

Book Review

Critical “readings” of “standard” language and culture

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Abstract

I reviewed Sato and Doerr (2008) from the understanding that the “standards” such as standard language and culture are socially constructed ideological “norms” that do not recognize the diversity and dynamics of actual language, culture and identity. I posed two critical questions: one on the process of production and reproduction of the “standard,” and the other on the concrete consequences of the “standard” on the social structure and on the interaction. The book under review focused on the first question, but also addressed the second question. I pointed out the strength of the book, such as the success in making clear the political nature of teaching language and culture, and suggested that future research would be necessary on the pedagogical means to overcome the process of “standardization” and on the support to the teachers by raising awareness of the issue and helping share such teaching practice.

Key words: standard language, norm and standardization, ideology, cultural diversity, identity

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