Sources for Students on Linguicism and the Politics of Language

Link for sharing: https://tinyurl.com/politicsoflanguage

Note to Viewers:

I welcome suggestions!

To suggest a text, please use the comment function or email me at missywatson.ccny@gmail.com.

And if you can't find a source, reach out and I'll help!

BIBLIOGRAPHIES. Want to read more about the topic before delving into assigning students readings?

- <u>Click here</u> for a brief bib of some of my fav disciplinary sources on this topic. The bolded citations are (imho) good ones to start with.
- <u>Click here</u> for a much longer (but not recently updated) bib compiled by sociolinguist Rosina Lippi-Green. Then, click "Download full bibliography"

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Readings for students on the politics of language

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Ball, Cheryl E., and Drew M. Loewe. <u>Bad ideas about writing.</u> (2017). Especially these chapters:

Writers are Mythical, Magical, and Damaged

You Need My Credentials to be a Writer

Failure is Not an Option

There is One Correct Way of Writing and Speaking

African American Language is not Good English

Official American English is Best

Good Writers Must Know Grammatical Terminology

Grading Has Always Made Writing Better

Texting Ruins Students' Grammar Skills

Texting Ruins Literacy Skills

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Kellam Barta's TED talk, "No such thing as correct English." https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=VEFM905EOUk

Chandra Arthur's TED talk, "The Cost of Code Switching." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo3hRq2RnNI

Harold Wallace III's TED Talk, "Everyday Struggle: Switching Codes for Survival." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJy5yeBSQ70

Katelynn Duggins' TED Talk, "To Code Switch or Not to Code Switch? That is the Question." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sncGGjaYJ5I

Lueng, Karen. TED Talk. "Embracing Multilingualism and Eradicating Linguistic Bias." https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=S80rGsxeEq8

Anne Curzan's TED Talk, "What makes a word "real"?"

https://www.ted.com/talks/anne curzan what makes a word real?language=en

Micheal DeGraff. "Language Prejudice: Are you being judged by the way you speak?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= NjxrXWaSJk

John Baugh's TED talk, "The Significance of Linguistic Profiling." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjFtIg-nLAA

Karina Chapa's TED talk, "The revolutionary power of bilingualism." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMHEygNw6r0

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"Talk American." Code Switch, NPR Podcast.

Compiled by Professor Missy Watson (mwatson2@ccny.cuny.edu)

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Arundhati Roy's blog post, "What is the Morally Appropriate Language in Which to Think and Write?"

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Patricia Ryan's TED talk, "Don't Insist on English!" https://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_ryan_ideas_in_all_languages_not_just_english

Ted Walker's TED talk, "The World's English Mania." https://www.ted.com/talks/jay walker on the world s english mania

Steven Pinker's TED talk, "What Our Language Habits Reveal." https://www.ted.com/talks/steven-pinker on language and thought

Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll's TED talk "How I learned to read--and trade stocks--in prison."

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Kellam Barta's TED talk, "No such thing as correct English." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEFM905EOUk

Vongai Mambo's TED talk, "Defending Our Speech" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjWfkdOJmEg

"Is talking white really a thing?"

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James Devitt's "How Bilingual Brains Switch Between Languages" https://www.futurity.org/languages-bilingualism-1861262/

Nas Daily's "The easiest language?!" https://www.facebook.com/nasdaily/videos/1898731746829462/

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The Educational Linguist's blog post, "What if we treated language-minoritized children like gifted sociolinguists?

https://educationallinguist.wordpress.com/2016/03/25/what-if-we-treated-language-minoritized-children-like-gifted-sociolinguists/

Code-Switching and Why You're Tired. Short Blog post by Pearl Ratunil

Gerald Roche's Twitter Feed: https://twitter.com/GlosephRoche

The Accentism Project: https://accentism.org

The Vocal Fries Podcast: https://vocalfriespod.fireside.fm/

Language discrimination against African American English in Ann Arbor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWIbIA9BltQ

Accent profiling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo0LBi8XL7I

TED Talk How we judge others when they speak (and we should stop) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj7wkh6n0NE

5 Facts about English language discrimination https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fdf8qX6ji40

PBS News Hour. "We stigmatize accents, but language belongs to everyone." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoOLBi8XL7I

Housing Discrimination PSA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c 3mSW8XUZI

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Disciplinary-ish texts that may be still useful/accessible to students

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Other resources for teachers

Black Linguistic Justice and The Black Language Syllabus: http://www.blacklanguagesyllabus.com/

Your Pedagogy Might Be More Aligned to Colonialism Than You Realize. By Jamila Lyiscott.

"The Translingual Literacy Studies Digital Hub" (https://translingualliteracy.org/).

Great resources here from Illinois State University http://isuwriting.com/category/learning-outcomes/ and http://isuwriting.com/2018/05/06/translingual-and-transnational-literacies-attention-to-diverse-language-practices/

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Savini, C. (2021). 10 ways to tackle linguistic bias in our classrooms. Inside Higher Ed.

Public examples of language attitudes/conflict/negotiation (good for analysis/discussion)

Blindfolded people judging other people's race and identities based solely on their voice. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE3x1uS781s

Stopping the teaching of grammar gets wrongly spun on Fox news as assuming Black people can't learn grammar.

https://news.yahoo.com/amphtml/dr-carol-swain-says-relaxing-032121915.html

Professor Asks Student to 'Anglicize' Her Name.

