

Unequal citizens: Language Inequality and Hindi Imposition in the Indian Union

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Abstract

The talk will focus on the reality of linguistic discrimination against non-Hindi citizens of the Indian Union. I will provide historical context to this as well as present day examples. The relationship of this linguistic discrimination will be discussed with reference to the ideological foundations of the "idea of India", an inherently centralizing idea. Finally I will discuss activism strategies for the future for achieving linguistic equality and how that has to be intrinsically tied to the politics for true federalism in the Indian Union.

Speaker Profile

Garga Chatterjee is a columnist and a faculty is cognitive neuroscience at the Indian Statistical Institute. He received his PhD from Harvard University and did his postdoctoral research at MIT. His articles are regularly published in leading media outlets of Bangladesh, Indian Union and Pakistan. He is a part of the founding group of CLEAR - Campaign for Linguistic Equality and Rights. He lives in Kolkata, Bengal.