

## Seminar 2. Approaches to analyzing discourse

<i>Questions for discussion</i>	<i>Recommended reading</i>
1. How is the word “discourse” usually defined? Comment on a few definitions.	Schiffrin, Debra. Discourse // An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Eds. Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, J. Cambridge University Press. 2013. P. 169.
2. Describe three approaches to analyzing discourse (formal, functional, social).	Jones, R. Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students Routledge. 2012. P. 45.
3. Comment on Deborah Schiffrin’s definition of discourse as “language use above and beyond the sentence”.	Schiffrin, Debra. Discourse // An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Eds. Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, J. Cambridge University Press. 2013. P. 169.
4. Explain the difference between face strategies and framing strategies of using discourse. Give examples.	Jones, R. Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students Routledge. 2012. P. 24–27.
5. What is the difference between the structural and functional approaches to analyzing language suggested by Dell Hymes?	Schiffrin, Debra. Discourse // An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Eds. Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, J. Cambridge University Press. 2013. P. 171–172.
6. Compare the differences between spoken and written discourse singled out by Deborah Shiffrin and Rodney H. Jones.	Schiffrin, Debra. Discourse // An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Eds. Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, J. Cambridge University Press. 2013. P. 187–188. Jones, R. Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students Routledge. 2012. P. 20–22.
7. What is the basic difference between cohesion and coherence?	Yule, George. The Study of Language. 5 <sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014. P. 140–142.
8. Explain the difference between grammatical and lexical cohesion.	Jones, R. Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students Routledge. 2012. P. 49–52.
9. Which interpretative frameworks do people use to make sense of texts?	Jones, R. Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students Routledge. 2012. P. 52–55.
10. What is Conversation analysis? What features of interaction does it focus on?	The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002, p. 118–119.
11. Describe the mechanism of turn-taking.	Yule, George. The Study of Language. 5 <sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014. P. 143–144.
12. What does the co-operative principle of conversation imply?	Yule, George. The Study of Language. 5 <sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014. P. 144–145.
13. What are hedges in discourse?	Yule, George. The Study of Language. 5 <sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014. P. 145–146.

14. What are conversational implicatures according to Gricean theory?	An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Eds. Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, J. Cambridge University Press. 2013. P. 160–161.
15. In the study of discourse understanding, what are scripts? What is the difference between schemas and scripts?	Yule, George. The Study of Language. 5 <sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014. P. 146–148.

### Practical tasks

**Task 1:** Watch the video “*How to Apologize*” What apology framework is devised by psychologists Steven Scher and John Darley? Dwell on it. [https://www.mindtools.com/pages/videos/apologize-transcript.htm].

**Task 2:** Which maxims do these speakers seem to be particularly careful about?

- (a) *I may be mistaken, but I thought I saw a wedding ring on his finger.*
- (b) *I won't bore you with all the details, but it wasn't a pleasant experience.*

**Task 3:**

- (i) Identify the main cohesive ties in this first paragraph of a novel by Faulkner.
- (ii) What do you think “they” were hitting?

*Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting. They were coming toward where the flag was and I went along the fence. Luster was hunting in the grass by the flower tree. They took the flag out, and they were hitting. Then they put the flag back and they went to the table, and he hit and the other hit. They went on, and I went along the fence. Luster came away from the flower tree and we went along the fence and they stopped and we stopped and I looked through the fence while Luster was hunting in the grass.*

(Faulkner, W. (1929). The Sound and the Fury.)

**Task 4:** Consider the following examples. Distinguish between anaphoric, cataphoric and exophoric reference in the following sentences.

(1) *After Lady Gaga appeared at the MTV Music Video Awards in a dress made completely of meat, she was criticized by animal rights groups.*

(2) *When she was challenged by reporters, Lady Gaga insisted that the dress was not intended to offend anyone.*

(3) *If you want to know more about this controversy, you can read the comments people have left on animal rights blogs.*

(4) *Lady Gaga appeared in a dress made completely of meat. The dress was designed by Franc Fernandez.*

**Task 5:** Read the article “*Verbal hedge: definition and examples*” by Richard Nordquist. URL: <https://www.thoughtco.com/verbal-hedge-communication-1692585/>.

Answer the questions:

- 1) What is a verbal hedge? What for is it used? Give examples.
- 2) Explain how hedges can serve a positive communicative function.
- 3) Why do hedge words often used in the media?