

Recontextualising Critical Literacy

Main Presentation synopsis:

Title: *Critical Literacy with EAL/D learners - from theory to policy to practice.*

In this presentation, I will begin with an overview of Janks' Synthesis Model of Critical Literacy (2010) which provides a theoretical model of critical literacy (CL) with interdependent components. I will then briefly present analysis of the ways in which a range of senior English syllabuses have constructed critical literacy over time and how the emphasis on critical literacy in these guiding documents has been reduced. Despite this, ESL teachers are still putting CL into practice. Data from interviews and classroom observations with four high school ESL teachers will be presented to show how the teachers were actively engaged in a process of 'recontextualising' CL from their syllabus with their particular culturally and linguistically diverse learners. Implications for EAL/D learner engagement in intellectually challenging areas of study, such as critical literacy, will also be discussed.

Bio: Dr Jennifer Alford

Jennifer has lectured in the areas of English as a Second Language (ESL/EAL/D) and language and literacy across the curriculum in the Faculty of Education at Queensland University of Technology since 2000. Prior to this, she was a mainstream English and ESL teacher in various high schools, and has taught in the Adult Migrant English Program and in private ELICOS colleges. She has recently completed her PhD thesis which investigated the teaching of critical literacy with EAL learners in senior high school English. She is currently working on a longitudinal research project (led by Dr Margaret Kettle) that will investigate the academic transitions of ESL learners in Queensland metropolitan primary and secondary schools and the variables associated with increasing academic achievement. Email: jh.alford@qut.edu.au



45 min practical workshops - Practical application of critical literacy in teaching contexts

a) Senior Secondary - Gae Nastasi

Gae Nastasi is HOSES (ESL) at MacGregor SHS. She is also QATESOL Vice President and an ACTA Councillor.

b) Primary - Tina Winterflood and Therese O'Brien

Therese O'Brien and Tina Winterflood are both members of the QATESOL Management Committee and are currently practising EAL/D teachers in Brisbane primary schools. Please join them for a hands-on session of suggestions on how to practically incorporate critical literacy strategies into your primary EAL/D classroom practice.

c) Adult/Workplace - Elene Claire

Elene has delivered TAFE Q adult ESL and literacy programs since 1985, including the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), LLNP (now SEE) and Workplace English Language & Literacy (WELL) Programs as a teacher and manager. Since leaving TAFE 12 months ago, she has been delivering WELL projects in three aged care facilities in Brisbane and northern NSW. Elene is a member of the QATESOL Management Committee, QATESOL Past President and an ACTA Councillor.