Annotated Bibliography of Research in the Teaching of English

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Research in the Teaching of English Volume 54, Number 3, February 2020

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Introduction

Since 2003, RTE has published the annual “Annotated Bibliography of Research in the Teaching of English,” and we are proud to share these curated and annotated citations once again. The goal of the annual bibliography is to offer a synthesis of the research published in the area of English language arts within the past year that may be of interest to RTE readers. Abstracted citations and those featured in the “Other Related Research” sections were published, either in print or online, between June 2018 and June 2019. The bibliography is divided into nine subject-area sections. A three-person team of scholars with diverse research interests and background experiences in preK–16 educational settings reviewed and selected the manuscripts for each section using library databases and leading empirical journals. Each team abstracted significant contributions to the body of peer-reviewed studies that addressed the current research questions and concerns in their topic area. Works listed in the “Other Related Research” sections include additional important research studies relevant to the topic area, position papers from leading organizations, or comprehensive handbooks. The listings are selective; we make no attempt to include all research that appeared in the period under review.

The topic area sections of the bibliography are:

- Digital/Technology Tools
- Discourse/Narrative Analysis/Cultural Difference
- Literacy
- Literary Response/Literature/Narrative
- Media Literacy
- Professional Development/Teacher Education
- Reading
- Second Language Literacy
- Writing

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Please enjoy this valuable service to the RTE scholarly community.
**Digital/Technology Tools**

This section focuses on digital literacy research that emphasizes technology and online platforms for instructional purposes. Studies examine the use of digital writing, production, communication, and reading tools/apps; technology for instructional purposes, including coding, e-books/e-reading, digital storytelling, online discussion, digital video production, podcasts, and digital portfolios; and how social networking, online feedback, and learning management systems enhance literacy instructional practices. These studies address pedagogy, knowledge, and skills needed to use digital technologies to facilitate literacy learning. (Robin Jocius, lead contributor)


Describes the development and implementation of Story Engine, an online, mentor-assisted digital writing platform. Uses theories of creativity to interrogate discourses surrounding the teaching of creative writing, both in and outside of the classroom. Examines the implementation of a beta prototype of Story Engine with 120 adolescents in four British schools. Uses case studies to investigate whether an online creative writing platform develops creativity and complements school-based writing programs. Finds that Story Engine promotes schooled aspects of creative writing but can potentially allow for more creative freedom. Concludes that the Story Engine environment provided a variety of opportunities for students to draw on cultural resources to produce texts for specific audiences. Suggests that teachers can combine digital writing tools and offline engagement in order to bring together progressive classroom teaching techniques and online, playful pedagogies.


Uses a sociocultural theoretical framework and instrumental case study design to examine adolescents’ literacy practices, identities, and engagements on and with the mobile story-sharing apps Wattpad and Figment. Draws on content in the apps, background surveys of focal participants, and semistructured interviews with 39 adolescents to investigate participation in the apps. Employs content analysis and iterative open, axial, and thematic coding methods to identify thematic categories. Finds that participants took up varying stances on the social platforms, such as friend, fan, reader, novice, or expert writer. Concludes that the research participants’ interests and stances shaped their literacy practices on the apps. Emphasizes the importance of heterogeneity when researching adolescents, based on the differences between user and usage seen in the study. Encourages literacy researchers and educators to utilize data collection methods such as testing survey questions and observations to supplement surveys of usage patterns. Recommends that educators use a variety of story-sharing apps and practices to support the development of positive dispositions toward literacy.


Examines the digital storytelling practices of 64 sixth-grade students in Taiwan. Uses an experimental design to analyze motivation surveys, achievement test scores, and digital stories created by the students. Finds that two digital storytelling performance indicators—levels of language usage and levels of creativity—had significant though varying impacts on language learning, with language usage relating to students’ achievement test scores, and creativity relating to multiple motivation components, such as extrinsic motivation, task value, and elaboration. Urges educators to provide opportunities for students to be creative in drawing on their linguistic repertoires to tell stories.

Foregrounds theories of dialogic writing and coauthorship to analyze middle schoolers’ writing in online spaces. Examines the social interactions of web-based peer review and how they affect student writing over time. Utilizes a multimethod analysis to trace explicit and covert dialogic influences across student writing. Analyzes classroom texts created online to show how teachers’ initiating texts and peer reviews shaped key aspects of students’ classroom writing and response. Presents overall characteristics of the online writing processes and products, looking at each student’s writing across time to understand how multiple artifacts and writing cycles informed the work. Finds that while students using the online platform for peer feedback wrote longer, more explicit, and more directive online comments to peers, teachers became coauthors of their students’ texts through the assignments, rubrics, and other initiating texts. Encourages teachers to provide scaffolding for students that includes different types of peer feedback, such as evaluative and reader-based. Cautions teachers to recognize their influence as coauthors of texts and shapers of dialogue.


Describes a classroom study in which high school literature students used the video game Minecraft as a mode of literary engagement with the novel *The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton. Explores the boundaries of digital literacies and literary studies through inviting students to use their gaming skills to recreate scenes, respond to textual elements, and actualize authentic textual interactions. Employs theories of game-based learning and multiliteracies to challenge scripted, conventional curricula. Finds that game-based engagement with the novel increased motivation to read and encouraged multicultural perspectives and positions. Argues that engaging students with literature should involve an inclusive approach to curriculum and instruction. Urges educators to move toward educational equity by offering high-interest readings and diverse entry points into literature for students who may not excel in traditional environments.


Explores the impact of a two-day professional development seminar on multimodal memoir-writing for high school teachers, conducted as part of a partnership between a school district and a local higher education institution. Utilizes narrative inquiry to examine three of the participants’ reflections on how their experiences in the seminar informed their subsequent teaching. Finds that teachers’ engagement in multimodal composition during the seminar influenced their consideration of how multimodal writing events could increase student engagement, and raised their awareness of the high level of anxiety the writing process can provoke for many youth. Implies that teachers’ usage of diverse multimodal memoirs in the classroom could inspire more freedom and choice for students. Contends that secondary teachers must move beyond exclusive use of traditional textual autobiography and memoir, and that they must be provided with opportunities to engage with multimodal mentor texts for their own and their students’ writing development.


Examines how a media-arts program used digital storytelling to apply restorative justice principles such as participation, respect, interconnectedness, accountability, and empowerment. Employs frameworks of decontextualization and retexualization to examine interviews with and digital storytelling artifacts produced by eight young-adult participants identified as juve-
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Mobilizes theories of multiliteracies, disability studies, and intersectionality to examine how Javier, a Latinx English learner with disabilities, engaged in the composing process of digital video production. Inquires specifically into the ways video composing can be an act of redistributive social justice for students with learning disabilities. Utilizes case study, qualitative coding, and multimodal transcription to track the making of several digital videos in a general education classroom as part of a larger design-based study. Finds that Javier was a capable digital composer, made meaning across modes, and was attentive to his audience. Concludes that digital composing enables students with learning disabilities to create new representative forms. Urges educators to make digital tools available as opportunities for redistributive social justice, especially for children with disabilities who are often left out of productive digital literacies practices.


Explores how textual literacy and computational literacy can support each other and combine to create literacies with new critical possibilities. Harnesses theories of computational literacies and critical pedagogies to examine middle and high school students’ participation in three studio workshops that focused on design and analysis of a web application for interactive storytelling. Asks how the textual-computational literacy practices involved in designing the app might support critical awareness and resistance to racism, sexism, and other oppressive ideologies. Finds that design and analysis of the web application promoted various traditional literacy practices of reading and writing, as well as the composition of stories of personhood that cultivated awareness of identity, power, and privilege. Offers a vision of a literacy-based approach that could contribute to liberatory education. Urges educators and researchers to harness current opportunities, such as the introduction of new computer science standards and the increasing availability of web applications, to define how computer science will be practiced and implemented in schools.


Draws on critical social linguistic theories to analyze data from a yearlong qualitative study that explored how students in a multilingual US second-grade classroom co-constructed language ideologies during a daily e-book composing activity. Highlights the experiences of two students with different heritage language backgrounds. Details how these two students co-constructed language ideologies that honored and acknowledged their own and peers’ heritage languages. Urges educators to provide opportunities for students to connect their school and peer worlds to their heritage language and backgrounds.


Examines how students interact in classroom digital storytelling activities that enable co-creativity. Analyzes interviews, focus group discussions, field notes, and video recordings of classroom activities to document cases involving 125 students across 119 lessons. Utilizes the documentary method to interpret students’ interactions in classroom activities that aimed for
co-creativity. Identifies two phases of digital storytelling: the digital story-writing phase and the digital story-producing phase. During the initial story-writing phase, students exhibited action and control as two categories of co-creativity that shifted as students gave, took, shared, and limited control. In the digital story-producing phase, students experienced co-creative flow as shared enjoyment and fun. Concludes that teaching for creativity involves co-constructing goals and ethics to meet conditions for enabling co-creative flow in classrooms.


Draws upon sociocultural and social semiotics theories to investigate the collaborative practices of three pairs of grade 12 literature students at an urban magnet charter school in the Southern United States. Uses qualitative data methods to analyze how the pairs collaboratively composed a website, hypertext literary analysis, and podcast in response to *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien over a seven-week period. Finds that three kinds of collaborative partnership took place: (1) designer and assistant collaboration, (2) balanced division collaboration, and (3) alternating lead collaboration. Concludes that collaborative student partnerships were multifaceted and afforded students flexibility to select a type of partnership that worked for them. Suggests that more research is needed to examine which mediating factors promote meaningful collaboration versus basic cooperation. Advocates for explicitly teaching multimodal composing techniques and for considering students’ technical skills in selecting groups to maximize opportunities for productive collaborative composing in schools.


