

Widdowson

On the Subject of English

The Linguistics of Language Use and Learning

The globalized use of language calls into question conventional ways of thinking in linguistics, applied linguistics and language pedagogy. This book critically examines this thinking from an historical, at times satirical, perspective and proposes an alternative conceptualization. The first section defines a number of key concepts about communication which are taken up in subsequent sections and shown to be relevant to the different but related areas of language study. Issues about the relationship between linguistics and applied linguistics set the scene for a discussion of the nature of discourse, and then how this bears on the understanding of the globalised use of English as a lingua franca. The final section considers the implications of this perspective on communication for how the subject of English language teaching might be redefined. The book is relevant for anyone who sees the need for a critical consideration of established concepts in linguistics and language pedagogy.



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