

Reading and Immigrant Communities

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Setting the Stage...

- landed immigrants
 - newcomers
- ESL (English-as-a-Second-Language)
 - special language needs
 - languages other than English

What about RA?

- Can immigrant readers use the same RA services as those available to other readers who read in English?
- “Purchasing more titles does not end multicultural emphasis” (Hall-Ellis, 2008, p. 2).

Gaps in Knowledge about RA and Immigrant Readers

- RA interactions / interviews with ESL readers
- How do we advise on books written in other languages if we don't speak these languages?
- Finding books in English similar to those readers read in their languages
 - Scarcity or absence of RA tools

Questions to Ponder...



Who are immigrant readers

Immigrant readers: assumptions and reality

One-on-one interactions: suggestions

Book clubs and immigrant readers

RA interactions as intercultural encounters

**Who are immigrant
readers?**

Who are immigrant readers?

- Newcomers
 - Illiterate in any language
- Old-timers
 - Literate in their native language and English (competent readers)
 - Competent readers in their native language but cannot read in English

**Immigrant readers:
Assumptions and reality**

Making No Assumptions

1. Do they want to read about immigration?
2. Do they want to read for leisure in their language?
3. Do they want to read for leisure in English?
4. Do they read in English to improve their English?

Making No Assumptions

5. If they read in their language, do they want to discuss books in English?
6. Do they want to read their native authors?
7. Do they read in their language because of insufficient comprehension?
8. Are they interested in easy reads?

One-on-one Interactions: Practical Suggestions

Improving RA Interactions

- Being free of guilt and anxiety and genuinely interested
- Knowing your own authors well
- Keeping informed of what immigrants read

Book Clubs and Immigrant Readers

**RA Interactions as
Intercultural Encounters**

Terminology of Adaptation

- Uncertainty and anxiety control
- Adaptation
- Immigrants and hosts
- Favorable contact

Thank you

Questions?