

Wednesday 29th June 6.30 pm

'Finally a national language – Hinglish.' A talk by Professor Seema Khurana

Aa  आ गई बैस	Bb  भाग गई बैस	Cc  छेटी बैस	Dd  दो बैस	Ee  एक बैस
Ff  फिर एक बैस	Gg  गीली बैस	Hh  हांफती बैस	Ii  इत्खती बैस	Jj  जोगन बैस

Parlez-vous Franais, [Spanglish](#), [Chinglish](#) or Hinglish? If you do you are code switching – speaking a mixture of 2 languages being equally fluent in both.

[This is different from both Pidgin and Creole. Pidgin is a simplified language that developed as a means of communication between two or more groups that do not have a language in common. And Creole is a nativized pidgin which has become a stable natural language taught to children as a primary language.]

Nehru's vision of gradually establishing Hindi as the national language ten years after independence led to language riots. But popular culture media such as radio, television, bollywood and advertisements have unobtrusively but surely popularized and promoted Hinglish as an acceptable language of the globalized Indian. It is the 'new cool' linguistic currency that links Desis across the globe.

So if you 'pre-pone' your dinner plans because you are '*Hungry kya?*' and your '*Yeh Dil Maange More*'. And if you are caught '*eve teasing*', the girl says '*you road side romeo*' '*Clear off, or else I'll give you a tight slap*' and the police asks '*what your bahana is?*' to which you have no reply but '*Life ho to aisi*'. Relax, '*tension mat lena*', you are speaking the language of the new bindaas Desi. It might seem effortless and random but there are linguistic rules and patterns that govern where and when Hindi words can be inserted in a supposed English sentence.

Professor Khurana will discuss the popularity of Hinglish and its mechanisms of code-switching.

Seema Khurana is a Senior Hindi Lector at Yale University since 2001 and an accomplished writer of short stories, poems and plays published in India and America. Her work, initiated by two masters, one in English literature and one in Hindi, aims at bridging English and Hindi as spoken languages and literary instruments of expression. As an educator, she is constantly developing materials for teaching Hindi as a foreign language as well as introducing new courses to meet the demands of the students. She founded 'Sandeshi', a project of nostalgia and passion, giving voice to Hindi literature and bringing it to life.

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