

## BOOK REVIEWS

# Aboriginal Ways of Using English

Diana Eades

*Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2013, 245 pp, ISBN 9781922059280*

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The recent publication of *Aboriginal Ways of Using English* brings together a selection of articles written over a 30-year period by one of Australia's leading researchers and experts, which examine the ways in which usage of English by Aboriginal people differs from Standard English, particularly within the field of sociolinguistics and forensic linguistics.

The book is divided into two sections, with Chapters 2–5 exploring Aboriginal ways of using English, and Chapters 6–11 highlighting ways in which the usage of Aboriginal English has impacted on the treatment of Aboriginal people within the criminal justice process, drawing on a number of actual court cases to provide specific examples. The 10 articles reproduced as chapters in this publication have been drawn from over 50 chapters and articles written by the author between 1982 and 2012, resulting in a book that can be read either as a whole or selectively as individual chapters, according to the reader's interests.

In Chapter 1 we are introduced to the focus group for this book: Aboriginal people in non-remote Australia for whom English is their first and principal language and who do not speak a traditional Aboriginal language fluently, and not for Aboriginal people who speak English as an additional language, although the author acknowledges that certain similarities in the usage of English may exist for both groups of speakers.

Chapter 2 highlights the contrasts in ways of exchanging and seeking information between 'middle-class white Australians', for whom information exchange is open and easily available, and Aboriginal people from South-East Queensland, for whom there are strong social constraints as to who may either give or have access to information. The author discusses some of the ways in which these differences may impact on education, with teachers (who, it is implied, are middle-class white Australians) often claiming Aboriginal children to be 'uncooperative or lazy or verbally deficient' (Eades, 2013, p. 32), as they do not respond as expected to questioning; and also on the legal process, with a white lawyer citing failures arising from Aboriginal people's apparent unwillingness to comply with the questioning process central to the legal system.

'Misunderstanding Aboriginal English' (Chapter 3) illustrates how misunderstandings may occur between Aboriginal people (in the chapter, the author references South-East Queensland Aboriginal people; however, she acknowledges that their use of language is typical of language use among southern Aboriginal Australians) and middle-class white Australians, through reference to future forms. The author explores the ways in which the structures used may be the same for both groups, while the meanings associated with these forms may be quite different. Thus, while using 'I will' demonstrates a commitment to undertake a particular task for a middle-class white Australian (with an implicit need for an apology should this not in fact occur), the meaning of the same phrase for an Aboriginal person may show an intention to do so, with an unspoken but implied conditional clause 'if nothing else happens' (and no apology or explanation required if this does not take place). While this difference may seem rather minor, its implications for intercultural misunderstandings are significant, with Aboriginal people being perceived by non-Aboriginal people as being 'unreliable' and unable to 'make plans and ... organise for future events' (Eades, 2013, p. 54). However, as this chapter describes only one variation between the usage of Aboriginal English and Standard English, the reader is left wondering what other differences there may be, and what impacts these may have on intercultural communication between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

In the following chapter, 'They don't speak an Aboriginal language, or do they?', Eades describes some of the important ways in which the contemporary social and cultural context of Aboriginal people in South-East Queensland have flowed on from traditional Aboriginal cultures, and highlights some of the ways in which this context impacts upon interactions, such as the 'importance of responsibilities to kin, priority of social relationships, and the need for indirectness in interactions' (2013, p. 75). The author provides examples to demonstrate how these aspects, which are central to Aboriginal people's ways of interacting, can lead to difficulties in communications and can also create negative perceptions because non-Aboriginal people feel that it is appropriate to be direct

# Aboriginal Ways Of Using English

**RC Schank**



## **Aboriginal Ways Of Using English:**

**Aboriginal Ways of Using English** Diana Eades, 2013-06-14 This new collection by Professor Diana Eades addresses the way non traditional language Aboriginal speakers of English use and speak English Here she draws together some of her best writing over the past thirty years Older chapters are brought up to date with contemporary reflections informed by her many years experience in research and teaching as well as the practical applications of her scholarly work The introduction includes an overview about Aboriginal ways of speaking English and the implications for both education and the law as well as discussing the use of the term Aboriginal English To understand Aboriginal ways of speaking English leads to be better understanding Aboriginal identity a better engagement in intercultural communication and learning about the complexities of how English is used by and with Aboriginal people in the legal process This is invaluable reading for university undergraduates in a range of disciplines but also postgraduate courses where theres little information available Educated readers and students with or without a linguistics background will find the book accessible

**Australian English Reimagined** Louisa Willoughby, Howard Manns, 2019-11-01 Australian English is perhaps best known for its colourful slang but the variety is much richer than slang alone This collection provides a detailed account of Australian English by bringing together leading scholars of this English variety These scholars provide a comprehensive overview of Australian English s distinctive features and outline cutting edge research into the variation and change of English in Australia Organised thematically this volume explores the ways in which Australian English differs from other varieties of English as well as examining regional social and stylistic variation within the variety The volume first explores particular structural features where Australian English differentiates itself from other English varieties There are chapters on phonetics and phonology socio phonetics lexicon and discourse pragmatics as these elements are core to understanding any variety of English especially within the World Englishes paradigm It then considers what are arguably the most salient aspects of variation within Australian English and finally focuses on historical attitudinal and planning aspects of Australian English This volume provides a thorough account of Australian English and its users as complex diverse and worthy of study Perhaps more importantly this volume s scholars provide a reimagining of Australian English and the paradigm through which future scholars may proceed