Analyzes how high school students created, remixed, and shared individual and collaborative media texts as they engaged in school-based making activities that utilized digital media tools for digital video production. Explores the resources and constraints of the makerspace’s learning ecology for students from nondominant communities. Employs a social design experiment framework to follow 45 first-year high school students in the school’s media makerspace over three design cycles. Finds that the work of cultivating and mobilizing audiences was central to young people’s making activities and that participants needed to see themselves as social and civic actors whose experiences and perspectives contributed to broader public conversations. Concludes that integrating makerspaces in schools can serve as a generative route to civic action for some students, but that the practices, skills, and knowledge of all students, including those from nondominant communities, must be considered and respected.


Examines how US secondary students in a digital media course used multimodal composition as a form of political and civic engagement. Focuses specifically on sound within video production as a modal resource for student authorship and voice. Employs theories of multiliterate expression and mediated discourse analysis to gain new understandings of how urban youth use digital media production to leverage school-based social action. Utilizes mediated discourse analysis to examine modal density and mediated action within youth-produced public service announcements. Finds that youth use media production and semiotic sense-making to simultaneously enliven community action and amplify their voices concerning personal issues of injustice. Concludes that the process of digital media production affords students opportunities to cultivate practices of civic and local engagement through invitations to “sound out” and “listen to” stories of injustice.

Employs new literacies theory as an interpretive lens to understand how the internet mediated the literacy practices of adolescents in two English language arts classrooms. Analyzes interviews, classroom observations, artifacts, and retrospective think-alouds to examine the use of new literacies practices involving Google Docs, Web 2.0 applications, and multimodal projects. Draws on eight central principles of new literacies theory as a deductive analytic framework to analyze classroom literacy practices. Finds that writing with technology tools both enabled and constrained the literacy actions of the adolescent participants. Advocates for creating stronger links between new literacies theory and writing, and for applying new literacies theory to a broader range of contexts. Suggests that educators should support students in developing strategic knowledge of the purposes for and meanings of various modes and tools during digital composing.

**Other Related Research**


**Discourse/Narrative Analysis/Cultural Difference**

Articles selected for this section offer a range of critical perspectives about literacy experiences and curricula that specifically focus on cultural identities. The studies include readings of texts to evaluate representation, considerations of participation and interaction in classroom and community settings, and analysis of student compositions. This work is about and for educators who are willing to engage students in literacy learning that involves reading, talking, and writing about power and resistance.
as related to racial and cultural identities and histories, religious affiliations, sexual identities and orientation, and cognitive, physiological, and social differences. (Anne Crampton, lead contributor)


Considers representation of race and ideology in the popular Raz-Kids online platform for elementary-level curricular reading materials. Draws on critical literacy, genre-based categorization, and coding to study 172 texts in the Raz-Kids 690-title catalog. Bases further analysis on both linguistic information and illustrations in the selected texts to explore the following research questions: Who is included/excluded in texts? How are people represented, and how are their stories told? What do texts ask us to see as true, right, or legitimate, particularly with respect to power and social relations? Finds that the texts perpetuated problematic stereotypes, and contained ideologically problematic inclusions and exclusions. Concludes with important considerations for educators who use Raz-Kids and suggestions for critical analysis of texts by both teachers and students.


Shares data from the authors’ co-taught LGBTQ-themed literature course at a Midwestern public charter high school. Blends ethnographic methods and practitioner inquiry to study three collaborative focal compositions, along with data related to their production. Arrives at a theme of shared vulnerability as central to the composing process in this setting. Reviews vignettes from the written work and interactions that illustrate stances of interrogating, expressing ambivalence toward, and reifying oppressive values. Makes plain that being vulnerable involves risking relationships, altering group dynamics, and being wrong, but stresses the need for sharing these risks with students as teachers/authors when engaging in critical work that interrogates oppressive values.


Describes a creative writing workshop for adolescent Latina girls in grades 7–12 and their mothers in the Southwestern United States. Represents stories as tools that express identities and ways of knowing and resist oppressive discourses. Draws on critical theories from Black and Chicana feminists, especially the concepts of liminal and third spaces. Uses grounded theory to code themes such as connection and resistance in writing, artwork, and interviews. Notes that spaces for intergenerational sharing and critical consciousness-raising for Latina women are especially important in this political climate.


Focuses on preschool children’s competence in discussing topics of race with multiple readings of picture books. Describes the support teachers can provide to students as they reflect on and value their own identities and others’ social worlds. Drawing on critical race theory and critical discourse analysis, finds that engaging in multiple interactive and open-ended read-alouds of the same text, alongside reflective teaching, can encourage the validation and valuation of people of color as well as children’s own racial identities; confirm that children of color are valued and beautiful; and cultivate engaged citizens who can ask questions and participate in dialogue across social and cultural differences.

Explores a read-in (Black Girls Read!) with over 100 Black girls in grades preK–12 as a continuation of the historical literate tradition of Black women who have resisted the dominant narrative perpetuated by mainstream culture. The read-in, set in Georgia, provided a space for Black girls to connect with their cultural heritage and to build upon their individual, literate identities. A Black girls’ literacies framework was used to examine the diverse experiences of the attendees and to highlight the need for educational experiences that affirm the identities of Black girls and defy a single narrative of Black girls’ literacies. Literacies were multilayered, with digital, performative, and traditional formats. Illustrates how powerful literacy engagement supports Black girls’ literacies, encouraging them to tell their stories of who they are.


Examines an emotional discussion about race and racism in a high school English classroom. Uses critical race theory and the concept of racial melancholia to interpret an interaction in which a White teacher’s body placement worked to mitigate the discomfort of a White student rather than an African American student, expressing a wordless solidarity with Whiteness. While the teacher wanted to discuss race and even to welcome discomfort, White identity was ultimately reified through the teacher’s desire for the safety and comfort of the White student. Suggests the possibility that the teacher’s post-incident reflection and apology might offer some hope for growth in future dialogues about race. Articulates a pedagogy of discomfort for anti-racist educators to include curriculum that repeatedly uncovers racial injuries.


Analyzes racial and gender representations in books by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) using a mixed-method study of 50 titles featuring human protagonists. Draws on critical literacy and critical race theory to expose how racism, erasure, and sexism are present in the texts studied, as demonstrated through direct literary analysis based on themes that emerged from the study: Orientalism, anti-Blackness, and White supremacy. Dismantles narratives of Seuss being “of his time” and the use of his works for anti-racist purposes in education. Asks teachers to consider the implications of these findings and the activism that has advocated for a shift away from Dr. Seuss–centered themes and texts during Read Across America Day at a national level.


Explores student-selected readings of disturbing and relevant YA literature in a two-year study set in a racially diverse classroom. Critiques how rarely schools enact the use of such texts as a curricular priority. Takes up this problem by describing the experiences of eighth-grade students in classes where engaged reading of disturbing books was the norm. Challenges and reframes adults’ (both teachers’ and parents’) apprehension that exposure to the realistic content of YA books might put students at risk. Considers both student and parent perspectives. Illustrates the many positive ways that students, families, and classrooms can be collaboratively transformed by these books and related conversations, and models how all three can engage collectively in literacy learning with the use of disturbing texts.

Uses discourse analysis and critical race media literacy to analyze local news coverage of a fight at a high school and a discussion about the news report at the same high school. Participants were students and teacher (a coauthor) in a remedial reading course that included critical literacy and multiliteracies approaches. Describes the contesting figured worlds created in the news report and students’ responses to the way the news characterized the fight as gang-related. Makes a case for critical race media literacy as part of reading and English language arts curriculum, especially for students whose stories are represented negatively in media portrayals.


Describes how one teacher scaffolded Australian high school English students to identify the subtle techniques of persuasion and technical metalanguage (i.e., grammatical cues) in news reports related to their social identities. Activities provided students with learning spaces to contest unequal relations of power. Students increased their knowledge of how language and grammatical choices construct reality and social identity. Collaborative learning invited students to engage with complicated topics and texts, and find coalitions based on common issues, with the goal for them to use language to redesign a world that they would like to see. Theoretical and practical applications are offered.


Utilizes critical ethnography and critical discourse analysis to explore the complex and intersectional performances of masculinities and reading identities in a high school–level sheltered-instruction language arts class. Draws on gender studies, second-language acquisition identity studies, queer feminism, philosophies of becoming, and theories of intersectionality to extend anti-essentialist scholarship on gender and literacies and to attend to the social and discursive space that constructs and is constructed by learner identities. Examines one Muslim male immigrant student’s identity negotiation and performance through analysis of classroom observations, interviews, and literacy-related artifacts from a larger study. Emphasizes the importance of avoiding essentialization of immigrant youth identities, the impact of discursive constructions of learner identity by teachers and peers, how normative discourses of masculinity affect engagement with reading and learning, and the need to disrupt gendered notions of reading, decenter relations of power, and expand stable and singular constructions of gender.


Draws on empirical data from a blogging project with US and Lithuanian English teachers who discussed the pedagogical importance of empathetic reading for youth with the YA novel *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. Suggests the importance of empathetic reading of the state-sponsored atrocities depicted in the novel and identifies how teachers can avoid common pitfalls when working with youth and what they call “difficult knowledge” within learning situations like role-playing. Identifies how close reading and literary analysis can detach readers from empathetic reading.


Forwards an inhuman approach to literacy—signaled by gestures of refusal and attention to affect—to disrupt the hierarchical valuing of certain literacies in educational systems that are steeped in White settler colonialism, Western-oriented ontologies, and neoliberalism. Drawing on Sylvia Wynter’s theories of the culture of man (White monoculture), frictional thinking, new materialisms, queer theory, critical race theory, and considerations of the more-than-human
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Explores experiences of Islamophobia in the school life of one male Muslim high school student. Uses qualitative case study and phenomenological methods to interpret interview data and the student’s written work, including poetry as well as analytic and personal prose. Draws on Freire’s critical consciousness and Beydoun’s concept of dialectical Islamophobia as frameworks. Finds that writing in English class offered space both for resisting persistent Islamophobia in the student’s social encounters at school and for religious expression. Notes the hopeful and transformative potential of an “unremarkable” English class that reads and responds to critical texts through personal and critical writing.

