



Course code : PHIL 4313 (Spring, 2016)
Course Title : *Philosophy of Language: Humboldt and the Continental European Heritage*
Teacher : Dr. Tze-wan KWAN (關子尹)
Time : H03-05
Venue : LSK 208

Course Description:

This course is designed to acquaint its participants with some general knowledge of the Continental European tradition in modern linguistics and philosophy of language. Special effort will be made to feature the inherent linkage between general linguistics as a new science and philosophy as a classical discipline. To provide leads for subsequent discussion, course material will cluster around the works of Wilhelm von Humboldt, Ferdinand de Saussure, and Roman Jakobson, renowned as the father of general linguistics, the father of structuralism, and the founder of Prague school of linguistics respectively. Other authors, including Husserl, Sapir, Trubetzkoy, Benveniste, Chomsky, Katz, Fillmore and Lakoff etc. will also be referred upon wherever necessary. Main topics for discussion are: the problem of language as a semiotic system; the problem of articulation; the problem of “double articulation”, the debate over the arbitrariness or inarbitrariness of the linguistic sign, the relation between sound and meaning constitution: (onomapoeisis, sound symbolism and analogy); language and worldviews; language and cultural heritage; language, understanding and cognition or cognitive semantics, the acquisition of native and foreign languages etc. Toward the end of the course, an attempt will be made to see if the above linguistic analysis can throw new light on linguistic issues related to Chinese language and writing. The course consists of lectures as well as discussion sessions for selected text units. Participants are expected to make oral presentation in class and to take part actively in class discussion. A written report is required by the end of the term.



Main Texts:

1. Wilhelm von Humboldt, *On Language: The Diversity of Human Language-Structure and its Influence on the Mental Development of Mankind*. Translated by Peter Heath with an introduction by Hans Aarsleff. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988). 中譯：姚小平 (Yao Xiaoping): 《論人類語言結構的差異及其對人類精神發展的影響》，北京：商務，1997。
2. Wilhelm von Humboldt, “Über das vergleichende Sprachstudium in Beziehung auf die verschiedenen Epochen der Sprachentwicklung [1820]”, in: *Werke in Fünf Bänden*, Band

III (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1979). Pp.1-25. 張烈材譯：〈論語言發展不同時期的比較語言研究〉，《國外語言學》，北京：1987年第4期，頁145-154。

3. Wilhelm von Humboldt, “Lettre à Monsieu Abel-Rémusat sur la nature des formes grammaticales en général et sur le génie de la langue chinoise en particulier”, Paris 1827. (〈致阿貝爾·雷姆薩先生的信：論語法形式的通性與漢語精神的特性〉)。信件原文以法文撰寫，並於巴黎發表。德文翻譯 “Brief an M. Abel-Rémusat, Über die Natur grammatischer Formen im Allgemeinen und über den Geist der chinesischen Sprache im Besonderen.” Translated into German by Christoph Harbsmeier. 參見 Harbsmeier, *Zur philosophischen Grammatik des Altchinesischen im Anschluss an Humboldts Brief an Abel-Rémusat* (Stuttgart: Frommann-Holzboog, 1979), pp.17-88。



4. Wilhelm von Humboldt, “Über den grammatischen Bau der chinesischen Sprache 〈論漢語語法結構〉” in: *Wilhelm von Humboldts Werke*, Band 5, hrsg. von Albert Leitzmann (Berlin: B. Behr's Verlag, 1906), pp.309-324. Now available in English translation: “On the Grammatical Structure of the Chinese Language”, in: W. von Humboldt. *Essays on Language*, edited by T. Harden and D. Farrelly (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 1997), pp. 95-110.
5. Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*. Edited by Ch. Bally and A. Sechehaye in collaboration with Albert Riedlinger, translated with an introduction and notes by Wade Baskin (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972).



Other related texts:

1. Apel, Karl-Otto, *Die Idee der Sprache in der Tradition des Humanismus von Dante bis Vico*. 3. Auflage (Bonn: Bouvier, 1980).
2. Apel, Karl-Otto, “Noam Chomsky's Theory of Language and Contemporary Philosophy: A Case Study in the Philosophy of Science,” *Towards a Transformation of Philosophy*, translated by G. Adey and D. Frisby (London: Routledge, 1980), pp.180-224.
3. Aristotle: *On Interpretation*.
4. Baumann, Hans-Heinrich, “Die generative Grammatik und Wilhelm von Humboldt,” in *Poetica. Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie*, Band 84, 1965, pp. 498-508.
5. Benveniste, Émile, *Problems in General Linguistics*. Transl. by Mary E. Meek (Coral Gables, Miami University Press, 1971).
6. Berglar, Peter, *Wilhelm von Humboldt in Selbstzeugnissen und Bilddokumenten* (Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1970).
7. Brown, Robert Langham, *Wilhelm von Humboldt's Conception of Linguistic Relativity* (The Hague: Mouton, 1967).
8. Bühler, Karl (1930), *Abriss der geistigen Entwicklung des Kindes*. English: *The mental development of the child: a summary of modern psychological theory* (London:

