

## ANALIZA DISKURSA

Fond časova: 2P+1V

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

+ odabrana poglavlja

### Bodovanje:

1. Dva kolokvijuma (pismeno), 2 x 30 poena (6. i 13. sedmica);
2. završni ispit (pismeno), 35 poena;
3. prisustvo – 5 poena.

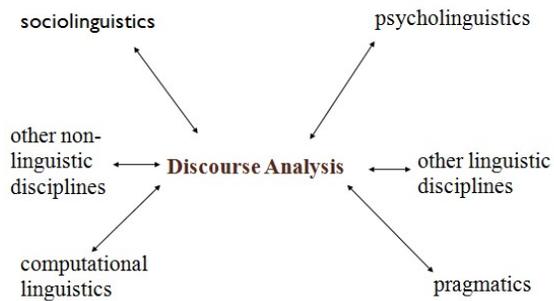
## Discourse Analysis

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

‘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

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

## Discourse Analysis

- What does it study?
  - Examples of analysing discourse structure and functions:

## 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).

## Discourse cohesion

Cohesion refers to the ties and connections which exist within texts that link different parts of sentences or larger unit of discourse.

Example:

*My Father once bought a Lincoln convertible. He did it by saving every penny he could. That car would be worth a fortune nowadays. However, he sold it to help pay for my college education. Sometimes I think I'd rather have the convertible.*

## TEXT STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

Clearly, 'America the Beautiful' deserves to be our national anthem. For years now, it has been gaining popularity in school assemblies, at official state functions, and even in our ball parks. The music is simple, dignified, and – most importantly – easy to sing. The lyrics celebrate our history, our land, our heroes, and our future. It is proud but not warlike, idealistic without sounding silly.

GENERAL – SPECIFIC: GENERAL STATEMENT + SPECIFIC ITEM 1 + SPECIFIC ITEM 2 + SPECIFIC ITEM 3

## Conversation structure and functions

-Do you need help with that?  
-Definitely!

**Offer + Acceptance**

-Chocolate?  
-I'm on a diet, thanks.

**Offer + Rejection**

Well, I have some stuff to do now.

- Oh, before you go, what time do you want to meet tomorrow?

**Degreeting + Degreeting**

## FORM AND FUNCTION

- Wasn't my face red?!

What exactly does this utterance convey? Which emotion? Can we tell?

## Form and function

Ex. 2:

- It's hot in here.

What's the function of this utterance? What do we want to do with it? Can we tell? What can we do with it?

## Functions of pronouns

Reasons behind the choice of pronouns; what do they convey?

- *I think that is good.* [committing your view]
- *I promise you a better future.* [authoritative, committing, personal involvement]
- *We like apples, don't we?* [bonding]
- *We have to reduce your salary.* [sharing responsibility, hiding agency]

## Transitivity

What is foregrounded and what is backgrounded in each of these utterances?

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

## Hedging

Ex. 5 – How and why do we hedge our utterances?

- 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. 6 What do we presuppose in the utterances? Can our presuppositions be unfair? Is it difficult to answer to and recognise unfair presuppositions?

- Jane no longer writes fiction.
  - Presupposition: Jane once wrote fiction.
- Have you stopped eating meat?
  - Presupposition: you had once eaten meat.
- Have you talked to Hans?
  - Presuppositions: Hans exists. You know Hans.
- Does your mother know you are a fool?
  - Presuppositions: You have a mother. You are a fool. (an unfair presupposition)

## Conceptual metaphor

Ex. 7: What do these utterances have in common? In what way do we thinking about arguing with someone?

- 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. 8: Why do we use euphemisms? Are they always fair?

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

## 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 & unmask the interests that serves (and perhaps could be resisted)
- shows how mundane interaction achieves its business (and perhaps could be improved)