**Other Related Research**


**Literacy**

In selecting articles, we looked for studies that included the big five: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Additionally, we included studies related to literacy coaching, literacy leaders, community literacy, and home-school connections. The articles covered topics ranging from early childhood to adult literacy practices. Most of the studies were conducted in the United States, but some were conducted outside of the USA. (Keitha-Gail Martin-Kerr, lead contributor)

Analyzes data from two longitudinal case studies to show how poverty affects students’ literacy learning. Finds that the students’ homes, schools, and communities lacked economic capital, which had consequences for students’ academic careers. Highlights the roles teachers can take as advocates for students and their families when they lack economic capital. Reveals that parents embodied academic capital by showing up at school, writing letters, reading with their children, and talking to teachers. Concludes that low-income families bring resources to students’ schooling and literacy learning.


Analyzes a critical incident in an undergraduate literacy methods course, highlighting the dissonance between comprehension instructional strategies and macro-level social injustices in society. Implies that there is danger in teachers adopting comprehension strategies universally without critique of issues of social injustice. Concludes that teacher education programs must consider ways in which poverty, racism, and salient social identities manifest in specific school and classroom practices. Argues that these issues must be discussed across the program integrated into methods courses, and must not be seen solely as the purview of foundation courses.


Investigates the enactment of rehearsal of literacy lessons between teacher candidates and mentor teachers. Finds that rehearsal helps mentor teachers provide specific feedback to teacher candidates, connects feedback to the fundamentals of teaching, and requires teacher candidates to teach rehearsed lessons incorporating the feedback. Implies that rehearsal can influence literacy instruction in clinical settings.


Reports results of a meta-analysis of preK–12 literacy studies that examined whether balanced reading and writing intervention programs affect students’ performance. Limits consideration to experimental or quasi-experimental studies that measured the impact of reading and writing, and that evaluated programs devoting no more than 60% of instructional activities to either reading or writing. Finds statistically significant evidence that learning reading and writing together, employing highly effective practices, can improve student reading (as measured through comprehension, decoding, and vocabulary) and writing (as measured through mechanics and output).


Aims to determine how seven secondary social studies teachers defined literacy and how their definitions aligned with classroom literacy implementation. Evaluated the teachers’ ability to blend knowledge of content, pedagogy, and literacy processes through analysis of interviews, classroom observations, and examination of lesson plans. Finds that, although the teachers theoretically defined literacy as a combination of reading comprehension, writing fluidity, skills, and vocabulary, they lacked practical application knowledge about disciplinary literacy, and their instruction focused mostly on content knowledge needed to pass courses. Argues that teacher preparation and professional development should engage teachers in study and application of disciplinary literacy practices, beyond preparing students for exams.

Examines the effectiveness of non-education majors participating in a service-learning course to provide highly structured reading intervention to struggling readers in grades K–6. Finds that tutored students showed more growth over one year in letter-name identification, decoding, and passage comprehension, with significant effect sizes in comparison with students in the control group. Implies that minimally trained tutors who are supervised by a trained teacher can provide effective assistance to struggling readers.


Utilizes narrative inquiry to construct four illustrative case studies of word-reading difficulty in adults with limited literacy proficiency. Finds that instruction provided to adults with limited literacy proficiency can be inconsistent and based more on instructor beliefs than research-based strategies or diagnostic assessments. Indicates the need for professional training for adult-reading instructors on effective use of assessment to diagnose and treat reading challenges.


Examines read-aloud practices of mothers with children to determine whether training on three language strategies (comments, high-level questions, and recasts) could increase children's oral language skills in a study with a multiple-baseline, single-subject design. Finds that mothers commented and asked high-level questions during book reading to a greater degree than they had before the study at both the intervention and follow-up points, while the recast strategy was consistently unused throughout the study. Suggests that training through parent modeling and coaching positively affects children's language acquisition and use.


Explores the relationship of low-SES Chilean parents' literacy practices and their children's reading interests through kindergarten. Finds that children's reading interests predicted parents' literacy practices, suggesting that children can influence their reading environment. Parents' practices did not predict students' reading interests. Unlike previous research that has evaluated the effects of parents' practices on children's reading interests, this study examines the relationship in both directions. Concludes that strengthening parents' perceptions of children's reading interests, rather than seeking only to change parents' practices, directly improves home literacy environments.


Investigates the effects of use of the Pure and Complete Phonics program (a modification of Orton-Gillingham) with incarcerated adults receiving an hour of instruction 5 days a week over a period of 15 weeks. Finds that the treatment group outperformed the control group on four measures of the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement (letter-word identification, reading fluency, spelling, and word attack), indicating that this program is likely to increase literacy rates of incarcerated adults more than programs currently used in correctional facilities.

Examines how key disciplinary literacy practices are enacted in sixth- through twelfth-grade ELA, science, history and social studies, and mathematics instruction, given each discipline's specific language, expectations, and knowledge construction. Discusses results of a self-reporting survey of current disciplinary literacy practices, developed through focus groups of teachers from each discipline. Finds that disciplinary literacy is not limited to the ELA classroom and involves source literacy, analytic literacy, and expressive literacy—three approaches that should be explicitly taught to students.


Assesses the effectiveness of a disciplinary literacy-based program implemented in sixth-grade history classes to improve academically diverse students' historical writing and reading. The authors used a design-based research model to develop the Historical Exploration and Writing Instruction for All Learners (HEWIL) curriculum, which aims to build students' background knowledge, critical thinking skills, and historical argumentative writing skills. Finds that students at all ability levels showed increased reading comprehension and improved skill in writing historical arguments. Suggests that students can benefit from teacher interventions on analyzing source texts and writing historical arguments.


Details the experiences of a middle-class, Black, third-grade girl (Melissa) successfully navigating differing language and social patterns in settings of school and church. Observes how Melissa's abilities to shift to more individualistic behavior, use Standard English instead of African American Vernacular English, and recognize codes of power in school were assisted by her educator mother. Challenges Eurocentric methods of instruction that emphasize competition and devalue equality and communal learning.


Investigates the integration of teaching critical literacies and literary elements through a yearlong case study of a 10th-grade English class. Includes analysis of multiple observations, teacher and student interviews, and student writing in response to text, along with teacher feedback. Finds that the teacher's instructional stance of positioning students as agented readers who construct their own meanings, along with her expectation that students should critique texts for biases and missing voices, allowed students to author their own interpretations rather than accept a singular literary interpretation. Concludes that this instructional approach provided students with opportunities to understand literary elements in context, while also promoting critical consciousness.

Other Related Research


Annotated Bibliography


Literary Response/Literature/Narrative

Research on literature and literary response featured in this year’s annotated bibliography includes critical sociocultural and political analysis of children’s and young adult literature, and classroom studies of instructional practices that disrupt students’ assumptions and develop students’ critical consciousness. Topics include representations of gender, race, disability, body size, and enslavement in children’s and young adult literature, as well as students’ responses to LGBTQ literature and teachers’ approaches to global literature. (Amanda Haertling Thein, lead contributor)


Investigates constructions of fatness in young adult literature by drawing on critical fat studies, feminist criticism, and reader response theory. Uses critical and comparative content analysis to study representations of fatness in two prose novels and two graphic novels. Finds four themes: (1) defining fatness in relation to other bodies, (2) relationships between weight and desire, (3) relationships with adults, and (4) relationships with food. Explores differences between representations of fatness in prose novels and graphic novels. Concludes that identifying discourses of fatness within prose and graphic novels is necessary to combat fatphobia. Highlights ways in which the novels interrogate fatness and offer counternarratives about body image that go beyond notions of self-love and acceptance.


Examines 300 collaboratively produced wiki pages, created by university students, that documented and compared nonacademic online reviews of popular children’s books. Notes that the wiki creation spurred university students to see differences between adult and child reviewers,
and among reviewers’ motives and backgrounds. Explores how open accessibility to post and read reviews allowed the larger online communities to easily question and discuss authenticity and representation in the books. Suggests using nonacademic online reviews for student discussion and analysis work.


Explores stereotypical representations of autism in popular media and the potential for disrupting stereotypical representations in fanfiction. Uses an author-developed protocol to analyze the content (related to, e.g., characterization, setting, resolution, dialogue) of pieces of fanfiction to uncover ways in which autism and autistic characters were positioned in fanfiction narratives. Finds a tension between representations of autism that were stereotypical and those that offered agentive responses to stereotypical representations. Presents three themes: (1) voice, point of view, and power to speak; (2) autism intersecting with other forms of difference, and (3) promotion of empowerment, understanding, and agency. Finds that while some unfortunate tropes were reproduced, fanfiction is an arena for expanding notions of neurodiversity and can be taken up to enhance critical and multicultural pedagogies.


Examines how 11 parents of young adults responded, in the context of a semester-long book club, to a current, potentially controversial, young adult text that depicts alternative viewpoints on an incident of police brutality. Using qualitative coding, finds that reading and discussing *All American Boys* helped parents grapple with race, oppression, and power in society. Concludes that parents generally supported the teaching of the novel in schools, and encourages teacher communication with parents about pedagogical approaches to controversial texts. Recommends that educators develop robust rationales for teaching potentially controversial texts and build partnerships with parents.


Explores the responses of seventh-grade students to two graphic novels of fractured fairy tales, *Rapunzel’s Revenge* and *Calamity Jack.* Focuses on the discussion around gender representation and femininity in the text and extensions of these concepts into the real world. Argues that books with fluid gender portrayal help to promote complex understanding of humanity and human roles.


Examines preservice teachers’ responses to picture books before and after reading them with children. Uses content analysis to uncover themes within preservice teachers’ reviews and reflective essays with respect to views on picture books and constructions of childhood. Finds shifts in preservice teachers’ understandings of children and picture books after reading with children, which are characterized in six themes: children as (1) meaning makers, (2) embodied learners, (3) knowledgeable about the world, (4) having life experience, (5) literary critics, and (6) individuals. Concludes that engaging with young readers can contribute to meaningful interrogation of preservice teachers’ beliefs about childhood and the role of picture books in children’s lives, if conceptual tools are introduced that expose preservice teachers to competing theoretical paradigms.