- Routledge, 1999).
9. Bühler, Karl (1930), *Sprachtheorie*. English: *Theory of language: the representational function of language*; translated by Donald Fraser Goodwin (Amsterdam ; Philadelphia : J. Benjamins Pub. Co., 1990).
 10. Cassirer, Ernst, *Philosophie der symbolischen Formen*. Translated by Ralph Manheim, *The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1953-?).
 11. Cassirer, Ernst, “Die Kantischen Elemente in Wilhelm von Humboldts Sprachphilosophie”, in: *Festschrift für Paul Hensel*, hrsg. von Julius Binder (Greiz i.V.: 1923), pp.105-127.
 12. Cassirer, Ernst, *Zur Logik der Kulturwissenschaften* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1961). 中譯本：卡西爾著、關子尹譯，《人文科學的邏輯》(上海：上海譯文出版社，2004) 重訂及增補註解本。
 13. Caton, Steven C., “Contributions of Roman Jakobson”, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 16. (1987), PP.223-260.
 14. Chomsky, Noam, *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*. Ch. 1 (The Hague: Mouton, 1967).
 15. Chomsky, Noam, *Language and Mind, Enlarged Edition* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., 1972).
 16. Christin, Anne-Marie (ed.), *A History of Writing: From Hieroglyph to Multimedia*. [translated from the french by Josephine Bacon, Deke Dusinbere, and Ian McMorran] (Paris : Flammarion, 2002).
 17. Coseriu, Eugenio & Horst Geckeler, *Trends in Structural Semantics* (Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 1981).
 18. Coseriu, Eugenio, *Einführung in die Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft* (Tübingen: Francke Verlag, 1988).
 19. Daniels, Peter T. and Bright, William (eds.), *The World's Writing Systems* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).
 20. Derrida, Jacques, *Of Grammatology*, (trans.) Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976).
 21. Eco, Umberto, *A Theory of Semiotics* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1976).
 22. Eco, Umberto, “The Influence of Roman Jakobson on the Development of Semiotics”, in: *Classics of Semiotics*, ed. by M. Krampen *et al.* (New York: Plenum, 1981), pp. 109-127.
 23. Firth, J.R., *The Tongues of Men & Speech* (London: OUP, 1966).
 24. Fichte, J. G., “Von der Sprachfähigkeit und dem Ursprung der Sprache”, *Werke*, Band 3 (Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, 1966), pp. 92-127.
 25. Gabelentz, Georg von der, *Über Sprache und Schrifthum der Chinesen*. Separatabdruck aus *Unsere Zeit*, 1884. XI (Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus.)
 26. Gabelentz, Georg von der, *Chinesische Grammatik, mit Ausschluss des niederen Stiles und der heutigen Umgangssprache*. 4. unveränderte Auflage (Leipzig: Weigel, 1889/ Halle: Niemeyer, 1960.)
 27. Gadamer, Hans-Georg, *Truth and Method*. Third Part.
 28. Gelb, I. J., *A Study of Writing*, 2nd revised ed. (Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1963).
 29. Gipper, Helmut, *Bausteine zur Sprachinhaltsforschung: Neuere Sprachbetrachtung im Austausch mit Gesites- und Naturwissenschaft* (Düsseldorf: Pädagogischer Verlag, 1963). Of special interest is Chapter 3 on “Die Frage nach der Eignung einzelner Sprachen für logisches Denken in der Diskussion über das Chinesische”.
 30. Gipper, Helmut, *Wilhelm von Humboldts Bedeutung für Theorie und Praxis moderner Sprachforschung* (Münster: Nodus, 1992, 1994).
 31. Gottlieb, Nanette and Ping Chen, *Language Planning and Language Policy: East Asian*

