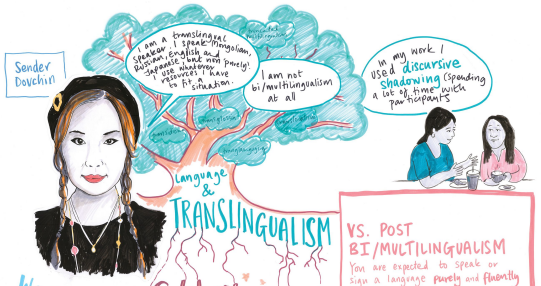
Deaf Mobility Studies: Language

CLOSING CONFERENCE DAY 2 - 3RD JUNE 2023



Language & TRANSLINGUALISM

VS. POST BI/MULTILINGUALISM
You are expected to speak or sign a language purely and fluently

We need to Celebrate diversity of Language... respect... make effort...

We need to be inclusive to create an EQUAL WORLD

INCLUSION

Seduced into celebrating diversity of linguistic features but forgetting the massive inequities contained by the unbridled dominance of diversity.
Tupas (2015)

Interlingual (communication between)
Intralingual (communication happening with a specific country)
LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS

NAME MOCKERY
migrants create 'authorised' names
migrants resist 'authorised' names
When a Mongolian migrant moved to Australia she changed her name to Sounds more 'Anglo'
Felt loss of identity

ACCENTISM
ACCENT HALLUCINATION
"people believe I have an Indian accent because of my skin colour but I'm not Indian, my whole life"

ACCENT MOCKERY
translingual migrants with dyslexia are discriminated against with strict accent requirements

TRANSLINGUAL STEREOTYPING
LANGUAGE BASED DISCRIMINATION, often against migrants who don't speak "correct" language

I don't feel good enough

TRANSLINGUAL INFERIORITY COMPLEX

Languaging and Mobilities translingual discrimination

CALIBRATING

Establishing a frame of reference and building on it:
- Use of space, depiction
- Facial expressions
- Lexical elements from various languages
- Spoken languages, mouthings, mouthings + fingerspelling
- Drawings, photos
- Conjoining / separating signs
- Using different signs for the same concept until one sticks

LANGUAGE IDEOLOGIES

RESEARCH IMPORTANT TO HELP UNPACK POWER and the POLITICS OF BELONGING

BELIEFS or VIEWS people hold about language(s) SHAPE deaf people's LIVES

Deaf people are often HIGHLY SKILLED COMMUNICATORS

MYTH OF "NO LANGUAGE"

Deprives deaf people of their HUMANITY

Creates HIERARCHY between "real" and "non-real" languages

Used too widely

over-simplifies the situation

CALIBRATION REPERTOIRE

Start of Fremrunners course → 8 months later

Named IS proficiency - Some have to work harder

Students learn to calibrate:
- Adjust signing speed
- Be more visual
- Exchange national signs
- Avoid ASL signs

All are proficient in IS
Better communication
Still use ASL (some signs kept, others removed)
Using signs of each other's languages
Persistent impact of large cultural and linguistic distances

most of fremrunners are European...

Asian & Arabic signers Seen as source of curiosity, distance and entertainment

racism?

I am from Jordan. I might understand a sign but I don't know the cultural context

Identifying linguistic racism in humour can be challenging, especially with friends!

Phoebe Tay

Born in Singapore, grew up with oral learning, and didn't start signing until I moved to Australia when I was 16.

Began to have different perceptions of deaf people

Learning about deaf culture, deaf history

Sent often made to feel "not deaf enough" having had an oral upbringing

As well as being a migrant in Australia

IN SINGAPORE - 2 TYPES OF MULTILINGUALISM

Higherarchical

ENGLISH
MANDARIN
many Tamil

Controlled

SPEAK MORE MANDARIN LESS DIALECT

1966 - English Mother - Tongue, Bilingual Policy (really compromised English as "the preferred language")

1979 - Speak Mandarin campaign

2000 - Speak "Good English"

All had a huge impact on Singaporean identity

1950s - deaf Chinese man set up a deaf school using Shanghai sign language → then moved to Signed Exact English (SEE)

English seen as 'superior' language

"SING-LISH" looked down upon by govt.

Noel Salazar

your results are so EXCITING!

When we work with CONCEPTS we are playing with the imagination

belonging networking mobility

interesting concept metaphorical qualities

Longing... desire... to be part of a wider group...

what is the right scale to belong to?

"I belong to the deaf community"

we've talked about inclusion & exclusion

what does that mean?

is that scale too big?

that mismatch had implanted diversity and some tensions

boundaries

MAINTAINED TO

Positions of Power who decides the boundaries

Xenophobia

PRESSURE to use "proper" BSL

Struggling when people DON'T calibrate in deaf spaces...

facial expressions and mouthings often differ

YOU SHOULD NEVER JUDGE HOW PEOPLE SIGN.

Languages in contact

Portuguese Spoken language

Linguistically, very DIVERSE

LIBRAS is National Sign language

214 million inhabitants ≈ 10 million deaf / HH people

21 signed languages

We have a lot of contact with ASL and IS

1857 - First deaf school with French SL

1875 - First LIBRAS Dictionary

2000 - Leivas LIBRAS

positively changed the situation for so many deaf people

Born in Brazil within a deaf family - mix of oral learning and sign language education

Rodrigo Nogueira Machado

Sender Dovchin

be careful how we define boundaries between Global South & North

we looked at the term Languaging & mobility from perspective of linguistic utopia

but also dystopian concept

how are we going to influence the policy makers to make the world a better place?

