



THE NOTION OF DISCOURSE IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: *This thesis defines the concept of “discourse”, analyses discourse from linguistic perspective giving explanation to different approaches to discourse.*

Key words: *discourse, text, communication*

In the second half of the 20th century there was the rise of new scientific interests in linguistics, resulting in the use of terminology and concepts. The emergence of the term “discourse” is a good example of this process. Discourse became the object of many sciences that they began to investigate this topic. Scientists from several fields carried out the research, including linguistics, psychology, philosophy, sociology, theology, pedagogy, law, and political science. Currently, there is no universally accepted definition of discourse that covers all possible applications. Every science that analyzes this phenomenon presents its own definition.

In linguistics discourse is any linguistic unit longer than a single phrase. The latin prefix *dis-* meaning “away” and the base word *currere* meaning “to run” are the sources of the term discourse. Thus, the word “discourse” means “run away” and describes the manner in which talks proceed. Discourse analysis examines how language is used in spoken or written communication within a social setting.

Discourse studies examine structure and usage of language in discourse rather than just its constituent phonemes and morphemes. The interest in this field of research stems from the way that bigger components of language, such as lexemes, grammar, and context, give meaning to conversations. Teun van Dijk, a Dutch linguist, is primarily responsible for its development.²⁴

Discourse analysis is completely dependent on context since conversational knowledge extends beyond the spoken word. Authentic communication involves several semantic elements, making it difficult to infer meaning only from spoken statements in an encounter.

According to Meriel Bloor and Thomas Bloor, the research of discourse might include topics like context, background information, or knowledge communicated between a speaker and a listener.²⁵

Paul Baker and Sibonile Ellece stated that discourse can relate to certain settings of language usage, making it analogous to ideas such as genre or text type. For example, we

²⁴ Van Dijk, Teun Adrianus. *Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Academic, 1985.

²⁵ Bloor, Meriel, and Thomas Bloor. *Practice of Critical Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*. Routledge, 2013.



can construct political discourse (the type of language used in political events) and media discourse.²⁶

A message sent and received between two people is not all that discourse is. Sender and receiver are essentially metaphors that hide the true nature of communication. Depending on the context of the conversation, certain illocutions must be connected to the message.

There are several approaches of defining discourse:

1. Communicative (functional) approach: discourse is verbal communication (speech, use, functioning of language); it can be understood as a conversation or as a dialogue, depending on the speaker's point of view. This is in contrast to a narrative that does not consider the speaker's point of view. "Discourse" is defined as a certain sign structure that its subject, object, place, time, circumstances of creation (production) make a discourse in the context of the communicative approach.²⁷

2. Structural and syntactical approach: discourse as a textual fragment, i.e., education at a level higher than a sentence (super-phrasal unity, complicated syntactic whole, paragraph). Two or more sentences that have a semantic relationship with each other, are considered to constitute a discourse, and coherence is seen as one of its primary characteristics.

3. Structural and stylistic approach: discourse is a non-textual arrangement of informal speech defined by its strong contextual specificity, spontaneity, situativity, associative linkages, and imprecise separation into sections.

4. Socio-pragmatic approach: discourse is shown as a unique social given with its own texts, but it is also a text immersed in a communication context, in reality, either as a social or ideologically constrained kind of utterances, or as a "language within a language".²⁸

This classification enables us to comprehend the threefold nature of discourse: on the one hand, it addresses pragmatics and typical communication situations; on the other hand, it addresses the mental processes and aspects of the participants' consciousness; and finally, it addresses the text itself.

In conclusion the concept of "discourse" has an indivisible connection with the notions of speech and text. Discourse as a communicative event serves as a link between speech as a verbal communication activity and a specific text recorded during conversation. In a nutshell, discourse should be viewed as a cognitive process related to actual speech production, knowledge of the speech product, and the text as the ultimate result of the speech activity process, leading to in a certain completed form.

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²⁷ Karasik V. I. *Religious discourse // Linguistic personality: problems of linguoculturology and functional semantics: Collection of scientific tr --* Volgograd: Peremena, 1999. - pp. 5-19

²⁸ Stepanov Yu. S. *Alternative world, Discourse, Fact and the principle of aausality // Language and science of the end of the XX century: Collection of articles / Edited by Yu. S. Stepanov. - Moscow: RSUH, 1995. - pp. 35-73*



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