

Communicative text analysis Syllabus

Time: Tuesday 9,15 – 10,45 (Room 127)
Instructor: Mgr. Štefan Beňuš, PhD
Contact: sbenus@ukf.sk
Office hours: Friday, 9,15 - 11,00 (tentatively), and by appointment, Room 235
Web site:
http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~sbenus/Teaching/Discourse_Analysis/DA_index.html

Overview

This course discusses approaches to the linguistic analysis of discourse. We will cover both spoken and written discourse material as well as methodological questions related to discourse analysis. Students will read original and recent work in these areas, and will be encouraged to collect, process, and analyze their own data.

Text (Excerpts and chapters from these books)

McCarthy, M. (1991). *Discourse analysis for language teachers*. Cambridge: CUP.

[DALT]

Brown, G., Yule, G. (1983). *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge: CUP. [DA]

Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D. Hamilton, H. (1999). *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*.

Malden, Mass: Blackwell. [HAD]

Supplemental papers and lecture notes might be provided by the instructor in class and/or may be also available on-line and are not for circulation.

Requirements

60% Term project (presentation + write-up)

20% Class participation including non-trivial questions

20% In-class presentation(s)

Attendance & participation

Attendance is obligatory; you may miss a class only in case of dire medical or personal circumstances. A valid written proof is required. You are expected to be **actively involved in class discussions. Do not hesitate to ask questions!**

Academic integrity

Cheating will not be tolerated and may cost you your grade (i.e. you will fail the course) and have repercussions for your future academic career. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of what counts as cheating in this course: (i) signing on the attendance sheet without attending the class (e.g., signing and leaving, signing for somebody else, signing for a future class); (ii) copying the homework from another student, with or without the student's knowledge, or collaborating on the homework with another student; or copy/paste materials from the internet or printed sources without

proper acknowledgement; (iii) copying a test from another student, with or without the student's knowledge.

How to succeed in this course

This course requires a certain degree of involvement on your part if you wish to earn a good grade. If you want to do well, you should:

- come to all the classes, take notes, and actively participate in class discussions;
- do the reading(s) before the day for which it is assigned, critically evaluate the material, don't hesitate to ask questions, clarify the material or challenge author's (or instructor's) conclusions;
- term project is the main determinant of your grade. Work on it throughout the semester, don't wait to do it at the last minute, follow the guidelines provided by the instructor.

Suggested topics (readings will be assigned as we go and may change)

(1) What is discourse

- a) DA Ch1, DALT Ch1

(2) Discourse and grammar (syntax & lexis)

- a) DALT Ch 2,3
- b) Weiyun He, A. (2002). Discourse Analysis. In M. Aronoff and J. Rees-Miller (eds). *The Handbook of Linguistics*. Blackwell.

(3) Discourse and prosody

- a) DALT Ch 4
- b) Couper-Kuhlen, E. (2001). Intonation and Discourse: Current Views from Within. In D. Schiffrin, D. Tannen and H. Hamilton (Eds.) *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell.

(4) Methodological issues in data collection, transcription & analysis

- a) Edward, J. (2001). The Transcription of Discourse. In D. Schiffrin, D. Tannen and H. Hamilton (Eds.) *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell. (pp. 503-517).
- b) Transcriber software

(5) Accenting and information structure

- a) DA Ch5
- b) Prince, E. (1992). The ZPG letter: Subjects, definiteness, and information status.
- c) Fowler, C. & Housum, J. (1987). Talkers' signaling of 'new' and 'old' words in speech and listeners' perception and use of the distinction. *Journal of Memory and Language* 26, 489-504.

(6) Discourse structure

- a) Grosz B. & Sidner C. (1986). Attentions, intentions and the structure of discourse. *Computational Linguistics*, 12, pp. 175-204.
- b) Hirschberg, J. & Nakatani, C. (1996). A prosodic analysis of discourse segments in direction-giving monologues.

(7) Discourse markers

- a) Schiffrin, Deborah (2001) Discourse markers: Language, meaning and context. In D. Schiffrin, D. Tannen and H. Hamilton (Eds.) *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell. (pp. 54-75).
 - b) Swerts M., 1998. Filled pauses as markers of discourse structure. *Journal of pragmatics* 30, 485-496.
 - c) Benus et al (2007).
 - d) Hirschberg, J. & Litman, D. (1993). Empirical Studies on the Disambiguation of Cue Phrases. *Computational Linguistics*, 19(3), 501—529.
- (8) Turn-taking**
- a) Bull, M.C. & Aylett, M.P. (1998). An Analysis of the Timing of Turn-Taking in a Corpus of Goal-Orientated Dialogue. In Proceedings of ICSLP-98 Sidney, Australia (4)1175-8.
 - b) Beattie, G.W. (1982). Turn-taking and interruption in political interviews: Margaret Thatcher and Jim Callaghan compared and contrasted. *Semiotica*.