

APPROACHES TO ANALYZING MEDIA GENRES (DISCOURSE ANALYSIS)

30 September 2015

OUTLINE

- What is discourse analysis (DA)
- Conversation analysis
- Ethnographic approaches to DA
- Corpus-based DA
- Multimodal DA
- Critical DA

WHAT IS DA?

- “Discursive turn” in social sciences
- Interdisciplinary field of inquiry
- Definition of DA: “the analysis of linguistic behavior , written and spoken, beyond the limits of individual sentences, focusing primarily on the meaning constructed and interpreted as language is used in particular social contexts.”

WHAT IS DA?

Main features:

- Analysis of language beyond the sentence
- Analysis of “language in use”
- Interdisciplinarity

WHAT IS DA?

Two levels of DA:

- A macro-sociological level: “serves to transmit the social structure, the values, the systems of knowledge, all the deepest and most pervasive patterns of the culture”.
- A micro-sociological level: “meanings are seen as specific to particular contexts and situations”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN DA

Recent developments in DA:

- The role of semiotic modes other than written or spoken text
- Varieties of new media of communication

CONVERSATION ANALYSIS

Conversation Analysis

- Sacks, Schegloff, Jefferson
- Based on ethnomethodology
- Definition: “the description and explication of the competences that ordinary speakers use and rely on in participating in intelligible, socially organized interaction”.
- Discourse is regarded as a kind of social action – we are always “doing things with our words”.

Conversation Analysis

What is analyzed:

- Informal conversations between equals
- Institutional types of discourse
- The mechanics of turn-taking
- The concept of adjacency pair

Methods:

- Detailed transcriptions of natural talk

CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ava: How'v you bee:n.

Bee: 'hh Oh:: survi:ving I guess, hh[h!

Ava: [That's good, how's (Bob),

Bee: He's fine,

Ava: Tha::t's goo:d,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YItCE8t4WLA>

ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACHES TO DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

ETHNOGRAPHY

- Emphasis on social context regarded as the central aspect of communication
- Gumperz and Hymes: “ethnography of communication”
- Less reliance on actual analysis of linguistic data and more on text-external social and contextual factors

ETHNOGRAPHY

Methods:

- Observation of practices with the help of new technologies – then their interpretation
- Collection of documents
- Interviews, questionnaires, field notes, ...



Exploring a particular social group's
discourse practices...

Watch video: language, media and 24/7
videorecording

<http://www.ted.com/talks/view/lang/eng//id/1092>

CORPUS-BASED DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

CORPUS-BASED DA

- Baker, Biber,...
- Works with large amounts of text
- General corpora representing language use in a variety of contexts, both written and spoken (e.g., *Bank of English*, *British National Corpus*)
- Specialized corpora – the study of language variations in specific academic and professional genres

CORPUS-BASED DA

Frequency and Dispersion

Table 3.3 *The most frequent ten lexical words in the holiday corpus*

	Word	Frequency
1	beach	124
2	pool	122
3	studios	116
4	sleep	107
5	club	99
6	facilities	96
7	bar	94
8	private	87
9	bars	79
10	apartments	78

CORPUS-BASED DA

The screenshot displays the TextSTAT software interface. The title bar reads "TextSTAT - TITLES OF MCRs - both journals.crp". The menu bar includes "Corpus", "Export", "Language", and "Encoding". The toolbar contains icons for file operations and help. Below the toolbar, there are tabs for "Corpus", "Word forms", "Concordance", and "Citation". The "Concordance" tab is active, showing a search for the word "presenting". The search results are displayed in a table with two columns: the word "presenting" and its occurrences in various medical contexts. The table is titled "Concordance" and lists 80 hits. The right-hand side of the interface features an "Options" panel with checkboxes for "search whole words only", "search case insensitive", and "mark search string". Below these are input fields for "context left" and "context right", both set to 70. There are also radio buttons for "alphabetically", "sort context right", and "sort context left", with "sort context right" selected. A "Refresh" button is located at the bottom of the options panel. The status bar at the bottom shows "80 hits" and "1 files | 95383 bytes". The Windows taskbar at the very bottom shows the Start button and several open applications, including "How to Take a Sn...", "DISSERTATION - ...", "TextSTATusersg...", "Concise Oxford E...", "TextSTAT - TIT...", and "Microsoft Office P...". The system clock shows "23:27".

TextSTAT - TITLES OF MCRs - both journals.crp
Corpus Export Language Encoding ?

