



LECTURE TITLE

جامعة ساوية

كلية التربية

علم اللغة/قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الرابعة

الاسبوع التاسع

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Discourse Analysis

What is the **real** unit of human communication?

Discourse Analysis is the study of **language beyond the sentence** , in **texts and conversation**.

It explores how language users interpret messages.



The word “discourse” is usually defined as “language beyond the sentence” and so the analysis of discourse is typically concerned with the study of language in texts and conversation. In many of the preceding chapters, when we were concentrating on linguistic description, we were concerned with the accurate representation of the forms and structures. However, as language-users, we are capable of more than simply recognizing correct versus incorrect forms and structures.

Interpreting discourse

We can even cope with texts, written in English, which we couldn't produce ourselves and which appear to break a lot of the rules of the English language. Yet we can build an interpretation. The following example, provided by Eric Nelson, is from an essay by a student learning English and contains all kinds of errors, yet it can be understood.

My Town

My natal was in a small town, very close to Riyadh capital of Saudi Arabia. The distant between my town and Riyadh 7 miles exactly. The name of this Almasani that means in English Factories. It takes this name from the peopl's carrer. In my childhood I remmeber the people live. It was very simple. Most the people was farmer.

Cohesion and Coherence

Cohesion: The ties and connections that physically exist *within* a text (e.g., using pronouns, conjunctions, or related vocabulary).

Example of Cohesion

My sister bought a new laptop yesterday, She plans to use it for her school projects. Therefore she won't need to borrow my computer anymore.

She Links back to My sister –Reference (Pronoun/Anaphora)

it Links back to laptop-Reference (Pronoun/Anaphora)

Therefore Links Sentence 2 to 3-Conjunction

computer Relates to laptop -Lexical (Synonym/Related Word)

Coherence

the connections that create a Meaningful Interpretation of texts.

Cohesion is a matter of grammatical structure, Coherence relates to the meaning – the reader or listener's ability to understand the text.

-A text can be cohesive but still difficult to understand if it lacks coherence.



A text can have **strong cohesive ties** but still be incoherent (lacking logical flow):

"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. **The car** driven by the police **was** red. That color doesn't suit **her**. **She** consists of three letters.

Example of **Coherent** but Less Cohesive Text

a text can be coherent (make logical sense) even with few explicit cohesive ties:

A: There's the phone. **B:** I'm in the bath. **A:** OK.

This short dialogue is **coherent** because, based on **shared context and background knowledge**, we can infer the logical connection: Person A is announcing the phone is ringing, Person B is explaining why he can't answer it, and Person A is acknowledging that B cannot answer it.

people sometimes put at the beginning of their conversational contributions.

-As far as I know

-Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but ...

-I'm not absolutely sure, but

We also take care to indicate that what we report is something we think or feel (not know), is possible or likely (not certain), and may or could (not must) happen. Hence the difference between saying

Jackson is guilty (we have very good evidence)

I think it's possible that Jackson may be guilty.