

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?

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

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

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Readings for students on the politics of language

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- 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

Barmak, Sarah. "Straight Talk? Depends Who's Listening; The U.S. Is Separated between Red and Blue, Liberals, Conservatives but the Deepest Rift Might Be Linguistic." *Toronto Star*, 2008, p. ID.7.

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<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/43596-the-fact-that-i-am-writing-to-you-in-english>)

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Readers to assign in first-year comp

Ahmad, Dohra, ed. *Rotten English: A literary anthology*. WW Norton, 2007.

DasBender, Gita. *Language: A Reader for Writers*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2014.

Looker-Koenigs, Samantha. *Language Diversity and Academic Writing*. Macmillan Learning, 2017.

Other great online/video resources

[The Language and Life Project](#). "The LANGUAGE and LIFE PROJECT at NC STATE is a non-profit outreach education endeavor to document and celebrate dialects, languages, and cultures of the United States. The LLP seeks to build awareness and appreciation of linguistic diversity through educational resources, television programs and award-winning documentaries." Saleem Safwat's TED talk, "Why I Keep Speaking Up..."
https://www.ted.com/talks/safwat_saleem_why_i_keep_speaking_up_even_when_people_mock_my_accent

Jaylene Clark Owens - "My Voice, My Choice."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24URwA3Y544&feature=youtu.be>

Lozada-Oliva, Melissa. "My Spanish"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE-c4Bj_RT0

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https://www.ted.com/talks/jamila_lyiscott_3_ways_to_speak_english

Lyiscott, Jamila. TED Talk. "Why English Class is Silencing Students of Color:"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4dc1axRwE4>

Lysicott, Jamila. "Language, Race, and Power:"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh3MhQm8OmU&feature=emb_logo

Naomi Shihab Nye's "Gate A4" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib-iGnA4pbo>

Carrie Gillon's TED talk, "How we judge others when they speak (and we should stop)." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj7wkh6nONE>

Kellam Barta's TED talk, "No such thing as correct English."

<https://www.youtube.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=NJy5yeBSQ7o>

Katelynn Duggins' TED Talk, "To Code Switch or Not to Code Switch? That is the Question." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sncGGjaYI5I>

Lueng, Karen. TED Talk. "Embracing Multilingualism and Eradicating Linguistic Bias." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8QrGsxEq8>

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=GjFtlg-nLAA>

Karina Chapa's TED talk, "The revolutionary power of bilingualism."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMHEygNw6r0>

Williams, Robert. [On Ebonics](#) (and the linguistic injustice of standardized testing)

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<https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=636442508>

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Singer, Read. "How Should Black People Sound." *New York Times*, Oct. 28, 2020.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/style/hollywood-accent-coaches.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

Arundhati Roy's blog post, "What is the Morally Appropriate Language in Which to Think and Write?"
<https://lithub.com/what-is-the-morally-appropriate-language-in-which-to-think-and-write/>

David Shariatmadari's "The Limits of Standard English."
<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2020/01/07/the-limits-of-standard-english/>

Marilynne Robinson's "My Western Roots."
<https://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Classroom%20Materials/Reading%20the%20Region/Northwest%20Schools%20of%20Literature/Texts/11.html>

Kevin Abroad's "Linguistic Discrimination: My Story" Youtube video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Rku8RmAf4>

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."
https://www.ted.com/talks/curtis_wall_street_carroll_how_i_learned_to_read_and_trade_stocks_in_prison

Kellam Barta's TED talk, "No such thing as correct English."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEFM905EQUk>

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

"Is talking white really a thing?"

https://www.facebook.com/VoicesOfColorByInsider/videos/273025213266230/?hc_ref=ARQeQ9yf2wwHv6knK-GlzwuiHdnEe9Lh_jQqjZ2laG7K-BPTQ892X_PfZlw5dK7I7nQ

Lera Boroditsky's TED TALK "How language shapes the way we think."

https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think?utm_campaign=social&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_content=talk&utm_term=social-science

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/>

Nas Daily's "Why I have an accent."

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectNightfall/videos/293935168097633/UzpfSTUxNDc2NTIyNjoxMDE2MTMyMjA4ODczMDIyNw/>

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/GJosephRoche>

The Accentism Project: <https://accentism.org>

The Vocal Fries Podcast: <https://volfriespod.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=xoOLBi8XL7I>

TED Talk How we judge others when they speak (and we should stop)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj7wkh6nONE>

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

Writing Across Borders film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv3uRPsskv0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vabyE1a2I7E>

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

Alvarez, Sara P, Amy J. Wan, & Eunjeong Lee “[Workin’ Languages: Who We Are Matters in Our Writing.](#)” *Writing Spaces: Readings on Writing*, Volume 4.

Baker-Bell, April. “‘I Can Switch My Language, But I Can’t Switch My Skin’: What Teachers Must Understand About Linguistic Racism.” *The Guide for White Women who Teach Black Boys*, Edited by Eddie Moore, Ali Michael, and Marguerite W. Penick-Parks, 2017, pp. 97-107.

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Conference on College Composition and Communication. "[Students’ Rights to Their Own Language.](#)"

Conference on College Composition and Communication. [This Ain't Another Statement! This is a DEMAND for Black Linguistic Justice!](#) By [April Baker-Bell](#), [Bonnie J. Williams-Farrier](#), [Davena Jackson](#), [Lamar Johnson](#), [Carmen Kynard](#), and [Teaira McMurtry](#)

Flores, Nelson, and Jonathan Rosa. "Undoing appropriateness: Raciolinguistic ideologies and language diversity in education." *Harvard Educational Review* 85.2 (2015): 149-171.