Octavian Robinson

Mobilizing Deaf Studies into the future

Where are we headed?

What impact do we want to have?

Calibrating and learning language

AMANDINE LE MAIRE

"I LEARNT SIGN LANGUAGE FROM WATCHING DEAF MEN & BOYS PLAYING FOOTBALL - I WATCHED THEM EVERYDAY."

KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP LANGUAGE USE & LEARNING

FORMAL
older teachers rely more on ASL
vs. newer teachers using more ESL

INFORMAL
KSL more common in home environment
but also mixing SLs
Village Signs from home countries
Somalian, Sudanese, even German(!)

Although many have elements of learning to IS. So want to learn ASL...

Although KRC refugees, deny the existence of sign language in Somalia and Sudan...

multiple Sign Languages Present in Kakuma Refugee Camp

two strangers recalled a map in the air to explain coaching they were from

visual strategies

when explaining what words mean...

I MEN messaged & sent GIFS... funny

calibrated a different method

ERIN MORIARTY

Wahyu, the deaf Indonesian tourist guide

adjusts signing, based on tourists nationalities

incorporates signs, mouthing & finger-spelling from countries languages

Calibrates topics & frames of reference

encouraging everyone to be part of the conversation

Comparing Signs

COPYING & Chaining
key practices for learning & comparing Signs

Open to learn ... moral & practical

SOUVENIR

Show excitement

Learning signs is part of deaf networking

What does IS mean to you?

was often portrayed in relation to heart & feeling

BEAUTIFUL
REFLECTIVE
SPARKLING
Strong EMOTIONAL connection

Not one IS - DIVERSE -

Their different sign languages in different parts of their body

Language learning pathways when coming to the UK

FORMAL
expectations to learn NEW Sign language - BSL - with help with integration into the UK

INFORMAL
within deaf Society (eg Shakespeare pub)

BIG DIFFERENCES between Indian SL & BSL but also with EXPRESSIVENESS

British people are very IN-expressive quite grumpy looking

Indian culture is more Expressive - head movements - facial expressions

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

National sign language of US & Some of Canada

SPREAD TO AND HAS EVOLVED → ASIA, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA

Stronger links with ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL SIGN (IS)

"Too European"
"Too ASL"

CONVENTIONALISED & UNCONVENTIONALISED

Europe, NFD, Club d'oeil, online spaces

(calibration) WORLDWIDE (variations)

often converged in encounters

VISUAL (?) FLEXIBLE (?)

Are they!? (this is an ideology)

often used in online materials

Courses

2 sides of a coin...

"IMPERIALIST"

"KILLER LANGUAGE"

Language shaming

WIDELY UNDERSTOOD

HELPS WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

IS

ASL

TIPPING POINT

Our points of departure

Deaf family in Philippines

Deaf family in Ireland

Deaf family in U.S.

Pandemic meaning family is isolated with Canadians (again)

English-speaking multilingual country in an English speaking "international" Society

European country to European country

English speaking country to non-English speaking

SWEDEN

Our personal narratives & our Languaging experiences

"I became" deaf at around one year old

but my deaf mum says I was born deaf

Societal view that oral = intelligent

Use FSL, Tagalog English and ASL and 日本語

Speaking & Signaling English at home with my family

Languaging with friends, Mandarin, heavy family

Irish Sign Language

All girls deaf school → Mixed language use

First experience IS in Scout camp

First time receiving education through a Sign language, was in Sweden

→ profound movement

Our respective research and positionality

I am not deaf, what is research and my position as an ally in deaf studies?

What does it mean to be an ally?

What does it mean to be a researcher in context of my research on deaf children in IDSoC...

Must acknowledge my privileges influence before I shape my research...

Shapes how the deaf migrants' encounters reveal/reveal with IS' dynamic language with ideologies, learnt when languaged

Linguistic experiences

Educational experiences

Cultural experiences

Case Study of IDSoC Irish Spectrum Project

Case Study of Laying deaf children with CI provision in Sweden

Case Study - Teachers explaining pictures to deaf children but some didn't know what to have more linguistic assurance

Anna Lim

Nova Duggan

Thought's at destination...

Importance of recognising home language

Intersectionality and diversity

Linguistic coursework in research

Language in Migration

We need to let go of the internalised idea of the "ideal Subject"...

CIS WHITE HETERO-NORMATIVE ABLE-BODIED LITERATE FLUENT SIGNER ETC

We need to think about the legacies of COLONIALISM and IMPERIALISM

WHAT'S THE MESSY, UGLY STUFF?

We should probably pick that up and look at it!!

VALUING

that we're all BRINGING DIFFERENT THINGS TO THE TABLE

The Mobile Deaf team have been MORE THAN INNOVATIVE

The QUALITY of their OUTPUT & IMPACT is UNFOUNDED!!

FINAL THOUGHTS

7 FILMS
2 BOOKS
2 PHDs
Will all be available open resource in 2024

We're all still here!

We Made it through!

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