

WEEK 7: Discourse analysis

Topics: Cohesion and coherence.

A. Cohesion

Exercise 1: In the following passage identify the words that contribute to the cohesion of the text and classify them according to type.

Last year we spent two weeks in the United Kingdom. We visited various places and enjoyed every minute of our stay. However, there was also an unpleasant event in our trip that made our lives really difficult: the last day before our departure I lost my credit card wallet. This event ruined my plans to visit Windsor Castle, and I was really disappointed.

B. Coherence

Exercise 2: Use the following four sentences to create two pairs, independent of each other, which seem coherent to you on the basis of the knowledge you have of the world. You can substitute “Susan” with a pronoun when necessary, but you cannot use any additional linguistic material.

1. Susan was depressed.
2. Susan was going to take a trip to Tokyo.
3. Susan was reasonably happy.
4. Susan had just lost her job.

Exercise 3: In the pair of utterances of Exercise 2, try inserting linguistic material (cohesive links) that makes the relation between the clauses of each pair explicit.

Exercise 4: Identify the referring expressions in the following utterances:

1. My brother lives in Canada.
2. Mr. Schumacher is right behind me!
3. What is this blue thing doing here?

Exercise 5: Identify referring expressions in the following utterances. Specify which ones are cataphoric and which anaphoric and for the latter category specify antecedents. Identify instances of co-reference, lexical repetition, inference, and ellipsis.

1. This sports car is impressive. Do you know the driver?
2. When I saw her, Sally was wearing a huge hat.
3. This was a difficult exam. Did you manage to answer all the questions?
4. He had a walk in the park, but felt tired and sat at a bench for a while.

5. Tom saw that the train was full, so he would have to wait. But Tom was not an impatient man, so he sat on a bench to read his newspaper.
6. Her garden is really beautiful. Did you notice the roses?
7. The children were screaming and yelling at the top of their voices.
8. As soon as she realized what had happened, the woman started screaming.
9. Detective Philips switched off the lights, closed the door behind him and disappeared in the dark of the night.
10. I missed the bus because the driver didn't see me.
11. We stayed at a small, local hotel. The rooms were quite clean, actually, but the service was practically non-existent.
12. After she had climbed a few steps, the old woman saw the boy. She climbed a few more steps. The boy was still there.
13. After they had inspected the wooden horse, the Trojans decided to wheel it into the city.
14. They met a few people in the street, wrapped in hats, coats and scarves.
15. Margaret turned her head and smiled to him.

Exercise 6: Identify the coherence relations in the examples below and specify the connectives, if applicable:

1. She went to University because she wanted to meet interesting people.
2. Mary expected to write well in the exam. She has studied hard for the past two months.
3. Although I love swimming, I hardly have the time to go to the beach.
4. She will either go to the library or stay in to study.
5. It soon became dark. She stood up to switch on the light.

Exercise 7: Find the connectives that are used to establish relational coherence in the following text and identify their type (subordinating conjunctions, coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs, conjunctive adverbial phrases).

If you want to make the best use of this book, you should note the following. This book can be used either as a straightforward handbook for its recipes, or as full course in modern vegetarian cookery because the recipes are all described in enough detail for anyone with only a little cooking experience to be able to follow them. In addition, we have tried to anticipate, and provide remedies for, any snags which might occur.