

Understanding English Language Variation in U.S. Schools

Anne H. Charity Hudley and Christine Mallinson

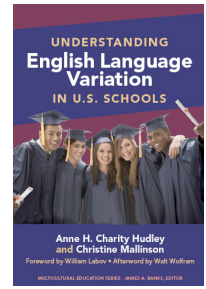
Foreword by William Labov

Afterword by Walt Wolfram

Teachers College Press Multicultural Education Series

<http://charityhudleymallinson.com/>

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“In the ongoing debate about language we typically hear arguments about what students say and/or how they say it. Finally, a volume that takes on the 'elephant in the parlor'—WHO is saying it. By laying bare the complicated issues of race, culture, region, and ethnicity, Charity Hudley and Mallinson provide a scholarly significant and practically relevant text for scholars and practitioners alike. This is bound to be an important contribution to the literature.” —*Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

“An invaluable guide for teachers, graduate students, and all lovers of language. The authors provide a comprehensive and fascinating account of Southern and African American English, showing how it differs from standardized English, how those differences affect children in the classroom, and how teachers can use these insights to better serve their students.” —*Deborah Tannen, University Professor and Professor of Linguistics, Georgetown University*

“Language variation in English is one of the more misunderstood areas in education. The authors do an exceptional job of demystifying the topic by providing useful background material and practical insights. This volume is destined to become a foundational classic for teacher preparation and the ongoing professional development of educators.” —*Terrence G. Wiley, President, Center for Applied Linguistics and Professor of Education Emeritus, Arizona State University*

In today’s culturally diverse classrooms, students possess and use many culturally, ethnically, and regionally diverse English language varieties that may differ from standardized English. This book helps classroom teachers become attuned to language differences and offers practical strategies to support student achievement while fostering positive language attitudes in classrooms and beyond. The text contrasts standardized varieties of English with Southern, Appalachian, and African American English varieties, focusing on issues that are of everyday concern to those who are assessing the linguistic competence of students. Featuring a narrative style with teaching strategies and discussion questions, this practical resource:

- Provides a clear, introductory explanation of what is meant by non-standardized English, from both linguistic and educational viewpoints.
- Emphasizes what educators need to know about language variation in and outside of the classroom.
- Addresses the social factors accompanying English language variation and how those factors interact in real classrooms.

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