

**Conference Summary**  
**International Conference on Critical Discourse Analysis**  
**University of Tasmania, Tasmania, Australia**  
**November 15 – 18, 2005**

**Bryan Meadows**  
**Second Language Acquisition and Teaching, GIDP**

The conference was an important initial step in my growing persona as a professional scholar. Meeting with others who are conducting research in critical discourse analysis was extremely beneficial to my understanding of the field as I was able to exchange research ideas and observations with my counterparts at the conference. The location of the conference provided an additional benefit as I was exposed to Australian perspectives on critical discourse analysis. I share basic theoretical underpinnings with fellow discourse analysts in Australia, but I found that draw from different pools when citing past research in support of our claims.

Currently, I am participating in a Critical Discourse Analysis study group here on campus. The group is comprised of fellow graduate students and we meet biweekly to discuss theoretical and practical issues related to Critical Discourse Analysis. While attending the conference in Australia, I made every effort to attend as many presentations and talks as possible with the purpose of sharing the information with my fellow study group members. In this, I feel very successful and I am preparing review materials to share with the group in December.

Back in Australia, my presentation was well-received by the audience. In addition to the positive feedback, audience members also provided additional insights further buttressing my analysis. Following the session, one teacher approached me and requested permission to make my textual analysis a central part of an upcoming lesson on discourse analysis she was scheduled to teach at the University of Tasmania. I was extremely flattered and I felt proud that my analysis presented something practical and useful to my fellow academics.

A further benefit of attending the conference was having the opportunity to initiate contacts with fellow Critical Discourse Analysis scholars. Since returning just a week ago, I have already exchanged emails with two graduate students I met at the

conference, and we have provided each other with research citations relevant to our respective areas of focus.

Finally, the most important personal gain for attending this conference was the reassurance that although Critical Discourse Analysis is a small, growing field of research, it has earned validity and has a promising future of additional growth. In similar fashion, this conference experience provided me with the opportunity to validate my own growing potential as a scholar. Just like with the field of Critical Discourse Analysis, I anticipate a bright future for myself.