MAKING SENSE OF DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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AEE

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Preface

The Intention of this Series

The volumes in this Series are intended for English, ESL and EFL, literacy, and other language teachers; language researchers; and graduate and postgraduate students of language teacher education and applied linguistics.

The *Making Sense of Language* series focuses on the purposes, pattern, and system of spoken and written language in the context of their use.

Modern grammars highlight the fact that language is a functional resource, and that study of language form away from the context of its use cannot explain how it works. Such grammars further assert that, though language use is unique, it can be systematically examined for structure and pattern.

Examinations, such as those in this Series, aim to reveal:

- the choices language users make in interaction and text construction

and

- how meaning is made

in the belief that good analyses and grammars can help language teachers be discourse analysts in their own classrooms and, as a result, be more effective teachers.

The Rationale for this Series

Learning to communicate in a new language is difficult for all language learners—who have to make sense of it as well as in it. Language teachers,

therefore, face a challenging task, since their role is to help language learners find system, pattern, and understanding in a new language and to use that knowledge and competence effectively.

To manage language teaching successfully, every language teacher needs a good grammatical framework and set of tools. This Series provides a range of grammatical resources—functional grammars, textual analyses, and discourse grammars—that combine straightforward explanations with the right amount of grammatical delicacy. Each volume enables language teachers to make sense of language use for themselves, through introduction, explanation and guided use of the grammatical tools.

The Series enables teachers and researchers to become independent analysts of the complexities and ambiguities of language use.

The Uses of this Series

Each volume can be used by teachers or research students working on their own, or as supplementary textbooks for tertiary courses of study. The volumes can function as workbooks. They contain:

- summaries of important aspects of functional and discourse grammar
- text exemplars, illustrating key points
- activities with answers and explanations.

Each volume is readable—contrary to many students' and teachers' expectations, discourse and grammar can be made accessible and comprehensible. Sample texts come from everyday life and teaching situations, and often have a humorous touch. The balance between theory and practice is sensitively handled for busy readers who want immediate application for what they are learning.

Earlier Volumes

Making Sense of Functional Grammar
Making Sense of Text

This Volume

Making Sense of Discourse Analysis brings together the key systems of discourse analysis. The book overviews and explains communicative language theory, speech act theory, conversational analysis, genre analysis, and critical discourse analysis.

Each chapter provides a historical context, definitions for key components of each system or theory being described, textual examples with explanation, and structured activities for readers to try out the systems and theories for themselves.

The volume is a very useful, practical distillation of a complex field for language teacher educators, and a very readable introduction for language teachers and postgraduate students.

Jill Burton
Series Editor

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Language and Literacy Research Centre
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November 1999

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Discourse analysis is a useful tool for studying the political meanings that inform written and spoken text. In other posts, I have provided a quick video introduction to the topic, and have discussed the ideas behind discourse theory, the main questions that students and researchers will likely ask as they set up their discourse analysis project, and the things that are worth keeping in mind when working with East Asian language sources. In this post, I offer a handy set of tools for doing a text-based, qualitative discourse analysis.Â It makes sense to mark all statements in the speech that deal with globalization and its related themes (or discourse strands). Before you start with this process, you need to come up with your coding categories. The field of critical discourse analysis (CDA) involves taking a deeper, qualitative look at different types of texts, whether in advertising, literature, or journalism. Analysts try to understand ways in which language connects to socialÂ Look for assumed interpretations that the text has already made. As a critical reader, it's your job to analyze the assumptions that exist in texts that less-critical readers may overlook. Read closely to find spots where language, tone, and phrase choices reveal textual biases about its subject matter. Critical discourse analysis takes linguistic and psychosocial approaches one step further by analysing the data from a decidedly critical stance. From: Research Methods (Second Edition), 2018. Related termsÂ Centrally, one is trying to make sense of how the document produces a specific argument, the positions it takes in relation to a topic alongside the other alternate or contradictory positions that are excluded or silenced. Another central question asked of documents from work in this tradition is how are specific ideas, practices, or identities produced, sustained or negotiated within texts? Directory. Gerd Stabler, Making Sense of Discourse Analysis, B. Paltridge. Message 1: Making Sense of Discourse Analysis, B. Paltridge. Date: Sat, 04 Dec 1999 08:59:36 +1000 From: Gerd Stabler Subject: Making Sense of Discourse Analysis, B. Paltridge. Making Sense of Discourse Analysis by Brian Paltridge. This third volume in the Making Sense of Language series introduces approaches to the analysis of spoken and written discourse. The book is suitable for university coursework degrees ,and as a reference for teachers, as well as for use in professional developmen

Critical discourse analysis and some versions of discursive psychology, for example, often focus on the micro-detail of text and interaction, while political discourse theory tends to train its sights on a much wider canvas.Â This arises because they assume that all systems of meaning are in a fundamental sense lacking.Â In explaining what made possible the legitimation of its draconian anti-nomadic character, Lewis has shown how the passage of the Bill through Parliament in 1992 was accompanied by an outpouring of virulent and often irrational attacks on â€˜New Age Travellersâ€™ in the tabloid press (Lewis 2005: Ch.Â As is the case with other discourse analytical approaches, RPA includes both theoretical reflection on the Unlike other discourse analysts, critical discourse analysts (should) take an explicit sociopolitical stance: they spell out their point of view, perspec-tive, principles and aims, both within their discipline and within society at large.Â Their struc-tural understanding presupposes more general insights, and sometimes indirect and long-term analyses of fundamental causes, conditions and consequences of such issues. And unlike most social and political scientists, critical discourse scholars want to make a more specific contribution, namely to get more insight into the crucial role of discourse in the repro-duction of dominance and inequality. Critical discourse analysis is far from easy. In my opinion it is by far the toughest challenge in the discipline. In this sense, Discourse Analysis is neither a qualitative nor a quantitative research method, but a manner of questioning the basic assumptions of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Discourse Analysis does not provide a tangible answer to problems based on scientific research, but it enables access to the ontological and epistemological assumptions behind a project, a statement, a method of research, or â€“ to provide an example from the field of Library and Information Science â€“ a system of classification.Â By enabling us to make these assumption explicit, Discourse Analysis aims at allowing us to view the â€œproblemâ€ from a higher stance and to gain a comprehensive view of the â€œproblemâ€ and ourselves in relation to that â€œproblemâ€. 4. Approaches to Discourse Analysis, 5. Discourse Analysis Processes 6. Discourse types 7. Samples of Discourse Analysis, Key terms in Discourse Analysis, such as: text, context, co-text, discourse, cohesion, coherence, genres, schemata, knowledge, worldview, scripts, proposition, meaning, etc.Â This additional insight may be used to enhance communication with group members, make sense of group membersâ€™ decisions, and distinguish groups from one another, among other things. Hymesâ€™SPEAKING. Sociolinguist Dell Hymes developed the following model to promote the analysis of discourse as a series of speech events and speech acts within a cultural context.