

English Language for Education Introductory Resources, July 2014

We hope you are looking forward to beginning your degree programme. Here are suggestions of resources you might like to access to start you thinking about some of the ideas you will encounter on the course. None of the items should be considered essential to your preparation for study. Please feel free to pick and choose according to interest.

Most of the resources are available free via the internet. There are a few book titles included in the list but we strongly advise you to resist buying a lot of books before you begin your studies. The university library is excellent and what will be most useful for you to buy often only becomes clear well into your course. If you do want to buy something before your course starts, ABE books is an alternative to Amazon as a source of inexpensive new and second hand editions (www.abebooks.co.uk). Bear in mind that earlier editions of books can often be found cheaply and cover similar territory to later ones.

Education as a field of study will be new to many of you. Two books that provide an introduction to some of the key themes and debates are as follows:

- Bartlett, S. and Burton, D (2012) *Introduction to Education Studies*, 3rd edition
London: Sage
- Ward, S. (ed.) (2013) *A Student's Guide to Education Studies*, 3rd edition.
London: Routledge.

You might be interested to look at the new National Curriculum, which indicates government priorities for English education at different key stages:

- www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum

The Literacy Trust website houses articles and practical resources relevant to the teaching and learning of literacy, and language more generally, for children and adults:

- www.literacytrust.org.uk/

EENET - the Enabling Education Network - is an inclusive education information-sharing network, pioneered by Dr Susie Miles at the Manchester Institute of Education. EENET helps a wide range of people across the world to access information and encourages critical thinking, innovation and conversations on issues of inclusion, equity and rights in education:

- www.eenet.org.uk

National papers such as The Guardian and the Independent online are a useful way of keeping in touch with what's going on in education and understanding the often complex debates around political decision-making. As well as articles and teaching resources for different age groups, their education pages are home to various blogs:

- <http://www.theguardian.com/education>
- <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/>

For those of you with a love of classic literature, there are a number of examples of novels where education is a key theme. They raise important questions about inclusion, social justice and purposes of education that are still relevant today:

- Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* or *Nicholas Nickleby*
- Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* or *Villette*.

Listening material includes a range of TED talks relevant to the psychology of language acquisition and learning, for example:

- http://www.ted.com/speakers/steven_pinker
- http://www.ted.com/speakers/patricia_kuhl
- http://www.ted.com/talks/deb_roy_the_birth_of_a_word

You tube also houses many clips on language acquisition, as well as interviews with key figures in shaping our understanding of how language is learnt (eg Noam Chomsky, Steven Pinker, BF Skinner)

Resources relating more specifically to the study of **language** include the extensive work of David Crystal. The following are highly recommended:

- Crystal, D. (1995) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Crystal, D. (1988) *Rediscover Grammar* London: Longman

You tube is home to a large number of clips of David Crystal discussing a wide range of language-related topics.

A useful source in sociolinguistics is:

- Joseph, John. 2004. *Language and identity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Alex Baratta, who lectures on the English Language for Education programme, has been doing work on accent, identity and stereotyping. Below are links to an interview with him on the BBC's *Northwest Tonight* and an online article:

- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tjstkohxwxsqvnq/alex%202.mpg> interview on
- <http://theconversation.com/jamaica-inn-complaints-reveal-widespread-accent-prejudice-22065>

The following is a clip of a TV interview with Garrard McClendon on code switching among African Americans, in which he discusses the rights and wrongs of children being taught standard English or being encouraged to express themselves using dialectal forms, here Ebonics:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhAiTuTI8Vs>

On a lighter note, the first of these clips offers a humorous take on code switching among African Americans:

- <http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2013/03/18/174639342/six-moments-of-code-switching-in-popular-culture>

Finally, if you want to keep in touch, why not follow us on Twitter (@ELE_UoM)?

And how about liking us on www.facebook.com/ELEUoM?

The ELE team look forward to welcoming you in September!