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DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Basic Terms

- How language users interpret what other language users intent to convey is based discourse. To interpret discourse, we use correct and incorrect form and structure. But that is not enough. Because an ungrammatical sentence may convey a message, we make sense of it. As language users, we have more knowledge than that.

Cohesion

- Cohesion can be described as ties and connections that exist within a text. Pronouns, references, lexical connections, terms which share a common element of meaning, connectors are cohesive links within a text which give us some insight in our judgments on whether something is well written or not.

Coherence

- We need to create meaningful connections that are not actually expressed by the words and sentences. We need to fill in a lot of gaps that exist in the text. This factor is described as coherence. If there are no cohesive ties within a fragment of discourse, we can understand them in terms of the conventional actions performed by the speakers.

Speakers' Distance

- We need to specify the roles of speaker and hearer and their relationship, whether they were friends, strangers, young, old, of equal or unequal status and many other factors. All of these factors will have an influence on what is said and how it is said.

Conversational interaction (analysis)

- Two or more people take turns at speaking. Participants wait until one speaker indicates that he or she has finished, usually by signaling a completion point. We have different

conventions of turns – taking; interrupting a speaker or waiting for an opportunity to take a turn.

Turn-taking

- A turn is the time when a speaker is talking and turn-taking is the skill of knowing when to start and finish a turn in a conversation.

The Co-operative Principle

- In a conversational exchange, the participants are co-operating with each other. We have four maxims to be obeyed:
 - **Quantity**: As informative as required
 - **Quality**: Say that which you believe to be true.
 - **Relation**: Be relevant
 - **Manner**: Be clear, brief and orderly

Implicature

- Implicature is an additional conveyed meaning. To describe the conversational implicature, we have to appeal to some background knowledge that must be shared by the conversational participants.

Hedges

- Hedges can be defined as words or phrases used to indicate that we are not really sure that what we are saying is sufficiently correct or complete.
- Ex: • As far as I know..... • I am not absolutely sure.....

Background Knowledge

- We actually create what the text is about based on our expectations of what normally happens.
- A Schema is a term for a conventional knowledge; a structure that exists in memory. One particular schema is a script. A script is dynamic in which a series of conventional actions takes place.