Hong Kong	Salisbury Dining Room, YMCA, 41 Salisbury Rd, Kowloon, HK Tel: 22687818

Programme

MAY 8, 2010 (Saturday)

Venue: MB 113G, Main Building, HKU

<u>Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Chair: Peter Jones	
9.30-10.15	Zhou Feifei East China Normal University	Time, experience and the self: integrational reflections on signs and communication – a preliminary discussion
10.15-11.00	David Bade Joseph Regenstein Library University of Chicago	Signs unsigned and meanings not meant: linguistic theory, hypothetical simulated imitation and meaningless language
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
	Chair: Adrian Pablé	
11.30-12.15	Noel Christie & Jérémie Wenger University of Lausanne	Integrational violence: critical postures in the Derrida-Harris controversy
12.15-1.00	Marc Haas University of Oxford	Chomsky and innate structures
1.00-2.00	Lunch	
	Chair: Adrian Pablé	
2.00-2.45	Line Brink Worsoe University of Copenhagen	What's in a word? – What's a word in? About the methodological challenges of integrational linguistics
	Discussant: Bjarke Damm University of Copenhagen	
2.45-3.30	Peter Jones Sheffield Hallam University	There's integration and there's integration... Ways (not) to fit language into life.
3.30-4.00	Coffee break	
	Chair: Chris Hutton	
4.00-4.45	Adrian Pablé University of Hong Kong	Integrating the 'real'
4.45-5.30	CLOSING DISCUSSION	

General information

Banking

A small HSBC branch is located on the Main Campus (G/F, Run Run Shaw Building). There is an ATM machine, but only limited facilities for changing foreign currency.

Catering

Morning and afternoon coffee are open to all who attend the conference.

Conference Dinner

May 7, 2010 at 7:30

YMCA of Hong Kong Salisbury Dining Room, YMCA, 41 Salisbury Rd, Kowloon, HK

Tel: 22687818

Internet access & email

During the period of the conference, you may use the Main Library facilities for checking email, internet access, etc. by presenting your conference name tag at the registration counter. Simply type in the temporary login name and password printed behind your name tag (included in the conference folder), and you will be able to log into any computer in the library.

Robert Black College

Conference speakers from overseas will be staying at the Robert Black College 香港大學柏立基學院. The College is located on the University Campus. There are many routes of buses and mini-buses connecting the College to Central and other districts of Hong Kong. A taxi ride from the city centre takes about fifteen minutes.

Phone: (852) 2296 1771

Address: University Drive, Hong Kong

Address in Chinese: 香港大學道

Contact Numbers

During the duration of the conference, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the following numbers:

School of English Office: 2859 2749 or 2859 2755

Photos

Photos of this colloquium will be uploaded on the webpage (www.hku.hk/english/linguistic_theory) around May 17, 2010.

Campus map



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CB - Chow Yei Ching Building
 COB- Composite Building
 CYA - Chong Yuet Ming Amenties Centre
 CYC- Chong Yuet Ming Chemistry Building
 CYP - Chong Yuet Ming Physics Building
 EH - Eliot Hall
 FP - Fung Ping Shan Building
 FS - Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre
 GH - Graduate House
 HC - Hui Oi Chow Science Building
 HH - Hung Hing Ying Building
 HW - Haking Wong Building
 JL - James Hsioung Lee Science Building
 KB - Knowles Building
KK - K.K. Leung Building
(Senior Common Room)
 LBA - Library Annex

LBN – Main Library
 LBO - Library Building (Old Wing)
MB - Main Building
 MH - May Hall
 MW - Meng Wah Complex
 PS - Pao Siu Loong Building
RBC - Robert Black College
 RH - Rayson Huang Theatre
 RM - Runme Shaw Building
 RR - Run Run Shaw Building
 SLH - Simon K.Y. Lee Hall
 SWH - Swire Hall
 TC - Tang Chi Ngong Building
 TI - Technology Innovation and Incubation Building
 TT -T.T. Tsui Building
 UD - University Drive No.2
 UL - University Lodge

Map of YMCA of Hong Kong

41 Salisbury Road, Kowloon

