Discourses of Power

Roadmap

Discourses of power:

Linguistic

Social

Political

Economic

Identity?

Discourses of Power: Political

The Caribbean:

- Colonization

- Maintenance after "independence"

    - Domestic

    - International

The World:

- Economic

- Educational
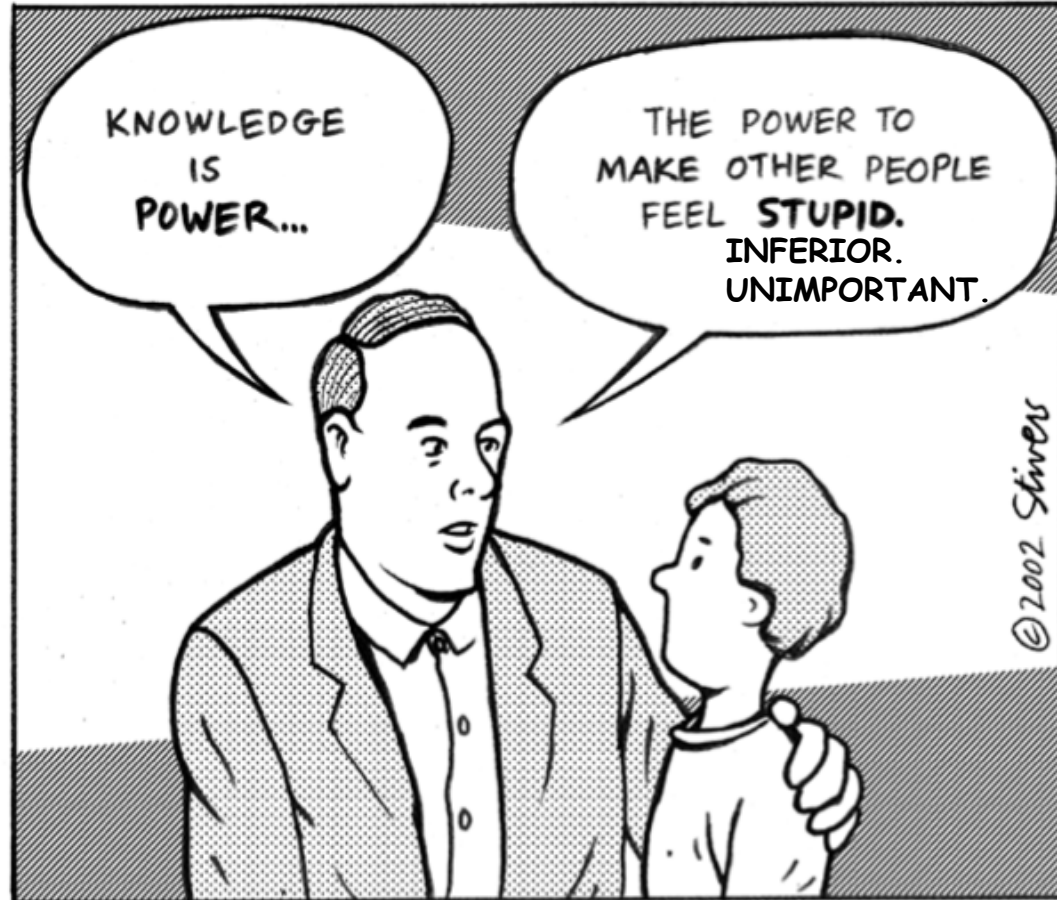
Discourses of Power: Economic

The Caribbean:

- Imports more than exports

- Power in the hands of elite

The World:

Comic removed due to copyright restrictions.

- Trade

- Allocation of funding

    - International aid

Discourses of Power: Social

The Caribbean:

- Stratification

- Education

The World:

- Cultural capital

- Cultures of assimilation

Comic by Ron Tandberg removed due to copyright restrictions.

Discourses of Power: Linguistic

The Caribbean

- Small elite

    - (Post) Colonial language

        - "Language is the perfect instrument of empire"- Bishop of Seville to Queen Isabella of Spain

        - Lippi green

    - Control of economic discourses

    - Control of political systems

The World

Image removed due to copyright restrictions.

Discourses of Power and Identity

- Conflicts of defining identity
  - Colonial
  - Or unique national identity (Jamaican music case study; poetry example)

- Dual nature of identity
  - Self chosen
  - Imposed
    - Imposition based on "purity" (Walcott) as a way to maintain "authenticity"

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be "authentic"? Does one have to be authentic to be "whole"? How do you identify? Do you consider yourself "authentically" *anything* in terms of identity? How does authenticity impact your chosen identity/identities?

2. Does the language(s) you speak affect this "authenticity"? Are there linguistic discourses of power that affect how you perceive the roles of these languages in your choice of identity?

3. Exploitation through praise. Intentions can be waylaid, praise can be damaging (tourism, appropriation, etc.) What are some real life

MIT OpenCourseWare

24.908 Creole Languages and Caribbean Identities
Spring 2017