

Topics in English Linguistics (Course 518)
Graduate Seminar
Sogang University, Seoul, Korea, Spring Semester 2005
Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer

OFFICE: 113 Xavier Hall, next to the English Department office where the wonderful TA's work, study, and do splendid things for professors like myself.
OFFICE HOURS: Please see office door. Also by appointment. Come see me!
PHONE: 705-8303 E-MAIL: cbutcher@shorter.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the different "Englishes" in our increasingly globalized and magically shrinking world. The professor sets the main direction for the course, and graduate students are given great freedom to develop their own research projects on *any* linguistic topic approved and mentored by Dr. Butcher.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND WORKBOOK:

Algeo, John and the late Thomas Pyles. *The Origins and Development of the English Language*. Heinle Thomson, 2005. ISBN: 015507055X. (ODEL)

Not required but suggested:

Algeo, John and Carmen Acevedo Butcher. *Problems in the Origins and Development of the English Language*. Heinle Thomson, 2005. ISBN: 0155070533. (PODEL).

Baugh and Cable. *The History of the English Language* is a marvelous resource, too.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- You are expected to read all materials assigned, take notes, look up unfamiliar terms, and come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss the material.
- You are expected to keep a journal in which you record examples of Korean English and your reactions to and linguistic analysis of these examples. This journal will be turned in as a mid-term exam.
- The final is your 10- to 15-page research paper. Topics, preliminary research, an outline, sample pages, and etc. will all be due as the semester progresses, and these will be individually graded, too.
- There will also be a 10- to 15-minute presentation on either your journal research or your research paper. Also, if necessary, other written assignments and/or announced or unannounced ("pop") quizzes will be given.

The Journal:

Be a linguistic Sherlock Holmes. Find examples of Korean English (in e-mails, on restaurant signs, in the newspaper, on the subway, on buses, wherever they may be found). Focus on keeping a regular journal recording these as well as your reactions to them. What is Korean English? That is your goal—to be able to define 'Korean English.' (We will discuss this in full in class.) The journal counts 25% of your entire grade. Start today. Keep a notebook with you at all times (get a smaller one so it's not too bulky). Write your best in these journals. Write in complete sentences, of course,

and write as smoothly and as cogently as possible. You are encouraged to express your opinions in your journals, and also to analyze them.

Topics in Linguistics (518)

**Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer, Sogang University
Spring 2005 Syllabus, Page 2**

The Presentation:

Using either your journal research or that for your research paper, you will organize a cogent 5- to 10-minute presentation to give in class. Your presentation will be both fascinating and most sinewy. You should practice before a mirror (yes!), and you should practice with a stopwatch. Time yourself. Make sure your presentation is not less than 5 minutes and not more than 10 minutes. Also, please do NOT read your presentation. Nothing is more soporific than a read presentation. It puts your audience to sleep at once. You can make notes to refer to, but know those notes; make eye contact. Also you will need a visual aid. This visual aid can be some interesting, thought-provoking facts that you will write on the blackboard or it can be a poster you made with significant information or an object that will get our attention and help explain your topic.

The Research Paper:

Your research paper topic can be anything linguistic that seizes your interest. It might be a topic you would like to develop further into a master's thesis, a Ph.D. thesis, or even a full-fledged book one day. Some of the 25% will be assignments related to the research paper. These are designed to keep you working on the paper throughout the semester. In other words, you will turn in along the way your research topic, an outline, sample writing pages, etc., to be graded throughout the semester. You are the master of this topic, but I will help you in choosing it, if you need help. Together we will make sure the topic is the right size for a 10- to 15-page research paper. Also, footnotes will be required (not endnotes, please), as well as the usual bibliography. We will discuss a style format during the first weeks of class. We will also discuss publishing in the field of linguistics. I would like to encourage you to think in that direction, and I will share my stories of academic publishing with you.

Class Participation:

We will take full advantage of the 3-hour block devoted to graduate-level classes at Sogang and will often use these 3 hours as a writing lab. You will bring in your journal and/or research-paper writing (in-progress), and I will go from student to student answering questions, suggesting revisions, and directing the class as a whole towards publishable scholarly writing. One of the goals in this graduate class will be to help improve your scholarly writing significantly.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Students are held accountable to attendance requirements specified in the current edition of the university catalog. Students are expected to be present and on time for each class. Professors are required to submit a

weekly report on student attendance in writing: Students are allowed to be absent two class periods, but it is not recommended because we will cover much ground each time.

Topics in Linguistics (518)

**Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer, Sogang University
Spring 2005 Syllabus, Page 3**

Students who exceed the absence limit are automatically withdrawn and receive an FA (Failure by Absence). But with graduate students and with ones as marvelous as yourselves, I do not expect to have to enforce this at all.

