



INTRODUCING CRITICAL APPLIED LINGUISTICS (CHAPTER 1)

CRITICAL APPLIED LINGUISTICS : A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION

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DEFINITION OF CRITICAL APPLIED LINGUISTICS (CAL)

“a critical approach to applied linguistics” (p.1)

Uses the concerns to define the field

- see p. 2

Strong version of AL:

AL as linguistics applied

Weak version of AL

AL as an autonomous field

AL

- AL as an autonomous field

“AL is an area of work that deals with language use in professional settings, translation, speech pathology, literacy, and language education; and it is not merely the application of linguistic knowledge to such settings but is a semiautonomous and interdisciplinary (...) domain of work that draws on but is not dependent on areas such as sociology, education, anthropology, cultural studies, and psychology” .p.3

THEORY AND PRACTICE

- Common orientation:
 - “linguistics-applied-to-language-teaching approach to AL”
 - Pedagogical implications,
 - Transfer of knowledge produced in one context to another or its generalization
- CAL
 - Orientation to PRAXIS (“continuous reflexive integration of thought, desire and action” p.3)
 - “way of thinking or doing” p.3

BEING CRITICAL

- Critical thinking

“more rigorous analysis to problem solving or textual understanding, a way of developing more critical distance” p.4

Objectivity,neutrality

Sanitized (non political) view on being critical

CAL does not agree with

BEING CRITICAL

- Engagement with politics of social relations

Objective and involved with that

(emancipatory modernism)

Engages with issues of power and inequality

Does not accept any objectivity in the production of knowledge/actions

(postmodern-problematizing position)

CAL

~~• teaching critical thinking~~

• About :

• “relating aspects of applied linguistics to broader social, cultural, and political domains”
p.5

~~• decontextualization~~

• Context in AL- very local, restricted and with an undertheorized view of social relations

CAL

“(...) a way of exploring language in social contexts that goes beyond mere correlations between language and society and instead raises more critical questions to do with access , power, disparity, desire, difference, and resistance”

P.6

Historical perspective

CRITICAL THEORY

- critical work
 - Issues of inequality, injustice, rights and wrongs

CAL

- “an approach to language- related questions that springs from an assumption that we live amid a world of pain and that applied linguistics may have an important role in either the production or the alleviation of some of that pain.”p.7
- not only alleviation but also change

PROBLEMATIZING GIVENS

- CAL should be politically accountable
- ~~the emancipatory position~~
- Questions the assumptions, the naturalized givens
- Does not take anything for granted
- Goes beyond relating micro and macro, focusing on inequality
- Questions the categories of AL: language, learning, communication, difference, context, text, culture, meaning, translation, writing, literacy, assessment, etc
- is critical towards itself

CAL

- Wants to question knowledge, politics, ethics
- Ethics (compassion, model for hope and possibility)
- Change the world?

CAL AS HETEROSIS

- Not being limited by sticking to a certain political view
- But being able to produce sth new through heterosis (creative expansion through hibridity)

CAL (P.10)

- “constant skepticism
- Constant questioning of AL normative assumptions
- Problematizes the givens
- Connects AL with issues of gender, class, sexuality, race, ethnicity, culture, identity, politics, ideology, discourse

THE IMPORTANCE OF CAL

- “may at least give us ways of dealing with some of the most crucial educational, cultural, and political issues of our time”. P.23