

Abstract

This dissertation examines the enregisterment of a particular way of speaking, referred to by the pupils in this study as (among others) *gangster* language. My study focuses on a group of preadolescent pupils and combines ethnographic fieldwork with two sociolinguistic experiments focusing on how this way of speaking is perceived by a group of preadolescent pupils for whom this register is a vital part of their linguistic everyday. The analyses of the different data point to the importance of a range of concepts in the enregisterment of the *gangster* register, chief among them ethnicity, authenticity, gender, and a fluctuation between cohesion and dissension.