

Department of Linguistics,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF BRAJ B. KACHRU**

Friday, November 18, 2016

Room 314A, Illini Union

8.30-9 a.m.        Coffee/Tea

9-10.30 a.m.     Professor Braj Kachru: The Scholar (Chair: Peter Lowenberg)

9.00 a.m.        S.N. Sidhar and Kamal Sridhar: *Professor Braj B. Kachru: Evolution of a Scholar*

Professor Braj Kachru's scholarly interests spanned a wide range of areas -- Indian English, World Englishes, Kashmiri language, literature, and culture, Indian linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Multilingualism, and Applied Linguistics -- in each of which he made original contributions. In addition, he was an inspiring organizer and institution builder, who made world-wide impact. His long, successful, and influential career holds many lessons for younger scholars. In this talk, I will try to trace the trajectory of his intellectual evolution, the influences and challenges, and the qualities that made him such a respected scholar and leader of the profession.

9.30 a.m.        Salikoko Mufwene: *The Significance of Braj B. Kachru's World Englishes and Culture Wars*

*World Englishes and Culture Wars*, Braj B. Kachru's posthumous book (CUP, 2017), is as much about the differential evolution of English around the world as it is about inequities in claims of ownership of the language and in displays of power and authority over it. These perspectives enrich the Kachruvian opposition between the Inner, Outer, and Expanding Circles and raise the issue of economic benefits to the Inner Circle. While very scholarly, the book is also a kind of political manifesto, which implicitly invites users of English in the Outer Circle to stand up not only for the legitimacy of their English varieties but also for a share of the market in the production of English-teaching materials. The concept of INDIGENIZATION remains central, raising the issue of whether the process is the exclusive peculiarity of the Outer and Expanding Circles or applies also to the Inner Circle, especially outside England. The book could not have a more apt title.

10 a.m.         Daniel Davis: *The impact of Braj Kachru's research on the history of the English language.*

By introducing the concept of world Englishes as well as the Three Circles Model, Braj Kachru transformed the modern understanding of the geographical and sociolinguistic extent of the English language. However, Kachru's use of the word *spread* lends his work an aspect that is explicitly historical, though often under-recognized. This paper examines Kachru's historical writings, and traces the influence of his ideas on the way that histories of the English languages are told in standard textbooks and other venues. Kachru's work requires a re-evaluation of the boundaries of English but also of the beliefs and ideologies shaping these historical accounts.

10.30 -11 A.M.: COFFEE BREAK

11-12.00 p.m. Contact Linguistics (Chair: Margie Berns)

11 a.m. Hans Henrich Hock: *English in South Asia: Lessons and parallels*

Braj B. Kachru's work on South Asian English (e.g. 1983), part of his larger research framework of "World Englishes" (1986), is recognized as a significant contribution to linguistics, especially contact linguistics. In 1979, he also dealt with the "Englishization of Hindi", an issue more fully pursued by Yamuna Kachru (e.g. 1989). A first discussion of the significance of the two-way interaction between English and South Asian languages for contact linguistics was presented in Hock 2015. This paper further explores these implications: for Language contact in general, the prehistoric "Indianization" of Sanskrit, and Sanskrit as pan-Indian link language under the Guptas.

11.30 a.m. Rajeshwari Pandharipande: *Bilingual Creativity: An argument for paradigm shift*

Kachru's research on the non-native varieties of English, introduced the concept, "bilingual creativity," to mark the features and the underlying processes as "innovations" which systematically differentiate bilingual's language from monolingual's. By attributing the difference in speech patterns to the difference in the interaction of speakers within monolingual and bilingual speech communities, their conventions of grammar and thought patterns, Kachru challenged the adequacy of the paradigm of monolingual speech and argued for the need for a different paradigm for bilingual speech informed by the above facts. The paper examines this concept in Kachru's research and its impact on the paradigm shift in the research on bilingual's language.

12 -2 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

2-3.30 p.m. Tributes and Panel Discussion (Chair: Marina Terkourafi)

Tributes:

Nkonko Kamwangamalu

Peter Lowenberg

Jamie Lee

Panel: Impact of Professor Braj B. Kachru (Round-Table):

Margie Berns

Anjali Pandey

Suzanne Hilgendorf

Marina Terkourafi (Discussant)

Anita Pandey

3.30 -4 p.m. COFFEE BREAK

4-5.30 P.M. Sociolinguistics/Indian Linguistics (Chair: Eyamba Bokamba)

4-4.30 p.m. Tamara Valentine: *The Functional and Pragmatic Contexts of World Englishes*

Drawing on the concepts of the “context of situation” of J. R. Firth, and the Hallidayan meaning of “linguistic performance,” the early works of Braj Kachru presented a sociologically-oriented linguistic model to the study of Indian English. Giving *Indianness* “functional relevance and formal ‘manifestation’,” Kachru laid the foundation for contextualizing world Englishes within a sociolinguistic framework. This paper revisits the early cultural wars of language, and Kachru’s pragmatic efforts to explain language variation in the multilingual, multicultural contexts of English around the world. This paper examines the research, studies and insights of scholars who have contributed to furthering the functional and pragmatic contexts in which World Englishes are used.

4.30-5 p.m. Tej Bhatia: *Professor Braj Kachru’s contribution to Hindi Linguistics and Language Variation Textbooks*

In this paper, I will focus on Professor Kachru’s contributions to Hindi textbooks on (Hindi) linguistics and research on Hindi language variation. Based on his review articles and book reviews, I will attempt to underscore the lessons learned for Hindi scholarship. His in-depth reviews of the published then-contemporary works on general linguistics and language variation, written in Hindi, sounded an alarm on the sorry state of Hindi scholarship in these two fields and called for Hindi scholars to re-examine their conceptual and analytical frameworks. Often overlooked, his works opened new venues and challenges for teaching linguistics and language variation through the medium of Hindi in Indian universities.

5-5.30 p.m. Rakesh M. Bhatt: *Kachru, the Firthian: Three generations and beyond*

The key to understanding Kachruvian linguistic tradition is to follow his mentor’s mentor: J.R. Firth. Building on the Firthian tradition, *Socially Realistic Linguistics (SRL)*, and following his teacher, M.A.K. Halliday, Kachru approached linguistic descriptions of Kashmiri emphasizing the role of “context” in capturing the various complexes of nuances of meaning that different forms encode in servicing the societal functions. I will present some of his signature works on Kashmiri that show the contributions of *SRL* to the field of Indian/Kashmiri Linguistics.