

Book Review

Anne H. Charity Hudley, Christine Mallinson, and Mary Bucholtz (2024). *Inclusion in Linguistics*. Oxford University Press. 468 pp. ISBN: 9780197755303

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"*Inclusion in Linguistics*", edited by Anne H. Charity Hudley, Christine Mallinson, and Mary Bucholtz (2024), is a pioneering work that seeks to transform linguistics into a discipline that actively fosters belonging and equity. This volume, a companion to "*Decolonizing Linguistics*", marks a significant milestone in the dialogue about social justice within academia. Published under a Creative Commons license, it is accessible to a broad audience, promoting widespread engagement and impact.

The central thesis of "*Inclusion in Linguistics*" is that inclusion is foundational to achieving social justice within the discipline. The editors argue that exclusionary practices based on race, gender, class, disability, and geographic location undermine linguistics' capacity for innovation and relevance in today's globalised world. They advocate for a paradigm shift towards a more inclusive and intersectional approach, addressing both systemic barriers and practical strategies for reform. As stated by the editors, "Inclusion is not just a matter of diversity but of justice and equity within the discipline of linguistics. It requires us to interrogate deeply entrenched norms and practices that exclude and marginalize certain voices and perspectives" (p. 12).

The book is divided into several sections, beginning with a robust theoretical framework that situates inclusion as essential for achieving broader social justice goals. It critiques existing paradigms that perpetuate exclusion and calls for a shift towards inclusivity. The contributors delve into specific instances of exclusion within linguistics, offering case studies and personal narratives that highlight the diverse manifestations of exclusion. Topics such as ableism in research practices, the marginalization of scholars from the Global South, and challenges faced by transgender researchers are explored in depth. These discussions serve as a call to action for the discipline to confront and dismantle these barriers. One contributor reflects, "As a Deaf researcher from a Global South context, I constantly navigate linguistic and institutional barriers that

hinder my full participation in academic discourse. "Inclusion in Linguistics" sheds light on these barriers and provides strategies for creating a more inclusive environment where diverse linguistic perspectives are valued" (p. 198).

A key strength of the book lies in its emphasis on intersectionality, recognising that identities and experiences are complex and multifaceted. By foregrounding intersectionality, the editors and contributors demonstrate how multiple dimensions of identity interact within the context of linguistic research, teaching, and institutional practices. The volume offers practical strategies and recommendations for promoting inclusion within linguistics, including institutional reforms, curriculum changes, and community-building initiatives. It provides models of collaborative efforts that have successfully promoted inclusivity, offering a roadmap for future endeavours. As the editors note, "The creation of this volume was a collective effort, involving voices from various underrepresented groups in linguistics" (p. 4).

"Inclusion in Linguistics" is not without its challenges. Critics might argue that while the theoretical framework is robust, the translation of theory into practice within academic institutions remains uneven and fraught with resistance. Furthermore, the book's focus on the North American and Western European context raises questions about its applicability and relevance to linguistics as a global discipline. However, these criticisms do not detract from the book's overall contribution to advancing conversations around social justice in linguistics.

The contributions of "Inclusion in Linguistics" are particularly significant to the field of applied linguistics. Applied linguistics often deals with real-world language issues and aims to solve practical problems. By addressing systemic exclusion and advocating for inclusive practices, this book provides a framework for applied linguists to better understand and tackle issues related to language and social justice. The volume's emphasis on practical strategies ensures that its insights can be readily applied in diverse linguistic contexts, enhancing the impact of applied linguistic research and practice.

Moreover, the book's focus on intersectionality enriches the field of applied linguistics by providing a nuanced understanding of how different aspects of identity affect linguistic experiences and outcomes. This approach encourages applied linguists to consider multiple dimensions of identity in their work, leading to more comprehensive and effective solutions. The editors' call for an intersectional approach is a critical advancement in applied linguistics, which often aims to address complex social issues where multiple identities intersect.

One of the notable contributions of "Inclusion in Linguistics" to applied linguistics is its potential to revolutionise pedagogical practices. The book

provides useful insights into how educators can create more inclusive classroom environments that reflect and respect the diverse linguistic backgrounds of students. By integrating the book's recommendations on curriculum changes and teaching practices, educators can foster a more inclusive and equitable learning experience, preparing students to explore and contribute to a diverse world. As one of the chapters highlights, "Inclusive pedagogy requires a commitment to understanding and valuing the diverse linguistic repertoires that students bring to the classroom" (p. 245).

Furthermore, the book's emphasis on collaborative and community-building initiatives presents applied linguists with innovative methods to engage with communities outside academia. These strategies not only enhance the relevance and impact of linguistic research but also ensure that the voices and experiences of marginalised groups are integral to the research process. This community-focused approach aligns with the principles of participatory action research, which seeks to democratise the research process and produce outcomes that are directly beneficial to the communities involved.

"Inclusion in Linguistics" is a transformative work that diagnoses barriers to inclusion within linguistics and offers a compelling vision for a more just and equitable future. By centring marginalised voices and advocating for systemic change, the editors and contributors have crafted a landmark text that will undoubtedly shape the discourse within linguistics for years to come. This volume serves as a vital resource for scholars, educators, and practitioners committed to transforming linguistics into a field that embraces diversity and equity, offering actionable insights and inspiring readers to engage critically with the complexities of inclusion in linguistic research and teaching.

The book's accessibility under a Creative Commons license reflects its commitment to widespread dissemination and impact. By making the text freely available, the editors ensure that the crucial conversations it fosters reach a broad audience, furthering the goal of inclusive and equitable academic practices. As the field of linguistics continues to evolve, "Inclusion in Linguistics" stands as an essential text for anyone interested in the future direction of linguistic research and education. Its bold vision and actionable insights make it a catalyst for change within the discipline and beyond.

Reference

Charity Hudley, A.H., Mallinson, C., & Bucholtz, M. (2024). *Inclusion in Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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