Uses case-study methodology to investigate the design and implementation of a “critical canon pedagogy unit” intended to help secondary students explore and critique the canonization of British literature. Finds that the unit helped many students recognize canons as racialized and politically contested social constructs, and that some students maintained a colorblind approach to discussing canonicity. Argues for the importance of engaging students in inquiry and critical analysis of “canonical bodies” across disciplines.


Explores second graders’ responses to LGBTQ texts and texts that encourage discussions of gender norms in a 15-week after-school literacy club. Employs qualitative coding of data from discussion of five focal LGBTQ texts presented in teacher-led read-alouds. Finds that students voiced an array of responses, including homophobic/heterosexist responses and responses that challenged heteronormativity. Argues that young children are ready for conversations about gender and sexuality and that LGBTQ children’s literature provides a useful space for such conversations.


Investigates the depiction of enslavement in recently published elementary-level literature. Uses qualitative content analysis to pinpoint the interpretive stances of both the narrative text and illustrations in 21 texts. Finds that current historical children’s literature representing enslavement assumes three stances: *selective tradition, social conscience,* and *culturally conscious.* Advocates for careful decision-making on the part of elementary teachers, given that a wide diversity of depictions of enslavement are represented in current children’s literature, yet realities of race and racism sometimes remain invisible.


Uses Asian critical race theory to examine 21 picturebooks published over 10 years. Finds over-representation of East Asian Americans as compared to other Asian groups, and significant ties between author positionality and the authenticity and accuracy of the texts. Suggests teachers use a variety of books with multiple perspectives and historical depictions to help display the complexity and range of Asian American experiences over time.


Examines the discourse of the #BlackGirlMagic movement by unpacking respectability and ratchetness. Uses an analytical frame informed by critical content analysis and Black ratchet imagination (BRI) to approach Nnedi Okorafor’s Africanfuturistic young adult novels. Finds several BRI-related themes associated with characters’ (a) awareness of injustice/oppression, (b) acts against oppression, and (c) holding dominant groups accountable. Discusses how Okorafor’s characters dismantle the respectability-ratchetness binary and thus reconfigure Black girl identity. Concludes that these representations offer literacy stakeholders a means to refuse damaging stories and provide new ways to envision Black girlhood.

Explores responses of teens, preservice teachers, and parents to the young adult novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Draws on positioning theory to consider how participants’ roles (and their associated rights and responsibilities) interacted with their responses to the book, and applies critical discourse analysis to examine participants’ situated interactions. Finds variation in how teens, preservice teachers, and parents assumed roles and responded to the book. Finds two positionings: (1) protective role positioning (seeing the book as a potential threat yet still important), and (2) literary critic positioning (seeing the book as a realistic story). Characterizes issues concerning the romanticization of suicide and the need to include resources for readers. Discusses the propensity for adults to focus on controversy while students see literary elements connected to social themes. Concludes that building understanding across social positions and responses to literature can move dialogue about literature beyond dismissive attitudes to a more productive place for literacy classrooms.


Describes how a fifth-grade teacher in an affluent and culturally homogeneous community taught global literature with the goal of disrupting students’ assumptions and beliefs. Draws on transactional theories of literary response and critical theories of language and literacy to analyze qualitative data gathered from 14 class sessions. Finds that the teacher used three pedagogical moves to disrupt students’ assumptions: inviting students to share their aesthetic transactions, privileging multiple perspectives across multiple genres, and calling attention to language choices. Argues for using both transactional and critical approaches to language and literacy in teaching global literature.

**Other Related Research**


Annotated Bibliography


Media Literacy

The research on media literacy in this section examines uses of certain types of media (television, videos, news, advertisements, social media, etc.); attitudes toward and levels of trust in the media; media representations of various groups and issues; effects of critical media literacy instruction on users’ actions and attitudes; preparing preservice teachers to teach media literacy; and use of media production tools to engage students in multimodal media productions. Priority was given to studies using large-scale databases to document particular uses of media. (Richard Beach, lead contributor)


Compares data from 198 students at a public university who were divided into two groups: a control group and a group that received a media literacy intervention about gender and body image during their communication course. The students took pretests, posttests immediately after the intervention, and then a second round of posttests four weeks later. Data highlighted higher-level media literacy understandings about media representations of gender and race in the intervention group than in the control group, seen immediately after the intervention and four weeks later.


Reports results of a survey of media literacy educators regarding their perceptions of which topics were most frequently addressed in media literacy courses and programs in 2018. Information literacy (69%), agenda/bias (67%), news literacy (67%), copyright and fair use (56%), advertising/consumer culture (54%), and credibility (54%) were the most frequently selected topics, while celebrity culture (16%) and violence (13%) were less common topics, reflecting a focus on the need to critique “fake news” and misinformation in the media. More respondents noted that media literacy was taught in content area courses (38%) than as a standalone course (24%). Roughly half noted challenges in teaching media literacy given “competing curricular requirements” (50%) and “lack of time” (45%), while fewer cited “lack of content/curricular resources” (24%), “funding” (22%), and “lack of content area curricular training” (19%). Sug-
gests the need for more teacher preparation/inservice as well as resource repositories related to teaching media literacy.


Assesses how 27 undergraduate preservice teachers evaluated the reliability of four online sources about climate change. Describes how, through responding to individual questions and group discussions about the sources, preservice teachers demonstrated the benefits of a whole-group discussion process and a focused multistep process to evaluate sources. Highlights the influence of perservice teachers’ personal beliefs about climate change and suggests that preservice teachers analyze their own process of determining credibility.


Identifies prospective teachers’ levels of media literacy skills using a mixed-methods study of 865 prospective teachers in a Turkish state university who took a 45-item media literacy skills scale developed by the authors. Reveals that prospective teachers had moderate media literacy skills and that their skill levels differed significantly depending on the teaching programs they attended. Also describes results of a qualitative phase, in which semistructured interviews were held with five prospective teachers, suggesting that participants lacked awareness and competencies necessary to access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate information.


Analyzes preservice teachers’ interview reflections on collaboratively creating videos related to adopting a critical stance, or “détournement,” portraying alternative perspectives or versions of contemporary cultural issues. Students noted that they valued generating videos that addressed issues that concerned them to achieve uptake with their audiences; they also described challenges associated with lack of media composition experience, difficulties in selecting media content most relevant to their topic, and problems associated with relying on one person as editor in the collaboration process. Suggests the need to assign preservice teachers with digital editing experience to serve as editors.


Evaluates upper-elementary students’ counter-advertisements after a 10-lesson alcohol media literacy program. Uses discourse analysis to examine students’ redesigned advertisements, with attention to message content, persuasion strategies, and production components based on a media literacy framework. Identifies themes highlighting an emphasis on short-term consequences of alcohol misuse. Concludes that sensory (un)appeal was the most frequently used persuasion strategy, and that strategies differed depending upon the advertisement’s target gender.


Given the increased popularity of remix culture through video production, describes a content analysis of 93 videos created in response to the “Love Language” video regarding romance and disability awareness, evaluating the remake videos in terms of degrees of conformed imitation versus originality. Finds that most remake videos imitated the original video’s narrative struc-
ture, while their portrayals of social relationships and use of cinematographic codes were more original. Suggests the value of students creating remake videos to foster creative expression through digital productions.


Reports on a survey of 743 US adolescents and 1,058 US parents, finding that 45% are continually online, with 54% of adolescents indicating that they spend too much time on their cellphones. Half (56%) associate high cellphone use with emotions of loneliness, being upset, or feeling anxious. When they do not have their phone with them, 49% of females versus 35% of males experience feelings of anxiety, and 32% of females versus 20% of males experience loneliness. Many report attempting to reduce their cellphone time (52%), use of social media (57%), and time playing video games (58%); 57% indicate that they need to respond to messages immediately. Parental concerns are common: 86% of parents reported that they know their children's appropriate screen time allowance, and 57% said they attempt to set restrictions on screen time (more so for adolescents ages 13–14 than those ages 15–17). Half of adolescents indicated that parents are often distracted by their own cellphone use.


Details results of computer analyses of language employed in 27,000 reports from three newspapers, network television news, and six online/cable news outlets before 2000 and then from 2000 to 2017, given the shift from print to online news. Finds that prior to 2000, language in newspaper reports was more focused on describing events and contexts, while after 2000, it focused more on storytelling, personal interactions/perspectives, and emotions. Traditional network television news prior to 2000 employed more precise/concrete language, while after 2000, it presented more opinions, interviews, and arguments. Compared with network television news, cable/online news outlets exhibited an even more pronounced shift toward opinionated, subjective, conversational, argumentative language after 2000, reflecting differences in the business models shaping network television versus cable/online news.


Investigates the media literacy skills and gender role attitudes of four classes of Taiwanese ninth-graders who took a four-week intervention class in media literacy about idol dramas. Compares performance of student participants with that of four control groups at the same school that did not receive the intervention, through one pretest and two posttests (one directly after the intervention and the other one month later). Shows that participants had better media literacy abilities and more positive gender role attitudes in both posttests compared with the control group.


Analyzes adoption of a critical viewing approach using a metalanguage for ninth-grade Singapore students' response to films using pre-to-post assessments. Students demonstrated increased ability to employ metalanguage related to use of images and sound for constructing rhetorical uptake with audiences. Students noted the benefits of using a video annotation tool and digital storyboard to formulate responses; teachers indicated the need for more systematic preparation for instruction in using metalanguage for critical response to films.

