

1. Definition of discourse

- The concept of discourse plays a key role in translation studies, especially in areas such as discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, critical translation studies, and text typology. In contemporary translation studies, serving as a bridge between language, context, and ideology.
- In its most general sense, discourse is understood as language in use, extending beyond the limits of grammar and isolated sentences to embrace the communicative and functional dimensions of text. As Brown and Yule (1983) define it, discourse is "language in use, for communication, beyond the level of the sentence." Based on this definition, 'discourse' goes far beyond the linguistic level to contain **contextual, situational and communicative** aspects. Discourse embraces both verbal and nonverbal aspects, textual and contextual angles and linguistic and pragmatic points.

feat

+

context

+

commun

lg in use

- A more contextually oriented definition of 'discourse' is proposed by van Dijk (1997):
"the interpretation of communicative events in their social and cultural context." van Dijk emphasizes the context of discourse; discourse contains social and cultural factors. It can be inferred that discourse goes far beyond just socio-cultural factors and embraces ideological, political, religious, power relations and many other context-related factors.

feat
+
context
+
commun
+
in use

Implication for Translation

- These definitions demonstrate that discourse is not a fixed or singular concept but a multilayered construct encompassing linguistic, contextual, ideological, social and host of other dimensions.
- For translation studies, this implies that translation must be examined not only as a linguistic operation but also as a discursive practice—one reconstructs meaning within and across systems of power, culture, and communication. The translator, therefore, functions as both analyst and participant in discourse, navigating between the textual and the contextual to produce meaning that is not merely equivalent but socially and culturally resonant.

2. Conceptualizing Discourse in Translation Studies

- The concept of discourse has a central position in translation studies, serving as a bridge between language, context, and ideology. In its most general sense, discourse is understood as **language in use**, extending beyond the limits of grammar and isolated sentences to embrace the communicative and functional dimensions of text. As Brown and Yule (1983) define it, discourse is "language in use, for communication, beyond the level of the sentence." This perspective foregrounds the translator's task as one of interpreting and reconstructing meaning within authentic communicative situations rather than engaging in sentence-by-sentence substitution.

3. Discourse Types in Translation Studies

- Discourse refers to language use in context — how people use language in different communicative situations (spoken or written, formal or informal, etc.).
- Different discourse types are categorized based on purpose, function, and context.

linguistic item

4. Main Types of Discourse based on purpose/ function

- Narrative Discourse: To tell a story, recount events Novels, biographies, news reports Preserve narrative voice, chronology, and tone
- Descriptive Discourse: To describe objects, people, places, or events. Travel guides, character sketches, product descriptions Maintain imagery, style, and sensory details.
- Expository Discourse: To explain or inform objectively Textbooks, academic papers, reports Accuracy, clarity, terminology consistency

*Drama
play*

- **Argumentative Discourse:** To persuade or convince. Editorials, essays, review
Logical coherence, rhetorical devices, register
- **Instructive / Directive Discourse** To direct or instruct actions Manuals, recipes,
legal documents. Clarity, imperative accuracy, cultural adaptation
- **Dialogic / Conversational Discourse** : To interact or exchange information
Plays, interviews, social media chats Naturalness, sociolinguistic norms,
politeness conventions

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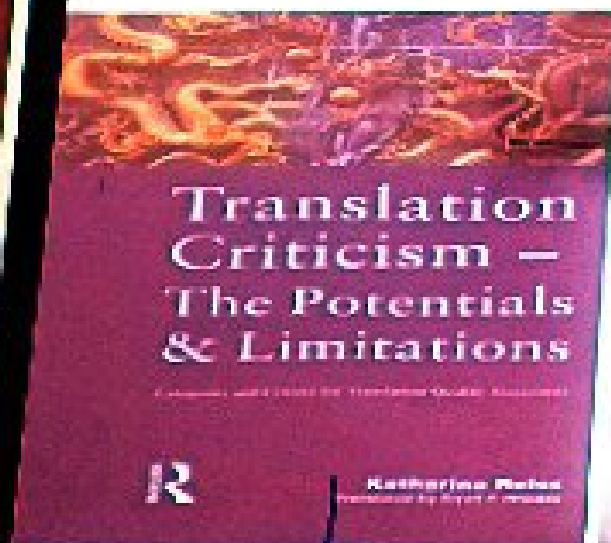
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4. Text Types in Translation Studies

