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Extending applied linguistics for social impact: cross-disciplinary collaborations in diverse spaces of public inquiry. Warriner, D.S. & Miller, E.R. (Eds). London: Bloomsbury. 2021. pp. 228. Reviewed by JESSICA BRADLEY (SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, jessica.bradley@sheffield.ac.uk)

As researchers in the broad field of applied linguistics we all hope that our research will be meaningful beyond the walls of the academy or ivory tower. Indeed, an oft-cited definition of applied linguistics comes from Chris Brumfit's description as the study of 'real world problems in which language is a central issue' (Brumfit 1995: 27). Real world problems suggest the need for research to have meaningful social impact. Taking this as its overarching theme, this edited volume includes eight highly engaging chapters with reflections on the realities of engaging with interdisciplinarity and cross-sector collaboration in applied linguistics in the United States. Each of the case studies presented offers different insights into the complex relationships, processes and outcomes of diverse research and practice projects, some taking place over decades as a programme of engaged research and others as more bounded, funded projects.

We can argue that applied linguistics is interdisciplinary at its core: applied linguistics brings language into contact, into dialogue, or even *enmeshes* language with multiple fields: with sociology, with psychology, with creative practice and the arts, with *modern* languages, with philosophy, with history, with culture, with medicine and healthcare, and far, far beyond. Crossing the Atlantic to the UK, and we can see that the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) has as its core object 'The advancement of Education by fostering and promoting, by any lawful charitable means, the study of applied linguistics, and the fostering of *inter-disciplinary* [sic] collaboration in this study' (BAAL Constitution, 2022). Recent BAAL annual meeting themes and subsequent edited volumes and conference proceedings (e.g. Wright et al., 2017; Cunningham & Hall, 2021; Ainsworth et al., 2023) foreground the inter- or indeed *trans-* disciplinarity of the applied linguistics umbrella. The 2023 meeting theme was 'opening up applied linguistics', while 2022 was 'innovation and social justice in applied linguistics', 2021 foregrounded 'challenges and opportunities in applied linguistics', 2019 encouraged 'broadening horizons', 2018 asked us to 'take risks' and the 2017 conference invited 'diversity' for the organisation's 50th anniversary. These all suggest and indeed push towards looking outwards from the discipline, or moreover from *language*. And, more and more, applied linguistics researchers have been exploring some of the complexities of doing this in their publications, including foregrounding reflexivity (e.g. Consoli & Ganassin, 2023) and attention to the relational and backstage negotiations as linguists engaging across disciplines and across sectors (Moore et al., 2020).

The eight chapters within this volume arise from a colloquium organised for the 2017 American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) conference held in Portland, Oregon, which focused on 'language ideologies in transdisciplinary, cross-institutional, multi-sited, and/or collaborative research projects'. The authors were asked to respond to the following series of questions:
1. How did you build collaboration with others (e.g., in other disciplines and/or in local communities) in undertaking this project?
2. Under what circumstances did language and/or literacy issues become an important focus for the research context? How did you respond?

3. What difficulties did you encounter as a language/linguistics researcher in working with non-linguists? And how did you address them?
4. What can other applied linguists/academics exploring the role of language, literacy, and/or communication in issues, problems, dilemmas of concern to the broader public learn from your approaches (methodological, theoretical, epistemological) to inquiry? (p.4)

The examples themselves showcase the range of sectors and contexts within which applied linguists are working: from advocacy for Pidgin speakers (Higgins), Science Education (Moore), a Social Sustainability Network (Miller), a Latinx community non-profit organisation (Arango & Link), applied theatre (Skilton), healthcare disparities and access (Feuerherm et al. and Morelli & Warriner) and language and social justice (Avineri et al.).

The book brings timely attention to the need to engage critically with what we mean by 'real world problems' and the complexities and, indeed, discomfort involved in talking beyond our discipline and sector. And discomfort is key here - as Betsy Rymes states in her afterword, 'It takes a solidity and depth of purpose - courage - to cross borders and then, once on the other side, to work to make yourself understood, to step outside the criteria of judgement you've become accustomed to' (p. 195). Crossing borders is perhaps only the first step; making ourselves understood is something quite different and not something that can be assumed. Discomfort, and feeling uncomfortable outside our 'judgement criteria' is part and parcel of this kind of research, and precisely why this edited volume contributes to the field at this particular moment, as we grapple with the post-Covid world and perhaps even push back at what is framed so often as a 'return to normal'. The editors define their goals as demonstrating 1) how understandings of language might be harnessed to engage with problems in the community, with problems arising from diverse practice in real-life contexts; 2) showcasing how we can communicate beyond borders and share our research findings and knowledge; and 3) foregrounding the messiness and tensions of these relationships and processes. It is in this third aim that the book really takes flight, as the authors have generously shared not only their own movements into these sectors and disciplines but also the things that went less well, the aspects that did not work as planned and their own affective engagements with this implicit *bumpiness*. To this end, the contributions disrupt what can often be an expected 'linear' narrative of research impact, defined in the UK by the Research Excellence Framework (2021) as 'the effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia' (https://ref.ac.uk/guidance-on-results/guidance-on-ref-2021-results/). The examples in this book show the non-linearity, the bumpiness and the often unexpected results of research collaborations.

