

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

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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.

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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