Translingual practices and a spatial perspective to lingua franca

Ou Wanyu Amy

PhD Candidate, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Visiting researcher, Lund University

In this presentation I will report part of the findings of my PhD thesis project on the language ecology of internationalized universities in China. It focuses on the discrepancy between multilingual students’ diversified and flexible translingual practices and the policing language policy of the investigated university. To better understand the multilingual (translingual) realities today, I adopt a spatial orientation towards language and communication, drawing upon recent post-structuralist and post-humanist sociolinguistic theories (e.g., Canagarajah, 2018; Pennycook, 2018). A multimodal discourse analytical approach informed by Busch (2012) is used to offer an in-depth reading of individuals’ experience of language use and beliefs about language. Illustrated with two cases of multilingual students with different linguistic and sociocultural backgrounds, the findings suggest that local translingual practices are emergent and assembled linguistic repertoires in relation to the sociolinguistic spaces where the languages and language policy are situated. Findings of this study lead to a discussion on the nature of *lingua franca* in today’s internationalized university contexts. It is suggested that *lingua franca* of an internationalized university should not be any pre-given named language but instead a product of social spaces where various linguistic and non-linguistic resources, objects, tasks and space interact.

References

