

**Suzanne Burley and Cathy Pophrey**

**Language Teacher Education: A New Discursive Space**

**Abstract**

This paper examines individual subject constructions of English and Modern Languages in a teacher training context. Drawing on the theories of Bernstein (1996) and Evans (1988 and 1993) it offers an interpretation of national policies for language education within the two subjects, showing how these inhibit the possibility of a more coherent approach to language education in schools. The paper uses data in the form of student teacher voices to explore the notion of a new discursive space in which boundaries between these subjects can be examined and challenged. It concludes by showing the effects of the loss of this discursive space during the early stages of teachers' careers.