

THE ROLE OF DISCOURSE THEORY IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

Malika Soatova

Uzbekistan Ministry of Defense Partnership for Peace Training Centre

Roman-german Languages Department Head

ANNOTATION

This article provides information about the concept of discourse, its origin and development, as well as the views and approaches of scientists of different nationalities to this theory, as well as its place in modern linguistics today.

Key words: Discourse, analysis, approach, linguistic, non-linguistic, context, text, communication, expressive, linguistic, extralinguistic, semantic-functional, sociolinguistic, linguistic;

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada diskurs tushunchasi, uning kelib chiqishi va rivojlanishi hamda turli millat olimlarining ushbu nazariyaga o'zlarining qarashlari va yondashuvlari, shuningdek bugungi kundagi zamonaviy tilshunoslikdagi o'rni haqida ma'lumot beriladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Diskurs, tahlil, yondashuv, lisoniy, nolisoniy, kontekst, matn, muloqot, ekspressiv, lingvistik, extralingvistik, semantik-funksional, sotsiolingvistik, lingvomadaniy;

As it is known, the task of linguists before the advent of discourse analysis was primarily to study the structure and form of language without much regard for context and other factors that shape meaning. With the advent of discourse theory, linguists have focused more on the function of language than on its form. Therefore, it can be said that traditional linguistics aims to represent language from a more formal and experimental approach, while discourse studies focuses on a functional approach. Researchers agree that a full linguistic description must go beyond the sentence and that there are certain meanings and aspects of language that cannot be properly understood if their study is limited to the syntactic analysis of sentences (Halliday, 2006).

Over time, the concept of discourse has become increasingly important in linguistics, which significantly changes the focus of research from conducting analysis exclusively within the framework of an isolated sentence to studying the form and meaning of statements in context. Increasingly, representatives of various linguistic approaches consider the level of discourse as the main object of study and agree that utterances become genuine discourse due to their meaning, not their form. In particular, there is a common belief that "discursiveness" is based on the ability to link segments of text to form a coherent message.

The transition from text linguistics to discourse linguistics means an obvious change in the priorities of the object of research and the introduction of new methods for its research. The

difference between the concepts of text (structure) and discourse (actualized structure) determines the distinction between methods of analyzing potential content (structure-oriented analysis) and actual content analysis (context-oriented analysis) (Sanders T., Spooren W. 2007). As a result, there is a significant enrichment of the methodological base with a number of methods, procedures and tools, thanks to which it became possible to decompose the subject of research and its subsequent integration in order to understand its structure, properties and functioning features. The concept of discourse is so multifaceted that there is still no consensus on its essence. Thus, discourse is understood as a statement, as a linguistic unit that goes beyond sentences; as a semantic unit, a unit not of form, but of meaning (Halliday, 2006).

The linguistic encyclopedic dictionary considers discourse as a text in combination with context, including a paralinguistic factor and covering three main components - pragmatic, cognitive and mental (the process of processing discourse as a means of realizing the goal(s) of communication) (Linguistic Encyclopedic, 1990). The term discourse comes from the Latin *discursus* - conversation, speech. This term was first used by Z. Harris. He viewed discourse as the next level in the hierarchy of morphemes, sentences and clauses. Functionalists were critical of this point of view, arguing that the units used by people in their speech have semantic and intonational design, but not necessarily syntactic, and therefore cannot always be classified as sentences (see, for example, (Chafe, 1994). According to the postulates of functional linguistics, language and society cannot be considered independent, therefore, when studying discourse, attention is paid not only to semantic content, but also to cognitive, cultural, and social aspects (Crystal D, 2008). Therefore, the term discourse is also used as an approach to the study of social interaction and is understood as a complex communicative event that includes participants in communication (author of discourse, referent), communication parameters (time, place, circumstances) and context features. Discourse can also denote the achieved or ongoing “product” of a communicative act, its written or oral result (Dijk, 2015). Discourse is a specific set of contextualized linguistic units that realizes the goals and functions of language in real communication (McCarthy M., Matthiessen C.M.I.M., Slade D. 2010). Therefore, the construction of discourse depends on many aspects of language use, including in social context, since it conveys broad meaning through language, the use of which is determined by social conditions, who uses it and under what circumstances. Therefore, discourse is speech focused on the topic/topics of communication in their development, subject to certain formal rules and a specific communication situation. The concept of discourse changes the focus of attention, increases the importance of analytical thinking, and forces you to look at the phenomenon of speech differently (Oxford Dictionary. 2003).

Discourse theory takes into account the interpersonal interaction of communication participants, which is defined in terms of speech functions (providing/demanding information), expression of modality (probability, universality, obligation, inclination), attitude (emotions and opinions) and involvement (intersubjective positioning). Also, discourse can relate to the

general situational context and concern the flow of information and the method of developing thematic and rhematic elements.

The specificity of discourse entails multidirectional aspects of research. However, most linguists place language and its use at the center of discourse analysis, taking into account many factors (for example, context and the role of participants in communication) that determine the practical application of discourse analysis. The main function of discourse is to create the basis for the formation of our perception of various objects of the reality around us. Discourse is the factor that determines all types of human activity and changes in social structure (Malaxova V.L, 2022).

Discourse, as understood in linguistics, is used to describe an extended part of language that goes beyond the sentence. Discourse analysis is not only an understanding of how sentences are put together, but also how they express properties such as organization, coherence, rhetorical force, thematic focus, and so on. Analysis of interpretations of the concept discourse allows us to identify the following basic definitions of this term:

- discourse is 1) a theme (a variety of topics in their interrelation and development); 2) communication; 3) field of activity;

- as a linguistic object, discourse is 1) a word, a sentence; 2) a text in its genre representation, organized according to certain formal rules; 3) conversation or speech from the point of view of its organization, form, design, development; 4) the material form of embodiment of the activity, the structure (format) of speech activity; 5) the functioning of speech in a certain context.

- as a type of activity, discourse is based on the intellectual activity of the author and referent, implies direct interaction between communicants, focuses on the content of communication, focused on the topic of conversation and its further development;

- as a system, discourse is a complex hierarchical open nonlinear self-organizing structure, covering in its structure not only different layers, parts and elements, but also various relationships (connections) between them, their interaction inside and outside the system. The complexity of discourse as a system is obvious, since the formation of its space depends on a number of factors, for example, on the nature of language/speech, the context of interaction between communication partners, the system of social knowledge and relationships, etc.

In conclusion, the understanding of discourse as a unit larger than a sentence led to the emergence of the theory of discourse analysis. Discourse analysis is a linguistic study whose main objective is to study the use of language, language functions along with their forms (oral and written). It aims to study text and context as the main parts of utterances and discourse as a whole.

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