

»Impure Languages«

Linguistic and Literary Hybridity in Contemporary Cultures

Interdisciplinary colloquium at the **University of Hamburg** (Germany) in cooperation with **The University of Delhi** (India) and **Jawaharlal Nehru University** (New Delhi/India)

October 3 and 4, 2008

Missionsakademie der Universität Hamburg
Rupertistr. 67
22609 Hamburg

http://www.missionsakademie.de/Texte/AB_dt_e.pdf

Hybridity has become a leading concept in cultural studies in the last 20 years. Originating in biology – highly problematic theories on “racial contacts” in the 19th century – the term features the basic denotation of a “mixture” or “melting” of non-identical entities that often carry different, especially hierarchically structured, cultural values. Hybridity is here associated with “impurity” as well as with the notion of a “contamination” of a (hegemonic) culture.

In poststructuralist and post-colonial theories these negative connotations have been fundamentally reversed. Hybridity has been turned into a provocative and productive concept of “différance” that establishes the category of the “third” – a plural and often contradictory form of “identity” that transcends the mere synthesis of two antagonistic parts.

The concept of hybridity functions as a central figure in intercultural discourses and analysis alike, in so far as it allows colonized, socially marginalized or politically suppressed subjects to create linguistic codes and cultural meaning beyond the logics of antagonistic power representation and to turn them into something to be adopted as a new project identity.

In the context of the symposium, the concept may be used as a working term to analyse processes of creation and performative usages of hybrid languages in contemporary cultures, especially in urban orality and in (post-)modern literatures. A central focus will be given to the creative and innovative potential of those “impure languages” and their irritating cultural performances.

Concept and organisation:

Prof. Dr. Claudia Benthien (Institut für Germanistik II); Prof. Dr. Marc Föcking (Institut für Romanistik); Prof. Dr. Roland Kießling (Afrika-Asien-Institut), Prof. Dr. Tatiana Oranskaia (Afrika-Asien-Institut)

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Rathaus Hamburg / Hamburg City Hall

5.30-6.30 PM

Welcome reception for the workshop participants

Lounge of the Hamburg city hall hosted by the Head of the Science Committee

7:00 PM

Dinner of the participants and officials

Restaurant "Parlament", city hall cellar

Friday, October 3, 2008

Missionsakademie Hamburg

9.30-10.00 AM

Welcoming remarks; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

Introduction to the concept of the workshop by the Hamburg scholars

Hybrid Concepts of Language and Culture – Opening Session

10.00-10.45 AM

PROF. DR. ANIL BHATTI (Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies):

Heterogeneity, Homogeneity. On Diversity and Purity in Language and Culture

Coffee/Tea

11.15-12.00 AM

PROF. DR. ANGELIKA REDDER (Universität Hamburg, Institut für Germanistik I):

Hybrid or Intercultural Academic Discourse – A Phenomenological Analysis from the Perspective of Linguistics

12.00-12.45 AM

PROF. SHRISHAIL SASALATTI, PHD (Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies):

Conceptualising a Cross Cultural Communicative Competence Based on a Call for a Shift from 'Hybrid-Codes' to 'High-Breed Codes' in a Multilingual Discourse

Lunch

Literary Hybridity on a Horizontal Scale: Blending/Clashing Cultural Traditions

2.30-3.15 PM

PROF. SHASWATI MAZUMDAR, PHD (Delhi University, Department of Germanic and Romance Studies):

Language of the 21st century? The poetics and politics of 'transcultural' writing

3.15-4.00 PM

PROF. SHORMISHTHA PANJA, PHD (Delhi University, Department of English):
Cultural Hybridity in Indian English Literature

Coffee/Tea

Selected Case Studies on Linguistic 'Impurity'

4.30-5.15 PM

PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH GABRIEL (Universität Hamburg, Institut für Romanistik):
Hybridity in Prosodic Systems? The Case of Porteño Spanish

5.15-7.00 PM

PROF. DR. ROLAND KIESSLING (Universität Hamburg, Afrika-Asien-Institut):
Hybridity of Juvenile Discourse in Africa
SHIRIN AGHA-MOHAMAD-BEIGUI, M.A. (research group Prof. Kießling, Universität Hamburg,
Afrika-Asien-Institut):
Sheng – The Making of an In-Group Code in Nairobi (Kenya)

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Missionsakademie Hamburg

Hindi-English Hybridity in Language

10:00-10.45 AM

PROF. RAMA KANT AGNIHOTRI, PHD (Delhi University, Department of Linguistics) [co-author
Kay McCormick (University of Cape Town)]:
Signage: Language in the Material World

10.45.-11.30 AM

PROF. DR. TATIANA ORANSKAIA (Universität Hamburg, Asien-Afrika-Institut):
Hybridity and Incest: English and Sanskrit in Hindi Grammar

Short sight seeing walking excursion to the Elbe river

Lunch

Literary Hybridity on a Vertical Scale: Clashing 'High' and 'Low' Cultures

2.00-2.45 PM

PROF. DR. MARC FÖCKING (Universität Hamburg, Institut für Romanistik):
Hybridity and the Italian Detective Novel

2.45-3.30 PM

PROF. DR. CLAUDIA BENTHIEN (Universität Hamburg, Institut für Germanistik II):

The Linguistic Contamination of 'High Culture': Aesthetic Hybridity and Gender Discourses in Contemporary German Literature (Jelinek, Beyer, Zaimoglu, Meinecke)

Coffee/Tea

'Impurity' as a Chance – Hybrid Cultural Identities

4.00-4.45 PM

PROF. PRAMOD PANDEY, PHD (Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies):

Impurity and Hybridity Are Ingrained in Linguistic Capacity

4.45-5.30 PM

DR. RAM PRASAD BHATT (Universität Hamburg, Afrika-Asien-Institut):

Cultural Hybridity among Dam Displaced Garhwalis: A Case Study of Tehri Dam

5.30-6.30 PM

Concluding discussion and perspectives for a future cooperation