Corpus Word forms Concordance Citation

presenting Search Query editor

Concordance

in a newborn black female: a case report Severe vitamin D deficiency PRESENTING as hypocalcaemic seizures in a black infant at 45.5 degrees south: a
ma of the colon: a case report Rare ileal localisation of angioliopoma PRESENTING as chronic haemorrhage and severe anaemia: a case report Metastatic r
case report and review of literature Limited Wegener's granulomatosis PRESENTING as lung nodules in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis: a case report
al presentation of Hodgkin lymphoma: a case report Water intoxication PRESENTING as maternal and neonatal seizures: a case report Mesenteric panniculi
rotropic gastric mucosa: a case series Light chain deposition disease PRESENTING as paroxysmal atrial fibrillation: a case report Marathon related dea
report Multicentric Castleman's disease: a case report Dacryocystitis PRESENTING as post-septal cellulitis: a case report Life-saving automated extern
in the treatment of pseudoarthrosis: a case report Folate deficiency PRESENTING as pyrexia: a case report Pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum and subcuta
ild with undiagnosed crohn disease: A case report Gliomatosis cerebri PRESENTING as rapidly progressive dementia and parkinsonism in an elderly woman:
susception and chronic ischaemia: a case report Munchausen's syndrome PRESENTING as rectal foreign body insertion: a case report Sclerosing mesenterit
e to non-fatal amniotic fluid embolism: a case report Cystic fibrosis PRESENTING as recurrent pancreatitis in a young child with a normal sweat test a
g the left parietal bone: a case report Chronic granulomatous disease PRESENTING as retinal mass Hypokalemic Periodic Paralysis: a case report and rev
on mimicking aortic dissection: a case report Hyperkalemic paralysis PRESENTING as ST-elevation myocardial infarction: a case report Pre-operative di
therapeutic doses: a case report Incarcerated transmesosigmoid hernia PRESENTING in a 60-year-old man: a case report Calcific myofibrosis due to penta
se report Optic atrophy, necrotizing anterior scleritis and keratitis PRESENTING in association with Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome: a case report
oley catheter for long-term drainage of neuropathic bladder? Pyometra PRESENTING in conjunction with bowel cancer in a post-menopausal women: a case r
yrohyoid membrane: a case report Atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome PRESENTING initially as suspected meningococcal disease: a case report Minimal c
metastatic malignant melanomas: a case report Splenic rupture as the PRESENTING manifestation of primary splenic angiosarcoma in a teenage woman: a c
e report Idiopathic pneumonia syndrome after bone marrow transplantation PRESENTING with "crazy-paving" pattern on high-resolution computed tomography: a
l dominant endosteal hyperostosis: a case series Pelvic actinomycosis PRESENTING with a large abscess and bowel stenosis with marked response to conse
rt and review of the literature Transfusion related acute lung injury PRESENTING with acute dyspnoea: a case report A pitfall in the interpretation of
islocation: a case report Human immunodeficiency virus seroconversion PRESENTING with acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy: a case report A
review of literature A patient with glycogen storage disease type Ib PRESENTING with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) bearing monosomy 7 and translocatio
th hepatic artery pseudoaneurysm: a case report Systemic tuberculosis PRESENTING with acute transient myopia: a case report Pleomorphic adenoma of the
globulinaemia (Good's syndrome) Metastatic non-small cell lung cancer PRESENTING with an orbital metastasis: a case report Apocrine adenocarcinoma of
gn of congenital obstructive anomaly: a case report Esophageal cancer PRESENTING with atrial fibrillation: A case report Exudative pleurisy of coccidi
alling and shoulder dysfunction: a case report A postmenopausal women PRESENTING with atypical symptoms and cervical cancer: a case report Bronchial c
echnique: a case report and literature review Guillain-Barré Syndrome PRESENTING with bilateral facial nerve paralysis: a case report Congenital diaph
agement dilemma; a woman with cystic fibrosis and severe lung disease PRESENTING with colonic carcinoma: a case report Appearance of a double bubble i
orts and a review of the literature Adrenocortical oncocytic neoplasm PRESENTING with Cushing's syndrome: a case report Sinusoidal obstruction syndrom
e report Symplastic scrotal leiomyoma: a case report Testicular seminoma PRESENTING with duodenal perforation: a case report Retention of foreign body in
avity: case report Primary malignant melanoma of the lower oesophagus PRESENTING with dysphagia and upper gastrointestinal bleeding Constrictive peric
fter transhiatal oesophagectomy: a case report A postmenopausal woman PRESENTING with Ekbohm syndrome associated with recurrent depressive disorder: a
se series Pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, tracheo-oesophageal fistula PRESENTING with endotracheal intubation in post-caesarean period: A case report C

Options
 search whole words only
 search case insensitive
 mark search string
70 context left
70 context right
 alphabetically
 sort context right
 sort context left
Refresh

80 hits 1 files | 95383 bytes

Start How to Take a Sn... DISSERTATION - ... TextSTATusersg... Concise Oxford E... TextSTAT - TIT... Microsoft Office P... EN 23:27

MULTIMODAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

MULTIMODAL DA

- Text is just one of the many modes of communication
- Textual data is not necessarily the most important mode used for the construction and interpretation of meaning
- Analysis of semiotic modes other than text: gestures, posture, proxemics, visual images, document layout, music and architectural design...