Reports on a survey of American adults’ media use, finding that respondents spent an average of 11 hours daily interacting with media, with 92% listening to radio and 88% viewing television on a weekly basis, averaging 4 hours and 46 minutes of viewing daily. Finds an increase in use of TV-connected devices such as game consoles and internet devices, reaching an average of 40 minutes daily. Adults also spent an average of 3 hours and 48 minutes daily on digital media, with 62% of that time devoted to smartphone usage. Young adults ages 18–34 devoted 43% of their media time to digital platforms, particularly apps/websites; they spent an average of 45 minutes per day on social media, with 72% viewing video content on social media daily.


Explores media literacy curriculum and students’ perspectives about making media in an undergraduate media literacy class. Through curation and remixing of various media texts, students participated in creating media texts as a multimodal and transmedia process. Findings suggest that media production pedagogy requires students to socially construct knowledge that creates opportunities for higher-order, critical, and expressive inquiry that may lead to more democratic and innovative ways of teaching and learning.


Explores the relationship between teacher candidates’ level of media literacy and active citizenship, in terms of their level of participation in protest and social change. Reports results of a survey of 1,101 first- and fourth-year teacher candidates studying at a university in Turkey. Finds a significant relationship between media literacy level and participation in protest and social change. Recommends media literacy training in formal and informal settings so teachers can demonstrate and transfer these skills to their students.


Summarizes results of a survey of 2,003 American media consumers, which found that 69% subscribed to at least one streaming video service (on average, subscribing to 3 out of over 300 service options), 65% subscribed to traditional pay TV, and 43% subscribed to both. Also, 41% subscribed to music streaming services, a 58% increase from the previous year. Subscribers indicated that they chose streaming services when they could not find similar content elsewhere, and 44% said they preferred ad-free content, with 75% noting that there were too many advertisements on pay TV channels. More than a third (36%) employed voice-enabled home digital assistants to access content, particularly music, and 30% subscribed to a gaming service, with 41% playing video games either daily or weekly. At the same time, 47% voiced frustration with difficulties in quickly navigating the increased number of alternative services.

**Other Related Research**


Professional Development/Teacher Education

The research in this section includes studies of preservice and inservice teachers’ use of critical pedagogies, multiliteracies, and nontraditional classroom approaches in literacy and English language arts. Many studies explored large data sets through the use of survey designs, systematic literature reviews, and multi-institutional research designs. A few important studies examined literacy pedagogies through microethnography and discourse analysis methods. A noticeable trend in the research reviewed this year was an emphasis on changing teacher beliefs, questioning power structures, and resisting traditional ways of teaching. Many studies focused on the impact and significance of the role of the teacher educator, professional developer, and literacy coach in supporting these changes. (Lisa Ortmann, lead contributor)


Examines the perceptions of 103 elementary and secondary principals on the roles of specialized literacy professionals. Describes a survey study intended to determine the types of activities that specialized literacy professionals engaged in across the school and the extent to which they influenced the literacy achievement of students and instructional practices of teachers. Finds that roles and responsibilities of specialized literacy professionals need to be clearly outlined, and coursework should include professional learning opportunities in teaching and leadership.


Reviews the literature on critical literacies in teacher preparation to identify current practices in teacher education coursework and field experiences that prepare teachers for the use of critical literacies pedagogy. Theorizes critical literacies pedagogy as a tool for: (1) interrogating the political nature of literacies, (2) deconstructing and reconstructing the world, (3) struggling against the status quo, (4) embracing multiliteracies, and (5) situating literacies within local contexts. Analyzes 26 articles published between 1990 and 2016 that used a critical literacies framework, finding that course experiences were primarily text-based (literature and multimedia); non-text-based course experiences included inquiry projects, facilitating critical conversations, and applying critical inquiry to personal writing; and field experiences included critical literacies enactments during observations of model teaching, engaging in virtual teaching, and tutoring in summer camps. Argues for the use of critical literacies pedagogy in teacher education in order to shift preservice teachers’ perspectives and practices.


Employs a microethnographic approach to studying the discourse and interactions between literacy coaches and teachers as they worked toward implementation of their district literacy program. Data included video of coaching interactions, interviews, and artifacts. The theoretical framework of the study offered a critique of teacher development as a linear progression with the support of the literacy coach as the expert. Findings emphasize the potential of “breaking away” from these traditional and stage-oriented conceptualizations of teaching, toward a nonlinear
and dialogic perspective of professional learning, thus offering opportunities for fully valuing teacher knowledge and innovation.


Investigates the characteristics of 71 middle school teachers (grades 6–8) who were resistant or receptive to instructional coaching for a literacy strategy, Collaborative Strategic Reading (CSR), which is intended for use in content areas to increase comprehension. Based on data sources including coaching logs, classroom observation, and a survey, finds that teachers resistant to coaching primarily fell into three categories that explained their resistance: resistant to coaching time, resistant to CSR, or resistant to integrating feedback. Calls for coaches to understand teacher buy-in regarding new strategies and for consideration of alternative methods of professional learning that may be equally effective.


Utilizes meta-analysis methodology with 60 experimental and quasi-experimental studies on teacher coaching to determine its effect on teacher outcomes (instruction) and student outcomes (achievement). Notes that over half of the studies reviewed focused on literacy. Defines teacher coaching as individualized, intensive, sustained, context-specific, and focused. Suggests that teacher coaching has large positive effects on instruction and small positive effects on student achievement, and produces more favorable outcomes for instruction and achievement than other forms of professional learning.


Shares the findings of a systematic review of research related to formal and informal teacher groups. Identifies 52 studies published over a 20-year period, based on review criteria. Finds that formal and informal teacher learning groups share many common goals and outcomes, including sharing of information and experiencing a sense of belonging. Identifies the challenge of superficial interaction in online professional learning settings. Argues that online teacher communities can support the development of professional practices.


Approaches the analysis of teacher perspectives on online professional development through social learning theory, theories of learning in the mobile age, and motivation. Outlines survey results, highlighting the value teachers find in online professional development experiences. Identifies low levels of experience with informal online professional learning opportunities, such as through platforms like Twitter. Concludes that teachers value particular approaches to online professional development (namely, those built on collaboration and support) over others (those built on evaluation and feedback).


Examines the impact of a two-year professional development project focused on moving from a scripted literacy curriculum to differentiated balanced literacy instruction. Outlines a design-based research methodology implemented through an iterative data collection process and
systematic analysis. Discusses elements that enhance teacher growth. Highlights the importance of clear leadership and accountability.


Explores the interactions between secondary-level teachers and a literacy coach as they worked toward creating more equitable instruction opportunities for English learners. Utilizes a multiple case study approach with video self-reflection, planning sessions, and interview as data sources. Based on analysis of coaching dialogue, finds that building consonance and introducing dissonance in reflections of teaching were effective coaching moves for improving instruction. Suggests the potential of creating dialogic spaces among teachers and coaches.


Analyzes a preservice teacher’s experiences in a seventh-grade literacy classroom using theories of deconstruction, examining moments when binaries and other discursive structures of school, English language arts, and literacy teacher preparation were questioned or resisted by the preservice teacher (Mel). Presents examples of deconstruction events in Mel’s teaching, explained as moments where typically normalized routines and practices were made visible to students, in order to highlight opportunities for preservice teachers to enact critical, social-justice pedagogies. Argues that perpetuating the discourse that preservice teachers are "not yet" teachers limits their perceived impact on students and discredits their teaching experiences.


Investigates the writing methods courses of a purposive sample of eight teacher educators from eight institutions across the United States to determine how exemplary writing course instructors help undergraduate elementary teacher candidates become classroom teachers of writing. Cross-case analysis of interviews, course syllabi, and assignment descriptions revealed that despite the wide range of programs and contexts, teacher educators were similar in goals and approach. Instructors focused on helping candidates develop as writers and build their identities as teachers of writing. Found that exemplary assignments were designed to engage teacher candidates in purposeful writing experiences while simultaneously encouraging them to be observant of their own attitudes and beliefs about writing, disrupting previous negative experiences with writing or poor writing self-concepts.


Investigates three teacher educators’ use of assignments that were designed to approximate the teaching practices of English language arts teachers in order to find common approaches. Explains Pam Grossman’s concept of “approximations of practice” as instructional tools like role-playing, peer-teaching, and the use of lesson templates that are designed to scaffold learning of the activities and practices of teaching. Draws on cross-case analysis of data sources including video of course sessions, field notes, interviews, and instructional artifacts. Finds that teacher educators leveraged four instructional tools for successful scaffolding of approximations of ELA teaching: instructional activities, representations, planning templates, and texts and instructional goals. Suggests that approximations reduced complexity of teaching in order to scaffold candidate learning. Recommends that ELA teacher educators design learning experiences that leverage approximations of teaching across multiple instructional goals and activities.

Examines the intricacies of a three-year research project involving two universities, a research center, and six secondary schools. Based on interview data, identifies three approaches to knowledge co-construction: *practice-based*, *research-informed*, and *research-based*. Finds that participants implemented teacher practices using all three processes of knowledge co-construction. Advocates for professional learning that facilitates teachers to build knowledge and develop their practice based on that knowledge.


Investigates elementary preservice teachers’ perceptions of teaching new literacies in their future classrooms, in order to make recommendations for changes to teacher education programs. Reports on a survey of 145 preservice teachers enrolled in a foundations of literacy course at a prestigious, private university on the West Coast. Includes details of the survey, which was designed for this study and included both open- and closed-ended items relating to literacy life experiences and teaching beliefs. Outlines results of descriptive and thematic analysis, including the major finding that although participants were digital insiders, they favored teaching of traditional, school-based literacies, and assumed the purpose of education was to do well in school. Suggests that teacher candidates do not incorporate course learning of new literacies into their beliefs about teaching, and that teacher educators should play a critical role in preparing preservice teachers to bring new literacies into their teaching.


Explores how targeted and responsive professional development that is focused on support, time, and access to expertise affects the integration of iPads into instruction. Drawing on a qualitative case study design, analysis focuses on the experiences of three participants selected through intensity sampling. Suggests that teacher belief in the importance of technology integration, combined with the STAK model, influences change in practice.

