Abstract

I will offer a new theory of how language, grammar, and discourse interact. This theory is meant to establish an approach to applied linguistics that will allow us to deal with important social, cultural, and educational issues. The theory I will develop argues that both teaching (as a set of specific acts) and language teaching, in particular, need to be construed far more broadly than we typically do and are both much more central to learning in and out of school than we typically think. As we enter an age of digital media and new digital literacies it is crucial that we get straight how language and traditional literacy actually work in regard to learning. Otherwise we will (as we are) just create new equity divides to go with our old ones (which we have done little about in terms of actual progress).

Speaker’s Biography

James Paul Gee is the Mary Lou Fulton Presidential Professor of Literacy Studies and Regents’ Professor at Arizona State University. He is a member of the National Academy of Education. His book *Sociolinguistics and Literacies* (Fourth Edition 2011) was one of the founding documents in the formation of the “New Literacy Studies”. His book *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis* (Third Edition 2011) brings together his work on a methodology for studying communication in its cultural settings, an approach that has been widely influential over the last two decades. His most recent books have dealt with video games, language, and learning. *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy* (Second Edition 2007) argues that good video games are designed to enhance learning through effective learning principles supported by research in the Learning Sciences. *Situated Language and Learning* (2004) places video games within an overall theory of learning and literacy and shows how they can help us in thinking about the reform of schools. *The Anti-Education Era: Creating Smarter Students through Digital Media* appeared in 2013. Prof. Gee has published widely in journals in linguistics, psychology, the social sciences, and education.