Review for Unit One

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

*Essay on the Origins of Languages* (1761)

*The Social Contract* (1762)

“As the first motives that made man speak were the passions, his first expressions were Tropes. Figurative languages was the first to arise, proper meaning was found last. Things were not called by their true name until they were seen in their genuine form. At first, only poetry was spoken. Only long afterwards did anyone take it into his head to reason” (*Essay on the Origins of Languages*, 294).

 privileges spoken over written language
resists a purely “utilitarian” view of the origin of language; connects language with creativity and the emotions that arise from interpersonal relationships

Romanticism
noble savage
social contract

Wilhelm von Humboldt (1767-1835)

*On Language: On the Diversity of Human Language Construction and its Influence on the Mental Development of the Human Species* (1836)

“Language, regarded in its real nature, is an enduring thing, and at every moment a transitory one. Even its maintenance by writing is always just an incomplete, mummy-like preservation, only needed again in attempting thereby to picture the living utterance. In itself it is no product (*Ergon*), but an activity (*Energeia*). Its true definition can therefore only be a genetic one. For it is the ever-repeated mental labour of making the articulated sound capable of expressing thought. In a direct and strict sense, this is the definition of speech on any occasion; in its true and essential meaning, however, we can also regard, as it were, only the totality of this speaking as the language” (49).

studied a wide range of languages, including Polynesian languages; identifies methodological problems associated with the study of language, which is at once a concrete entity that might be approached with the methods of natural sciences and a living social phenomenon that demands qualitative and interpretive methods

philology
Malay-Polynesian (Austronesian) language group
colonialism
archival research

Adalbert von Chamisso (1781-1838)

*Hawaiian Grammar* (1837)

“The language of the Sandwich islands really appeared to us still more childish than the dialect of Tonga does in its grammar. We found in it only two pronouns, Wau for the first person, Hoe for the second, and only two adverbs to determine the time of the action, Mamure for the future, Mamoa for the past time“ (qtd. in Elbert and Pakui, *Hawaiian Grammar*, 1).

assumed that languages could be described in terms of their “complexity” or “sophistication” in relation to other languages
Colin Renfrew (1937- )  

linguistic archaeology: bases speculation about the origins of Indo-European languages on archaeological evidence, including ancient scripts

Proto-Indo-European  
derivation  
reconstructed root (example: *bhergh*)  
language families  
hieroglyphic/pictographic scripts  
syllabic scripts  
alphabetic scripts  
historical linguistics  
comparative linguistics  
protolanguage (*Ursprache*)  
protolexicon  
original homeland (*Urheimat*)  
*Hymns of the Rigveda*  
Aryans  
Sir William Jones (lecture in 1786)  
Biblical accounts of language diversity: Hamitic, Japhetic, Semitic

Edward Sapir (1884-1939)  
*Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech* (1921)

language drift  
linguistic determinism  
linguistic relativism  
Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

Benjamin Lee Whorf (1897-1941)  
“Science and Linguistics” (1940)

conducted field work in Hopi, Aztec, and Mayan languages

worldview  
Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

Lev Semonovich Vygotsky (1896-1834)  
*Thought and Language* (1934)

thought  
inner speech  
external speech  
motivation  
social constructivism  
child development  
pedagogy

Noenoe Silva  
translations from *Ke Aloha Aina* (1900)

recovering texts in original languages is part of a process of reinterpreting history; translation cannot always carry over the full implications of the original
Franz Boas (1858-1942)
The Mind of Primitive Man (1911)
Race, Language, and Culture (1940)

“the Father of American Anthropology”
separated race/ethnicity, culture, and language from any causal connection; emphasized empirical research (fieldwork) and careful ethnography

environmental determinism
social determinism
cultural evolution
cultural relativism
scientific racism
craniometry
salvage ethnography

Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1942)
Argonauts of the Western Pacific (1922)

studied Trobriand Islanders in 1915-1918; determined that cultural context is essential for understanding meaning in language

context of situation
language in flux
participant observation
triangulation
native informant
structure
function

grammar
noun
verb
pronoun
adjective
adverb
preposition
inflection
conjugation
case
prefix
suffix
infix
particle
syntax
lexicon
semantics
pragmatics