- Perspectives* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 2001).
32. Hanfling, Oswald, *Philosophy of language* (Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1973)
 33. Harris, Roy, *Signs of Writing* (London: Routledge, 1995).
 34. Heidegger, Martin, *On the Way to Language* (New York: Harper & Row, 1982). German original: *Unterwegs zur Sprache* (Pfullingen: Neske, 1965).
 35. Herder, Johann Gottfried, *Abhandlung über den Ursprung der Sprache* (Stuttgart, Reclam)
 36. Hinton, Leanne, Johanna Nichols, and John J. Ohala (UC Berkeley), *Sound Symbolism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).
 37. Hjelmslev, Louis, *Language. An Introduction*. Transl. by Francis J. Whitfield (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1970).
 38. Holenstein, Elmar, *Roman Jakobson's Approach to Language* (Indiana U. Press, 1976).
 39. Holenstein, Elmar, *Menschliches Selbstverständnis* (Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 1985).
 40. Husserl, Edmund, *Logical Investigations*, (trans.) J.N. Findlay (London: Routledge, 1970).
 41. Jakobson, Roman and Morris Halle, *Fundamentals of Linguistics*. (New York: de Gruyter/Hawthorne: Mouton, 1971).
 42. Jakobson, Roman, *Child Language, Aphasia and Phonological Universals*. (English translation of: *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze*) (The Hague: Mouton, 1972).
 43. Jakobson, Roman, *Six Lectures on Sound and Meaning*. With a preface by Claude Lévi-Strauss translated from the French by John Mepham (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1978)
 44. Jakobson, Roman and Linda Waugh, *The Sound Shape of Language* (Brighton: Harvester, 1979).
 45. Jakobson, Roman, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Elmar Holenstein, *Das Erbe Hegels II*. (Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 1984).
 46. Katz, Jerrold J., *The Metaphysics of Meaning* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990).
 47. Knobloch Johann (hrsg.), *Sprachwissenschaftliches Wörterbuch* (Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1965).
 48. Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors we Live by* (Chicago: U Ch. Press, 1980).
 49. Lakoff, George, "Cognitive Semantics", in: *Versus: Quarterni di Studi Semiotici*, 44/45, Bologna 1986, pp119-154.
 50. Lakoff, George, "Categories: An Essay in Cognitive Linguistics", in: *Linguistics in the Morning Calm*, edited by the Linguistic Society of Korea (Seoul: Hanshin Publishing Company, 1982), pp.139-193.
 51. Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson, *Philosophy in the Flesh: the Embodied Mind and its Challenge to Western Thought* (New York: Basic Books, 1999).
 52. Lee, Thomas Hun-tak, "The Bridging of Linguistic Traditions: A Review of 中國語言學的新拓展 Recent Advances in Chinese Linguistics." In: *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, Vol. 28, nr. 1, Berkeley, 2000, pp. 116-162.
 53. Leibniz, G.W.F., *Unvorgreifliche Gedanken, betreffend die Ausübung und Verbesserung der deutschen Sprache* (Zwei Aufsätze) (Stuttgart: Reclam, 1983).
 54. Lyons, John, *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics* (London: Cambridge U.P., 1968).
 55. Lyons, John, "Structural Semantics in Retrospect", T.E. Hope (ed.), *Language, Meaning and Style. Essays in Memory of Stephen Ullmann* (Leeds: Leeds University Press, 1981).
 56. Martinet, André, *Elements of General Linguistics*. (Transl.) E. Palmer (London: Farber and Farber, 1964).
 57. Miller, Robert, *The Linguistic Relativity Principle and Humboldtian Ethno-linguistics*. A