GRADING POLICY:

- Journal (=Mid-Term Exam) = 25% The teacher's expectations for the journals are explained above. If you have further questions, please ask them.
- Presentation = 25%
- Class Participation = 25% Class participation is extremely important. I already know you are highly intelligent because you are a student at Sogang University. Students are expected to come to class prepared each time, to ask perspicacious questions, and to answer the professor's questions intelligently. Your participation is expected to take our class beyond the topics already raised in the instructor's mind. If necessary, pop quizzes, presentations, and in-class essays will be introduced, scored, and included in this grade segment. Class absences and/or tardiness will obviously lower a class-participation grade for a student.
- Research paper = 25%. This research paper topic should be something you are very interested in. It might be a topic you would like to develop further into a master's or Ph.D. thesis, or maybe even into a full-fledged book one day. Some of the 25% will be assignments related to the research paper. These are designed to keep you working on the paper throughout the semester. In other words, you will turn in along the way your research topic, an outline, sample writing pages, etc., to be graded throughout the semester.

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%

LATE WORK: All work is due at the beginning of class on the day announced.

Also, all tests must be done at the beginning of the class period on the day announced. If a student is late to class and misses a test, he or she will NOT be allowed to make that test up. Therefore, a debilitating zero would be earned, and a single zero is devastating to a student's final grade. Late or unexcused make-up work will be penalized. Late work is any work handed in past 10 a.m. of the day due. That means all work must be turned in at the beginning of the class meeting, always. Ten points will be deducted for every ten minutes the work is late. Late and excused make-up work must be preceded or accompanied by a valid written excuse, and all make-up work must be initiated by the student within one week of the excused absence in order to be accepted. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to initiate make-up work and that make-up work for in- class assignments can only be made up when the student's absence is excused and when the make-up work is initiated within one week of the excused absence.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Students will be treated with respect and kindness. They will be expected to conduct themselves as the adults they certainly are.

American Minority-Women Poets (12-154)

Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer, Sogang University
Fall 2004 Syllabus, Page 4

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Cheating is not tolerated and is punished according to the rules found in the current university *Student Handbook*. Dishonest work receives a Zero.

ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK ONE: Review chapters 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of ODEL. Please do this throughout the semester. ODEL is a valuable linguistics resource. Learning about linguistics resources. *OED*, NYT op-ed pieces online, linguistics journals online (in Korean and in English), and your own eyes and ears (direct experience). Please write me a short essay explaining why you are a graduate student at Sogang and what you hope to get out of this course. Chapter 9 is especially important, as it discusses British English.

WEEK TWO: Discuss journals, research paper topics, class participation, and presentations. Go to Loyola Library and work with the *Oxford English Dictionary*. What is Korean English?

WEEK THREE :What to avoid when writing a scholarly paper: expletives, informal writing, sloppy organization, wordiness, lack of sinewy thought, lack of specific examples, lack of sufficient research. What do you do when your theory is proven wrong by your data? Oops! Relax. It happens to us all and is actually not a bad thing.

WEEK FOUR: Turn in research paper topics. Discuss.

WEEK FIVE: Work on outlines for research papers. Discuss online linguistic resources.

WEEK SIX: Discuss journal findings.

WEEK SEVEN: Discuss presentations.

WEEK EIGHT: Journals due this week.

WEEK NINE: Bring three or four pages from your research paper in, including the introductory paragraph, and have writing lab in class.

WEEK TEN: Discuss common linguistic misconceptions. There is only one English. English is the best language ever. Every word has one true meaning, if we could only find it. Discuss NYT and good writing. What makes for cogent writing?

WEEK ELEVEN: Discuss research and presentations.

WEEK TWELVE: Presentations will be given all this week.

WEEK THIRTEEN: Individual conferences during class to discuss research challenges.

WEEK FOURTEEN: Turn in research paper for grading on as usual, at the beginning of class (or points will be deducted at the rate of 10 points per 10 minutes late).

WEEK FIFTEEN: Wrap up. Last questions.

My philosophy, as seen in the following attached handout, is that Korean English (or 'Konglish,' as it is often called) is a new form of English, not an inferior (or botched) attempt at the 'real' (whatever that is) English. Students and linguists who feel otherwise strike me as having traveled perhaps too rarely outside their own countries and cultures. No one with his or her eyes open can ignore the fact that new Englishes are popping up and spreading rapidly all over the globe. I find this fact exciting and something no one

yet seems to understand with any degree of certainty, which is also quite thrilling. We will explore this new area of academic study with our eyes open.

Topics in Linguistics (518)

**Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer, Sogang University
Spring 2005 Syllabus, Page 5**

What is the Future of the English Language? Better put, What is the Future of the Englishes?

According to Oxford University Professor Jean Aitchison - there is nothing about the English language that makes it particularly useful as a world language. Much more important is the economic and political power of the USA: "At one time French was the language of power and prestige," she says, "and Latin was also widely admired as fixed and firm." The rise of English, she says, is "all about the power of the people who speak it" - first as the language of the British Empire and now, in a slightly different form, of American corporations, advertising and pop culture. It is estimated that more than half the world population will be "competent" in English by the year 2050. But it is likely that this new form of "World Speak" English will be very different from the language we understand now. (I find this idea tremendously exciting!)

