Is it possible to become part of a Discourse by faking it? In my opinion, no it’s not. But

Don’t lose hope yet. It is not possible to just fake being in a Discourse and instantly become that Discourse, but there are (in my opinion) some steps you can do to fake it ‘til you become it. Gee believes that you cannot under any circumstances fake being apart of a Discourse, this makes you a pretender and a “mushfake” as he puts it. You will never truly become that Discourse unless you study under a master of that Discourse and through countless hours of studying, experiencing and eventually becoming that Discourse.

Gee says many times that the only way to truly become a part of a Discourse is to spend hours upon hours studying and experiencing the Discourse being studied under the apprenticeship of a master of that Discourse because if they are truly a master of it then teaching the Discourse should come easy to them.

Discourses are not mastered by overt instruction (even less so than languages, and hardly

anyone ever fluently acquired a second language sitting in a classroom), but by

enculturation (“apprenticeship”) into social practices through scaffolded and supported

interaction with people who have already mastered the Discourse. This is how we all

acquired our native language and our-home based Discourse. It is how we acquire all

later, more public-oriented Discourses. If you have no access to the social practice, you

don’t get in the Discourse, you don’t have it. You cannot overtly teach anyone a

Discourse, in a classroom or anywhere else.

Gee says that you cannot just learn a Discourse in a classroom like learning math in math class. You must first learn under an apprenticeship then must be encultured and gain the social practices of the Discourse. Which Gee compares effectively to learning a language. You may get good at speaking a language but you won’t become bilingual by just sitting in a classroom, you must become encultured by the language by going to that country or somewhere that speaks it as a first language and learn by doing. But maybe you don’t have to do all this: Amy Cuddy says that in Discourses it is possible to fake it until you become it. She compares faking a Discourse to mind over matter symbolism.

Cuddy says “...we smile when we feel happy, but also, when we're forced to smile by holding a pen in our teeth like this, it makes us feel happy.” She says this as though comparing smiling and feeling happy is similar to the strenuous activity of becoming a Discourse or at least faking it. I don’t believe this is a just comparison. This could be comparable to an aspect of a Discourse but not an overall Discourse. To fake a Discourse and eventually become it requires studying people of the Discourse; to fake that you are part of the Discourse by integrating aspects slowly and over time without members of the Discourse knowing you're truly not one of them yet. Though maybe you could fake a Discourse by having knowledge of said Discourse and just need to acquire the social aspects.

In order to fully become part of a Discourse you must have three things; knowledge of the Discourse, the morals and values, and the social aspects. Having knowledge of the Discourse can be acquired through rigorous amounts of time in an apprenticeship, but also can be acquired through a class at a university. You can learn spanish in a class, but aren’t yet apart of that Discourse you just have a general knowledge of the subject. The difficult aspects to acquire are the morals, values and social aspects. These are difficult to acquire by mushfaking because this is not something that can be learned in a class, it must be taught by enculturation with the subject in name. But it is still possible to fake it until you become it.

Even though you do not have all the aspects to become a part of a Discourse yet it is still possible to fake it until you become it. Say for instance you know spanish fairly well from classes in school, you still can learn the morals and social aspects of the Discourse through faking it in an encultured environment. If you were to go to a spanish speaking country and faked being spanish you could (hypothetically) eventually become a part of that Discourse by slowly learning the morals and social aspects of the environment. By doing this, in theory, you can become part of any Discourse.

A Discourse is a very general term. It morphs and modifies to certain situations. For instance, enculturation to learn a Discourse of language is a kind of apprenticeship under a master. In this case the master is all of the language speaking community you are in. This is why it can be possible to become a part of a Discourse through faking it.