Beyond the Pragmatic and the Liminal: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students Code-Switching in Early-Years Classrooms

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ABSTRACT This article examines the code-switching (CS) practices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young children in kindergarten and grade 1 classrooms. The author argues that their use of CS went beyond relief of psycholinguistic stress or coping with liminality (sense of living between two languages and cultures). Through several narratives constructed using ethnographic data, the author explores CLD students’ use of CS to respond to the sociolinguistic and sociopolitical dynamics that they encountered in their early-years classrooms. CS enabled students to address their language and literacy needs, assert their identities, and defy subtractive and assimilative orientations that they experienced with respect to lack of incorporation of their first languages. Further, data affirm Cummins’(2001) assertion that students do not passively accept dominant group attributions of inferiority, but actively resist the process of subordination.
Beyond the Pragmatic and the Liminal: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students Code-Switching in Early-Years Classrooms. By Iannacci, Luigi.

To this end, critical multiculturalism further informs an analysis of the literacy practices and events encountered by CLD students in their early-years classrooms and allows for an examination of what they appropriate as well as the effect that this appropriation has on their identities.

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Watkins, M. W. (2000). Effective teachers of culturally diverse students acknowledge both individual and cultural differences enthusiastically and identify these differences in a positive manner. This positive identification creates a basis for the development of effective communication and instructional strategies. Social skills such as respect and cross-cultural understanding can be modeled, taught, prompted, and reinforced by the teacher. Empowering Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Learning Problems ERIC EC Digest #E500, Author: Jim Cummins, 1991 Read more. X CLOSE. Use promo code TOGETHER at checkout to claim this limited-time offer. Start your free trial. Select from a monthly, annual, or 2-year membership plan starting at $2.49/month. Cancel anytime.