

Questions for reading: Somali

1. Like the Hmong, Somali speakers are coming to the US as refugees rather than immigrants in the narrow sense. How do B&C see this as making a difference in language maintenance and shift?
2. What is the focus of the article in terms of language?
3. They describe the theoretical context they draw on here. For many of you, that's relevant to your own papers ... make sure you understand what they're saying and ask questions if you don't.
4. Who are Somalis and how have they ended up in the Upper Midwest, and more specifically in western Wisconsin?
5. What kind of data did they gather and how did they gather it? Be able to talk about what they found with regard to ...
 - a. Attitudes toward English, positive and negative
 - b. Attitudes toward Somali
 - c. Attitudes toward literacy in Somali (parallel to our other discussions of heritage language literacy)
 - d. Attitudes toward contact and bilingualism
6. What conclusions do they draw so far, in terms of language maintenance and shift, identity and the broader social context?
7. What kind of work do you think would be most valuable to follow up on this paper?
8. Imagine you get a job in this community — as a teacher, social worker, county government, whatever. What would you do and urge others to do to make this kind of situation work?