



APPLIED LINGUISTICS 101: Language Matters in the Worlds of Education, Geopolitics, and Social Justice

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A bit ambitious? Absolutely!!

Overview

- Why Applied Linguistics (AL) matters to me
 - teaching and tutoring
 - research
 - advocacy and civic engagement

- Why AL matters to the work of Middlebury students, faculty, and staff
 - What’s already happening (sampler)
 - Why we need a linguistics minor (and more!!)

What is Applied Linguistics (AL)?

- Definition is a ‘political act’ according to linguists

Key words: *interdisciplinary, practical / “real world,” context, pedagogical, critical, issues/concerns*

Key concepts:

- **Language-in-context** (where/when/why)
- **Language-in-practice** (who/what/how)
- **Language-and-power** (the “so what?”)

One of my favorite definitions....

“Applied linguistics is a broadly interdisciplinary field concerned with promoting our understanding of the role language plays in human life [...] AL focuses on the relationship between theory and practice, using the insights gained from the theory-practice interface for solving language-related problems in a principled way. Applied linguistics is not [simply] ‘linguistics applied’, because it deals with many more issues than purely linguistic ones, and because disciplines such as psychology, sociology, ethnography, anthropology, educational research, communication and media studies also inform applied linguistic research. The result is a broad spectrum of themes[...].”

- **Juliane House**

Professor of Foreign Language Teaching, Universität Hamburg

Applied Linguistics (AL) and Education

- AL and Second Language Acquisition (SLA)
 - Who learns (and teaches) languages?
Where? When? Why? How?
 - E.g. action research, ethnography, controlled experiment/
observation, curriculum and instruction

- AL and Educational Linguistics? (e.g. van Leir @ MIIS)
 - What role does language play in the work of the academy?
 - E.g. discourse analysis, others above...

CYCLE of Theory/Practice/Reflection

Local work in AL + Education

- Impact of the following on language acquisition:
 - Study abroad
 - Immersion
 - Technology
 - Other pedagogical practices and resources

- My work at Middlebury with multilingual/ESL students
 - ❖ Teaching and Tutoring (e.g. contrastive rhetoric)
 - ❖ Tutor Training (e.g. grammar plus; written accent)
 - ❖ Faculty Development and Resources (e.g. CTLR workshops)
 - ❖ Research and Advocacy

- The work of many others in our community...

AL and Geopolitics / Social Justice

□ Language and Politics

- “buzz phrases” (e.g. ‘death tax’; prolife/prochoice)
- metaphor and thought (e.g. TIME = \$\$; ARGUMENT=WAR)
- Language policy (e.g. official language, medium of instruction)
- International translation/interpretation (e.g. Hainan Island)
- Naming of places, people, etc. (e.g. Liancourt Rocks)

Language, Culture, and Identity

- Language as a human right
- Language as constructed/performed identity
 - Gender and Sexuality
 - Disability
 - Race/Ethnicity
- Intersections of linguistic identities
 - Indigenous communities (e.g. ongoing Symposium events)
 - Citizenship and belonging (e.g. current theme for our CCSRE)
 - Our own experiences with identity construction
(e.g. my code-switching and body language in Spanish)

More on AL and Social Justice

- Environmental Awareness
 - “sustainability” vs. “environmental justice”
 - “climate change” vs. “global warming”
 - the “green” movement

- Civic Engagement
 - vs. “service learning”
 - work with migrant/refugee communities
 - Spanish for community activism
 - “Writing for Social Change” course, long-term projects, forthcoming publication

More AL in Action...

□ **Cultivating linguistic diversity**

- **Maintain strengths**
 - “long-standing international focus”
 - “to transcend oneself and one’s own concerns”
- **Consider labeling of students (e.g. multilingual/ESL)**
- **Encourage multilingual events (e.g. Student Symposium)**
- **Increase institutional research and resources**
 - “Academic Experiences of Multilingual/ESL Students at Middlebury”
 - Collaborative work with CTLR, Carr Hall, CCSRE, ACE
- **Support linguistics opportunities at Middlebury!! ☺**

A few plugs...

□ Upcoming events

- **CCSRE-sponsored panel** “Language, Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship” - Tues 11/17, 4:30pm - Axinn 219
- **Cafecito** on “Generation 1.5: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Within U.S. Borders” -Tues 12/1- Carr Hall

□ Additional opportunities

- **Juntos** (partnership with Spanish-speaking farm workers)
- **TESOL Winter Workshop (6 hrs)**
 - Full course next year—stay tuned!!
 - Teaching/tutoring/mentorship through ACE
new possibility: “English for the [Midd] Workplace”
- **Spring writing course:** “The English Language in a Global Context”
- **“Multilingualism @ Midd”** (listserv, website, newsletter, etc)?
- Others?

Lingering Questions...

1. What other AL projects and opportunities are at Midd?
2. What are the problems with the dichotomy between “applied” and “non-applied” (theoretical) disciplines”?
3. What are the arguments for and against incorporating language into our notions of institutional “diversity”?



Thank you!!

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to keep in touch

<http://shawnashapiro.com/AL101.ppt>
for this ppt

<http://staff.washington.edu/shapis/>
for previous work and resources