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## **Language use in Indigenous-authored television series A comparison of US and Australian contexts**

Language is a key component in the structuring of power and the maintenance of inequalities, especially along ethno-racial lines, as shown in raciolinguistics (Alim et al. 2016). Thus, Meek (2006, 2020) demonstrates that linguistic representations of Indigenous characters in the US media can promote “White” dominant frameworks at the expense of more nuanced, diverse, and complex representations. However, there have been recent changes in the television landscape, with the emergence of programs that have Indigenous showrunners or other significant Indigenous creative involvement.

In this study we examine such programs, comparing the US comedy-drama series *Reservation Dogs* with comedy series from Australia (e.g., *8mm Aboriginal Radio*, *All My Friends Are Racist*). Comparing linguistic representations in these different national contexts will allow us to uncover similarities from the impact of being colonised as well as differences tied to the local context. A focus on Indigenous-authored series and self-representation rather than other-representation will enable us to go beyond purely “a deficit perspective” (Charity Hudley et al. 2020: 216), recognising that the media can be a site of Indigenous agency. Crucially, these series address “mainstream”/mixed audiences, meaning they have to reach different audiences at the same time. We examine both overt and subtle ways of representation to show how Indigenous screen creatives may integrate linguistic diversity in this particular context of “mainstream” popular culture.

### **References**

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