

From yesterday's Financial Times

In an article about a senior management reshuffle in which Sallie Krawcheck replaced Todd Thomson as head of Smith Barney:

“... Ms Krawcheck is one of the most brilliant women in American industry ...”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Comments on Eckert & McConnell-Ginet welcome. We're working on the second edition and could really use your input.
- Assignments not picked up in class will be in the box outside PE's office.
- Questions about the readings?

Bombay Eunuch part two

- What do you get in a single time slice?
- What are the possible consequences of studying/filming people?

Assignment examples

- Salads
- ...

Indexical inversion

- Did Japanese women's language issue from a pre-existing "good wife and wise mother"?
- Or were the two co-constructed in the interest of modernity?

INOUE, MIYAKO. 2002. Gender, language and modernity: Toward an effective history of "Japanese women's language". *American Ethnologist*, 29.392-422.

Japanese women's language

- How did “coarse” schoolgirl speech become refined women's language?
- The relation between the binary and Japanese modernity
- Language standardization and modernity
- Magazines and imagined communities

INOUE, MIYAKO. 2006. *Vicarious language: The political economy of gender and speech in Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Social construction

- The history of Japanese women's language is a perfect example of the social construction of meaning.
- The pre-modern origins of this variety, and the linear modern “de-feminization” of Japanese women, is taken for granted. (Much in the way it's generally taken for granted that same-sex desire is on a linear path of acceptance.)

Face and the social construction of meaning

- Social constructionism (from last week): knowledge is derived and maintained in social interaction.
- People who interact over time develop shared understandings and practices which take on the status of common sense. **What is common sense?**
- How does Erving Goffman's treatment of face relate to this?

GOFFMAN, ERVING. 1967. On face work. *Interaction Ritual*, 5-45. New York: Doubleday.

Ways of speaking emerge in the same way

- Pronunciation (e.g. how do we pick up new pronunciations?)
- Morphology and syntax (when do we say “it just ain’t so”)
- Word meanings (*hooking up* to me simply means ‘meeting’)
- Presuppositions (example in class - saying something at the dinner table that assumes everyone is pro-choice)
- Turns of phrase (Whatever...)
- What constitutes appropriate small talk?