Notes on

CONSTITUTIVE AND REGULATIVE CRITERIA

Lecturer: *Susan Akinkurolere (PhD)*

Department of Educational Foundations,

College of Education Open and Distance e-Learning (CEODL)

Kampala International University, Kampala

Constitutive criteria for textuality

- o cohesion
- o coherence
- o intentionality
- o acceptability
- o informativity
- o situationality
- o intertextuality

Regulative criteria for textuality

- o efficiency
- o effectiveness
- o appropriateness

INTRODUCTION

Text linguistics is a branch of linguistics that deals with texts as communication systems. Its original aims lay in uncovering and describing text grammars. The application of text linguistics has, however, evolved from this approach to a point in which text is viewed in much broader terms that go beyond a mere extension of traditional grammar towards an entire text. Text linguistics takes into account the form of a text, but also its setting, i.e. the way in which it is situated in an interactional, communicative context. Both the author of a (written or spoken) text as well as its addressee are taken into consideration in their respective (social and/or institutional) roles in the specific communicative context. In general it is an application of discourse analysis at the much broader level of text, rather than just a sentence or word.

Indeed, the best way to learn about text linguistics is through the analysis of full texts, the authors include analyses of texts This could be spoken and written, drawn from a variety of genres, including examples of religious and political discourse.

When modern linguistics began to emerge, it was customary to limit investigation to the framework of the sentence as the largest unit with an inherent structure (L. Bloomfield). All the other structures, as different from the sentence, were assigned to the field of stylistics. The reason for this lies with the fact that it is much more straightforward to decide what constitutes a grammatical or acceptable sentence than what constitutes a grammatical or acceptable sentence sequence, paragraph or text, as the text formation is characterized by lesser conformity with established rules.

Teun van Dirk stresses that "text linguistics" is in fact a designation for any linguistic investigation devoted to the text as the primary object of inquiry. There is a number of disciplines which, for various motives, share many concerns with a science of texts: rhetoric, stylistics, anthropology, discourse analysis. For example, anthropology scrutinizes texts as cultural artifacts (B. Malinovsky) Special attention was devoted to myths and folktales (C. Levi-Strauss). Discourse analysis (the study of conversation) brings into focus the mechanisms which combine texts as single contributions into a set of relevant texts directed to each other, reveal the standards of textuality (cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, situationality, intertextuality, informativity) (M. Coulthard).

The main target of the text linguistics of the present day is to describe various text types used in discourse, explain both the shared features and the distinctions among texts of different types, i.e. to find out what standards texts must fulfill, how they might be produced or received. In modern text linguistics a text is defined as a communicative occurrence which meets particular standards (categories) of textuality. If any of these standards is not considered to have been satisfied, the text will not be communicative (R.Beaugrande, W. Dressler). Different scholars point out various parameters of the text: Ts.Todorov –verbal, syntactic, semantic; N.E. Enkvist – topic, focus, linkage; I.R.Galperin – informative contents, cohesion, prospection, retrospection, modality, integrity, completeness;

CONSTITUTIVE CRITERIA FOR TEXTUALITY

These are the constitutive principles of textual communication. They define and create the form of behavior of a communicating text. If they are violated, the text ceases to communicate. They define textual communication. The seven standards of textuality are cohesion; coherence; intentionality; acceptability; informativity; situationality; and intertextuality*.*

COHESION

Cohesion is the way in which linguistic items of which texts are constituted are meaningfully interconnected in sequences. Cohesion may be of four types: reference, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical organization. Reference (realized by nouns, determiners, personal and demonstrative pronouns or adverbs) either points out of the text to a real world item (i.e., to its denotate), hence exophoric reference (deixis: Can you see that?), or refers to an item within the text, hence endophoric reference. The two possible directions of endophoric reference are backward (anaphoric r.; direct anaphora: I met a man. He was wearing ..., indirect anaphora: It is a solid house. The walls are thick ...) or forward (cataphoric r.: ... the house whose walls are thick); in the case of a reference to an item of which there is (in the given situation) only one instance, we talk about homophora (e.g. Place the books on the table please). The relationship between two items in which both refer to the same person or thing and one stands as a linguistic antecedent of the other is called coreference (compare He saw himself in the mirror with He saw him in the mirror). Ellipsis, i.e., omission of something referred to earlier, is an instance of textual anaphora (e.g., Have some more). Conjunction, enhanced esp. by syntactic (adverbials – subjuncts, conjuncts, disjuncts; pronouns, metalingual connectors, etc.) and grammatical (concord, sequence of tenses) connectors, creates intricate systems of intratextual bonds. Lexical cohesion establishes semantic (through lexical devices, such as repetition, equivalence - synonymy, hyponymy, hyperonymy, paraphrase, collocation) and pragmatic (presupposition) connectedness; in contrast with the previous types of cohesion, it operates over larger stretches of text since it establishes chains of related references.

