

Surprisingly little is known empirically about the use of literature in language education. Despite the popularity of literature, claims for its value rest more on speculation and assertion than on real understanding of the contribution it might make to greater language proficiency or language education more broadly. This book carefully details what is known of the language of literature, the reading of literature and the uses of literature in language education, including assessment and curriculum, and in developing intercultural competence. Key studies are highlighted for what they tell us as well as for questions they leave unanswered. The book also incorporates pointers towards the kind of research now needed and practical guidance on how it might be carried out, as well as resources available. For this second edition, all sections have been substantially revised and updated to reflect the latest developments in the field.

For this second edition the overview of the field has been updated to take into account relevant developments in second language reading, creative writing, the use of the Internet, reading groups and advances in classroom research into uses of literature in language education. More than 100 references to work published in the 10 years since the first edition of 2005 have been added.