Currently linguists classify the use of English around the world in three ways:

- Standard American-British English (SABE), the "native" English as used in the USA, UK, Australia and the rest of the English speaking-world.
- Oral and Vernacular Englishes (OVE), the mixtures of English and local languages, or versions of local languages incorporating lots of English "pop" or commercial phrases. Examples include Konglish - an amalgam of Korean and American slang, Singapore Colloquial English (Singlish) Singlish and Chinglish (Singaporean English and Chinese English). According to experts there are "hundreds" of other examples, including Japlish and Denglish. The style of English used via the Internet is also often referred to as Netglish.
- International Colloquial English (ICE). ICE is a rapidly mutating "world" language based on English but borrowing large numbers of words from other languages as well as American "street" slang and text messaging-style abbreviations and even symbols.

Professor Eugene Eoyang of Lingnan University in Hong Kong says that ICE "has the potential" to evolve into a World Language. OVE-type languages like "Konglish", meanwhile might develop into a new set of national languages, just as English, German and French developed in the middle ages from a mixture of Latin and local languages.

Examples of OVE's: **Singlish:** *Action* means "showing off" as in: "That man always likes to action, walking around with his Rolex over his shirt sleeves." *Arrow* means 'work you don't want to do' Example: "I was arrowed to paint this wall." *Havoc* (adj) means 'wild and uncontrollable.' Example: "That person is very havoc, always out late every night". *Blur* means "confused, ignorant." *Habis* means "finished." *Ang mo* means "a white person." **Chinglish:** "Promote Elegance of Old Hotel / Display Metropolitan Feeling" (Nanjing Hotel). **Konglish.** Go to <http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Towers/5067/kkd.html> for a Konglish dictionary (shareware), ut there is a catch; you soon discover (as I did) that it's not free. **Japlish:** "Be free. Let's get happiness." **Denglish:** The German language today is filled with English words. This is

especially the case when people try to come off as modern, as in advertising (where there is always a need to lift simple concepts up into the higher realms of quasi-complexity).

Topics in Linguistics (518)
Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Fulbright Lecturer, Sogang
University Spring 2005 Syllabus, Page 6

More often than not there are reasonable German words that could have been used instead of the word in "Denglish" (or "Denglisch"), as it is called. Mostly, as you can imagine, this Denglish sounds rather ridiculous. If Denglish makes Germany sound open-minded – 'let's all learn a foreign language' – the opposite is actually true. For example, you can't see American movies in their original language on TV; they are all dubbed. Many people are shy to speak English even though all Germans have to learn it from 10 years until 16 years of age. Even in the Foreign Department (or *Alien Office*, as it calls itself) in my German hometown, I once experienced that the lady working there was not willing to speak in English. And you might think she was paid for helping foreigners. Even funnier (or sadder) was when I found out the guy who handled the applications for the introductory German language course in a local school was not able to speak English. Also, Denglish has its own rules which won't help people in learning **real** English. Words change. The verb "to download" might become "gedownloadet", as in "Ich habe das gedownloadet" (I downloaded something). In school my biology teacher struck-through my word, *recycled*, and wrote a corrected version to the side; "recycelt" (the German equivalent for "to recycle" is "wiederverwerten"). And then there are some words which are given new meanings in Denglish: "oldtimer" means "vintage cars" in Denglish, as opposed to "old people." So Denglish manages to make two languages look stupid simultaneously – quite a feat.

David Crystal, editor of the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* often makes 'predictions' about the future of the Englishes Crystal says the Internet represents the biggest change in communication in the whole of human history. Changes underway, he says, "are immensely bigger" than those which followed the invention of the printing press. The new technology, he adds, is causing a "revolution" in human communication to rank alongside the advent of human speech itself. "So far we have been communicating in speech, writing and with sign language. But the internet is neither speech nor writing. It has aspects of both and represents a new form." E-mail, he says, is not merely a faster way of sending letters. It is "brand new - a dialogue between two or more people happening instantly. There is no example from human history of anything like this happening before". Crystal believes that it will affect the way in which people communicate and may eventually lead to entirely new forms of communication. "The opportunities are immense," he says. On-line chat, he adds, is also an "entirely new" type of communication. "There has never been a case where a person could pay equal attention to what thirty people are saying all at the same time. "People who use chat-rooms a lot can already conduct two or three conversations simultaneously. That is completely unprecedented." The web itself, Crystal says, is a "new form". "If you look at a page in a book, go away and then return to it will still be the same. A web page can change - there are all sorts of possibilities". English, as the leading language of the internet, is already changing with increasing speed. But also (I hasten to add) many other languages are growing rapidly in use on the web and challenging English's lead. Crystal estimates that the vocabulary of ICE-type "World English" is increasing at the rate of at least 5,000 new words every year. "Change is so fast," he says, "that attempts by the Oxford English Dictionary to record and codify all the new words and ways in which they are trailing way behind. They can't keep up. Nobody could." "The fact is that the English-speaking

countries have given up ownership of English. "There's no turning back - English is a world language now". [This handout is largely based on a BBC news article from Friday, 23 March, 2001. The information about Denglish is from http://blog.outer-court.com/archive/2004_07_19_index.html.]