The concept of text types was initially developed by **Katharina Reiss (1971)** and later expanded by **Christiane Nord** and others. Text type theory classifies texts according to their **communicative function** — what the text is meant to do.



4.1 Reiss's Three Main Text Types

- 4.1.1 Informative (Content-focused): Informative text, as the name implies, provides information for the audience about a particular subject; this type of text conveys information and facts. Some bold examples of informative texts are: news, textbooks reports. In informative text, clarity, accuracy, intelligibility and transparency are very important. Henceforth, the translator should translate quite clearly and precisely avoiding any kind of ambiguity.

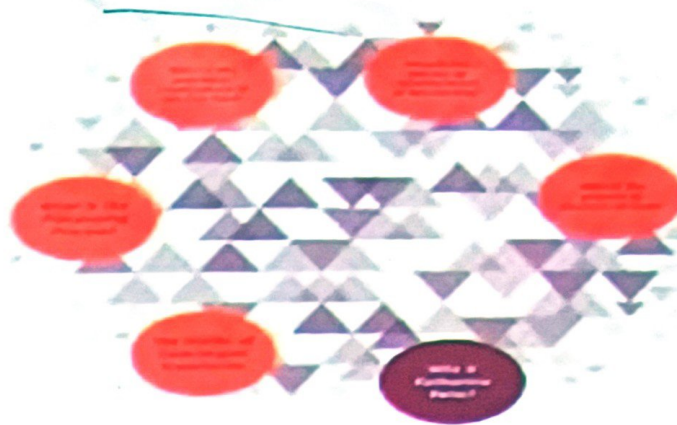
Functional theories of Translation

- 1) **Text Type theory**
by
Katharina Reiss



4.1 Reiss's Three Main Text Types

- **4.1.2 Expressive (Form-focused):** In 'Expressive Text', form, style and tone of writing are very important as the text is supposed to express the emotions of the writer; his artistic intention or aesthetic purpose. Clear examples of 'expressive texts' are literary texts; poem, short story, drama, novel and literary essays. In aesthetic aspects of expressive texts are of primary importance. Henceforth, the translator is expected to do his utmost effort to preserve the style, form, aesthetic aspects, tone, voice, atmosphere Of the source text.



Type, Kind and Individuality of Text: Decision Making in Translation
by Katharina Reiss

4.1 Reiss's Three Main Text Types

• **4.1.3 Operative (Effect-focused):** The function of 'operative text' is to persuade the audience to embark on an action. For example, to participate in a demonstration, or to buy a particular product. Famous examples of operative texts are advertisements, political speeches, preaches, religious texts. The translator of an operative text is expected to preserve the persuasive tone of the ST in order to achieve the same function. In other words the ST and the TT should leave the same effect on the audience.

5. Later extensions of Katharina Reiss's text typology

- Reiss and Nord later recognized a fourth type of text, **Audio-medial or Multimodal text**. In multimodal text, verbal signs (words or text) are combined with non-verbal signs. For example, verbal signs are combined with sounds or with visual sounds or with audio-visual signs. Clear examples of multimodal texts are film scripts, websites, video games. The translator of multimodal text is expected to coordinate verbal and non-verbal elements to achieve the same effect. In other words, the translation should achieve 'equivalent effect'.

Text Types – Katharina Reiss

- content focused (informative)
- form focused (expressive)
- appeal-focused (operative)
- multimedia

6. What is the relationship between 'discourse' and 'text type'?

- Discourse is the broader contextual use of language (spoken or written communication in context). Within every discourse, there are different types of texts. Texts are classified based on their functions.
- For example, in case of '**political speech**', we have argumentative spoken discourse and operative text with persuasive function. Or a 'scientific paper' belongs to the category of expository discourse (written) and informative text type with the exclusive function of providing new information for academia.

