

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: LANGUAGE, POWER & CONTROL
Status: Definitive
Code: **6502MEDCUL** (115081)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 42.00

Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 78

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	21.000
Seminar	21.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS2	Essay/investigation – small scale research (using primary language data collected by student) into some aspect of language and power – 2000 words	70.0	
Presentation	AS1	Presentation – critique of a reading relevant to own interests in language and power.	30.0	

Aims

To explore the role of standard national language as an ideological instrument both nationally and globally.

To examine ways in which language practice operates within asymmetrical power relations.

To explore the role of institutional, historical and ideological context on language practices

To enable students to develop their own interests and research into the operation of power through language.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically examine the relationship between the historical development of national institutions, power elites and a standardized language.
- 2 Describe the role of English in the context of global power relations
- 3 Examine the way language – both spoken and written - may be seen as a form of social practice which reflects and constructs asymmetrical power relations.
- 4 Critically explore the role of social, institutional and ideological context on language practices.
- 5 Describe and analyse some of the ways in which social and ideological change are reflected and constructed through new language practices
- 6 Carry out independent research on links between language and the operation of power.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay - 2000 words	1	2	3	4	5	6
Presentation	6					

Outline Syllabus

The module will begin with a consideration of national language standardization as an ideological vehicle which reflects and aids construction of the power of ruling elites. This will be placed in a historical context and also a global context with a discussion of English as a global language. The focus then turns to language interaction in the context of asymmetrical power relations making use of analytical techniques proposed in Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis. Here the focus is on analyzing language as a form of social practice (power in discourse) as well as paying attention to the social, institutional and ideological context (power behind discourse). The module then turns to the issue of social change and explores the tension between deterministic theories of language and power which pay little attention to how social change and change in language practice take place, and theories which allow for contest and change. Throughout the module students are encouraged to pursue their own research into areas of interest to them in relation to language and power (eg more detailed explorations of gender, ethnicity or social

class).

Learning Activities

Lecture; large and small group discussion and worksheet exercises; individual research

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bex, T. and Watts, R. (Eds)
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Standard English
Subtitle	the Widening Debate
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Crystal, D.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	English as a Global Language
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	CUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Crystal, D.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	The Stories of English
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Penguin
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Fairclough, N.
Publishing Year	1993
Title	Discourse and Social Change
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Polity
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Fairclough, N.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Language and Power
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Pearson
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Leith, D.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	A Social History of English
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Talbot, M.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Language and Power in the Modern World
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	University of Alabama Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Thomas, L. Wareing, S. et al
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Language Society and Power
Subtitle	An Introduction
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Thornborrow, J.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Power Talk
Subtitle	Language and Interaction in Institutional Discourse
Edition	
Publisher	Pearson
ISBN	

Notes

This module is about the relationship between language and power. It is concerned with the relationship of English and other languages at a global level, and standard English and other non-standard dialects at a national level. It is particularly concerned with how language reflects and constructs power relations at an institutional level – eg within education, the health service and corporate advertising. It is concerned with changes which have occurred in the institutional use of language in recent years, so that increasingly, institutions make use of apparently private discourses in order to influence or manipulate their target audiences; it is also concerned with how this power may be contested. Students are encouraged to pursue their own interests in this module via both a presentation and a piece of small scale research.