



# Local Language, Literacy and Multilingualism in a West African Society (Critical Language and Literacy Studies)

*Kasper Juffermans*

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# Local Linguaging, Literacy and Multilingualism in a West African Society (Critical Language and Literacy Studies)

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## **Local Linguaging, Literacy and Multilingualism in a West African Society (Critical Language and Literacy Studies)** Kasper Juffermans

This book aims to enhance and challenge our understanding of language and literacy as social practice against the background of heightened globalisation. Juffermans presents an ethnographic study of the linguistic landscape of The Gambia, arguing that language should be conceptualised as a verb (linguaging) rather than a countable noun (a language, languages). He goes on to argue that sociolinguistics should not be defined as the study of 'who speaks what language to whom, and when and to what end' (as Fishman defined it), but as the study of who uses which linguistic features under particular circumstances in a particular place and time. The book is therefore in part an exercise to unpluralise language, which Juffermans argues is necessary for a more realistic understanding of what language is, what it does, and what people do with it. The book will be of interest to sociolinguistics researchers, especially those focusing on Africa and the global South.

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