7. Implications of discourse type and text type for translation

- Each type of discourse and consequently each type of text within a particular discourse requires:
 - 1. Different translation solutions (including shifts, procedures, strategies...)
 - 2. Different tone
 - 3. Different linguistic choices and style
 - 4. Different degrees of 'literal translation' and 'free translation'
 - 5. Appropriate register
 - 6. Appropriate Functional equivalence to ensure that the translated text performs the same communicative function and equivalent effect as the original.

Example One (English + Farsi Translation)

- ST:
- Climate change poses a serious threat to global ecosystems.
- Scientists emphasize the urgency of reducing carbon emissions to prevent irreversible damage.
- International cooperation is essential to achieve sustainable development goals.

- Farsi Translation:
- تغییرات اقلیمی تهدیدی جدی برای زیست‌بوم‌های جهانی به‌شمار می‌رود >
- دانشمندان بر ضرورت فوری کاهش انتشار کربن برای جلوگیری از آسیب‌های غیرقابل بازگشت تأکید می‌کنند.
- همکاری بین‌المللی برای دستیابی به اهداف توسعه پایدار ضروری است

Linguistic Analysis Based on Text and Discourse Type

- Purpose Informative — focus on clarity and precision.
- Academic/Scientific discourse — objective tone, formal register.
- Translator uses formal, standard Persian equivalents like “زیست‌بوم‌های جهانی” and “تهدیدی جدی”.
- Terminology Requires technical accuracy. Follows the conventions of Persian scientific writing. “Carbon emissions” → “انتشار کربن” (not “دود کربن” or “آلودگی هوا”).
- Syntax Short declarative sentences preferred.
- Persian academic writing tends to use more nominal structures.
- Translator uses “به‌شمار می‌رود” instead of a direct verb like “هست” to maintain formality.

- **Tone and Register:** Neutral, informative. Academic discourse requires objectivity and detachment. Avoids emotive or persuasive words like “فاجعه‌بار” or “وحشتناک.”
- **Cohesion:** Logical connectors signal cause–effect and necessity. Academic writing favors explicit logical ties. Uses “...برای جلوگیری از” and “...برای دستیابی به” to express academic causality clearly.
- **Lexical Density** High information per clause. Scientific discourse mirrors English in-density. Translator retains technical density, avoiding simplification.

Mini- project for the next session

- Students are expected to choose 2 text types and next do a linguistic analysis of the text including:
- Aspect: Effect of Text Type, Effect of Discourse Type, Observed Translation Choices.
- Cohesion, tone, register, terminology, syntax
- A detailed analysis of translation choices showing how both text type and discourse type shape the translator's decisions.

Discourse and the Translator

(Hatim & Mason, 1990)

idea → contribution
aspect

→ Significance of the study
= APA
paper

1. Significance of the Book

- The book is important because of its contribution to the theories of Translation Studies.

2. Organization of the Book

- The book has 11 chapters.

Theoretical Contributions of the Book

- **1. Integrates Discourse Analysis with Translation Studies**
- Before this book, translation theory was dominated by:
 - **linguistic equivalence** models
 - prescriptive rules
 - literal vs. free debates
- Hatim & Mason introduced discourse analysis, showing that translation is shaped by:
 - context
 - ideology
 - audience
 - communicative purpose
- This shifted the field toward **functional, communication-oriented approaches.**

Theoretical Contributions of the Book

- **2. Presents Translation as Social and Communicative Action**

- The book argues that translation is not mechanical but interaction between cultures.
- Meaning depends on:
 - social relations
 - culture
 - genre
 - intertextuality
- Translators become **mediators of culture and ideology.**

Theoretical Contributions of the Book

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do's
don't's

Theoretical Contributions of the Book

- **3. Moves Beyond Sentence-Level Linguistics**
- They emphasize **discourse-level** features:
- coherence
- thematic structure
- register
- pragmatic force
- semiotic sign systems
- This broadened translation analysis beyond grammar.