- History and Appraisal* (The Hague: Mouton, 1968).
58. Patočka, Jan, “A Review of Holecstein's *Roman Jakobson's Approach to Language*”, in: *Texte, Dokumente, Bibliographie*, hrsg. Von Ludger Hagedorn und Hans-Rainer Sepp (Freiburg/München: Alber, 1999), pp. 409-418.
 59. Peyraube, Alain, “Westernization of Chinese Grammar in the 20th Century: Myth or Reality”, in: *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, Vol. 28, no. 1, 2000, UC Berkeley, pp. 1-25.
 60. Plato: *Cratylus, Phaedrus*.
 61. Pulleyblank, Edwin G., “Morphology in Old Chinese”, in: *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, Vol. 28, no. 1, January 2000, UC Berkeley, pp. 26-39.
 62. Ramischwili, Guram, *Einheit in der Vielheit. Grundfragen der Sprachtheorie im Geiste Wilhelm von Humboldts*. Geleitwort: Johannes Knobloch (Bonn: Dümmler, 1988/89).
 63. Rousseau, Jean and Denis Thouard, *Lettre édifiantes et curieuses sur la langue chinoise. Un débat philosophico-grammatical entre Wilhelm von Humboldt et Jean-Pierre Abel-Rémusat (1821-1831)*; avec une correspondance inédite de Humboldt présentée par Jean Rousseau (Paris : Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 1999).
 64. Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, *Essai sur l'origine des langues* (tran.) *Essay on the origin of languages*, in: John H. Moran and Alexander Gode (eds.) *On the Origin of Language* (Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 1986).
 65. Sapir, Edward, *Language. An Introduction to the Study of Speech* (London: Hart, 1971).
 66. Schopenhauer, Arthur, “On Language and Words,” in: *Parerga und Paralipomena II*, Chapter 25.
 67. Scurla, Herbert, *Wilhelm von Humboldt. Werden und Wirken* (Berlin: Verlag der Nation, 1970).
 68. Stammerjohann, Harro (ed.), *Lexicon grammaticorum: Who's Who in the History of World Linguistics* (Tübingen : Niemeyer, 1996).
 69. Thibault, Paul J., *Re-reading Saussure. The Dynamics of Signs in Social Life* (London and New York: Routledge, 1997).
 70. Trabant, Jürgen, *Tradition Humboldts* (Stuttgart: Suhrkamp, 1989).
 71. Trubetzkoy, N.S., *Principles of Phonology*, transl. by Christine A.M. Baltaxe (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969).
 72. Ullmann, Stephen, (1951), *The Principles of Semantics* (Glasgow: Jackson, 1963).
 73. Ullmann, Stephen, (1963), *Semantics; an Introduction to the Science of Meaning* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1967).
 74. Wang, William S-Y., *Explorations in Language* (Seattle/Taipei: Pyramid Press, 1991).
 75. Weisgerber, Leo, *Das Menschheitsgesetz der Sprache als Grundlegung der Sprachwissenschaft* (Heidelberg: Quelle & Meyer, 1964).
 76. Weisgerber, Leo and Hans Glinz, *Ehrengabe zum Germanistentag: Mannheim 1962* (Düsseldorf: Pädagogischer Verlag Schwann, 1962).
 77. Whorf, Benjamin Lee, *Language, Thought, and Reality* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1956/1966).
 78. Wierzbicka, Anna, “Leibnizian linguistics”, *Perspectives on Semantics, Pragmatics, and Discourse : a Festschrift for Ferenc Kiefer*, edited by István Kenesei, Robert M. Harnish (Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2001), pp. 229-256.
 79. 許慎: 《說文解字》。段玉裁注。
 80. 胡樸安: 《從文字學上考見中國古代之聲韻與言語》。(香港: 龍門書店, 1969)。
 81. 黃侃: 《文字聲韻訓詁筆記》。(台北: 木鐸出版社, 1983)。
 82. 黃永武: 《形聲多兼會意考》。(台北: 文史哲出版社, 1984)。
 83. 岑麟祥: 《語言學學習與研究》。(中州書畫社)。

