



# Language, Culture, and Teaching: Critical Perspectives (Language, Culture, and Teaching Series)

By Sonia Nieto

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## Language, Culture, and Teaching: Critical Perspectives (Language, Culture, and Teaching Series) By Sonia Nieto

Tremendous cultural and linguistic diversity is evident in our schools today. This text by one of today's best-known and most highly respected multicultural educators presents examples of real-life dilemmas about diversity that teachers will face in their own classrooms; ideas about how language, culture, and teaching are linked; and ways to engage with these ideas through reflection and collaborative inquiry. A thoughtful integration of articles and book chapters published by Dr. Nieto along with creative pedagogical features, *Language, Culture, and Teaching: Critical Perspectives for a New Century*:

- \*explores how language and culture are connected to teaching and learning in educational contexts;
- \*examines the sociocultural and sociopolitical contexts of language and culture to understand how they may affect student learning and achievement;
- \*analyzes the implications of linguistic and cultural diversity for school reform and educational equity;
- \*encourages critical reflection on classroom practices related to linguistic and cultural diversity; and
- \* offers in each chapter *critical questions* to help readers build on the knowledge they have gained by analyzing the concepts further; *classroom activities* that provide suggestions for applying what they have learned to their own teaching context; and *community activities* suggesting projects beyond the classroom context, in settings ranging from the school or district to the state or national level.

New times deserve new textbooks that engage teachers in viewing students' cultural and linguistic differences in a more hopeful and critical way, and in changing classroom practices and school policies to promote the learning of all students. Although no easy answers are available to fix the problems and uncertainties teachers encounter every day, there are thoughtful ways to address them that respect teachers' and other educators' professionalism, honor the i

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

*Nieto's work would make a good textbook for teacher preparation, or a book for study groups of educators to use to examine their own practice. It would also have value for individual teachers who wish to reexamine their own stand on multiculturalism and how they practice it in their classrooms.*

—TESL-EJ

*...this text offers a critical perspective from which to engage teachers in examining cultural and linguistic differences. Nieto provides the reader with a hopeful and critical examination of ways that teachers can change classroom practices and school politics to better serve all students. She refers to the role of teachers as never neutral but rather as a political project, either for or against those whom they teach. Her book encourages readers to question their beliefs and the attitudes of their students--in order that we can all learn how to meet the needs of students in a changing world.*

—Childhood Education

*Nieto's gracefully written book is designed mainly for pre- and in-service teachers, who are mostly white women from working and lower-middle class backgrounds with little experience with racial minorities...Nieto's book will prove an extremely useful resource for anyone dedicated to teaching all students.*

—British Journal of Educational Psychology

*...offers constructive ideas regarding the nature of changes needed in teacher education in order to meet the challenges of linguistic and cultural diversity of students....Designed to be used as a textbook reflecting the emphases Nieto believes are needed in the education of teachers at the beginning of the 21st century, the text contains several directions for this education....She presents an amazing array of statistics to show the ever-increasing diversity of students.*

—Educational Researcher

*The thought-provoking and interesting reading materials, together with the supplements, make the book very useable in a classroom environment. This book is definitely a good training tool for both in-service and preservice teachers to equip them for our schools and a good learning tool for professional teachers in the field.*

—Studies in Second Language Acquisition

#### About the Author

Sonia Nieto is Professor Emerita of Language, Literacy and Culture at the College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA.

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**Carolyn Lew:**

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