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Theoretical Contributions of the Book

• 4. Highlights the Translator's Active Role

- The translator is:
- an interpreter
- a decision-maker
- a cultural mediator
- an ideological agent
- This recognizes translator agency, influencing later developments in Critical Translation Studies.

Theoretical Contributions of the Book

- **5. Helps Establish Functionalism and Pragmatics in Translation Studies**
- Their work complements and deepens functionalist theorists like:
 - Halliday
 - Reiss & Vermeer
 - Nord
- But they add strong emphasis **on discourse texture, pragmatics, and ideology** — making the theory richer and more detailed.

Chapter 1 — Discourse and the Translator

- This chapter introduces **the central idea** of the book:
- Translation is a **communicative process, not just linguistic transfer.**
- Hatim & Mason argue that translators must consider **context, discourse, intention, and social meaning**, not merely **grammar or vocabulary.**
- They establish translation as a **dynamic act** of meaning negotiation between cultures.

Chapter 2 — Discourse and Language

- This chapter explains the difference between **text (linguistic product)** and **discourse (communication in context)**.
- Key ideas:
- Language choices reflect **ideology and social** relationships.
- **Context** shapes meaning at all levels.
- Translators must decode the **communicative purpose** behind the surface text. (skopos/ function)
- This chapter lays the **linguistic foundation** for how discourse analysis informs translation.

Chapter 3 — Register Analysis

- Based on **Halliday's model (Field–Tenor–Mode)**, this chapter shows how **situational factors** influence translation.
- Field → subject matter
- Tenor → relationship between participants
- Mode → medium (spoken/written)
- Translators' decisions must maintain these **contextual variables** to preserve the text's **communicative effect**.

Chapter 4 — Textuality and Texture

- Focuses on **discourse texture**: how texts achieve cohesion and coherence.
- Explains:
- Cohesion (reference, ellipsis, substitution, conjunctions)
- Coherence (logical meaning-making)
- Theme/rheme structure
- Given/new information
- Translation should preserve the natural flow and structure of the original text's meaning.

-

Discourse texture

- Discourse texture, according to Hatim & Mason in *Discourse and the Translator*, refers to the set of linguistic and pragmatic features that make a text “hang together” as a meaningful whole.
- It is the felt connectedness of a text — the internal structure that gives it unity, flow, and communicative effectiveness. In other words:
- **Texture = the network of cohesive and coherent relations that create a unified discourse.**

Components of Discourse Texture (Hatim & Mason)

- They highlight several elements that together create texture:

- **1. Cohesion**

- These are surface-level ties linking sentences and clauses:
- Reference (he, she, this, that...)
- Substitution & ellipsis (do so, leaving out repeated info)
- Conjunctions (however, therefore...)
- Lexical cohesion (repetition, synonyms, semantic fields)
- → These help create local connectedness.

• 2. Coherence

- This is deeper, logical connectedness of ideas:
 - How meaning progresses and relates
 - How arguments develop
 - How events are structured
 - → This produces global meaning unity.
- 7
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• 3. Thematic Structure (Theme–Rheme)

- How information is organized in clauses:
- Theme = what the speaker presents as “starting point”
- Rheme = new information
- Different languages structure themes differently — important for translators.

- **4. Information Structure (Given–New)**

- How known vs. new information is introduced, highlighted, or downplayed.
- → This influences readability, emphasis, and naturalness.

- **5. Rhetorical/Functional Patterns**

- Patterns such as:
 - Narration
 - Description
 - Argumentation
 - Exposition
- These patterns shape the text's communicative purpose and contribute to texture.

