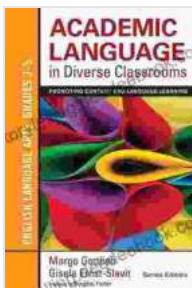


# Academic Language in Diverse Classrooms: Definitions and Contexts

## What is academic language?

Academic language is the language of schooling and is used in classrooms, textbooks, and other educational materials. It is a specialized form of language that is used to communicate complex ideas and concepts. Academic language is often characterized by its use of technical vocabulary, abstract concepts, and complex syntax. For example, a science textbook might use the term "photosynthesis" to refer to the process by which plants convert sunlight into energy. This term is not used in everyday conversation, but it is an important concept in science.



## Academic Language in Diverse Classrooms: Definitions and Contexts by Gisela Ernst-Slavit

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 15713 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 256 pages



## Why is academic language important?

Academic language is important because it allows students to access the content of instruction and to participate in classroom discussions. Students

who are not able to understand academic language will be at a disadvantage in school. They will not be able to keep up with the pace of instruction and will not be able to participate in class discussions. This can lead to lower grades and less engagement in school.

### **What are the challenges of acquiring academic language?**

There are a number of challenges that students face in acquiring academic language. These challenges include:

- **Vocabulary:** Academic language contains a large number of technical terms and vocabulary words that are not used in everyday conversation. These words can be difficult for students to learn and remember.
- **Syntax:** Academic language uses a complex syntax that can be difficult for students to understand. For example, academic language often uses passive voice and complex sentence structures.
- **Discourse:** Academic language is used in a variety of discourse genres, such as essays, reports, and presentations. These genres have their own unique conventions and expectations. Students need to be able to understand and use these genres in order to be successful in school.

### **How can teachers support students in acquiring academic language?**

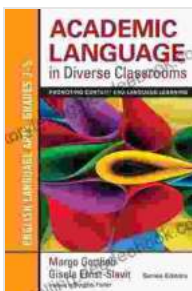
There are a number of things that teachers can do to support students in acquiring academic language. These include:

- **Provide explicit instruction:** Teachers need to provide explicit instruction on the vocabulary, syntax, and discourse of academic

language. This instruction should be scaffolded, meaning that it should be provided in small, manageable chunks.

- **Use comprehensible input:** Teachers need to use comprehensible input in their instruction. This means that they need to use language that students can understand. They can do this by using clear and concise language, by avoiding jargon, and by providing explanations and examples.
- **Provide opportunities for practice:** Students need opportunities to practice using academic language. This can be done through a variety of activities, such as discussions, group work, and writing assignments.

Academic language is essential for success in school. Students who are not able to understand academic language will be at a disadvantage in school. Teachers can play a key role in supporting students in acquiring academic language by providing explicit instruction, using comprehensible input, and providing opportunities for practice.



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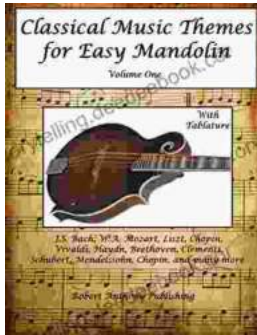
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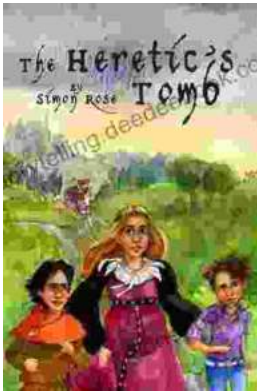
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