

Evolution of Classroom Language in Multilingual Contexts: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract : This paper traces diverse language practices representative of equally diverse conceptions of language. To be dynamic with languaging practices, one needs to appreciate nuanced languaging practices, their challenges, prospects, and opportunities. The paper presents what we envision as three major conceptions of language that give impetus to diverse language practices. It examines theoretical models of the bilingual mental lexicon and how they inform language practices. The paper explores classroom languaging practices that have been promulgated and experimented with. The paper advocates the deployment of multisensory semiotic systems to complement linguistic classroom communication and the acknowledgement of learners' linguistic and semiotic resources as valid in the learning enterprise. It recommends the enactment of specific clauses on language in education policies and curriculum documents that empower classroom interactants to exercise discretion in languaging practices.

Keywords : languaging, monolingual, multilingual, semiotic and linguistic repertoire

Conference Title : ICBLC 2024 : International Conference on Bilingualism: Language and Cognition

Conference Location : Montreal, Canada

Conference Dates : June 13-14, 2024