

What does

WRITING

mean for
language?

「言語にとって

文字

とは何か」

Florian Coulmas

2018.11.10. (Sat) 14:00-17:00

Sophia University

Central Library 9F, Room L921

上智大学中央図書館9階L921教室

Tomasz
Wicherkiewicz

文字は単に音声言語を書きあらわすものではない。日本研究および社会言語学の泰斗で『文字の言語学：現代文字論入門』などの著作でも知られる**クルマス教授**と、ヨーロッパの少数言語復興、多言語主義政策に深く関わってきた気鋭の言語学者**ヴィヘルケヴィチ教授**と共に、書くことの意味、また文字の違いが持つ言語文化的、社会政治的意味を根本から捉え直す。

Programme

14:00-14:10 開会

Florian Coulmas

14:10-15:00 (デュースブルク・エッセン大学(ドイツ) / 上智大学客員招聘教授)

“Revisiting ‘The tyranny of writing’”

「文字の横暴(ソシユール)を問い直す」

Tomasz Wicherkiewicz

15:00-15:50 (アダム・ミツェヴィッチ大学(ポーランド) / 北海道大学スラブ・ユーラシア研究センター客員研究員)

“Writing and script in identity engineering”

「書くことと文字によるアイデンティティ獲得」

16:00-16:15 コメント 荒井幸康(北海道大学スラブ・ユーラシア研究センター共同研究員)

16:15-17:00 質疑・議論

問い合わせ先:

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Free/No reservation required

入場無料/事前申し込み不要

Language: English & Japanese

使用言語: 講演: 英語、コメント: 日本語、質疑応答: 両言語



Sophia Open Research Weeks 2018

11/9 fri. — 23 fri. Sophia University's Yotsuya Campus



Summary 要旨

Florian Coulmas

“Revisiting ‘The tyranny of writing’ ”

The study of language, as the study of any subject, is dependent on writing because the scientific enterprise is. The scientific world view assumes that the things and events that constitute the universe are understandable. Another fundamental assumption is that knowledge accumulates and progresses, that is, that we know more now than people knew in Aristotle’s time. In the absence of writing people are not ignorant, but for science as we understand it, writing is indispensable. It enables scientific insights to be given permanence, separating message from messenger, text from author, judgement from judge, sentence from speaker. And it allows us to critically assess, take issue with, and build on the knowledge of our forebears. This paper discusses the question of what writing means for the study of language, taking as its point of departure Ferdinand de Saussure’s critique of spelling conventions and its consequences for the evolution of modern linguistics. As in other scientific disciplines, in linguistics, too, writing is a major tool. However, what distinguishes the role of writing in linguistics from other fields of scholarship is that it relates to the object of investigation in complex ways concerning both the scientific analysis of language and the social conditions of its use. In literate society it is imperative to understand what the “tyranny of writing” meant for the study of language when Saussure first used this term a century ago, and what it means today.

Tomasz Wicherkiewicz

“Writing and script in identity engineering”

Writing systems, script, orthographies, their choices, developments, and reforms affect the users’ communities in multiple ways. They can and often do start and/or result in power play and evident (because most visible) dominance of language(s) over other language(s). Wherever peoples are under the political influence of others, the more powerful polity usually imposes (“top-down”) its scriptal principles (script, writing system, orthography, spelling, font, letters, etc.). On the other hand, many communities try to construct, strengthen or transform their identity through a “bottom-up” scriptal planning programs and activities. Both directions aim at achieving their goals through identity engineering and by what in some instances of language planning is labeled “language engineering”. Those aspects of language dominance and identity engineering have long attracted my attention as sociolinguist (also within the paradigms of historical sociolinguistics), minority policy expert and observer of language endangerment, maintenance and revitalization instances. In the proposed presentation I would like to refer to pragmatics and study of language and identity engineering, followed and exemplified by some case studies from the sociolinguistic history and the present language constellation(s) in Central-Eastern Europe.