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Gilyard, Keith. "First Lessons" (or other chapters) from *Voices of the Self: A Study of Language Competence*.

Harushumana, Immaculee. "Blinding Audacity: The Narrative of a French-Speaking African Teaching English in the United States." *Reinventing Identities in Second Language Writing*. Ed. Michelle Cox, Jay Jordan, Christina Ortmeier-Hooper, and Gwen Gray Schwartz. Urbana: NCTE, 2010. 232-9. Print.

---. "Colonial Language Writing Identities in Postcolonial Africa." *Reinventing Identities in Second Language Writing*. Ed. Michelle Cox, Jay Jordan, Christina Ortmeier-Hooper, and Gwen Gray Schwartz. Urbana: NCTE, 2010. 207-31. Print.
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Inoue, Asao. "Habits of White Language." Handout. <https://tinyurl.com/HOWL5>

Johns, Ann M. "Discourse Communities and Communities of Practice: Membership, Conflict, and Identity."

Krachu, Braj. "World Englishes: Agony and Ecstasy." *Journal of Aesthetic Education* 30.2 (1996): 135-55. Print.

- Kubota, Ryuko. "My Experience of Learning to Read and Write in Japanese and English as L2." *Reflections on Multiliterate Lives*. Ed. Ulla Connor and Diane Belcher. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 2001. 96-109. Print.
- Leki, Ilona. "History of Writing Instruction in English as a Second Language." *Understanding ESL Writers: A Guide for Teachers*. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1992. 3-9. Print.
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- Martinez, Aja Y. (2016). A Personal Reflection on Chican@ Language and Identity in the US-Mexico Borderlands: The English Language Hydra as Past and Present Imperialism. In P. Bunce, R. Phillipson, & V. Rapatahana (Eds.), *Why English? Confronting Hydra* (pp. 211-219), Bristol, Buffalo, & Toronto: Multilingual Matters.
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Royster, Jacqueline Jones. "When the first voice you hear is not your own." *College Composition and Communication* 47.1 (1996): 29-40.

Sánchez-Martín, Cristina. "[Beyond Language Difference in Writing: Investigating Complex and Equitable Language Practices](#)." *Writing Spaces: Readings on Writing*, Volume 4.

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You, Xiaoye. "The Choice Made from No Choice: English Writing Instruction in a Chinese University." *Journal of Second Language Writing* 13.2 (2004): 97-110. Print.

Young, Vershawn Ashanti. "Should Writers Use They Own English?." *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* 12.1 (2010): 110-117.

Young, Vershawn Ashanti. "'Nah, We Straight': An Argument Against Code Switching." *JAC* (2009): 49-76.

Young, Vershawn Ashanti, Rusty Barrett, and Kim Brian Lovejoy. *Other people's English: Code-meshing, code-switching, and African American literacy*. Teachers College Press, 2014.

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/>

Zapata, Angie, and Tasha Tropp Laman. "'I write to show how beautiful my languages are': Translingual Writing Instruction in English-Dominant Classrooms." *Language Arts* 93.5 (2016): 366:

http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Journals/LA/0935-may2016/LA0935Write.pdf?utm_source=LA+Journal+Announcement+-+93-5&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=journals

<https://community.macmillan.com/community/the-english-community/bedford-bits/blog/2018/09/18/translingual-teaching-in-a-standards-based-culture?et=watch.es.email.blog>

Savini, Catherine. "10 Ways to Tackle Linguistic Bias in Our Classroom." *Inside Higher Ed*. January 27, 2021.

https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2021/01/27/how-professors-can-and-should-combat-linguistic-prejudice-their-classes-opinion?utm_source=Inside+Higher+Ed&utm_campaign=6b001ca536-DNU_2021_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcbc04421-6b001ca536-197664633&mc_cid=6b001ca536&mc_eid=55ac8226fc&fbclid=IwAR0E-pb8y4ciVmj_ZebS-3sdVGDOoyhTDpDnY8UFZFDbzBc1-kfouPhAeDk

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/amphhtml/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_illegal_immigrant_and

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/gop-immigration-learning-english_us_560315ace4b0fde8b0d124ea

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-L9uhsBLM&feature=youtu.be>

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/insecurities-claps-back-at-code-switching-in-racist-a.html> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0uWdpKU10g

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=IwAR2XFAI84cCmBr3OARYzbSZe3Xgry6dYMHrZNm3h8uWwsiaCPmKsMVjla8>

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 multidialectal 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=AeeBlXKxeM&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.youtube.com/watch?v=VlK-neOypDM&t=92s>

The power of Nuyorican accents: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtOXiNx4jgQ>

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.

https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/436007-customer-goes-on-racist-rant-after-finding-spanish-words-on-a?fbclid=IwAR1fJlZ09M3vtJH6ZL7h0isGgoEmBRGUD_myWtboL43f9qQB9bfaeAcMjTY&fbclid=IwAR2WqVCZ1ZOQIxshqgdgCK8049u9X_lgzYmI4-LCxgYX6Vv0VlcvfQ-v6nA

Restaurant worker fired for speaking Spanish.

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