MULTIMODAL DA

The sign = signifier + signified (Saussure)

- Signifier – phonological sound or graphic appearance of a sign (e.g., word, image,...)
- Signified – the meaning and interpretation of the sign

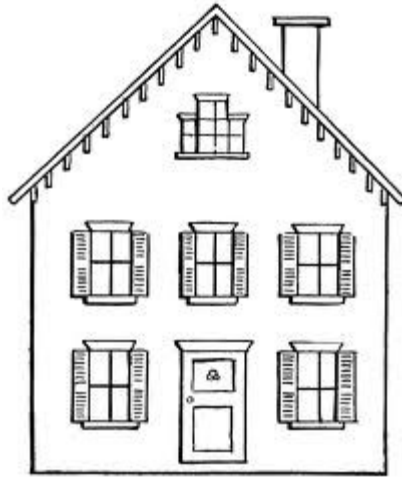
MULTIMODAL DA

- Denotation – refers to the literal meaning of a sign. It is the dictionary definition of a word – e.g., *snake* – “*any of numerous scaly, legless, sometimes venomous reptiles*”.
- Connotation – refers to the associations that are connected to a certain sign such as emotional suggestions related to a word. The connotative meanings of a word exist together with the denotative meanings. E.g., the connotations for *snake* might include danger or evil.

Denotation: a brown cross

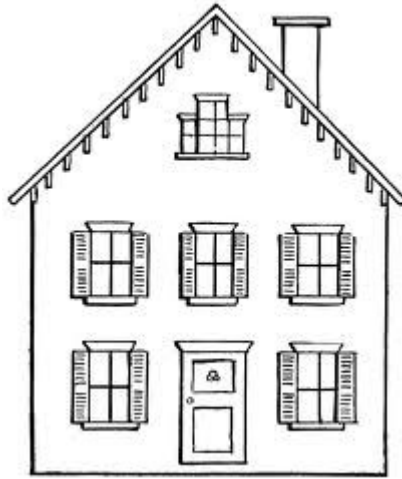
Connotation: a symbol of religion, a
symbol of Christianity





What could the denotation and connotation of this sign be analyzed?

(writers often deliberately select words that they think will influence your reactions and appeal to your emotions)



Denotation: where a person lives

Connotation:

HOME – cozy, loving, comfortable

HOUSE – the actual building or structure

RESIDENCE – large, cold, no feeling

DWELLING – primitive or basic surroundings



SIGNIFIER:
Blonde Hair
Signifies:
Ideal Woman,
Innocence,
Looks 'gold'

SIGNIFIER:
Jewellery
Signifies:
Extravagance,
Excess, Glamour,
Decadance

SIGNIFIER: **Font**
Signifies:
Dior Logo,
Brand Name,
Designer

SIGNIFIER:
Perfume Bottle
Signifies: Looks
Jewel-like,
Buried Treasure

SIGNIFIER:
Word 'Love'
Signifies:
Passion,
Excitement,
Lust


SIGNIFIER: **Colour
Gold**
Signifies:
Luxury, Riches,
Expense, Success,
Shimmering

Christian Dior
PARIS

LE FEMININ ABSOLU.

Dior

J'adore

A photograph of a man's muscular torso in clear blue water, with a blue perfume bottle in the foreground. The bottle has a black cap and a label with cursive text. Six callout boxes with black borders and light blue backgrounds are arranged around the image, each with an arrow pointing to a specific element. The callouts describe the signifier and signified for various elements: water/ocean wave, facial expression/body language, man's naked torso, words 'Cool Water', droplets on the bottle, and calligraphy style font.

SIGNIFIER:
Water/Ocean Wave
SIGNIFIES:
Wild, Stormy,
Natural, Earthly

SIGNIFIER:
**Facial Expression/Body
Language**
SIGNIFIES:
Ecstatic, pleasure lost
in ecstasy, laid back,
inviting

SIGNIFIER:
Mans Naked Torso
SIGNIFIES:
Natural, angelic,
pure, toned, ideal,
masculine, adonis

SIGNIFIER:
**Words 'Cool
Water'**
SIGNIFIES:
Refreshing,
different,

SIGNIFIER:
Droplets on Bottle
SIGNIFIES:
Cool, chilled
appearance,
almost drinkable

SIGNIFIER:
**Calligraphy Style
Font**
SIGNIFIES:
Classic, timeless,
expensive tastes

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

CRITICAL DA

- Focus on socio-political domination: notions of ideology, power, hierarchy, and gender are seen as relevant for an interpretation or explanation of text
- Small qualitative case studies as well as large data corpora
- Fairclough, Wodak, Van Dijk

CRITICAL DA

Language is not powerful on its own – it gains power by the use powerful people make of it, specifically in new public spaces or new genres provided by globalized media

Media Analysis of US Coverage of Arab-Israeli Conflict:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlOzo82emA0>