



# How does language work?

Moving learners from everyday language to the academic language needed to succeed in school subjects.

Aston University, Birmingham

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The variation between the language of the home and community and the language of school is at the heart of a great deal of the underachievement of identifiable groups of learners in Britain. These learners may speak English either as a first or second language. They draw on the language of home and community to make meanings within school. School subjects draw on different kinds of language. These variations in language do not match.



- This conference is a groundbreaking two-day event and features a rare UK keynote from **Professor James Martin** of the University of Sydney, an architect of “genre based pedagogy” in the early 1980s.
- It is aimed at both teachers and educators, across phases, who are concerned with the role language plays in learning.

Everyday language ← **Mode Continuum** → Academic language



“He wanted to get divorced, get rich and get more power over people.”



Henry’s desire for divorce, money and power led to the establishment of the Church of England.

**In 2012 Ofsted said:**

*“Language for learning is a central element in all teaching.”*

**and asked:**

*“What can different subjects specifically contribute to the development of writing skills?”*

**Inspiring, informing and equipping teachers and their students with knowledge about how language works as a meaning making system.**

The conference aims to:

- Make the workings of the language system explicit in order to appreciate the role language plays in constructing knowledge across all learning areas.
- Build understandings about the patterned ways meanings are made within and across genres so that educators are able to develop students’ language resources to understand and produce those genres.
- Enable participants to understand and use the differences between spoken and written language, both as a teaching and a learning tool.

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**Dates:** Thursday 27th June and/or Friday 28th June, 2013

**Venue:** Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET

**Price:** £250 for two days or £150 for one day (the price includes lunch and refreshments)

For more information, registration and payment please go to <http://www.aston.ac.uk/how-does-language-work>

For general queries, please email **Jacquie Harding** at [j.harding@aston.ac.uk](mailto:j.harding@aston.ac.uk)



**Michael Rosen, broadcaster, children’s novelist and former Children’s Laureate**

“M.A.K. Halliday, is a grammarian with a fantastic record in turning the study of 'grammar' into something that treats language as if it is attached to real live human beings who are trying to say and write things that mean something! Unlike most grammar, which pretends as if you can treat language as a ‘system’ detached from meaning, intention and purpose, Halliday’s grammar tries to intertwine meaning with why and how grammar is the way, it is. If you like that sort of thing, his IFG is a great read. It even has gags. “