

Writing Systems of the World (06-090-199)
Th 8:10-11:10/Food Science Bldg. 109

Spring 2003

The course provides an overview of different types of writing system, emphasizing their linguistic properties, history, and mental processing.

Instructor: Prof. Young-mee Yu Cho (yucho@rci.rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Wed. 10:20-11:20 & by appointment

Office: Scott Hall 339 (932-5603)

Textbook: Sampson, Geoffrey (1985) *Writing Systems*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Thurs. 1/23 Introduction	Fromkin and Rodman: ch. 12 Sampson: 1 Introduction
1/30 Theoretical background	Fromkin and Rodman: ch. 6 Sampson: chapters 2
2/6 The earliest writing A syllabic system: Linear B	Sampson: chapters 3, 4
2/13 Consonantal Writing The Graeco-Roman alphabet	Sampson: chapters 5, 6
2/20 A featural system A logographic system	Sampson: chapters 7, 8
2/27 A mixed system English spelling	Sampson: chapters 9, 10
3/6 Midterm	
3/13 Practical problems	Coulmas: chapters 11, 12, 13
3/27 Typology of writing systems	
4/3 Neurological and psychological issues	
4/10 Neurological and psychological issues	
4/17 Creation and reform of writing systems	
4/24 Paper presentations	
5/1 Paper presentations	

Evaluation:

Quizzes: 20 % Midterm: 30 % Oral presentation and Final Paper (7 -10 pages): 30 %

Homework: 10 % Attendance and Class Participation: 10%

*** Final paper due by noon on May 8 (Thursday).**

Class Policy:

1.No make-up (or late homework) will be permitted. 2. With 3 or more absences, no grade will be given.

Reading List

- Chomsky, Carol (1970) "Reading, Writing, and Phonology," *Harvard Educational Review* 40. 287-310.
- Coulmas, Florian (1989) *The Writing Systems of the World*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Crook, Rena, Hinton, Leanne and Nancy Stenson (1976) "Literacy and Linguistics: The Havasupai Writing System," in James E. Redden (ed.) *Proceedings of the 1976 Hoka-Yuman Languages Workshop*. Carbondale, Ill: Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. University Museum Studies no. 11.
- Fromkin, Victoria and Robert Rodman (1998) *An Introduction to Language*. New York: Holt.
- International Phonetic Association (1949) *Principle of the International Phonetic Association*. London: Department of Phonetics, University College. 1-19.
- Klima, Edward (1972) "How Alphabets Might Reflect Language," in James F. Kavanagh & Ignatius G. Mattingly (eds.) *Language by Ear and by Eye*. Cambridge: MIT Press. pp. 57-80.
- Makita, Kiyoshi (1968) "The Rarity of Reading Disability in Japanese Children," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 38.4. 599-614.
- Park, Soja and Arbuckle, Tannis (1977) "Ideograms versus Alphabets: Effects of Scripts on Memory in 'Biscriptual' Korean Subjects." *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Learning and Memory*. 3. 631-42.
- Poser, William (1992) "The Structural Typology of Phonological Writing." Paper presented at the Berkeley Linguistics Society Meeting.
- Rozin, Paul, Susan Poritsky, & Raina Sotsky (1971) "American Children with Reading Problems Can Easily Learn to Read English Represented by Chinese Characters." *Science* 171. 1264-1267.
- Sasanuma, Sumiko & Osamu Fujimura (1971) "Selective Impairment of Phonetic and Nonphonetic Transcription of Words in Japanese Aphasic Patients: Kana vs. Kanji Recognition and Writing." *Cortex* 7. 1-18.
- Schmandt-Besserat, Denise (1986) "Tokens: Facts and Interpretation," *Visible Language* 20.3. 250-273.
- Steinberg, Danny and Jun Yamada (1978-79) "Are Whole Word Kanji Easier to Learn than Syllable Kana?" *Reading Research Quarterly* 14. 88-99.
- Stokoe, William, Casaterline, D. and Croneberg, C. (1965) *A Dictionary of American Sign Language on Linguistic Principles*. Silver Spring, MD: Linstok Press. pp. vii-xxi
- Tzeng, Ovid, Hung, Daisy, and Wang, William S.-Y. (1977) "Speech Recoding in Reading Chinese Characters." *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Learning and Memory* 3. 621-630.
- Walker, Willard (1974) "The Winnebago Syllabary and the Generative Model," *Anthropological Linguistics* 16.393-414.

References

- Coulmas, Florian (1999) *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Writing Systems*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- DeFrancis, John (1989) *Visible Speech: The Diverse Oneness of Writing Systems*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Daniels, Peter and William Bright (1996) *The World's Writing Systems*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Deuel, Leo (1965) *Testaments of Time: The Search for Lost Manuscripts and Records*. Baltimore: Penguin.
- Gelb, Ignace J. (1963) *A Study of Writing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Jensen, Hans (1969) *Sign, Symbol and Script*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
- Kim-Renaud, Young-Key (1997) *The Korean Alphabet: Its History and Structure*. Honolulu: of Hawaii Press.
- Ledyard, Gari (1998) *The Korean Language Reform of 1446*. Seoul: Singu Munhwasa. [Dissertation, UC, Berkeley, 1966]

Literary and Writing Systems in Asia (2000) Studies in the Linguistic Sciences.
30.1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.