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Cohesion and coherence are the most obvious categories of textuality. They indicate how the component elements of the text fit together and make sense. Cohesion concerns the ways in which the components of the surface text, i.e. the actual words we hear or see, are mutually connected within a sequence. The surface components depend upon each other according to grammatical forms and conventions, such that cohesion rests upon grammatical dependencies. The notion of cohesion includes all the functions which can be used to signal relations among surface elements, e.g.: the road sign*: slow*

The function of syntax. The surface text in active storage. Closely-knit patterns: phrase, clause, and sentence. Augmented transition networks. Grammatical dependencies. Rules as procedures. Micro-states and macro-states. Holdstack. Re-using patterns: recurrence; partial recurrence; parallelism; paraphrase. Compacting patterns: pro-forms; anaphora and cataphora; ellipsis; trade-off between compactness and clarity. Signalling relations: tense and aspect; updating; junction: conjunction, disjunction, contrajunction, and subordination; modality. Functional sentence perspective.

COHERENCE

Coherence, the sub-surface feature of a text, concerns the ways in which the meanings within a text (concepts, relations among them and their relations to the external world) are established and developed. Some of the major relations of coherence are logical sequences, such as cause-consequence (and so), condition-consequence (if), instrument-achievement (by), contrast (however), compatibility (and), etc. Moreover, it is the general ´aboutness´, i.e., the topic development which provides a text with necessary integrity; even in the absence of overt links, a text may be perceived as coherent (i.e., as making sense), as in various lists, charts, timetables, menus. Contrarily, other types of texts are characterized by explicit cohesive structure signalling intricate logico-semantic relationships (scientific reports, legal texts); in literary works, cohesion may be programmatically suppressed in order to enhance readers´ enjoyment while discovering these links for themselves.Coherence concerns the ways in which the semantic components of the text, i.e. the concepts and relations which underlie the surface text are mutually accessible and relevant. For example, in "children at play", "children" is an *object* concept, "play" –

an *action* concept, and the relation – "*agent of*", because the children are the agents of the action. Coherence can be illustrated by a group of relations of causality, such as cause, reason, purpose, enablement (one action is sufficient, but not necessary for the other, as in "The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts, all on a summer day.

Coherence is not a mere feature of texts, but rather the outcome of cognitive processes among text users. Coherence already illustrates the nature of texts as human activities. A text does not make sense by itself, but rather by the interaction of text-presented knowledge with people's stored knowledge of the world. It follows that text linguistics must co-operate with cognitive psychology to explore such a basic matter as the sense of a text.

Meaning versus sense. Non-determinacy, ambiguity, and polyvalence. Continuity of senses. Textual worlds. Concepts and relations. Strength of linkage: determinate, typical, and accidental knowledge. Decomposition. Procedural semantics. Activation. Chunks and global patterns. Spreading activation. Episodic and semantic memory. Economy. Frames, schemas, plans, and scripts. Inheritance. Primary and secondary concepts. Operators. Building a text-world model. Inferencing. The world-knowledge correlate.

INTENTIONALITY

Intentionality relates to the intention on the part of a sender to produce a cohesive/coherent text aimed at attaining an identifiable goal (cf. teleological, i.e., goal-oriented nature of the function of language means, Čermák 2001).

Intentionality is the category of textuality which concerns the text producer's attitude to constituting a coherent and cohesive text to fulfill the producer's intentions.

Intentionality. Reduced cohesion. Reduced coherence. The notion of intention across the disciplines. Speech act theory. Performatives. Grice's conversational maxims: cooperation, quantity, quality, relation, and manner. The notions of action and discourse action. Plans and goals. Scripts. Interactive planning. Monitoring and mediation.

ACCEPTABILITY

Acceptability concerns the receivers´ expectation that the text should be coherent/cohesive and of some relevance to them.

Acceptability. *Acceptability* as a category of textuality concerns the text receiver's attitude that the text should have some use of relevance for the receiver. This attitude is responsive to such factors as text type, social or cultural setting. Receivers can support coherence by making their own contributions to the sense of the text, which is provided by the operation of inference. Text producers often speculate on the receivers' attitude of acceptability and present texts that require important contributions in order to make sense. For example, the bell telephone company warns people: *Call us before you dig. You may not be able to afterwards.*
Judging sentences. Relationships between acceptability and grammaticality. Acceptance of plans and goals.