Why Discourse Texture Matters for Translation

Hatim & Mason argue that:

- Good translation **must recreate the texture, not only the content.**
- If texture breaks, the translation feels unnatural, confusing, or **w**rong in tone.
- Translators must decide whether to preserve ST surface ties or use TT norms **to recreate the same effect.**
- For example:
- English tends to prefer **explicit cohesion.**
- Arabic can rely more on coherence and less on explicit connectors.
- Thus, translators **adjust texture to fit the target-culture discourse norms.**

Conclusion to Speech Act Theory

- **Discourse texture** is the total set of cohesive, coherent, thematic, informational, and rhetorical features that shape a text's internal organization and communicative impact.

Chapter 5 — Pragmatics and Translation

- Shows how meaning goes beyond words:
- **Speech act theory** (illocutionary force)
- **Implicature** (what is implied but not said)
- **Presupposition**
- **Pragmatic meaning** can shift drastically across cultures, so translators often need to adjust or explicate meanings for the target audience.

Speech Act Theory According to Hatim & Mason

- For Hatim & Mason, Speech Act Theory is the idea that whenever people use language, they are not just saying things — they are also doing things. An utterance carries not only literal meaning but also an action, an intention, and an effect in communication.
- They explain that every utterance has three layers:
 - 1. Locutionary Act
 - 2. Illocutionary Act
 - 3. Perlocutionary Act

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- 1. Locutionary Act

- What is said — the actual words, syntax, and propositional meaning.

- Example:

- "It's cold in here."

- Literal meaning: temperature is low.

• **2. Illocutionary Act**

- What the speaker intends to do by saying those words — the communicative function.
- It may actually mean:
 - a request (“Please close the window”)
 - a complaint
 - a warning
 - a suggestion
- Hatim & Mason emphasize that illocutionary force is crucial in translation, because it may change across cultures or contexts.

• **3. Perlocutionary Act**

• **The effect** on the listener — what the utterance achieves.

• Example effects:

• The listener closes the window

• The listener ignores it

• The listener apologizes

Key Point of Speech Act Theory by Hatim & Mason

- Hatim & Mason's central argument is:
- Translators must preserve the illocutionary force (the speaker's intention) even when literal wording changes. In other words, the communicative purpose of the speech act must be carried over into the target text.

Why Speech Act Theory Matters for Translation

- ✓ 1. Meaning is not only **linguistic**: Two sentences may have the same propositional meaning but different intentions.
- ✓ 2. Different **cultures** perform speech acts differently: Requests, politeness, commands, apologies, refusals, warnings — all vary across languages
- ✓ 3. Translators may need to **modify the form** to keep the same force
- Example:
 - A polite indirect request in English may need to be more direct in another language (or vice versa).
- ✓ 4. Failure to preserve **speech acts** leads to misunderstanding
- If a warning becomes advice or a request becomes an order, the pragmatic meaning is distorted.

• Speech Act Theory,

• is the study of **how utterances function as actions**, and they insist that translators must reproduce **the speaker's intended illocutionary force**, not just the literal wording.

Chapter 6 — Discourse and Semiotic Considerations

- Examines translation within semiotic systems such as symbols, cultural references, ideology, and values.
- Translation is a **semiotic act** because it transfers **signs** across cultures.
- This chapter emphasizes the **ideological responsibilities** of translators.

Chapter 6: "Discourse Grammar" from Brian Paltridge's *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*



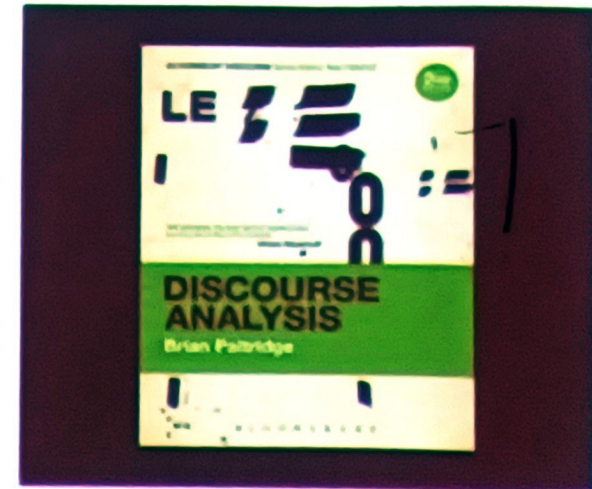
Purposes of Chapter 6: “Discourse Grammar”



