



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Εθνικόν και Καποδιστριακόν  
Πανεπιστήμιον Αθηνών

# Empirische Sprachforschung

Lehrinheit 5: Discourse Grammar

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# Material: Discourse Analysis, An Introduction 2nd Edition

Brian Paltridge, 2012

# Texture of Text

- Cohesion and Discourse (Kohäsion oder Textkohäsion )
  - Reference
  - Lexical Cohesion
  - Collocation
  - Conjunction
  - Substitution and Ellipsis (Substitution und [Ellipse](#))
- Theme and Rheme
  - Thematic Progression
- Attitude and Grammar
  - Grammar and Engagement



Texture of Text

Cohesion and Discourse

# Cohesion and Discourse

- Cohesion and Discourse
  - Reference (Referenz)
  - Lexical Cohesion
  - Collocation
  - Conjunction
  - Substitution and Ellipsis

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# Texture of text

- Unity of structure (combination of patterns to create information structure, focus and flow in text, schematic structure in text)
- Unity of texture (patterns of cohesion)
  - Cohesion: Relationship between items in text (words, phrases, clauses) and items such as pronouns, nouns, conjunctions.
  - Relationship between:
    - words and pronouns that refer to that word (reference items)
    - words that commonly co-occur in texts (collocation)
    - words with similar, related and different meanings (lexical cohesion)
    - clauses and ways a semantic relationship is expressed (conjunctions)
    - substitution and ellipsis of words and phrases (substitution, ellipsis)

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# Cohesion: Reference items

Relationship between words and pronouns that refer to that word:

*Anaphoric (back<<)*, *Cataphoric (forward >>)*,

*Homophoric (same =)*, *Exophoric (outside ⇔)*,

*Comparative (mentioned \*↑)* and *Bridging (inferred {...})* reference:

“It seems everyone’s read *that* self-help book: Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo’s He’s Just Not That Into You...First in *the* US, then all over *the* world, women became converts to the book’s tough-love message. When *it* was published late last year, Oprah sang *its* praises, tearful women called *it* ‘the Bible’ and *others* declared *it* had changed their lives forever (Cooper, 2005:S38)”

“Customer: What kind of book would *you* say *this* is? Where would *you* put *it* in *your* bookshelves?”

“Stuart agrees: ‘I was hopeless’, he says with a laugh. ‘I’m just not one of *those* blokes that find approaching women easy (Cooper, 2005:S38)”

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# Cohesion: Lexical Cohesion

Relationship between words with similar, related and different meanings:

**Repetition** (X, ...x....x...)

**Synonymy** (X = Y): “blokes” = “men”

**Antonymy** (X ≠ Y): “real players” vs. “boofheads”

**Hyponymy** (A: {w,x,y,z}): field grown crops (wheat, corn...)

and **Meronymy** (S = a+b+m+n ): (ear (kernel,silk), tassell (pollen))

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# Cohesion: Collocation

- Relationship between words that commonly co-occur in texts:
- (A... $\Psi$ ), (B... $\Xi$ ), (C...Z)
  - Example: “real-estate agents”, “fresh fruit and vegetables”, “right direction”, “wasting time” (\* “fresh real-estate agents”)
- **Expectancy** relation:
- (A $\rightarrow$  $\Psi$ ), (B $\rightarrow$  $\Xi$ ), (C  $\rightarrow$  Z)
  - Example: waste-time, online – dating
- **Lexical bundles: multiword combinations:**
- (AGE $\Psi$ ), (BDI $\Xi$ ), (CK $\Xi$ Z)
  - “as a result of”, “in the other hand”, “I don’t think so”, “as shown in”

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# Cohesion: Conjunction

- Basic options for conjunction (Martin and Rose, 2007):
- 1. **Logical Relation: addition** **Meaning: addition**
- Examples: and, besides, in addition
- 2. **Logical Relation: comparison** **Meaning: similarity/ contrast**
- Examples: like, as if, similarly / but, whereas, on the other hand
- 3. **Logical Relation: time** **Meaning: successive**
- Examples: then, after, subsequently, before
- 4. **Logical Relation: consequence** **Meaning: cause / means / condition**
- Examples: so, because, since, therefore / by, thus, by this means /
- if, provided that, unless
- 

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# Cohesion: Substitution and Ellipsis

- **Substitution:**

- Try reading this book. That *one's* not very good.
- A: Has he had dinner yet? B: He must have *done*. There's no food in the fridge.
- A: That's great to hear you're still happy. B: Oh yes very much *so*.