INFORMATIVITY

Informativity touches upon the (im)probability or (un)expectedness of a text in the given situation; in case a text is improbable (hence unexpected), a ´motivation search´ is performed by a receiver (cf. the Relevance theory based on the basic feature of human cognition, viz. the expectation that a message be relevant, Sperber and Wilson 1986).
Informativity as a category of textuality concerns the extent to which the presented texts are expected/unexpected or known/unknown. The texts which need inference, i.e. are implicit to a certain degree, are considered to be more informative than those which are more explicit. Attention. Information theory. The Markov chain. Statistical versus contextual probability. Three orders of informativity. Triviality, defaults, and preferences. Upgrading and downgrading. Discontinuities and discrepancies. Motivation search. Directionality. Strength of linkage. Removal and restoration of stability. Classifying expectations: the real world; factsand beliefs; normal ordering strategies; the organization of language; surface formatting; text types; immediate

context. Negation. Definiteness. A newspaper article and a sonnet. Expectations on multiple levels. Motivations of non-expectedness.

SITUATIONALITY

Situationality concerns the problem of making a text relevant to a situation.

Situationality concerns the factors which make a text relevant to a situation of occurrence. Thus, the road sign *slow.*
Situation models. Mediation and evidence. Monitoring versus managing. Dominances. Noticing. Normal ordering strategies. Frequency. Salience. Negotiation. Exophora. Managing. Plans and scripts. Plan boxes and plan box escalation. A trade-off between efficiency and effectiveness. Strategies for monitoring and managing a situation.

<u>INTERTEXTUALITY</u>

Intertextuality is concerned with the ways in which uses of texts depend on the knowledge of other (preceding or following) texts.

Intertextuality concerns the factors which make the utilization of one text dependent on knowledge of one or previously encountered texts. Intertextuality is responsible for the evolution of text types as classes of texts with typical patterns of characteristics. Within a particular type, reliance on intertextuality may be more or less prominent. In types like parodies, critical reviews, the text producer must consult the prior text continually, and text receivers will usually need come familiarity with the latter. There was an advertisement in magazines showing a petulant young man saying to someone outside the picture: "As long as you're up, get me a Grant's." A professor working on a research project cut the text out of a magazine, altered it slightly, and displayed it on his office door as: "As long as you're up, get me a Grant." In the original setting it was a request to be given a beverage of a particular brand. In the new setting it seems to be pointless unless the text receiver has the knowledge of the originally presented text and its intention.

Text types versus linguistic typology. Functional definitions: descriptive, narrative, and argumentative texts; literary and poetic texts; scientific and didactic texts. Using and referring to well-known texts. The organization of conversation.

To sum it all up, the discussed categories (standards) of textuality function as constitutive principles of textual communication, they create and define the form of behavior identifiable as textual communicating. There are also regulative principles that control textual communication rather than define it (they are: efficiency of a text, effectiveness of a text and appropriateness of a text). The problem of interaction of the said principles (i.e. how the constitution and use of texts are controlled by the regulative principles) is studied within the framework of cognitive linguistics.

REGULATIVE PRINCIPLES

Regulative principles are efficiency; effectiveness; appropriateness. These are principles that control textual communication.

Text linguistics is the study of text as a product (text grammar) or as a process (theory of text). The text-as-a-product approach is focused on the text cohesion, coherence, topical organization, illocutionary structure and communicative functions; the text-as-a-process perspective studies the text production, reception and interpretation (cf. Dolník and Bajzíková 1998).

Text can be understood as an instance of (spoken or written) language use (an act of parole), a relatively self-contained unit of communication. As a ´communicative occurrence´ it meets seven criteria of textuality (the constitutive principles of textual communication): cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality and intertextuality, and three regulative principles of textual communication: efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness (cf. de Beaugrande and Dressler 1981, Malmjaer 1991).

Constitutive Principles of Textual Communication

The constitutive principles of textual communication are also known as regulative principles of textual communication. They are efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness.

Regulative Principles of Textual Communication

The principle of **efficiency** requires that a text should be used with a minimum effort - hence the use of plain (stereotyped and unimaginative) language which, however boring and unimpressive, is easy to produce and comprehend.

In contrast, **effectiveness** presumes leaving a strong impression and the creation of favourable conditions for attaining a communicative goal; this presupposes the use of creative (original, imaginative) language which, however effective, may lead to communicative breakdown.

The principle of **appropriateness** attempts to balance off the two above principles by seeking an accord between the text setting and standards of textuality.

As it is obvious from the list of the features on the text level, they provide stylistically motivated explorations with almost unconstrained possibilities of variation leaving an important imprint on the ´style´ of the language output. For example, the degree of modification of the basic syntactic patterns tends to vary according to individual users. Generally speaking, unwelcome repetition can be prevented by making use of resources provided by the textual level of language.