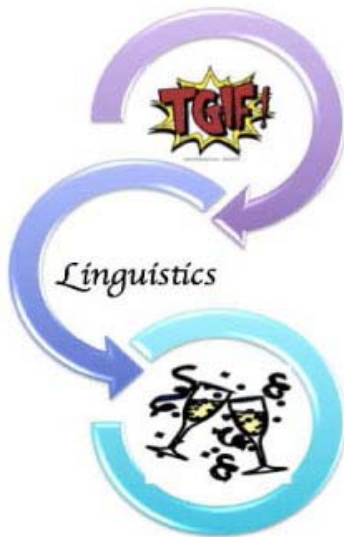


TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

Join us!
Friday, 11 March 2016, 2.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)



Inequalities of multilingualism

Exploring the relationship between outsourcing, neo-liberalism and languages-in education in the Philippines

Some educational systems around the world have recently responded (or have been reconfigured) to calls to accommodate the use of other(ed) local languages, on grounds that this is politically, ideologically and pedagogically desirable. In this sense, mother tongue-based multilingual education (or MTB-MLE) has democratized learning spaces traditionally reserved for dominant national and foreign languages. While evidence has indeed shown improvement in pupils' learning scores, as well as in their positive self-identification, MTB-MLE continues to be located in a nexus of relationships which is constitutive of inequalities of multilingualism, characterized not only by deeply entrenched linguistic hierarchies but also by an unequal interplay of ideologies brought forth by various sociopolitical and economic phenomena. This presentation unpacks inequalities of multilingualism through the lens of the Philippines' recent 'shift' to MTB-MLE in the lower primary years of formal education. In particular, it aims to track the (emerging) alignment of outsourcing, neoliberalism and multilingual education in the country, arguing that even MTB-MLE, broadly conceptualized as a democratic response to earlier constraining forms of education, is increasingly taking on ideologies which it aims to reject.

Speaker



Ruanni Tupas is an applied sociolinguist with a research interest in investigating mechanisms of inequality in educational systems through the lens of language use. He teaches sociolinguistics and bilingual education at the National Institute of Education (Singapore) where he is currently an Assistant Professor.

Prior to his move to NIE in 2010, he was a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for English Language Communication, National University of Singapore, where he taught for ten years and where he was a co-Project Director of a SGD485,000 English language teaching curriculum development project in Southeast Asia funded by the Temasek Foundation. He was the 2009 Bro. Andrew Gonzalez Distinguished Chair holder awarded by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines which recently has also elevated him to honorary membership. He is currently involved in research projects investigating various aspects of language and literature use in schools, such as the use of multicultural children's picturebooks in the promotion of socio-emotional learning, the teaching of cross-cultural communication, and the use of marginalized pedagogies in the teaching of standard English.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by
the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS

