

Kari Sajavaara memorial lecture 2019

Response presentation

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Abstract

Sustainably solving socially relevant problems Applied Linguistics as transdisciplinary research

Doing Applied Linguistics implies fostering change. Where language ideologies, policies, and practices provide empirical evidence of social problems, applied linguists find themselves well-positioned to scrutinize routinized repertoires, outline alternatives, and develop measures to overcome injustice for a more promising future.

This is what the work of colleagues such as Dorte Lønsmann has shown. Whether it be companies neglecting the linguistic diversity needed for coping with local daily businesses while celebrating ELF for global reach, or refugee programs exploiting the mantra of linguistic integration to recruit cheap workforces – Applied Linguistics can reveal what calls for change.

But how to deal with the theoretical and ethical problems researchers face when they call for action? Since the early 1970s, this key question at the interface of theory and practice has been discussed in transdisciplinary research. In my response to Dorte Lønsmann's keynote, I draw on her cases to discuss some general insights into risks and opportunities of doing transdisciplinary research in Applied Linguistics.

Perrin, D., & Kramsch, C. (2018). Transdisciplinarity in applied linguistics. *AILA Review*, 2018(31).