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African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS)

Linguistic Justice Workshop with Seunghyun Song

Tuesday, June 18, 2024: 11AM

11th Floor Boardroom, UJ on Empire | Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91579163088>

Structural Linguistic Injustice

Abstract

In this paper, I develop a concept of structural linguistic injustice. By doing so, I problematize certain attitudes we have towards specific languages, which we take to be normal and yet reproduce institutionally decried practices, such as suppression and denigration of minority languages. The paper proceeds as follows. In section 1, I explain how employing a structural injustice approach may broaden the scope of linguistic injustice field by identifying seemingly harmless social structures that nonetheless result in serious linguistic injustice at a collective level. In section 2, I zoom in on language attitudes. Languages come with social values and people evaluate and react to these meanings, thereby holding certain language attitudes. I identify concrete type of language attitudes as forming a part of objectionable social structures, which, in turn, enable abrupt language shift. In section 3, I distinguish two different kinds of structural linguistic injustice: isolation and alienation.



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About Dr. Seunghyun Song



Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Tilburg University and co-founder of the Linguistic Justice Society. She previously held a FWO junior postdoctoral research position at KU Leuven, Belgium where she also completed her PhD in Philosophy, M.A., and B.A in Philosophy. She also holds an M.A. in Gender and Diversity from Ghent University (Belgium). Her main areas of expertise are in linguistic justice and intergenerational justice. She is particularly interested in reparative justice, historical injustice, and structural injustice approaches. She is also invested in social epistemology, especially on epistemic injustice and reparation, and lived experiences of marginalization. She has a forthcoming book on Linguistic Justice, and has published in famous journals such as *Social Epistemology*, *Critical Review in International Social and Political Philosophy*, and *European Journal of Political Theory*.

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