

MAEA052

Discourse Analysis

Wed 19:00-22:00 S305

Instructor: Joseph Sung-Yul Park

Office: T406 ■ Phone: 397-4632 ■ email: jspark@umac.mo

What is discourse? This course takes the perspective which views discourse as language use in natural context. When we take this perspective, analysis of discourse becomes the study of the cognitive, social, and cultural forces that surround the language user: how language use is shaped by these forces, and how it also constitutes these domains of experience.

This course will survey various structural aspects of discourse, such as macrostructure, information flow, and preference organization. It will also explore the social uses of discourse, such as the discursive construction of social categories and identities. In particular, the course will focus on the connection between these two: how, through its organizational properties, discourse becomes an important resource through which we construct our everyday social life.

This course will study both written and spoken discourse, with detailed discussion of the similarities and differences between the two. It will provide the student with significant hands-on experience in discourse analysis. Students will gather examples of written and spoken discourse, practice segmentation and transcription using these examples, and conduct sample analyses that will culminate in a research project that explores the role of discourse in social life.

Course page on WebCT

Handouts and readings for the class will be posted on the WebCT course page. Log on at <http://webcourse.umac.mo/> using your user ID and password.

Evaluation

Data collection and transcription	5%
Oral presentations	20%
Written reports	40%
Final project paper	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

Course schedule (tentative)

	Topic	Readings	Reports
Week 1 7 Sept.	What is discourse?		
Week 2 14 Sept	Types of discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written vs. spoken discourse • Monologic discourse types 	Chafe and Danielwicz, Longacre, Du Bois et al	
Week 3 21 Sept	Workshop on data collection Oral presentations		
Week 4 28 Sept	Organization of discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macrosegmentation of different text types 	Labov	
Week 5 5 Oct	Discourse structure and grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherence and grounding in discourse Oral presentations	Hopper, Halliday and Hasan	
Week 6 12 Oct	Discourse structure and cognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information flow/new referent introduction 	Prince	<i>Written report:</i> macrosegmentation of written text
Week 7 19 Oct	Turn taking in conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSJ model of turn taking • Issues in interpreting speech overlap Oral presentations	Murata	
Week 8 26 Oct	Action sequences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacency pairs, preference organization 	Pomerantz	<i>Written report:</i> information flow/topic continuity in written text
Week 9 2 Nov	No class		
Week 10 9 Nov	Social relationships in discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politeness theory Oral presentations	Brown and Levinson	
Week 11 16 Nov	Discourse strategies in interaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetition and prior texts 	Tannen	<i>Written report:</i> Turn taking organization in spoken discourse
Week 12 23 Nov	Discourse as representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social construction of the “other” Oral presentations	Pennycook	
Week 13 30 Nov	Discourse and ideology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction and identity 	Kitzinger	<i>Written report:</i> repetition and prior discourse in spoken discourse
Week 14 7 Dec	Student presentations on final project		
Week 15 14 Dec	Student presentations on final project		