

OXFORD
APPLIED
LINGUISTICS



Resisting Linguistic Imperialism in English Teaching

A. Suresh Canagarajah

OXFORD





Resisting Linguistic Imperialism in English Teaching

This book describes the creative strategies employed by teachers and students in periphery communities to use the English language in a manner that suits their needs and aspirations while subtly resisting the linguistic imperialism that many scholars have identified as the consequence of the global ELT enterprise. After developing trends and ideas from these oppositional strategies, the book goes on to outline elements of a critical pedagogy suitable for English Language Teaching in formerly colonized communities.

As the English language continues to spread globally, this book will be essential reading for English teachers and applied linguists wishing to understand the ideological challenges behind teaching English in the periphery. Curriculum planners and policy makers will also find it a necessary aid to exploring the pedagogical alternatives.

A. Suresh Canagarajah is Associate Professor in English at Baruch College of the City University of New York. He was formerly Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Applied Linguistics Adviser: H. G. Widdowson

'Canagarajah's work is a breath of fresh air in the ELT field: he has been on the receiving end of ELT methods in his native Sri Lanka, and his research on the sociolinguistics of education in "ethnic" and post-colonial communities is highly creative and original.'

William Bright, Professor Emeritus in Linguistics and Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Canagarajah is one of a handful of emerging scholars in applied linguistics whose interdisciplinary sophistication is reshaping the field. This scrupulously researched, theoretically nuanced study will prove invaluable to those who work in the fields of post-colonial studies; the ethnography of literacy; language acquisition/pedagogy; and bilingualism/code-switching.

Sandra Silberstein, Professor of English, University of Washington, Seattle.



Contents

Acknowledgments	iv
Preface	vi
Introduction	1
1 Adopting a critical perspective on pedagogy	9
2 Challenges in researching resistance	39
3 Resistance to English in historical perspective	57
4 Conflicting curricula: interrogating student opposition	79
5 Competing pedagogies: understanding teacher opposition	103
6 Clashing codes: negotiating classroom interaction	125
7 Contrasting literacies: appropriating academic texts	147
8 The politics and pedagogy of appropriating discourses	173
Bibliography	199
Index	212



Resisting Linguistic Imperialism in English Teaching

This book describes the creative strategies employed by teachers and students in periphery communities to use the English language in a manner that suits their needs and aspirations while subtly resisting the linguistic imperialism that many scholars have identified as the consequence of the global ELT enterprise. After developing trends and ideas from these oppositional strategies, the book goes on to outline elements of a critical pedagogy suitable for English Language Teaching in formerly colonized communities.

As the English language continues to spread globally, this book will be essential reading for English teachers and applied linguists wishing to understand the ideological challenges behind teaching English in the periphery. Curriculum planners and policy makers will also find it a necessary aid to exploring the pedagogical alternatives.

A. Suresh Canagarajah is Associate Professor in English at Baruch College of the City University of New York. He was formerly Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Applied Linguistics Adviser: H. G. Widdowson

'Canagarajah's work is a breath of fresh air in the ELT field: he has been on the receiving end of ELT methods in his native Sri Lanka, and his research on the sociolinguistics of education in "ethnic" and post-colonial communities is highly creative and original.'

William Bright, Professor Emeritus in Linguistics and Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Canagarajah is one of a handful of emerging scholars in applied linguistics whose interdisciplinary sophistication is reshaping the field. This scrupulously researched, theoretically nuanced study will prove invaluable to those who work in the fields of post-colonial studies; the ethnography of literacy; language acquisition/pedagogy; and bilingualism/code-switching.

Sandra Silberstein, Professor of English, University of Washington, Seattle.

