Bonny Norton 2022 Abstract

Presentation at: OISE, University of Toronto, February 10, 2022

Identity, Investment, and Digital Storytelling for a Multilingual Future

Bonny Norton, FRSC, University of British Columbia, Canada

The world has changed since I published my early work on identity, investment, and language learning in the mid 1990s. Because of advancements in digital technology, there are new relations of power at micro and macro levels, and digital literacy has become essential in “claiming the right to speak.” As multilingual learners navigate these changing times, they need to negotiate new identities, investments, and imagined futures (Norton, 2013, Darvin & Norton, 2015, 2021). Drawing on my recent research on the freely available digital projects Storybooks Canada (http://www.storybookscanada.ca/) and Global Storybooks (http://globalstorybooks.net/), I will discuss the ways in which digital storytelling can promote investment in language learning by harnessing the linguistic capital of multilingual learners in homes, schools, and communities. A central finding from a range of research projects suggests that the development and use of multilingual digital stories can expand the range of identities available to learners, teachers, and translators across global sites.

Readings:

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0261444821000057


Biodata:

Dr. Bonny Norton, FRSC, is a University Killam Professor and Distinguished University Scholar in the Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia. Her primary research interests are identity and language learning, critical literacy, and international development. She is committed to the use of open technology for educational change, and was awarded BC 2020 Academic of the Year for her leadership of the Global Storybooks project (http://globalstorybooks.net/). Her website is: http://faculty.educ.ubc.ca/norton/