- Paltridge’s “Discourse Grammar” argues that grammar must be studied not only at the level of **isolated sentences** but as a resource used **across extended texts and interactions**. The chapter shows:
 - 1. How grammatical choices contribute to **texture** (the sense of a coherent text/ grammatical and lexical cohesion),
 - 2. How **cohesion** is achieved through specific grammatical/lexical devices,
 - 3. How **spoken and written discourse** exploit different grammatical resources for communicative goals.

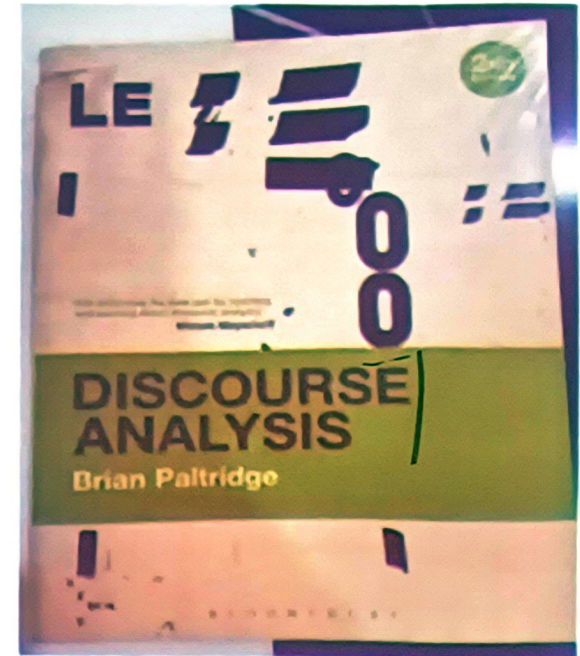
1. What does Paltridge mean by *discourse grammar*?

- 'Discourse Grammar' means to view grammar from the perspective of **language in use** — how grammatical forms function across **stretches of text and in interaction** (not only as sentence-internal rules). This includes attention to prefabricated expressions, discourse markers, turn-taking grammar, and choices that relate to information flow across sentences.



What is the significance of 'discourse grammar'?

- Studying grammar at **discourse** level explains phenomena that **sentence-level** grammar misses — e.g.,
- **why** a speaker uses a particular pronoun,
- how **cohesion** is maintained across paragraphs,
- or how discourse markers shape **stance and sequencing**.



2) Texture, cohesion and coherence (Halliday & Hasan groundwork)

- **Texture** = the property that makes a sequence of sentences into a *text* (a coherent unit). Paltridge leans on the classic distinction between cohesion (linguistic ties that link parts of a text) and broader coherence (conceptual/semantic unity).



Halliday & Hasan's cohesion types (still central)

1. **Reference** (anaphora/cataphora: pronouns, demonstratives linking to other elements),
2. **Substitution** (replacing a lexical item: e.g., "one", "do"),
3. **Ellipsis** (omitting material recoverable from context),
4. **Conjunction** (connectives showing logical/semantic relations),
5. **Lexical cohesion** (repetition, synonymy, antonymy, collocation).

These categories explain many of the grammatical devices Paltridge discusses as resources for making discourse hold together.



Halliday and Hasan

Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday (born 1932) is a linguist who developed an internationally influential grammar model, the systemic functional grammar, originally by studying Chinese. The model has been applied to other languages as well; it is especially useful for describing non-Indo-European languages.

Example

“John came in. **He** sat down.” — *He* is reference (**anaphora**).

“Do you want coffee or tea?” — “**Tea.**” — the single-word answer is **ellipsis/substitution**.

