

ANALIZA DISKURSA

Fond časova: 2P

Knjiga: *Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers*, Michael McCarthy

+ odabrana poglavlja

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Bodovanje:

1. Dva kolokvijuma (pismeno), 2 x 30 poena (6. i 13. sedmica);
2. završni ispit (pismeno), 37 poena;
3. prisustvo – 3 poena.

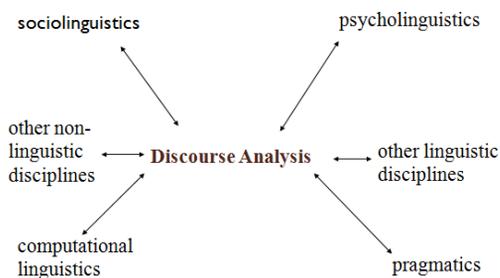
Discourse Analysis

Lecture I

Discourse Analysis

- Definition (language + context)
- Phonetics
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics

Discourse Analysis



Discourse Analysis

- Brief historical overview
- Zellig Harris (1952)
- Influences: **French structuralist approach, semiotics and linguistic philosophers** (Austin, Searle and Grice)
- **British approach** – Halliday's **functional approach** to language; patterns in talk
- **American approach** – **ethnomethodological approach**; conversation analysis; politeness

Discourse

- Discourse is “language above the sentence or above the clause” (Stubbs, 1983: 1).
- 1960s grammarians became convinced of the usefulness of considering **stretches longer than individual sentences** in their analyses, at least two terms came to be used in parallel fashion: *text linguistics* and *discourse analysis*.
- Originally, some people preferred to use *text* to refer to written language and kept *discourse* strictly for oral production.
- However, **we do not make any distinctions between *text linguistics* and *discourse analysis*, and between *discourse* and *text***, because they are now often used interchangeably.

Discourse

- A particular unit of language (above the sentence), or **discourse in structure**;
- A particular focus on language use, **discourse as function**.

Form and Function

Ex. 1:

- Wasn't my face red?!

Discourse

‘Discourse’ refers to **any utterance which is meaningful**. These texts can be:

- **written** texts
- **oral** texts (‘speech’/‘talk’)
- **mixed** written/oral texts (e.g. Internet chat)

Discourse does not depend on the size of a text (“P” and “Ladies” can both be analysed as discourse)

Discourse Analysis

- What does it study?
 - Examples of analysis:

Form and function

Ex. 2:

- It's hot in here.

Intensifiers

Ex. 3:

- *That is very interesting.* (basic intensifier)
- *That is very, very interesting.* (repetition to increase effect)
- *That is extremely interesting.* (suggests extreme response)
- *That is amazingly interesting.* (suggests being amazed)
- *That is scarily interesting.* (suggests being scared)
- *That is quite interesting.* (reducing intensity)
- *That is a bit interesting.* (reducing intensity)

Emphasisers

- Ex. 4
- **Obviously** you need peace of mind, and this insurance product will give it to you.
- You're **naturally** unhappy because you're living with a fool.
- **Of course** it's expensive, but only the best is good enough.

Use of pronouns

Ex. 5

- *I think that is good.* [committing your view]
- **We** like apples, don't **we**? [bonding]
- *I promise you a better future.* [authoritative, committing]

Transitivity

Ex. 6

- The soldiers killed 10 people.
- 10 people died.
- 10 people are dead.

Hedging

Ex. 7

- *There **might just** be a few **insignificant** problems we need to address.* (adjective)
- *The party was **somewhat** spoiled by the return of the parents.* (adverb)
- ***I'm not an expert** but you **might** want to try restarting your computer.* (clause)
- *That's false, **isn't it?*** (tag question clause)

Presupposition

• Ex. 8

- West is encouraging Iran to reconsider **its dangerous policy decisions**.

Iran's policies are definitely dangerous – that's the starting premise in the sentence.

Conceptual metaphor

Ex. 9:

- Your claims are indefensible.
- He attacked every weak point in my argument.
- His criticisms were right on target.
- I demolished his argument.
- I've never won an argument with him.
- If you use that strategy, he'll wipe you out.
- He shot down all of my arguments.

ARGUMENT IS WAR

Euphemisms

Ex. 10:

- War on terror
- Ethnic cleansing
- NATO intervention
- Optimising staff
- Substandard housing
- Economically disadvantaged

Speech acts

- Saying vs. doing:
- It's hot in here.
- I pronounce you husband and wife.

There are different types of speech acts:

e.g. "Speak louder!" (directive)

"Oxford Street is a shopper's paradise." (assertive)

Discourse markers

- A: **So**, I've decided I'm going to go to the bank and ask for a car loan.
- B: That sounds like a good idea.
- C: **Well**, you need a car.
- B: **Right**.
- A: **Anyway**, I was wondering if either of you would teach me how to drive.
- **so** marks the beginning of a new part of the conversation.
- **well** marks a change in the focus (from getting a car loan to needing a car).
- **right** marks a response (B is agreeing with C).
- **anyway** marks a shift in topic (from buying a new car to having driving lessons).

Scope of discourse analysis

- Very heterogeneous
- **Written and spoken** language
- Discourse analysis is not a discipline which exists on its own. It is **influenced by other disciplines** and influences them as well. It is a two-way process ...
- For this reason discourse analysis examines spoken and written texts from all sorts of different areas (medical, legal, advertising) and from all sorts of perspectives (race, gender, power)
- Discourse analysis has a number of **practical applications** - for example in analysing communication problems in medicine, psychotherapy, education, in analysing written style etc.

Some worries & objections

It is subjective?

- not particularly; argument still has to convince readers, editors etc., by appeal to established findings & theory

Is it useful?

- reveals how objects get constituted & **unmasks the interests** that serves (and perhaps could be resisted)
- **shows how mundane interaction achieves its business (and perhaps could be improved)**