

Language notes

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/scl.106.notes>

Pages xi–xii of

Language and Characterisation in Television Series: A corpus-informed approach to the construction of social identity in the media

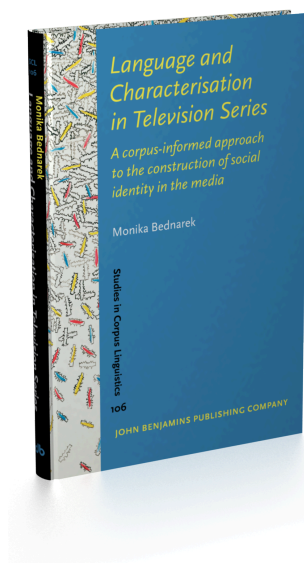
Monika Bednarek

[*Studies in Corpus Linguistics*, 106] 2023. xii, 265 pp.

© Monika Bednarek

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



Language notes

In this book, the terms “standard” and “non-standard” are enclosed in quotation marks (scare quotes) to highlight their problematic and ideological nature.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this book may contain the names of people who have died. In addition, Chapter 7 contains some examples of terms of abuse that may be experienced as confronting or triggering. Chapters 6 and 7 contain references to colonisation, stigmatisation, and racism.

Readers should be aware that terms used in some chapters of this book such as *Aboriginal*, *Torres Strait Islander*, and *Indigenous* are labels introduced by the colonisers and do not capture “the diversity of languages, cultural practices, worldviews and experiences that exist across the continent now called Australia” (Roberts et al 2021: 1). I use these terms because I do not generally know the specific language groups, peoples, or nations of the television characters I refer to. I use *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people* rather than *peoples* because I refer to individuals rather than nations. The term *Indigenous* is used to avoid too much repetition and typically means *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander*. In Chapter 6, I talk about *Aboriginal* characters rather than *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* characters, on account of Sydney (Redfern) being the setting/location of the investigated series. In Chapter 7, I talk about *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander characters*, given the large number of diverse characters included in the 13 series in the corpus and the possibility that at least one of these characters could theoretically be Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. (Actors playing the characters certainly include people who are both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.) Importantly, the term *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* is not meant to imply that these groups are the same, but is used in an inclusive sense given that the specific identity of characters is not always clear from the televisual narrative. There is not necessarily always full consensus around language use in this space, and often there will be a diversity of opinions on preferred terms. For further reading on terminology, readers may be interested in Carlson et al (2014); Public Health Association Australia (2017); Media Diversity Australia (2018); Roberts et al (2021); Canuto & Finlay (2021), or Latimore (2021).

Finally, I want to emphasise that when I use binary oppositions such as *Indigenous* and *non-Indigenous*, or *African American* and *non-African American* I do not aim to imply that they are internally homogenous or to essentialise people at the expense of diversity and variation.

While I have aimed to adhere to relevant guidelines and advice regarding language use, it is possible that I have made errors and/or that some of the terminology will change over time in its appropriateness. If this is the case, I hope for understanding that these errors were not committed intentionally or with malice.

A note on the citing of television series

My approach to citing television series (and movies) in this book is to only include in-text references for those series that are individually discussed (*Little J & Big Cuz*, *The Warriors*) or analysed (*Gilmore Girls*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Redfern Now*, *Saving Grace*, *Weeds*). Series that are only briefly mentioned or that are analysed as part of bigger or diverse corpora are instead included with all relevant information in the list of television series (and movies) provided at the end of this book.