

Translingual Discrimination and Migrants

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Abstract : Moving beyond two main frameworks of interlingual and intralingual discrimination, this paper will address the understanding of translingual discrimination. This concept refers to discrimination based on how one uses certain languages, linguistic and communicative repertoires, which are (il)legitimised by the interactants. Translingual discrimination contributes intensity to transnational migrations processes, where migrants with transitional backgrounds seem to illustrate two main characteristics of marginalizations - "name discrimination" and "accentism". The lifelong accumulation of these characteristics of translingual discrimination may cause negative emotionality, such as translingual inferiority complexes, to its victims. As a result, these transnational migrants seem to adopt varied coping strategies such as CV-whitening and accent purifications while probing for translingual safe spaces. The presentation concludes with the socio-cultural and pedagogical implications of translingual discrimination in relation to the language usage of transnational migrants.

Keywords : accentism, discrimination, migrants, translingualism

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