Present

Language Choice and Accommodation Strategies of Filipino Women Married to Malays, Malaysian Chinese and Malaysian Indians

By

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ABOUT THE LECTURE:

Language choice has become a common phenomenon in mixed marriages where speakers face with the challenge of choosing an appropriate language in various domains of communication. In multilingual and multiracial societies, language choice can sometimes be crucial because of its social, political, and economic impact on speakers and listeners. Even in the smallest unit of a society - the family - language choice and accommodation strategy play an important role in the interactions of couples who come from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. This is evident among Filipino women married to Malays, Malaysian Chinese and Malaysian Indians. In this talk, I examine the occurrence of language choice, accommodation strategies, and code switching patterns in verbal communication in the home domain. The preference of English among Filipino women is prevalent although none of them regarded English as their first language. Filipino becomes the secondary linguistic preference evidenced through the use of code switching. On the other hand, accommodation strategies such as approximation, interpretability, discourse management and interpersonal control accommodation strategies also occurs in many interactions and Filipino women use such strategies to accommodate their Malaysian partners.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Francisco Perlas Dumanig is currently teaching undergrad Filipino courses and research methodology and the psychology of language learning at the graduate level. He conducted training workshops on qualitative research, professional business writing and cross-cultural communication in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His latest publications include Conversion narratives and construction of identity among Christians in Malaysia (Multilingua), Attribution resulting in miscommunication between Malaysian employers and Filipino domestic helpers. Malaysian-Filipino couples and language choice: International language or heritage language? In D. Mukerjee and M.K. David (eds). He has published and presented a number of research articles in the Philippines, U.S.A, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. His research interests are in language teaching, cross-cultural communication, world Englishes, and discourse analysis.

February 12, 2013, Tuesday
12:00–1:30 p.m. – Moore Hall 155A
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