

## **Text and Discourse: Types and Characteristics. The Concept of Discourse in Pragmalinguistics**

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**Abstract:** The term “discourse” nowadays represents one of the central issues in linguistics. Some even equate it with the concept of “text.” This article explores text and discourse, their similarities and differences, and the scope of their application in pragmalinguistics.

**Keywords:** Text, discourse, text theory, speech act, pragmasemantics, pragmastylistics

The term “text” is interpreted in various ways in scientific literature. A brief definition is as follows: Text is a written message objectified in the form of a document, composed of a series of statements connected by different lexical, grammatical, and logical relations, and expressing ethical character and pragmatic relations. Later in linguistics, it was recognized that text can be not only written but also oral.

Based on information from various sources, the following definitions of text can be provided:

- Text is a statement on a specific topic.
- It conveys the speaker's intention and main idea.
- A text of any length is a relatively autonomous (complete) statement.
- The sentences within a text are logically connected.
- A suitable title can be chosen for the content of the text.
- A complete text usually has a beginning and an end.

**Text** refers to any written or spoken material that forms a coherent unit, such as sentences, paragraphs, or entire documents. Text analysis examines the structure and components of these units, including grammar, syntax, and cohesion mechanisms like repetition, synonyms, and connectors. For instance, Raphael Salkie's *Text and Discourse Analysis* explores various authentic texts—news stories, advertisements, novels—and delves into cohesive devices and larger textual patterns.

**Discourse**, on the other hand, encompasses language use in social contexts, focusing on how meaning is constructed and communicated beyond individual texts. Discourse analysis investigates the ways language reflects and influences social norms, power

relations, and cultural practices. It involves studying conversations, media messages, and other forms of communication to understand the underlying ideologies and societal structures. As highlighted in a comprehensive overview by LinguaSphere, discourse analysis serves as a tool to delve into the nuances of communication beyond the sentence level, unraveling social norms, cultural underpinnings, and power relations embedded in spoken and written texts.

Several methodologies are employed in text and discourse analysis:

- **Content Analysis:** Systematically quantifies and analyzes the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within texts.
- **Grounded Theory:** Develops theories based on data collected from texts, allowing patterns and themes to emerge organically.
- **Conversation Analysis:** Examines the structure and patterns of spoken interaction to understand social order.
- **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA):** Focuses on the relationship between language and power, exploring how discourse shapes and is shaped by societal structures. Norman Fairclough's work emphasizes the importance of systematic textual analysis in social research, arguing that textual analysis needs to be based upon a multifunctional theory of language.

Understanding both text and discourse is essential for a comprehensive analysis of language, as it allows researchers to explore not only the structural aspects of communication but also the socio-cultural contexts that influence and are influenced by language use.

The introduction of text theory into Uzbek linguistics and its advancement to a new level of development was significantly influenced by the research of N.M. Turniyozov, B. Yoldoshev, A. Mamajonov, E. Qilichev, M. Hakimov, M. Yoldoshev, and S. Boymirzayeva. Consequently, text is being studied from various perspectives. The following definitions succinctly capture the essence of text:

- **E. Qilichev's Definition:** Text is a complex structure representing nominative-aesthetic information, where all elements are closely interconnected and directed towards a specific purpose from the author's perspective.

- **I. Rasulov's Definition:** A unit larger than a sentence, a complex syntactic whole, consisting of a series of interrelated sentences both in meaning and syntax. The idea expressed in a text is more complete compared to a single sentence.



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