



# An Undefined Future: Why Language is Important for the Development of 'Development Finance'

Jeremy Dobbin, CDFA  
Development Economist

## Executive Summary

Development finance is an 'essentially contested concept'; and one that is understood by few, misunderstood by many, and fraught with ambiguity and discord amongst its proclaimed experts. Using applied linguistics - the study of language as it relates to practical, everyday concerns - this article explores the role that language plays in the development of development finance and gives recommendations to make the professional practice more robust.