

Exploring ‘Linguistic Diversity’ on an Australian University Campus

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This presentation explores the linguistic landscape and mindscape of an Australian university in terms of linguistic diversity on campus. Due to globalization and technological advancement, universities have become increasingly internationalized. To achieve international communication among students and staff, English is widely adopted as a lingua franca. In Australia, English is taken as a default medium of interaction in universities. However, it is worth noting that other languages as well as different varieties of English also permeate the linguistic landscape of a university. Such linguistic diversity gives rise to an evolving linguistic mindscape where students and staff develop and adjust their mind-sets from mono-lingual-and-cultural propensity to multilingualism and cultural diversity. In this presentation, I report on findings of an ethnographic case study of language practices in an Australian university through empirical data collection and analysis. The data include language-related documents and interviews on language-related issues. Major research questions include 1) to what extent are students and staff aware of ‘linguistic diversity’ on campus? 2) to what extent are languages other than English used and practiced on campus? and 3) what implications does understanding ‘linguistic diversity’ have for students and staff on campus? The aim of this presentation is to raise awareness of linguistic diversity among university students and staff, and to enhance international understanding on campus.