**Other Related Research**


**Reading**

*Articles selected for this section of the 2019 RTE annotated bibliography are representative of continuing scholarly interest in the complexities of reading, specifically interactions among student engagement, foundational skills, and comprehension. Several studies explored aspects of reading comprehension—including motivation, phonological awareness, and morphology—while others emphasized the importance of morphological awareness and vocabulary to the creation of academic knowledge and disciplinary understanding. There was also a notable emphasis on the qualities of the literacy environment, including characteristics of effective reading programs, observations of teacher practices, and instructional strategies that support independent reading. (Kathryn Allen, lead contributor)*


Calculates effect sizes for 69 random-assignment and quasi-experimental studies evaluating 51 secondary reading programs (grades 6–12). Conditions for inclusion in the analysis included: delivery of instruction by teachers, not researchers; use of standardized assessments for pretest and posttest data; and treatment duration of at least 12 weeks. Programs using cooperative
learning, one-on-one or small-group tutoring, writing-focused approaches, and whole-school reforms (e.g., establishing teacher teams) showed positive results. Some programs integrating social studies and science were also found to be effective. Effect sizes were the same for English learners as for all other students. Programs offering an extra period of reading every day or technology-enhanced learning were not more effective than programs without these elements.


Describes a longitudinal study examining the predictive value of exposure to within-class ability grouping for reading instruction in grades K–3 to reading achievement in later grades, as measured by test scores in grades 5 and 8 and English coursework placements in middle grades. Uses multivariate models to compare longitudinal data from 6,476 students in the kindergarten class of 1988-1999 followed by the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, a national panel study sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education. Indicates that students in primary grades experienced variation in ability grouping placements across years, and each year of placement in a low-ability group was associated with lower test scores in eighth grade, while placement in high-ability groups was consistently linked to high test scores.


Posits that previous studies of students’ response to intervention do not account for progress over time. Asks which cognitive characteristics (phonemic awareness, phonological processing, rapid automatized naming, verbal knowledge, orthographic processing, visual-verbal paired associate learning, working memory, executive function, processing speed) differentiate student response to Tier 3 fluency intervention, whether results support the continuum-of-severity hypothesis, and whether cognitive scores are associated with students’ Tier 3 intervention response. Describes how multivariate profile analysis determined patterns of cognitive function with regard to student response to intervention as measured by words per minute. Concludes that student response to Tier 3 fluency-based reading intervention depends on complex cognitive interactions and a multitude of factors.


Reports results of a two-month vocabulary intervention designed to build semantic networks in 30 preschool children from three different classrooms in a state-funded program for low-income families. The average age at the time of pretest was 59.6 months; 43% of the children were male, and 13% were English learners. Targeted words were explicitly taught in conceptually based categories during shared reading of two informational trade books over multiple lessons. Each reading was followed by a 10-minute guided play session, where children were encouraged to use the vocabulary words while manipulating toys or props related to the concept (e.g., a toy rake, hoe, and watering can associated with a text on seeds and growing plants). Assessments included the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test and New Word Definition Test. Children demonstrated significant growth in vocabulary depth when words were taught in taxonomies rather than themes. Recommends teaching groups of conceptually related words rather than isolated words.


Examines disciplinary morpheme frequency and serves as an instructional resource for morphological instruction in the disciplines, demonstrating that morphological awareness is predictive of reading comprehension in upper-elementary and secondary students, and is related to...
disciplinary knowledge. Researchers created a database of academic vocabulary and categorized words according to prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Words were sorted into disciplinary categories and ordered by frequency. Results suggest that instruction on prefixes and derivational suffixes, which tend to be similar across content areas, is appropriate in elementary school, while more content-specific Latin and Greek roots should be a focus of disciplinary reading instruction (including phonology and spelling patterns) at the secondary level. Suggests that morphemes carry disciplinary meaning and so should be studied within the larger disciplinary context.


Investigates how four dimensions of vocabulary knowledge (multiword expressions, topical associates, hypernym, and definition knowledge) explain variance in reading comprehension. Analyzes data from a three-year randomized efficacy trial of 5,855 students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and finds a high correlation of vocabulary knowledge dimensions with academic vocabulary and reading comprehension. Indicates that the multiword expressions, topical associations, and definition knowledge tasks explain unique variance in reading comprehension. Demonstrates that students acquire knowledge of words in multiple ways and that the different components of vocabulary knowledge are important to understanding students’ reading performances.


Analyzes results of a longitudinal study of 197 English-speaking third- and fourth-grade students from 14 schools in Canada to determine whether morphological awareness, morphological analysis, or a combination of both leads to increases in students’ reading comprehension. Two spoken measures of morphological awareness were administered each year, including the Test of Morphological Structure and a word analogy task. The morphological analysis task was given orally, and students were asked to select a definition from a list of four options. Multivariate autoregressive path analysis identified morphological analysis as predictive of gains in reading comprehension. Suggests a developmental progression of students’ abilities to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.


Analyzes video recordings of four consecutive reading lessons in 47 Norwegian eighth-grade language arts classrooms using qualitative content analyses of the Protocol for Language Arts Teacher Observation, a research-validated, content-specific tool. Identifies and describes evidence of naturally occurring comprehension strategy instruction. Finds that relatively few examples of comprehension strategy instruction were explicit (14.4%), and a higher percentage of comprehension instruction occurred at a lower level, where teachers mentioned, referred to, or prompted students to use strategies (32%). Indicates that instruction was more often focused on teacher-initiated text-based discussions using an initiate-response-evaluate pattern (61.25%) or related to text structure and literary devices (46.25%).


Examines the effect of a web-based tool designed to teach text structure, the Intelligent Tutoring of the Structure Strategy (ITSS), on fourth-, fifth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students’ understanding of four comparative signal words. Compares pretest and posttest measures of signaling.
and standardized reading comprehension in four large randomized efficacy studies ($N = 7,125$) across age, grade level, and comprehension ability (high, middle, low). Finds that students who received the ITSS instruction outperformed students in the control group on the generation of signal words, particularly more difficult words that mark transitions between paragraphs. Demonstrates the importance of text structure strategy instruction to increase upper-elementary and middle school students’ understanding of signal words and comprehension of expository and persuasive texts. Notes that the instructional focus on compare-and-contrast text structure and signal words is well-suited to fourth- to eighth-grade students.


Seeks to understand how supported independent reading fosters meaning-making in first graders, and how young readers’ attitudes toward reading change in supported independent reading contexts. Analyzes data from a convergent parallel mixed-methods study, including observational checklists and video transcripts, finding that first graders read (79.73% literacy-related behaviors, 12.67% off-task behaviors, 7.4% transitional behaviors) and constructed meaning (summary/re-tell, word identification, inferential thinking and talk, making connections, asking/solving questions, use of comprehension strategies) during supported independent reading; teacher-created literacy environments played a central role in frequency of literacy-related behaviors; and student attitudes toward reading shifted from accuracy-oriented to meaning-oriented in a supported independent reading context.


Identifies the direct and indirect effects of word reading, vocabulary, silent reading efficiency, and inference-making on the reading comprehension of students in grades 6–8, comparing the results of struggling readers and adequate readers. Utilizes mediation path analyses and Wald tests to analyze data from measures of reading comprehension and vocabulary (GMRT-4), word reading (Test of Word Reading Efficiency), inference-making (Adolescent Literacy Inventory), and silent reading efficacy (Test of Silent Reading Efficiency and Comprehension) from a sample of struggling and adequate middle grade readers ($N = 796$). Finds evidence that vocabulary is a statistically significant predictor of reading comprehension and inference-making across ability groups, while word reading has a stronger relationship to comprehension in struggling readers. Concludes that adequate readers benefit from instruction that focuses on vocabulary learning while reading, while struggling readers benefit from direct vocabulary instruction and targeted word-reading instruction.


Examines 405 third- and fourth-grade students’ recreational reading motivation using a longitudinal, person-centered approach. Participants came from 25 schools in Germany and represented a socioeconomically diverse population. Authors focused on two dimensions of intrinsic motivation—curiosity and involvement—and two dimensions of extrinsic motivation—competition and recognition. Students were assessed individually by researchers, once in third grade and 10 months later in fourth grade, using the Reading Motivation Questionnaire for Elementary Students. Latent profile analyses identified four profiles across both grade levels: high intrinsic (scoring high in curiosity and involvement and low in competition and recognition), high involvement (scoring low in all other dimensions), high quantity (scoring high in all dimensions), and moderate quantity (scoring low in all dimensions). From grade 3 to grade 4, 35% of students changed their profile, moving to a high intrinsic profile. Results of a standardized reading assessment focusing on word-level and passage-level comprehension showed that
students with high intrinsic or high involvement profiles outperformed students with high quantity or moderate quantity profiles.


Explores the interrelationships between three metalinguistic skills (phonological awareness, morphological awareness, and orthographic knowledge) and reading comprehension in struggling adult readers. Analyzes data from a battery of 13 measures conducted with 220 struggling adult readers to assess metalinguistic skills, decoding, oral vocabulary knowledge, and reading comprehension for correlations among the measures. Finds evidence that 91% of reading comprehension variance in the sample was accounted for by metalinguistic skills, decoding, and oral vocabulary knowledge. Suggests that the role of metalinguistic awareness in reading is unique in adult reading learners, in that their metalinguistic skills may be less dissociable than those of young readers, and in that they rely more on metalinguistic skills when identifying individual words. Concludes that instructional interventions for struggling adult readers ought to target metalinguistic skill development to improve decoding, vocabulary knowledge, and comprehension.


Reports on a longitudinal, accelerated cohort study that characterized the development of language, reading, and cognition in African American boys. Uses individual change score models to compare language trajectories of African American boys and girls across first through fifth grades using measures of students’ receptive vocabulary, syntax, and morphological knowledge (Test of Language Development), as well as their ability to process and manipulate phonological information (Woodcock-Johnson III). Finds that weaknesses in early literacy skills may be a contributing factor in the development of comprehension and fluency in fourth- and fifth-grade African American boys. Calls for improved access to early literacy interventions focused on phonological and phonemic awareness and phonics skills.