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/21/us/phuc-bui-diem-nguyen-laney-college.html?action=click&module=Latest&pgtype=Homepage

"I won't hire people who use poor grammar. Here's why." https://hbr.org/2012/07/i-wont-hire-people-who-use-poo

"You should only speak English in the workplace." "Man Threatens Spanish-Speaking Workers: 'My Next Call Will Be to ICE'":

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/nyregion/man-threatens-spanish-language-video.html

"Rachel Jeantel was the leading prosecution witness when George Zimmerman was tried for killing Trayvon Martin, but she spoke in African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and her crucial testimony was dismissed as incomprehensible and not credible" https://www.linguisticsociety.org/sites/default/files/Rickford 92 4.pdf

It's acceptable to judge someone based on their language. Meme on judging people based on their grammar:

https://www.someecards.com/usercards/viewcard/MjAxMi1mYzZkNGFiMzAyMThjN2Q2/?tagSlug=confession

"We speak "American" in America." Sarah Palin tells immigrants to "speak American": https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2015/sep/07/sarah-palin-tells-immigrants-to-the-us-to-speak-american-video

Immigrants don't want to learn English. Joke about E.T. versus immigrants (E.T. speaks English and wants to go home):

https://www.reddit.com/r/Jokes/comments/6mou47/whats the difference between an il legal immigrant/ and

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/gop-immigration-learning-english us 560315ace4 b0fde8b0d124ea

Why are so many Americans "concerned with preventing any changes to their national language?" The myth that English is an official language: https://psmag.com/education/the-myth-of-english-as-americas-national-language

We should ban slang at school. http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24534663

The Office, Kevin abbreviates for clearer communication <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://watch?v="https://w

Accents are unacceptable, so nonnative English speakers should seek modification courses: https://www.csmonitor.com/1999/1103/p13s1.html and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtxQ15nTQAo

"It's weird to pronounce white names as Black, but not Black names as white." A parody: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd7FixvoKBw

Ellen DeGeneres mocks Sofia Vergara's accent in this Cover Girl commercial: https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xnn5n0

Using slang makes you sound stupid. https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-11420737

"We should save the "Queen's English"":

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/god-save-the-queens-english-our-language-is-under-threat-from-ignorance-inverted-snobbery-and-2099825.html

"Using "aks" instead of "ask" is ignorant and confuses readers." (Lippi-Green 190-192; 205). See also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbhPY06KrDg and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9F1LT04e7Y

"Switch to Standard English if you want to be successful, says character on HBO show *Insecure* to fellow African American woman."

https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2016/10/insecures-claps-back-at-code-switching-in-racist-a.html and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0uwDpKUl0g

You must be confused or stupid if you don't speak English, and imitating your accent is reasonable. A Parody of a Khmer woman:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2NcwrPZBLM&list=PLveUJcTYzTrtTKpGMzrih8B6W4ZJAhMjP

Trevor Noah's "Don't Lose Your Accent / Learning Accents" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhCEdIqFCck

"Accents and errors make it too hard for many people to understand and should be eliminated." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f1f13QEfQc. And the burden for clear

communication rests solely/mostly on the one with the "accent" or "errors" (see Lippi-Green 71-74).

Should stenographers learn Black English?

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/25/us/black-dialect-courtrooms.html?action=click&module=News&pgtype=Homepage&fbclid=IwAR2XFAI84cCmBrt3OARYzbSZe3Xgry6dYMHrZNm3h8uWwsiaCPmKsMViJa8

How nonnative English speakers get wrongly judged.

https://www.upworthy.com/this-guy-was-fed-up-with-his-classmate-he-s-gone-viral-for-calling-out-his-own-ignorance

The CUNY professor who faced criticism from her Chair for inviting students to draw on their language differences in academic writing.

https://teacher-scholar-activist.org/2017/10/09/stank-2-0-and-the-counter-poetics-of-black-language-in-college-classrooms/

When teachers claim "This is not your language" to multidialectical students, insinuating plagiarism: https://www.chronicle.com/article/Not-Your-Language-How-a/238239

Labels matter! Taking issue with "English as *second* language" and "nonnative speaker" labels: https://www.dropbox.com/s/h6r0d1xyh0gufs9/2003TM13.4NNEST.pdf?dl=0 and maybe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeeBlXKkxeM&t=64s

When heritage languages feel distant and overly politicized--My Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE-c4Bj_RT0

Spanish dialects/accents stereotypes:

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=VIK-neOvpDM&t=92s

The power of Nuyorican accents: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qt0XiNx4jg0

Translation is hard, tricky, and (can be) humorous. When Spock sings "My Milkshake Brings All the Boys to the Yard"

https://www.facebook.com/groups/834976033333570/permalink/1076126832551821/ and other (more serious) examples of the challenges and marvels of translation: https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/translation/

Customer goes on racist rant about Spanish words on Mexican restaurant menu. lgzYmI4-LCxgYX6Vv0VIcvf0-v6nA

Restaurant worker fired for speaking Spanish.

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/restaurant-worker-who-says-she-was-fired-speaking-spanish-fights-n959606