

What's the use of ideology?

(to the EAP practitioner)

A practitioner talkback session

BALEAP 2013

Background and Context: the presence of both International and 'non-traditional' Home students (*including both first and second language users of English*) in the HE sector and the teaching of in-sessional academic English in HE in the UK

(1) Three immediate contentious practical issues

- can/should International and Home students be taught academic English together?
- is subject specificity or generic accuracy more important in the choices of the kind of English to be taught?
- who is best equipped to facilitate the learning of academic English - the subject specialist or the language specialist?

(2) Overall we need ideology in three areas:

LEARNERS LANGUAGE LEARNING

(3) An assemblage of ideological snippets. Are they any use?

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Talkshop Facilitator

Christina Healey (c.healey@sheffield.ac.uk) sees herself as a practitioner rather than an ideologue. She has been working at the English Language Teaching Centre, The University of Sheffield, for four years. Her background is in Adult and Further Education. She was Head of ESOL at Blackburn College in the 1980s and Tutor in charge of Language Support at Lewisham College in the 1990s. She has a particular interest in the education of adult returners. She has worked for twelve years as an Associate Lecturer at the Open University tutoring on undergraduate courses in English Language and Linguistics. She also practices as a qualified dyslexia tutor at the University. Her main research interest is the development of academic language and learning skills across the HE curriculum.