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Discourse Analysis

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Discourse Analysis

Author: H.G. Widdowson (2007)

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This book is part of the Oxford series of introductions to language studies, edited by H.G. Widdowson. This is an introduction to discourse analysis. Here, discourse mainly refers to how language is used in context, leaving out socio-cultural constraints. As the author pinpoints in the preface, the main purpose of the book is to provide a clear and concise introduction to the field.

accessible tool for an audience, academic or otherwise, approaching this subdiscipline of. like the whole series itself, aims at “preparing the conceptual ground” (p. xi), in order to su

Discourse Analysis is organised into four intertwined sections:

- Survey: the core of the book, provides an overview of the analysed discourse topics ;
- Readings: various excerpts from the specialist literature which function as useful cor
- References: a selection of suggested readings accompanied by a series of comments and also point out the difficulty level of the suggested texts
- Glossary: the meanings of the technical terms highlighted in bold in the survey part; terms appear is signalled

The survey section aims at introducing the key concepts of discourse analysis. The language that it achieves clarity but not at the expense of elucidating complex concepts. So while ch; fundamental notions. This section is subdivided into eight chapters.

- Chapter 1, “Language in use”, distinguishes between the fundamental notions of text communicative unit, whereas discourse as the meaning the text producer intends to
- Chapter 2 delves into communicative competence, describing its four characterising the feasible, the appropriate, and the performed.
- Chapter 3 is devoted to showing the tight connection between communication and c a specific situational context that is supposed to be shared in some way by participar
- Chapter 4, however, points out that language is not produced by relying only on situ continuity of our individual and social lives” (p. 27). It is related to the mental context the schematic conventions described in this chapter are frames of reference, interpe
- Chapter 5 investigates how these schemata are actually put to work in the production which cohesion and coherence are the chief principles.
- Chapter 6 is devoted to analyzing the mechanisms at play in the communication pro process, participants have to negotiate meaning and cooperate. Not surprisingly the maxims—quality, quantity, manner and relation—are the main concern in this chap more of the latter produces effects revealing that language is being used for the man

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