Christina Higgins reflects on a decade-long engagement with advocating for Pidgin speakers in Hawai'i (Chapter 1), including considering her own positionality as a malihini or 'non-native' and some of the ways in which communications were disrupted in ways which ran counter to the philosophies underpinning the research and practice. She explains her plans and rationale for a citizen sociolinguistic orientation to future research. In Chapter 2 Leslie C. Moore describes engaging with museums in science education, showing the interweaving of her own professional and academic life, and the legacy of long-term engagement with a field. She considers with honesty some of the differences between academia and practice, reflecting on how these affected the collaborative project. Elizabeth R. Miller (Chapter 3) outlines a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project for a Social Sustainability Research Coordination Network (SSRCN), in which she had the role of 'language analyst' in pursuing

a definition of sustainability. Although her reflections highlight certain frustrations and the complexities of a network of this kind, from a position of hindsight she identifies how she herself developed as a researcher and what is needed to embark on collaborative work of this kind. In their chapter on translanguaging praxis (Chapter 4), Obed Arango and Holly Link deploy translanguaging to reflect on the work of a non-profit organisation, Revolución Arte, founded by Arango and for which Link joined as first volunteer and subsequently Education Director. Their chapter breaks ground in outlining translanguaging as Freirean praxis and they worked with male youth to counter anti-immigrant narratives in the US. In Chapter 5 Ellen Skilton reflects on three case studies within applied theatre, exploring the contributions of applied linguists working with ethnography and going beyond the linguistic to understanding communication.

The next two chapters focus on health partnerships, and in particular on inequalities in health and wellbeing. Emily M. Feuerherm and colleagues highlight three partnerships in their chapter: first, work with community partners on ESL in the Flint water crisis; second, a project exploring language barriers for Spanish speakers accessing healthcare; and third, a health literacy project around public health messages and interpreting. All three examples show the multiple roles held by researchers and collaborators and the different problems and tensions of collaborating, while also demonstrating what applied linguists can bring to understandings of inequalities in access to healthcare and actions. They see their role as to 'help these stories become heard by policymakers and to challenge barriers to health equity' (p.141). Meanwhile Katherine E. Morelli and Doris S. Warriner's chapter (Chapter 7) sheds light on the role of cultural health navigators - usually members of the communities who work as intermediaries between the public and healthcare practitioners - in the context of healthcare access for refugee-background families. Their work demonstrates how insights into language and literacy by applied linguists can work to reduce health inequalities. The eighth and final chapter takes a different format; showcasing four reflections by linguistic anthropologists on case studies from the American Anthropological Association's Society for Linguistic Anthropology's Task Group on Language and Social Justice. The authors highlight work undertaken to challenge the notion of 'linguistically isolated' (Ana Celia Zentella), the language of migrant 'illegality' (Jonathan Rosa), sport mascots and racism (Bernard C. Perley) and counter-narratives to the '30 million word gap' (Eric J. Johnson). These cases are concluded by Netta Avineri, who highlights the importance of 'a supportive community of practice' (p.187) as well as 'observation, critique, reflection, and collaboration' (p. 189).

The breadth and depth of these eight chapters reflects current research and practice in applied linguistics, and what Betsy Rymes describes in her afterward as 'becoming *collaborative* linguists' (p. 195):

> Shifting into the role of "collaborative" instead of "applied" linguists signals that we are not simply offering up one form of expertise to improve upon what local communities, institutions, or disciplines already have going on. We are offering, instead, to join the community to collaboratively explore the ways language works (and doesn't work) for them. (p.207).

The rich insights of this book will be illuminating for applied (or *collaborative*) linguists of all career stages: from graduate students to more experienced researchers. In particular, the personal reflections on what did not go to plan and the sideways glances offer something new to our understandings of language in real-world contexts, and the possibilities for us as applied linguists in speaking beyond.

Keywords: collaboration; partnerships; real-world problems; transdisciplinarity.

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