

Quotes for discussion at LEDS – 24 October

“In conjoining the two terms ‘linguistic’ and ‘ethnography’ [linguistic ethnography] aligns itself with a particular epistemological view of language in social context.” (Creese, 2008)

Q: what epistemological view of language in social context is commonly held by LE researchers?

What do Rampton et al. (2004) mean when they argue for “tying ethnography down and opening linguistics up” (p. 4)?

“Ethnography provides linguistics with a close reading of context not necessarily represented in some kinds of interactional analysis, while linguistics provides an authoritative analysis of language use not typically available through participant observation and the taking of fieldnotes.” (Rampton et al. 2004, p. 6)

Q: what does this quote imply about the way in which LE researchers perceive the relationship between language and its social context of use?

“...the case studies in this collection...variously:

- adopt an interdisciplinary approach to research;
- use topic-oriented ethnography;
- combine linguistics with ethnography;
- bring together different sources of data; and
- aspire to improve social life.” (Shaw, Copland and Snell 2015, p. 5)

Q: to what extent do you think these commonalities may provide “the basis for linguistic ethnography to be described as an emergent field”, as Shaw, Copland and Snell claim?

What answers might there be to the question posed by Shaw, Copland and Snell (2015): “what counts as rigour in linguistic ethnography”?

Are there “potential shortcomings of combining methodological approaches” (Shaw, Copland and Snell 2015, p. 7) in linguistic ethnography? What might some of these shortcomings be?