Documents co-teaching practices of 16 pairs of teachers in middle school English language arts classrooms. Describes the development of the Content-Area Literacy Instruction Observation Tool and use of a partial interval time sampling procedure to document practices across three domains: academic, teacher, and student. Finds that teachers did not explicitly pre-teach background knowledge or vocabulary that would aid students’ comprehension, that the majority of co-teaching was structured as one teacher primarily leading the instruction, and that instruction was mostly whole-group and independent student work. Advocates for the integration of reading comprehension activities into content-area instruction, more explicit background and vocabulary knowledge instruction, and increased targeted instruction of small homogenous student groups in co-teaching models.

**Other Related Research**


Second Language Literacy

The research included in this section focuses on literacy and language learning with linguistically diverse students. We attempted to represent a variety of methodologies, ages, languages, contexts, and modalities. Studies in this section are representative of a continued interest in the examination of bilingual and biliterate pedagogies, translanguaging, identities and critical literacies in curricula, and teacher development. This year saw an emphasis on studies of intervention efficacy and intersectional contexts such as secondary content areas, online literacies, and special education. (Amy Frederick, lead contributor)


Employs a process model of reading to investigate the interaction of English proficiency with types of vocabulary knowledge to predict science content reading performance. Compares 86 current English learners, 83 former ELs, and 35 English monolingual non-ELs ages 11–13. Former ELs outperformed current ELs on all measures of academic and science-specific vocabulary, as well as science reading performance, with profiles comparable to non-ELs. Science-specific vocabulary predicted science reading performance more than general academic vocabulary for all three groups of students. Highlights the benefits of bilingualism and contests deficit orientations, especially for former ELs. Suggests that content-specific vocabulary instruction is important to content-area performance beyond instruction of highly transferable general academic vocabulary.


Evaluates the effectiveness of two approaches to teaching vocabulary to Spanish-speaking English learners through a study of 187 second graders from nine classrooms in four schools, who were randomly assigned to extended instruction, embedded instruction, or control treatments. Finds that extended instruction was more effective than embedded instruction, but both treatments were more effective than simply hearing new vocabulary during shared reading, as was done in control classrooms. Suggests that teachers leverage the relative ease of embedded vocabulary instruction, and also indicates that cognate knowledge is a significant advantage for Spanish-speaking ELs.


Assesses the effects of a professional development program on the language and literacy skills of young Latino English learners in a study of 45 teachers and 105 students in 12 elementary schools. Teachers in the intervention group participated in trainings on high-impact instructional strategies for English learners, incorporation of students’ cultural wealth, and collaboration. Teachers were observed three times during the year, and students were assessed at the beginning and end of the school year using the Woodcock Muñoz Language Survey. Finds that students whose teachers participated in the professional development program made greater gains than students in the control classrooms on measures of story recall and verbal analogy, especially those at lower levels of English proficiency.


First describes the core characteristics of several theoretical frameworks of cross-language transfer, then systematically reviews empirical studies that have examined the construct. Finds
Annotated Bibliography

that phonological awareness, morphological awareness, orthographic processing, vocabulary, and reading comprehension strategies transfer across languages, though transfer is complex and many mediating factors exist, such as: language distance between L1 and L2, language proficiency, language complexity, and educational setting. Concludes that transfer is a complex process involving multiple factors that interact with each other in as yet unknown ways.


Uses classroom teaching experiment methodology to examine how four middle-grades language arts teachers learned to integrate a small-group collaborative translation activity into their teaching practice. Presents qualitative narratives of teachers' design choices to illustrate pedagogical translation in action, and analyzes their agentive participation using a conjecture mapping procedure. Arrives at three conjectures: (1) student engagement in linguistic problem-solving requires response to students’ linguistic and affective needs, (2) teachers must recognize metalinguistic statements and categorize them in ways that connect to their literacy pedagogy, and (3) teachers must conceptualize appropriate literacy goals for students to connect understandings generated during the translation activity to literacy concepts. Recommends that schools and districts design instructional approaches that incorporate students’ translanguage practices into standards-based pedagogical practices.


Presents the case study of Joaquín, a US-Mexican transnational youth with roots in Tijuana and Los Angeles, examining the critical translingual literacy skills he developed through his engagements with corridos, a popular Mexican ballad form. Notes that corridos are known for narrativizing current events and the daily struggles and triumphs of the common people, including indigenous people, Mestizos, and the poor throughout Mexico and along the US-Mexico border. Describes the youth’s “corridista consciousness,” characterized by particular language and literacy practices and critical understandings of oppression and resistance within the local and transnational communities that he participated in. Highlights his uses of literary devices and explores how pedagogical engagement with unsanctioned literacy practices like corridos might be approached through an ethnic studies and Chicano/Latinx lens.


Focuses on the writing of 7 second-grade children about their experiences of living at the United States-Mexico border. Uses layered qualitative analysis to examine how children’s writing rhetorically and aesthetically engaged with the affective, political, and ideological dimensions of borders and the rhetorical and material violence of hostile policies. Finds that children's writing pointed to, as well as blurred, physical and ideological borders. Underscores that children are sophisticated interpreters of their political and personal worlds, and recommends that educators employ writing pedagogies that invite children to engage with the personal and political.


Reports on a mixed-methods study comparing three assessments of writing proficiency in emergent bilingual students. Describes how fourth- and fifth-grade students attending a paired-literacy program were evaluated using the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) writing assessment, the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State
Uses correlations to establish relationships between the assessments and plots children's growth in Spanish and English writing using three years of data. Also describes qualitative analysis of writing samples by students assessed as “partially proficient” on TCAP and ACCESS. Finds a high and positive correlation between the standardized measures and both English and Spanish rubrics. Explains how English-only writing assessments read from a monolingual lens may indicate deficiencies, whereas bilingual assessment reveals a wider range and depth of emergent writing skills across both languages.


Uses meta-analysis to examine how shared book reading affects the English language and literacy skills of young ELs. Analyzes 54 studies of shared reading, in which an adult reads with one or more children and uses interactive practices to engage the children or reinforce specific words or ideas from the text. Reveals moderate, positive effect sizes for literacy and language outcomes. Argues that positive effects support the widespread use of this educational technique with young ELs and reinforce the use of many different forms of shared reading to facilitate language growth.


Investigates the impact of bilingualism on children’s literacy by comparing factors that predicted performance for English monolingual versus Spanish–English bilingual readers (N = 70, ages 6–13). Demonstrates that bilingual and monolingual readers have distinct developmental processes, even when instructed monolingually. Finds that phonological awareness was a stronger predictor of word reading skills for bilingual readers than for monolingual readers due to the shallow orthography of Spanish, providing support for theories of cross-linguistic transfer. Similarly indicates that Spanish word-reading ability best predicted bilingual students’ English reading proficiency. Suggests that educators must understand the distinct skill set of bilingual versus monolingual readers, and that ongoing heritage language programming for Spanish speakers is important beyond the typically available classes in Spanish as a foreign language.


Explores discursive participation by teachers and students in a book club in a linguistically diverse, co-taught, sixth-grade classroom. Despite research suggesting that literature discussion groups can create opportunities for more equitable participation by emergent bilingual students (EBs), finds that the language practices of native English–speaking students (NESs) and teachers positioned EBs as less capable, leading to their withdrawal from discussions. Provides descriptive statistics on student participation, describes how EBs received more macro-level than contingent micro-level scaffolding to promote participation, and illustrates a variety of ways that participation of NESs constrained the participation of EBs. Argues against the overuse of restatement and repetition as generic language development strategies, and advocates for teachers to develop more critical linguistically and culturally responsive practices.


Examines a three-year design-based research study aimed at applying systemic-functional linguistics to support English learner instruction. Details how authors worked collaboratively with teachers and literacy coaches in six schools to develop approaches to engage English learners...
in metalinguistic talk about language. Describes how the design-based research process led to findings, materials, and instructional theories, and discusses the affordances of design-based research methodology for investigating the application of complex theory in supporting language learning. Suggests that incorporating systemic-functional linguistics metalanguage into English language arts classes helped teachers and students engage in character analysis through oral and written academic discourse.


Utilizes latent transition analysis to longitudinally follow linguistically diverse students from grade 6 to grade 10 to explore the impacts of home language, immigration background, gender, and English as a second language support on literacy development. Researchers randomly drew a sample of 15,000 students from grade 6 classes in Ontario public schools. Profiles demonstrated considerable diversity across students. Overall, literacy performance was highly stable across grades, with both strong and struggling students typically staying in the same performance category over time. Reveals that immigrants and linguistically diverse students performed well at both time points, but students with little English spoken at home were most likely to have decreased performance. Also finds that students in ESL programs in grade 6 were least likely to be high-performing in grade 10. Suggests that ESL literacy instruction may not be well-aligned with high school literacy demands, and that targeted literacy instruction should continue for some students throughout secondary grades.


Examines the effectiveness of strategy instruction on the web for English learners (SWELL) designed to improve the reading performance of Spanish-speaking English learners. The study utilized a strategic approach to teaching text structures known to promote reading comprehension in monolingual readers, coupled with linguistic supports like bilingual vocabulary instruction and sentence modifications. Researchers randomly assigned 31 classrooms to treatment and control conditions, and employed classroom observations to ensure fidelity of implementation. Participants in the treatment condition received adaptive, one-on-one tutoring that adjusted to individual learner performance over time. Finds that SWELL effect sizes on reading comprehension were significant and large, ranging from .47 to .79, with no significant differences based on gender or initial reading level. Reports significant improvements for students in the SWELL treatment across a wide range of other reading variables, like recall competency and main idea quality.


