

Translanguaging & crip linguistics

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UC SANTA BARBARA

Recap of today's lectures

- Minority sign languages and bilingualism (Adam)
- Language, power, and identity (Duggan)
- Language portraits (Kusters)
- Deaf women's health: global perspectives (Schlehofer)
- Researching family language policy (Kusters)

All the above lectures reveal:

- Enormous linguistic variation
- Power dynamics among deaf migrants and hearing interpreters
- Multimodal, multisensory, and multisemiotic *translanguaging* practices and ideologies

What does that tell us about languages, or *linguaging*?

They're fluid, complex, messy, not bounded, not discrete...

How should we think about linguaging?

The theorists behind crip linguistics



Dr. Octavian Robinson, Associate
Professor of Deaf Studies, Gallaudet
University



Dr. Jon Henner, Associate Professor of
Specialized Education Services,
University of North Carolina, Greensboro

What is crip linguistics?

Terminology introduction: **Crip** as a verb in English (and in ASL)

“To crip is to disrupt the stable, transform the familiar, subvert the order of things, unsettle entrenched beliefs, and to make anew” (2023: 8)

Henner, J. & O. Robinson. (2023). Unsettling languages, unreal bodyminds: A crip linguistics manifesto. *Journal of Critical Study of Communication and Disability*, 1(1): 7-37. https://doi.org/10.48516/jcscd_2023vol1iss1.4

Abstract

We introduce Crip Linguistics as a theoretical and abolitionist framework. People use languages in different ways. Some people use language to help find other people like themselves. Many people use language in specific ways because of how their body and mind work. Sometimes a person's material conditions, and environment forces them to use language in a certain way. When someone languages outside of what people think is normal, others can think they are bad with language, or are not as smart as someone else. No one is actually 'bad with language.' We want to help people understand that no language is bad. It is okay to want to change your language use if it will make you feel better. No one should make you feel badly about your language. We need a bigger and more flexible understanding of what language is.

The three major principles of Crip Linguistics are:

1. Language is not inherently disordered, although impairments may exist;
2. Deficit perceptions of the body–mind disorders language uses;
3. Disability in languaging cannot be separated from normative expectations of language use.

Crip Linguistics

- Embraces *all* linguistic variation
- Rejects normative expectations of language use by adopting an activist stance rooted in critical disability politics

Henner, J. & O. Robinson. (2023). Crip linguistics goes to school. *Languages* 8:48.

DOI: <https://www.mdpi.com/2226-471X/8/1/48>

Let's take a poll about your thoughts!



Group activity!

- Break out into groups of three or four people
- Discuss whether you agree with any of the three principles of Crip Linguistics and explain why
- Discuss whether Crip Linguistics has a useful role in your own research and explain why (or why not)
- Each group representative presents a summary of the discussion

First principle of crip lx incompatible with language deprivation?

“First, the Crip Linguistics theory recognizes that language deprivation is a type of environmentally enacted impairment. It is something done to deaf people by hearing people. Secondly, Deaf people are punished heavily on education assessments.”

(Henner & Robinson, 2023: 9-10)