Talkin' bout a revolution: The call for transformation and reform in Indigenous education

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Acknowledgement

Image taken from: http://www.sofrank.com.au/meets/michelle-taylor/

The notion of revolution

○ Tracey Chapman (1988) – Queen for social justice, human rights and outright just simply amazing

○ Education Revolution (2008) – boring as anything, fizzled to standardised testing, national curriculum and control AND

   An absolute farce!!

Overview

○ Language is used to maintain the oppressive control of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within Indigenous education policy

○ Discursive trickery and the illusion of consultation – marginalising Indigenous voice

○ The call to arms – the need for transformation and TRUE revolution

Indigenous Critical Discourse
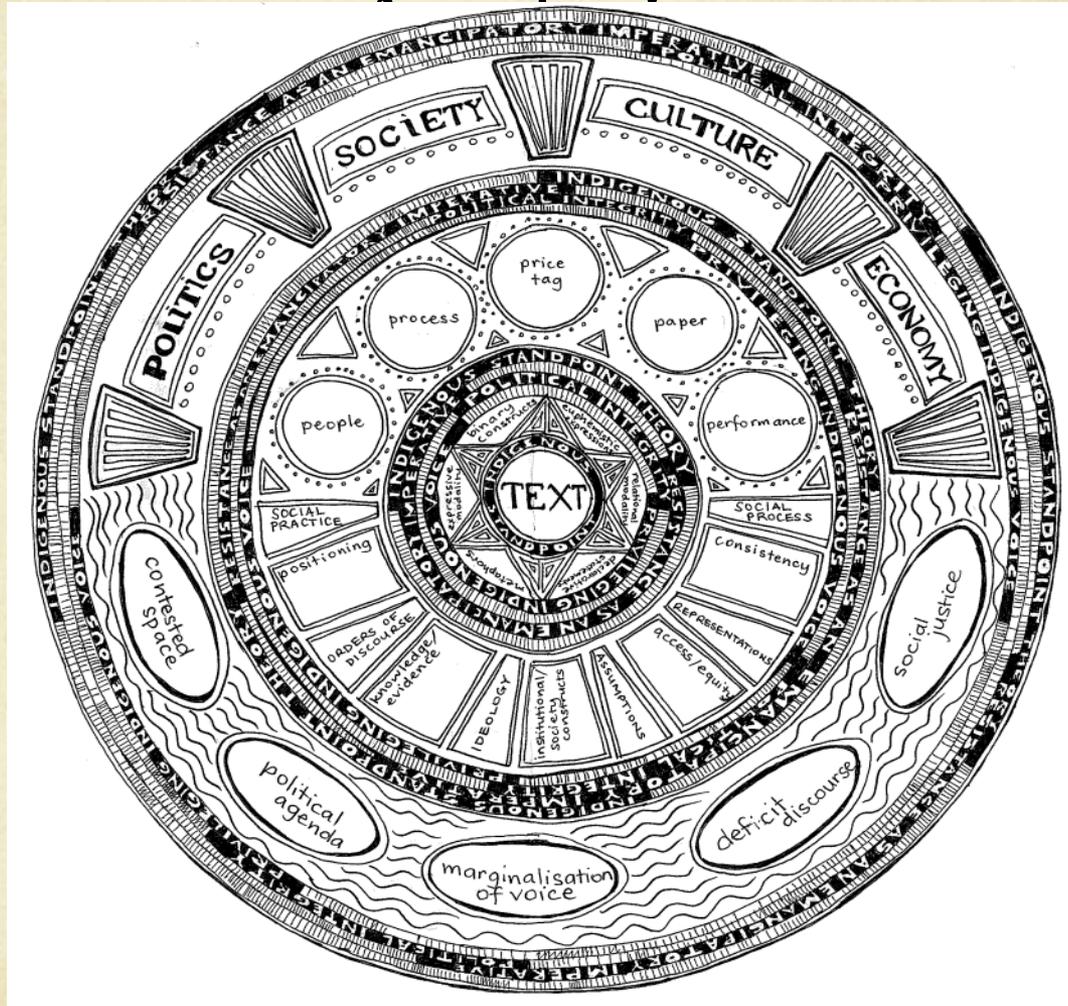
Taken from Hogarth, M. (2017). Speaking back to the deficit discourses: a theoretical and methodological approach. Australian Educational Researcher 44(1), 21-34.

Deficit discourses

○ "aimed at overcoming Indigenous disadvantage" (ACIL Allen Consulting, 2014, p. 12)

○ "a 'social justice' approach acknowledges educational disparity and structural disadvantage as producing barriers to the progression of children at school" (Campbell, Kelly & Harrison, 2012, p. 15)

"for [I]ndigenous communities the issue is not just that they are blamed for their own failures but that is also communicated to them, explicitly or implicitly, that they themselves have no solutions to their own problems" (Smith, 1999, p. 92)

Discursive trickery

○ "the [S]trategy is the result of robust discussion, reflection, debate and cooperation and [how] its development has been championed by the Education Council's *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group* established by the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee to provide advice on national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy initiatives and directions" (Education Council, 2015, p. 1 [emphasis added])

"the reason for centering the concept of social practice is that it allows an oscillation between the perspective of social structure and the perspective of social action and agency – both necessary perspectives in social research and analysis" (Fairclough, 2001, p. 231)

.....it starts with a whisper!

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