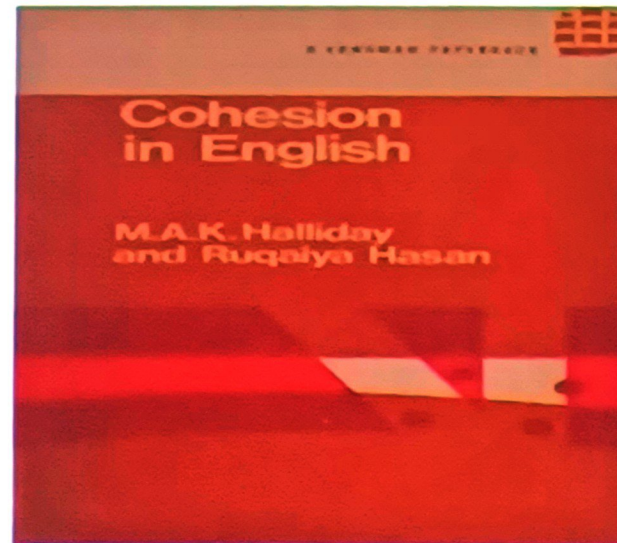


1. Reference (anaphora/cataphora)

- **Reference (anaphora/cataphora):** Links items across sentences; crucial for given/new patterns (what's assumed vs. what's introduced). Pronouns, definite articles, demonstratives are the main tools.
- In a narrower sense, **anaphora** is the use of an expression that depends specifically upon an **antecedent** expression and thus is contrasted with **cataphora**, which is the use of an expression that depends upon a **postcedent** expression.
- ****The anaphoric (referring) term is called an anaphor.**

2. Substitution & Ellipsis

- **Substitution & Ellipsis:** Economize language by avoiding repetition; common in spoken interaction and informative for pragmatic relations (contrast, correction, shared knowledge).



3. Conjunction

- **Conjunction:** Logical connectives (and, but, therefore, however) organize discourse relations (additive, adversative, causal, temporal). These are important for building argument structure and narrative sequencing.

4. Lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion: Repetition, synonyms, hyponymy, collocation create topic continuity. Lexical ties often operate over larger stretches than grammatical ties and are especially salient in written texts.

operationalize

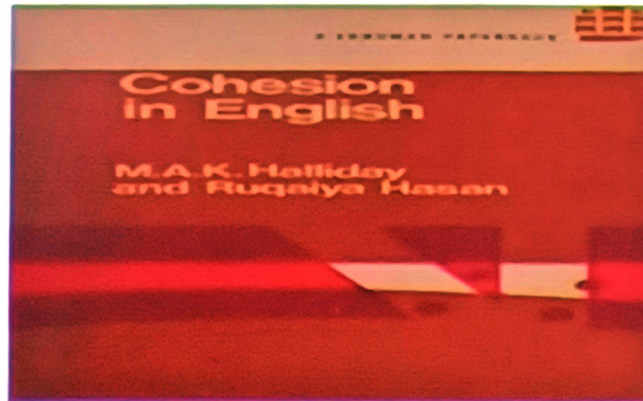


4) Information structure & theme/rheme (how grammar packages information across discourse)

- It defines **theme** as the element that **comes first in a clause** that represents what the clause is about.
- A **rheme** is the part of a sentence that provides **new information** about the topic, often indicating what is being said about the theme. Rheme is defined as the rest of the clause that typically contains new information.
- There are different types of themes including unmarked topical, marked topical, textual, and interpersonal.

Significance of ‘Discourse Grammar’

- Paltridge emphasizes that grammar helps manage **information flow**: what is presented as given (old) vs new, what is foregrounded, and what is backgrounded. This links to theme/rheme or topic/comment distinctions used in systemic functional accounts and to pragmatic choices (word order, clefting, fronting). These choices are part of discourse grammar because they operate across sentence boundaries and affect continuity.



Mini example:

- **“As for the meeting, John won’t come.”**
 - **The fronted phrase** signals topic continuity and links the clause to prior discourse.
- 