Reviews 35 peer-reviewed studies on the writing development of young bilingual children, published between 2000 and 2017. Includes studies involving children 3–8 years old and/or their teachers that examined some aspect of writing development or instruction, as well as specified data sources. Evaluates studies from a wide range of research methodologies using conventional content analysis. Describes what students knew and understood about written language, as well as strategies used to support their writing. Compares the writing development of young bilingual and monolingual English speakers, finding that bilingual children had a wider range of linguistic resources, including language-specific and cross-language strategies. Describes pedagogies used to support young bilingual children’s writing development, including approaches such as balanced literacy, dual-language identity texts, message boards, buddy pairs, and a translingual writing pedagogy.
**Other Related Research**


**Writing**

In determining which research on writing would be abstracted, we prioritized the representation of a variety of theoretical approaches, methodologies, ages/grade levels, and instructional contexts, while selecting the highest-quality studies. The range of studies featured here includes robust meta-analyses (representing hundreds of studies and decades of research), K–16 classroom/writing center–based studies, and research on writing in teacher preparation programs/classrooms. Studies we highlight reflect larger trends and themes evident in the research on writing: writing and motivation, argumentative writing instruction, assessment of writing (including the development of better evaluation tools), multimodal writing practices, new technologies for composition, analyses of writing assignments, and the relationships between reading, speaking/listening, and composing. (Erin Stutelberg, lead contributor)

Analyzes 82 empirical, peer-reviewed studies published from 2000 to 2018 that focused on preservice teacher preparation for teaching writing. Utilizes inductive coding and Ivanič’s classification scheme to describe the discursive constructions of writing and writing pedagogy across the studies, and details preservice teacher experiences that disrupted discourses of writing as skill-based. Notes an emphasis on process orientation and social practice discourses across studies, but acknowledges the influence of standards and skill-based assessments in schools. Argues for transparency of competing discourses that surround writing and writing pedagogy within teacher education. Identifies potential disruptions to skill-focused discourses as practices, emphasizing reflection on writing experiences, examining student work, bringing an asset-based view of student writers, and building communities of writers in preservice teacher programs.

Denny, H., Nordlof, J., & Salem, L. (2018). “Tell me exactly what it was that I was doing that was so bad”: Understanding the needs and expectations of working-class students in writing centers. *The Writing Center Journal, 37*(1), 67–98.

Explores a disconnect between working-class students’ perceptions of writing centers and writing center pedagogy. Draws on methods of open coding to analyze data from 16 interviews with students from three universities who identified as working-class. Identifies three critical tensions between writing center practices and working-class students’ expectations of writing centers, including students’ need for direct instruction on college writing, validation of concerns about grammar, and relationships that provide ongoing support for writers. Highlights a need for writing centers to reflect on common writing center pedagogy and to expand differentiated practices to support students’ varied needs. Recommends that writing centers acknowledge the role of grammar, create opportunities for long-term connections between students and tutors, and address imposter syndrome within writing processes.


Investigates K–16 writing assignments and prompts in published literature that reported significant learning gains, as well as various meanings associated with writing in science. Using search terms harvested from an earlier review, researchers implemented a systematic review methodology to collect 46 studies from four databases (ERIC, Education Abstracts, PsycINFO, and Scopus) and then conduct both quantitative and qualitative analyses. Determines that assignments incorporating four components (meaning-making writing tasks, interactive writing processes, clear writing expectations, and metacognition) could effectively foster conceptual learning of science. Highlights a key area for future research—the variety of learning measures used in writing-to-learn scholarship—and suggests collaborations between science educators and writing specialists.


Given the need for greater “assessment literacy,” proposes the Writing Rubric to Inform Teacher Educators (WRITE), drawing on seven extant rubrics and two theories of writing development: the cognitive processes theory of writing and the sociocultural theory of writing. Evaluates WRITE through the work of four expert raters, who, after calibration, applied the rubric to 46 essays written by preservice teachers. Based on Rasch measurement principles, finds that WRITE showed strong evidence of psychometric quality, specifically in locations and precision, model-data fit of the location estimates, and rating scale category functioning. Emphasizes the need to validate WRITE among teacher educators with less-specific training in writing instruction, as WRITE raises assessment literacy, teaching raters about high-quality writing as they use it.

Asks whether contract grading shifts writers' attention to process and makes instructor values and expectations more transparent to students. Explores the implications of using contract grading \( (n = 219\) students) versus traditional grading systems \( (n = 144\) students) in composition courses at a midsize regional university, with particular attention paid to the experiences of students from marginalized backgrounds. Finds that grades in writing courses are deeply connected to affect, particularly the emotions of desire and dissonance, suggesting a need for further investigation before nongrading policies and contract grading can function as decolonizing classroom pedagogies.


Examines interrelations between reading (word reading and comprehension) and writing (spelling and writing composition) across grades 3–6. Analyzes longitudinal assessment data of approximately 300 students in the Southeastern United States. Finds that word reading and spelling are strongly related and have linear growth trajectories, while reading comprehension and writing composition are weakly related and have nonlinear growth trajectories. Suggests that grade 3–6 reading and writing are more strongly related at the lexical level than the discourse level, and their relationship is primarily unidirectional, from reading to writing. Highlights the need for targeted instruction to connect reading and writing as students transition from learning to read (grades K–2) to reading to learn (grades 3–6).


Draws on a five-month qualitative research study with 20 students from seven high schools to examine connections between students' writing to enact change and a youth participatory action research project. Details instances of student writing and events surrounding student writing identified through open and closed coding of interviews and artifacts. Describes students engaged in research and writing using Google Docs and the GroupMe chat app, which allowed for collaboration and dialogue across locations and at various times. Demonstrates how sharing findings with the larger community provided a clear purpose and audience for writing. Asserts that youth participatory action research projects engage students in purposeful writing through their own interests, multiple modes of writing, and opportunities to share ideas with an authentic audience.


Blending literature from multiple disciplines, captures how 10 older adults with aphasia composed memoirs during a 13-week writing group. Draws on grounded theory methods to analyze 135 hours of one-to-one and group interactions, 10 hours of interviews, and weekly field notes. Details how the participants negotiated “communicative access” in terms of inventing, authoring, and listening. Discusses implications of communicative access for writing studies, as well as for communicative sciences and disorders. In writing studies, communicative access complicates the relations between multimodality and accessibility, while underlining the value of conceptualizing communication as “always negotiated semiotic practices.” In communicative sciences and disorders, communicative access may inform therapeutic support for people with aphasia as they work to renegotiate identity.

Explores teacher epistemologies about argumentative writing through discourse analysis of instructional conversations around writing samples, using data from an eight-year ethnographic study in 61 high school English classrooms. Identifies teachers’ argumentative epistemologies as structural, ideational, and social processes, broadening the view of teaching argumentative writing. Traces one teacher’s shifts from a structural view to an ideational view of argumentative writing by mapping classroom conversations and interviews. Finds that students and teachers co-construct the meaning of entextualization during instructional conversations, developing a more complex view of argument writing and a shared understanding of content and structural aspects of “good” argument writing. Makes a case for creating collaborative opportunities for teachers to understand their own writing epistemologies in order to make changes in their teaching.

Investigates 30 years of scholarship (N = 445 articles) to determine prevailing operational definitions of early composing and measurement approaches to children’s early composing practices. Finds little shared understanding of the nature and development of early composing, and measurement tasks that are not always theoretically sound, valid, or reliable. Shows a trend of early composing being defined in increasingly narrow and singular ways (e.g., as transcribing letters and words). Argues for increased conceptual clarity of early composing, a more multifaceted understanding of the construct of early composing, stronger alignment of methods and theory in the research, and broader assessment approaches that allow educators to better support children’s early composing practices.

Describes a formal review of a university's professional writing course, which involved extensive data collection from students, instructors, and community partners. Through grounded theory methods, closely analyzes 15 multimodal writing projects from student teams, generating 13 “feedback factors”: project features that the authors agreed were significant for assessment purposes, such as source citation, cohesion, audience awareness, aesthetics, and originality. Elaborates the feedback factors as an assessment model for multimodal writing that involves three central “gears”: fundamentals, contingencies, and attunements. Hypothesizes that student learning happens in the “grind” of those gears and underlines the need to account theoretically for changing material and discursive conditions.

Presents an “argument as conversation” approach in response to formalist and structured process approaches to argument writing, which often privilege writing over speaking and individual over social writing practices. Describes this composing approach as shifting focus to broader conversations and away from the writer’s reasoning processes or formal properties of the written text. Using data gathered from a significant event in an ethnographic study of a high school writing classroom, finds that when writers participate in various spheres of conversations across time and space in the argument-writing process, they more clearly see the significance of the genre for themselves and their communities while learning to construct the vital components of arguments.

Adopting withness as a central framework, explores how 12 children, ages 6 to 8, completed a 97-minute collaborative activity during a creative writing camp: reauthoring a picture book
through the use of wearable technologies and video editing. Analyzes 116 minutes of transcribed GoPro video, along with field notes and textual artifacts, by “thinking with” posthuman theory, and presents a series of vignettes that illustrate the nuances of the children’s withness, especially in terms of sound. Concludes by suggesting the ethical and political relevance of posthuman approaches to literacy education, which enable researchers to better understand children’s complex, embodied interactions with each other and with their learning environments.


Presents a two-study validation program for the Self-Beliefs, Writing-Beliefs, and Attitude Survey (SWAS), a multidimensional instrument designed to monitor adolescent students’ motivation toward writing and identify variables that mediate student achievement. Outlines multistep reliability and validity processes conducted to ensure that the SWAS is a robust and useful tool. Develops a model of student writing motivation, based on results of the SWAS, that delineates beliefs about self as writer, beliefs about writing, and attitudes toward writing as separate factors. Encourages educators to use the SWAS to understand adolescent writers’ varied motivations for writing and respond through targeted and differentiated classroom interventions based on students’ needs.

Other Related Research


Annotated Bibliography


