Language Socialization Across Cultures by Bambi B. Schieffelin

Socialization is realized to a great extent through the use of language, the primary symbolic medium through which cultural norms are expressed. Socialization encompasses both learning and teaching, and is an on-going process throughout a person's life. Language socialization is the process of learning the language of one's culture, and in many respects it is the major socializing agent. As an interdisciplinary approach to the joint processes of enculturation and language acquisition, language socialization continues across the lifespan, as individuals become participants in multiple communities, including families, neighborhoods, peer groups, schools, professions, religious groups, and other institutions. 

Language socialization occurs across cultures: children's acquisition of language and socialization are processes that have usually been studied separately. In exploring cross-culturally the connections between the two, this volume provides a new, alternative, integrated approach to the developmental study of language and culture. The volume focuses on the ways in which children are both socialized through language and socialized to use language in culturally specific ways.

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