- **Ellipsis:**

Announcer: Gary, what did you want to say to Allison tonight?

Caller: [I want to say] that I'm very sorry for the fight we had the other night.

Announcer: What was that over?

Caller: [It was over] something rather silly actually

Announcer: They usually are, aren't they?

Caller: Yeah [they usually are silly] and [I want to say] that I love her very much and [I want to say] we'll have to stick it through, you know?



Thematic Progression

Theme and Rheme

# Theme and Rheme

- **Theme** is the starting point of the clause, what the clause is “about”, the “element which serves as the point of departure of the message” (Halliday, 1985: 38)
- The remainder of the clause is the **rheme**

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# Examples of theme and rheme

Topical theme:	Textual theme:	Topical theme:	Rheme:
Genre	-	-	is a term in widespread use to indicate an approach to communication, which emphasizes social function and purpose.
Significant debate	-	-	surrounds the definition of genre, particularly the extent to which it refers to texts or activities in which texts are embedded.
It	-	-	is often vaguely defined
	but	several	
	uses of this term	can be identified	which are illustrated in different types of genre analysis.

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# Interpersonal Theme

- Refers to an item that comes before the rheme which indicates the relationship between the participants and the text.

Textual theme:	Interpersonal theme:	Topical theme:	Rheme:
However	it seems unlikely that	Descartes	would deliberately change church

Expresses probability (perhaps), usuality (sometimes), typicality (generally), obviousness (surely), opinion (to my mind), admission (frankly), persuasion (believe me), entreaty (kindly), presumption (no doubt), desirability (hopefully), prediction (as expected) (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004)

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# Multiple Theme

- More than one single thematic element in the Theme component of the clause:

Textual	Interpersonal	Topical	Rheme:
theme:	theme:	theme:	
Because,	of course,	the dating game	is a clumsy dance of blunders and misunderstandings

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# Thematic Progression = method of development of text 1/2

## Constant Theme:

### Textual theme :

Text,

It

Discourse

It

### Rheme:

can be used for spoken and written language.

usually refers to a stretch, an exact or complete piece of writing or speech.

is a much wider term.

can be used to refer to language in action, such as legal discourse, which has characteristic patterns of language.

## Linear Theme:

### Textual theme:

The term 'modality',

Generally, obligation

### Rheme:

describes a range of grammatical resources used to express probability or obligation.

is used in speech, speech especially when wanting to get things done such as 'You should keep your room tidy'.



# Thematic Progression = method of development of text 2/2

## Multiple Theme / Split Theme:

### Textual theme :

When Japanese people,  
they

The two alphabets

The Chinese ideograms

Hiragana

Katagana

but (Katakana)

Kanji

### Rheme:

write their language.

use a combination of two separate alphabets  
as well as ideograms borrowed from Chinese.

are called hiragana and katakana.

are called Kanji.

represents the 46 basic sounds that are made in  
the Japanese language.

represents the same sounds as hirigana  
is used many for words borrowed from foreign  
languages and for sound effects.

are used to communicate an idea rather than a sound



Grammar and Engagement

**Attitude and Grammar**

# Attitude

- Attitude refers to resources used to make either a positive or a negative evaluation of phenomena (Droga and Humphrey, 2007:75)
  - “*appalling* terrorist attacks”, “Tuesday’s *terrible* tragedy”
  - “Nothing would be more *foolish* than to think it is *smart* to keep out the Afghans”
  - “in some *mysterious* way linked to Islamic politics”
- Attitude- main categories:
  - Affect
  - Judgement
  - Appreciation
- Attitude may have
  - *double coding* due to culture, gender etc. or
  - *a double layered interpretation* ,drawing on more than one subsystem of the appraisal network at the same time (Rothery and Stenglin, 2000)



# Engagement

- Engagement is concerned with the sourcing of attitude and acknowledgement of alternative voices (Martin, 2002:58)

Example: “...is similar to The Rules, which infuriated women with its *old-fashioned* on passive, compliant female behavior, Jen Abydeera *agrees....*”

– Engagement-main ways of expression:

- **Attribution** (‘say’ (non-endorsement), ‘claim’ (disendorsement), ‘claim’ (endorsement), ‘always’ (certainty), ‘normally’ (usuality), ‘possibly’ (probability), ‘controversial’, ‘biased’, ‘questionable’ )
- **Disclaimers** (reject outside source)
- **Proclaimers** (challenge outside source)

Brian Paltridge, 2012



# References

- Paltridge, B. (2012): Discourse Analysis, An Introduction. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London, Bloomsbury.
- (Detailed References in handout)



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