

Vociferate| 詠 : Poetry and translanguaging in multicultural Australia

This creative paper highlights the challenges and implications, as well as the pleasures and personal rewards of translanguaging in poetry. Translanguaging is a developing term used predominantly by educationalists and social linguists to describe the practice where one uses all facets of their linguistic abilities to “maximise communication potential” (Garcia 2011, 140). Translanguaging differs from code-switching in that it does not privilege an institutionally sanctioned language over other linguistic abilities and adopts a “the more the better” approach (Li 2018, 14).

In presenting “National treasures coming home” (Sun 2019) and “We need to talk about immigration” (unpublished)¹ —two poems from *Vociferate*| 詠 (unpublished), I argue that intra-languaging —“the mixing of vernacular and literary, slang and institutional” (Domokos 2013, 2) —and inter-languaging creates a space in which multilingual hyphenate writers can explore, reject, interrogate, and problematise their position within the Australian cultural landscape, and enrich ongoing conversations about contemporary Australian identity.

References

- Domokos, Johanna. 2013. “Translanguaging in Cia Rinne’s Poetry: The Poetics of Multilingualism.” Paper presented at the *La Poétique du Plurilinguisme International Colloquium*, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, 4–6 April 2013.
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- García, Ofelia. 2009. *Bilingual Education in the 21st Century*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Li, Wei. 2018. “Translanguaging as a Practical Theory of Language.” *Applied Linguistics* 39 (1): 9-30. doi:10.1093/applin/amx039
- Sun, Emily. 2019. “National Treasures Coming Home” *Cordite Poetry Review*, 92:
<http://cordite.org.au/poetry/notheme8/national-treasures-coming-home/>

¹ ‘We need to talk about immigration’ was written as a multi-vocal performance piece.