



## ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

Seminar Leader: **Lucia Lin**

House Leader: **Risa Enomoto**

### Course Description

How has the spread of English affected the world? This seminar will introduce the significance of major and minor languages on cultural diversity and discuss the role of English as a potential global language. By the end of the seminar, students will have developed their personal opinions on the impact of English on culture and society, especially in Japan. To do this, students will explore the various definitions of a language, learn about the vast number of minor and endangered languages in this world, analyze the pros and cons of a global language, and apply their own experience of studying English to the growing presence of English in the world.

### Schedule

**Day 1:** *Languages and Dialects - Defining a Language*

How does one tell the difference between a language and a dialect? To begin we will discuss different views on what elements are necessary for a dialect to be considered a language, and examine arguments against each of these views. We will also introduce the different ways dialects are established, and how expression of a language changes due to certain activities and the identity of its speakers.

**Day 2:** *Defending Minorities - Endangered Languages and Language Death*

This class will teach the significance of languages to the preservation of cultural diversity. We will learn about how language shifts can occur in immigrant communities throughout several generations. We will also study examples of endangered languages and the factors that lead to language death, as well as the various types of projects aimed at save these dying languages.

**Day 3:** *Developing a Global Language - Why English?*

Now that we have introduced minority languages, we will learn about the idea of a growing global language that is used throughout the world. Students will explore the advantages and disadvantages involved in the development of a global language, and more specifically, why English is a major candidate. They will then form and discuss their own opinions on the spread of English throughout the world, and in Japan specifically.

**Day 4:** *English and Me - Final Presentations*

Students will be asked to present to the class a specific example in which they see the impact of the spread of English in Japanese society. In presentation, students will introduce the methods in which English is used in Japan, and will analyze the



effectiveness of these methods. Students should be able to use their newly-learned knowledge of minority and global languages to then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each example.

## Final Exercise

Students will select, analyze and present to the class an example in which the spread of English is having an impact on Japanese society. Some possible examples include: American international schools in Japan; English usage as an official language in Japanese companies; the growing use of English loan-words in Japanese.

## Pre-Seminar Readings and Assignments

- Crystal, David. *English as a Global Language*. pp. 1-6, 11-20  
<http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam041/2003282119.pdf>
- Research topic for final exercise

## Message from the House Leader

Hello everyone! My name is Risa and I'm a junior at Waseda University. I study Political Science as my major. I'm studying abroad in New York right now for a year and will be back in Japan this summer. If you want to know about university life in Japan or study abroad, feel free to ask me any questions. I also like badminton, as well as cooking, watching movies and travelling. It's my first time studying about linguistics, so I'm excited to learn new things together with you. I can't wait to see you all in Komatsu Summer School. Nice to meet you!

## Message from the Seminar Leader

Hi! I'm Lucia, a 19 year-old going into my 3rd year at the University of Southern California. My major is East Asian Languages and Cultures (with an emphasis on Japanese), and I am also taking many science prerequisite courses for pre-optometry. Some of my hobbies include playing piano, taiko, and badminton. I was born in San Jose, California and I am fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese while studying hard to become fluent in Japanese! My love for languages has inspired me to focus my seminar on linguistics, which will hopefully be relatable to all of you, since many of you are either bilingual or studying English at school. I am incredibly excited to get to know you all, so FIGHT ON and I'll see you soon!