Shirley Brice Heath, linguistic anthropologist, studies learners across the life span in non-formal environments of learning. She gives primary focus to the ways in which speakers, young and old, learn the structures and uses of language as well as the attitudes, gestures and interactional ways called for in learning environments of all types.

She is the author of *Words at Work and Play: Three Decades in Families and Communities* (2012) and the classic *Ways with Words: Language, Life, and Work in Communities and Classrooms* (Cambridge University Press, 1983/1996). Heath has taught at universities throughout the world, most notably Stanford University and Brown University, and as a Visiting Research Professor at King’s College, University of London.

In several nations, she has studied youth-based community organizations in which the young devote themselves to environmental projects, social justice, enterprise development, and educational inclusion. Her resource guide and prize-winning documentary “ArtShow” (2000) features young leaders in four interracial and cross-class community arts organizations in the United States.