2.2 Who's and what's

1- When you speak or write anything, you use the resources of English to project yourself as a certain kind of person, a different kind in different circumstances.

- When you speak or write anything, you use the resources of English to project yourself as a certain kind of person, a different kind in different circumstances.

- You also project yourself as engaged in a certain kind of activity, a different kind in different circumstances.

- If I have no idea who you are and what you are doing, then I cannot make sense of what you have said, written, or done.

- You project a different identity at a formal dinner party than you do at the family dinner table.

- And, though these are both dinner, they are none the less different activities.

- The fact that people have differential access to different identities and activities, connected to different sorts of status and social goods, is a root source of inequality in society.

- الحقيقة أن الناس لديهم وصول تفاضل للهويات والأنشطة المختلفة، متصلا لأنواع مختلفة من الوضع القائم والسلع الاجتماعية، فهو مصدر جذري لعدم المساواة في المجتمع.
• Intervening in such matters can be a contribution to social justice.

• Since different identities and activities are enacted in and through language, the study of language is integrally connected to matters of equity and justice.

2- An oral or written “utterance” has meaning, then, only if and when it communicates a who and a what (Wieder and Pratt 1990a).

• What I mean by a “who” is a socially-situated identity, the “kind of person” one is seeking to be and enact here and now.

• What I mean by a “what” is a socially-situated activity that the utterance helps to constitute.

3- Lots of interesting complications can set in when we think about identity enacted in and through language.
The President’s Press Secretary can issue an utterance that is, in fact, authored by a speech writer and authorized (and even claimed) by the President.

In this case, the utterance communicates a sort of overlapping and compound *who*.

The Press Secretary, even if she is directly quoting the speech writer, must inflect the remark

Not just individuals, but also institutions, through the “anonymous” texts and products they circulate, can author or issue “utterances.”

For example, we will see 11111 below that the warning on an aspirin bottle actually communicates multiple *whos*.

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### 4- 14 Discourses and social languages

الخطابات واللغات الاجتماعية

with her own voice.

In turn, the speech writer is both “mimicking” the President’s “voice” and creating an identity for him.

Not just individuals, but also institutions, through the “anonymous” texts and products they circulate, can author or issue “utterances.”

For example, we will see 11111 below that the warning on an aspirin bottle actually communicates multiple *whos*.
5- An utterance can be authored, authorized by, or issued by a group or a single individual.

- يمكن التأليف والكلام، التي أذن بها، أو التي تصدرها مجموعة أو فرد واحد.
- Finally, we can point out that whos and whats are not really discrete and separable.
  - وأخيرا، يمكننا أن نشير إلى أن whos وماذا يكون ليست متميزة و منفصلة حقاً.
- You are who you are partly through what you are doing and what you are doing is partly recognized for what it is by who is doing it.
  - كنت من أنت جزئياً من خلال ما تقومون به وما تقومون به هو معترف بها جزئياً على ما هو عليه من who.
- So it is better, in fact, to say that utterances communicate an integrated, though often multiple or “heteroglossic,” who-doing-what.
  - في الواقع لذلك فمن الأفضل، أن نقول إن كلام التواصل متكامل، على الرغم من كثير من الأحيان من متعدد أو "heteroglossic", who-doing-what.