



Words at Work and Play: Three Decades in Family and Community Life

By Shirley Brice Heath

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Review

"By following the children and grandchildren of Trackton and Roadville into adulthood, Heath provides a unique and moving account of how individuals' language use and lives are shaped by economic and technological developments. Like its predecessor, this is sure to be an instant classic."

Deborah Tannen, Georgetown University and author of *You Just Don't Understand* and *Talking Voices*

"The captivating story of how the black and white children Heath studied thirty years ago in her classic book *Ways with Words* managed to negotiate the American culture and economy."

Allan Collins, Professor Emeritus of Learning Sciences, Northwestern University

"A unique ethnography - at once, a decades-long portrait of families in the Piedmont Carolinas, a survey of the trials and opportunities of the working class, and a panorama of America."

Howard Gardner, author of *Truth, Beauty, and Goodness Reframed*

"... shows what linguistic anthropology can accomplish in the voice of an accomplished and stylish writer. Heath brings empathy and understanding to the successive hardships and struggles of ordinary families in the USA ... providing fascinating maps of the people's migration patterns, their changing ways of engaging with play and work, and the language interactions among parents and children."

Brian Street, Professor Emeritus of Language in Education, King's College London

About the Author

Shirley Brice Heath, a leading social historian and ethnographer of family life, is Margery Bailey Professor of English and Dramatic Literature and Professor of Linguistics, Emerita, at Stanford University. Her previous publications include *Ways with Words: Language, Life, and Work in Communities and Classrooms* (Cambridge University Press, 1983) and *On Ethnography* (2008, with Brian Street).

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