



Linguistic Society of the Philippines

invites you to a
Special Lecture
entitled

*Congo: Ideologies of Mixed
Race/Language in the
Philippines*

Dr. Angela Reyes
City University of New York

8th of January 2015
3:00 p.m.
Lecture Room A1703
Br. Andrew Hall
De La Salle University



Conyo: Ideologies of Mixed Race/Language in the Philippines

Angela Reyes

City University of New York

Abstract

In the Philippines, the term “conyo” can label both a kind of person and a kind of speech—an identifiable form of Taglish that is ideologically linked to a recognizable type of privileged mestiza/o youth in Manila. This paper traces the invention of conyo—as both a social figure and a linguistic register—across sites of explicit and implicit commentary, such as origin narratives, reported speech, and how-to tutorials. To examine this, I am interested in conyos not so much as “real people” but as “figures of personhood” (Agha 2005) taken up as objects of discourse to be discussed, derided, parodied, and so on. As such, I conceptualize the “listening subject” (Inoue 2006) as central to this imagining, and thus focus on “overhearers” (Rafael 1995) of conyos as opposed to “actual” conyos themselves. I consider how the conyo figure circulates in a wide range of mediatised sites, such as college publications, news articles, social media, feminist zines, television shows, and presidential campaign songs. I explore how the meanings and borders of conyo are managed not only through descriptions that rely on contrasting social figures, but also through “iconizations” (Gal and Irvine 1995) of linguistic forms—that is, likenesses that are created between speech characteristics and person characteristics. Specifically, I examine how iconizations of conyo “mixedness” and “excessiveness” are motivated by a range of listener anxieties about nation, modernity, class, language, and race. The question of conyo is ultimately a question of postcoloniality: how to be appropriately modern, how to be sufficiently loyal to the nation, and how to imagine a Filipino language and people that contends with past, present, and future anxieties surrounding the legacies of Spanish colonialism and American imperialism.

About the Lecturer

Angela Reyes (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 2003) is Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English at Hunter College, and Doctoral Faculty in Anthropology at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She works on theories of semiotics, discourse, stereotype, and racialization. Combining ethnographic fieldwork and discourse analysis, her research examines how racial and linguistic ideologies are formulated through spatiotemporal scales of communicative context. Her books include *Language, Identity, and Stereotype Among Southeast Asian American Youth: The Other Asian* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2007), *Beyond Yellow English: Toward a Linguistic Anthropology of Asian Pacific America* (co-edited with Adrienne Lo, Oxford University Press, 2009), and *Discourse Analysis Beyond the Speech Event* (co-authored with Stanton Wortham, Routledge, 2015). Her current research is on conceptions of mixed race/language in the Philippines.

PROGRAM

Invocation	Dr. Arwin M. Vibar LSP Board Member
Welcome Remarks	Dr. Rochelle Irene G. Lucas President Linguistic Society of the Philippines and Vice Dean Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC College of Education, De La Salle University
Introduction of the Speaker	Dr. Isabel P. Martin LSP Board Member
Lecture	<i>Conyo: Ideologies of Mixed Race/Language in the Philippines</i> Angela Reyes City University of New York
Open Forum	
Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation	
Closing Remarks	Dr. Shirley N. Dita Vice President Linguistic Society of the Philippines
	Mr. Michael S. Macugay Faculty Member, De La Salle University Master of Ceremonies