84. 張世祿:《張世祿語言學論文集》。(上海:學林出版社,1984)。
85. 裘錫圭:《文字學概要》。(北京:商務,1988,2002)。
86. 王士元:《實驗語音學講座》,《語言學論叢》第十一輯,(北京:商務,1983)。
87. 孫雍長:《轉注論》。(長沙:岳麓書社,1991)。
88. 姚小平:《洪堡特一人文研究和語言研究》。(北京:外語教育研究出版社,1995)。
89. Kwan, Tze-wan, "The doctrine of Categories and the topology of concern: Prolegomena to an ontology of culture", guest lecture in the 1989 Mini-course lecture series, delivered at the Psychology Department, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Published in: *Annalecta Husserliana* Vol. 46, *Logic of the Living Presence: An oriental-occidental confrontation in phenomenology*. (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1995), pp. 243-302.
90. Kwan, Tze-wan, "Wilhelm von Humboldt on the Chinese Language. Interpretation and Reconstruction", originally presented on 23 June 1999 as a guest lecture at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zürich, Switzerland, published in: *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, Vol. 29, no. 2, UC Berkeley, 2001, pp. 169-242.
91. Kwan, Tze-wan, "Towards a Phenomenology of Pronouns". Paper presented at the International conference "Identity & Alterity: Phenomenology & Cultural Traditions", held 24-28 May 2004, in Hong Kong. Again presented at University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland on 17 October 2005, and at Husserl Archief, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, on 26 October 2005. Now published in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (London: Routledge, June 2007), pp. 247-268.
92. Kwan, Tze-wan, "Wilhelm von Humboldt als deutscher Idealist: Ein philosophiegeschichtliches Plädoyer", *Die Realität der Idealisten*, (ed.) Hans Feger and Hans Richard Brittnacher (Köln, Weimar, Wien: Bohlau-Verlag, 2008), pp. 95-112.
93. Kwan, Tze-wan, "Abstract Concept Formation in Archaic Chinese Script Forms: Some Humboldtian Perspectives", *Philosophy East & West*, Vol. 61, no. 3 (July 2011), pp. 409-452.
94. Kwan, Tze-wan, "Phenomenological Interpretation of the 'Six Ways' of Chinese Script Formation", presented at the "DFG Graduiertenkolleg 1458 - Schriftbildlichkeit, 24-25 September 2010 at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Now in: *Visualizing Knowledge in Signs: Encoding Meanings in Logographic and Logophonetic Writing Systems*, Vol. 23, *Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient* (BBVO), (Berlin: Pe-We-Verlag, 2014), pp. 157-202.
95. Kwan, Tze-wan, „Die vierfache Wurzel des Gedankens von ‚sein‘ in der chinesischen Sprache und Schrift“, presented as invited lecture at the colloquium "Sprachen des Denkens - Denken in Sprachen", XXIII. Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie, 28 September - 2 October, in Münster, Germany.
96. Kwan, Tze-wan, "On the Fourfold Root of the Notion 'Being' in Chinese Language and Script", paper to be presented at the conference "Modes of Reasoning - East and West", organized by the University of Bonn under the auspices of the Germany-Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme, 10-12 July 2015, in Bonn, Germany
97. 關子尹:〈洪堡特《人類語言結構》中的意義理論—語音與意義建構〉,參見:《分析哲學與語言哲學論文集》,pp. 45-81。(香港:新亞書院,1993)。
98. 關子尹:〈從洪堡特語言哲學看漢語和漢字問題〉,收錄於「第二屆國際東西哲學比較研討會」論集中。台北:新文豐出版社,1994。
99. 關子尹:《從哲學的觀點看》。(台北:東大圖書公司,1994)。
100. 關子尹:〈語言系統的結構、功能與成長〉,見:《系統視野與宇宙人生》。陳天機、許倬雲、關子尹主編。(香港:商務印書館,1999,2002),pp. 95-120。

101. 關子尹:〈萊布尼茲與現代德語之滄桑—兼論「語文作育」與民族語言命運問題〉,刊於《同濟大學學報·人文、社會科學版》,Vol. 16, No. 1 (53), (上海:同濟大學出版社, 2005.2), pp. 1-11。
102. 關子尹:〈西方哲學東漸下有關語言的一些重要議題〉[Language related Issues amidst the Influx of Western Philosophy into China],《中山大學學報》社會科學版,廣州(2009年5月)第3期,頁118-127。 *Journal of Sun Yat-Sen University, Social Science Edition, Guangzhou*, (2009.5.15) pp. 118-127. 『西方哲學東漸下有關語言的議題』, selected and abridged for inclusion in the *Chinese Social Science Digest* 《中國社會科學文摘》, Vol. 9, issue 9 (總69期), published by the Social Sciences in China Press (中國社會科學雜誌社) under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (中國社會科學院), 2009.09.01, pp. 53-55.
103. 關子尹:〈從語詞場域理論看哲學經典的漢語翻譯問題〉[Lexical Field Theory and the Chinese Translation of Philosophical Classics].《現象學與當代哲學》第二期 (*Journal of Phenomenology & Contemporary Philosophy*), Vol. 2, Taipei, 2008.12, pp. 131-168.
104. 關子尹:〈寓抽象於具體—漢語古文字中的哲學工夫〉[From the Concrete to the Abstract: Philosophical Thoughts in Archaic Chinese Script Forms],《語默無常—尋找定向中的哲學反思》,新訂增補重校二版。北京:北京大學出版社,2009.12 (Beijing: Peking University Press, 2009.12), pp. 175-221。
105. 關子尹:〈洪堡特高等教育模式的當代反思〉(Contemporary Reflections on the Humboldtian Model of Higher Education),《明報月刊》2013年10月號 (Ming-Pao Monthly, October 2013) pp. 36-42。
106. 關子尹:〈洪堡特思想為「漢宋之爭」所帶來的啟示〉[What we can learn from Wilhelm von Humboldt—Some Reflections on the Controversy between the Han and Song Schools of Learning]. 鄭宗義、林月惠編:《全球與本土之間的哲學探索—劉述先先生八秩壽慶論文集》, (台北:學生書局,2014.6), pp. 767-777.
107. 關子尹:〈漢字六書學說的現象學詮釋〉,《漢學研究》33卷2期 (2015.7), pp. 49-102。

(Course website: <http://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~twkwan/Humboldt>)

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* This outline was last updated on 24 August 2015