**Courtroom Talk and Neocolonial Control** Diana Eades, 2008 The book examines the social consequences of courtroom talk through detailed investigation of the cross examination of three Australian Aboriginal boys in the case against six police officers charged with their abduction Critical sociolinguistic analysis shows how courtroom talk with its related assumptions about how language works can serve to legitimize neocolonial control over Indigenous people

**BOOK JACKET Culture Interfaces** Indian Association for the Study of Australia. Conference, 2004 Cultural Interfaces is a collection of twenty papers by international as well as young research scholars engaged in Australian Studies in India These were presented at the First International Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Australia IASA With

contributions from Bruce Bennett Jennifer Strauss Dennis Haskell Satendra Nandan David Kimber Fran Siemensma Parimal Roy and Marianne Robinson Y Yagama Reddy and Quentin Stevenson Perks amongst many others this volume reflects a dynamic engagement of ideas both from a literary and a socio political perspective in the areas of history culture art trade and education The interfaces these essays provide the interdisciplinary ethos they promote are a much needed new dimension to the study of Australian culture society and polity in India The present collection is set to meet precisely that objective

**Indigenous Legal Issues** Heather McRae, Garth Nettheim, Laura Beacroft, 1997 **Multiliteracies and Diversity in Education** Annah Healy, 2008 The text is intended for courses in multiliteracies which are offered at either first or second year in schools of education or in schools of cultural and language studies Applied Linguistics, 2004

*Proceedings of Roundtable on Sentencing and Indigenous Peoples* Rick Sarre, Digby Wilson, 1998 This collection of papers address current concerns in relation to the interface of Indigenous Australians and the criminal justice system Issues discussed include customary law including the potential for differential sentencing systemic issues within the criminal justice system a multi agency resocialisation program and communication issues One paper describes the African American experience and the implications for Australia There is also an extensive compilation of research abstracts **Reform and**

**Resistance in Aboriginal Education** Quentin Beresford, Gary Partington, 2003 Aboriginal education has been in crisis for decades Despite reform efforts of successive Federal and State Governments low levels of academic achievement are common and poor participation and retention rates continue *EBOOK The Early Childhood Educator for Certificate III*

Lorraine Walker, 2021-10-13 The new edition of this market leading text has been meticulously updated for the new CHC30121 Training Package For the student it offers engaging content that is easily accessible and effective in helping to consolidate and apply learning with localised content to enhance understanding of concepts For the instructor the updated text promises training resources that are current and relevant to industry standards and practice Available as a printed textbook or eBook the resource is also accompanied by a comprehensive suite of Instructor Resources including PowerPoints Teacher Implementation Guide and comprehensive mapping Languages of Kinship in Aboriginal Australia Jeffrey

Heath, Francesca Merlan, Alan Rumsey, 1982 All papers separately annotated **Law Society Journal**, 1993 **Australian Aboriginal Studies**, 2005 **Towards More User-friendly Education for Speakers of Aboriginal English** Ian G.

Malcolm, Yvonne Haig, Patricia Konigsberg, Judith Rochecouste, Glenys Collard, Alison Hill, Rosemary Cahill, 1999 *EBOOK The Early Childhood Educator for Certificate III, Revised* Lorraine Walker, 2018-03-27 The Early Childhood Educator for Certificate III eBook is delivered on the VitalSource platform in the latest version of the ePUB standard ePUB3 The Early Childhood Educator for Certificate III aligns with the CHC30113 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care from the CHC Community Services Training Package This qualification applies to all early childhood educators who work within the requirements of Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard NQS A Certificate

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**For the Learning of Mathematics** ,2003      **Education News** ,1975      **English in Australia** ,1967      *Annual Report - Commissioner for Community Relations* Australia. Office of the Commissioner for Community Relations,1978      **Australian & New Zealand Studies in Canada** ,1991

## Whispering the Secrets of Language: An Emotional Quest through **Aboriginal Ways Of Using English**

In a digitally-driven world where displays reign supreme and immediate conversation drowns out the subtleties of language, the profound secrets and emotional subtleties hidden within phrases frequently move unheard. However, nestled within the pages of **Aboriginal Ways Of Using English** a captivating literary value sporting with organic thoughts, lies an exceptional journey waiting to be undertaken. Composed by an experienced wordsmith, that enchanting opus attracts viewers on an introspective journey, softly unraveling the veiled truths and profound impact resonating within the fabric of each word. Within the emotional depths of this moving evaluation, we will embark upon a sincere exploration of the book's primary themes, dissect its charming publishing model, and fail to the powerful resonance it evokes within the recesses of readers' hearts.

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### **Table of Contents Aboriginal Ways Of Using English**

1. Understanding the eBook Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Personalized Recommendations

- Aboriginal Ways Of Using English User Reviews and Ratings
- Aboriginal Ways Of Using English and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Aboriginal Ways Of Using English Free and Paid eBooks
  - Aboriginal Ways Of Using English Public Domain eBooks
  - Aboriginal Ways Of Using English eBook Subscription Services
  - Aboriginal Ways Of Using English Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Aboriginal Ways Of Using English eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Aboriginal Ways Of Using English Compatibility with Devices
  - Aboriginal Ways Of Using English Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Interactive Elements Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
- 8. Staying Engaged with Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Setting Reading Goals Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Aboriginal Ways Of Using English
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Aboriginal Ways Of Using English

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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