



## Lecture 1

# **TEXT LINGUISTICS AS A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN LINGUISTIC STUDIES**

# Plan.

1. Text linguistics: from sentence to text.
2. Defining the terms “sentence” and “text”.
3. The notion of “textuality”.

# The sources of Text Linguistics

syntax

rhetoric

stylistics

literary studies

## Text linguistics: from sentence to text

a slow shift away from a **sentential perspective** (as expressed primarily by Chomsky and his many followers) **to a more textual or discoursal approach** (Van Dijk, De Beaugrande & Dressler, Tannen);

**Givon** (1979): “... it has become obvious to a growing number of linguists that the study of the syntax of isolated sentences, extracted without natural context from the purposeful constructions of speakers is a methodology that has outlived its usefulness”.;

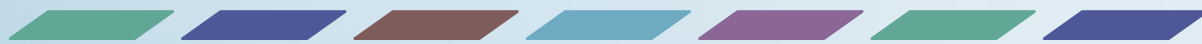
**Werlich** in an earlier comment (1976:14): “sentence grammars do not tell the learner of a foreign language the whole story about communication by means of language”...

## Related disciplines:

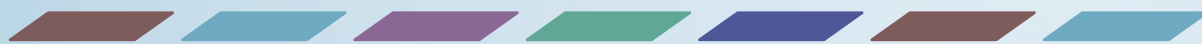
- sociolinguistics



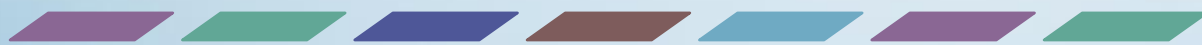
- psycholinguistics



- cognitive linguistics



- anthropology



- pragmatics



- semiotics



- lexicology



# Text grammar vs. Text linguistics vs. Discourse analysis

**Text grammar** (cf. Van Dijk 1972) aims to establish a model with which the grammatical structures of texts can be described

**Text linguistics** (cf. De Beaugrande & Dressler 1981, Carstens 1997) is devoted to describing how texts are created and understood

**Discourse analysis** (cf. Renkema 1993, Schiffrin 1994) entails the analysis of utterances as social interaction

# Defining the term “sentence”

- Robert de Beaugrande suggests the following sets of criteria:
- 1. **structural**: a "sentence" consists of an array of relations ("structures") among units, e.g., the "Subject" and the "Predicate" in an "independent clause";
- 2. **formal**: a "sentence" matches an array of formal symbols stipulated by a "formal grammar";
- 3. **logical**: a "sentence" is an "expression" derived via "rules" from a "logical system" of basic "axioms";
- 4. **philosophical**: a "sentence" is a "true or false statement" about a "state of affairs" in a "real or possible world";
- 5. **cognitive**: a "sentence" is a "proposition" with a "predicate" and one or more "arguments";
- 6. **thematic**: a sentence is a pattern for relating the "theme" (or "topic") conveying known or predictable information with the "rheme" (or "comment") conveying new or unpredictable information.

# Definitions of the term “text”:

Fowler  
(1991)

- A text is made up of sentences, but there exist separate principles of text-construction, beyond the rules for making sentences.

Halliday and  
Hasan (1976)

- *‘Text’ is a term used in linguistics to refer to any passage- spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole [...]. A text is a unit of language in use. It is not a grammatical unit, like a clause or a sentence; and it is not defined by its size [...]. A text is best regarded as a SEMANTIC unit; a unit not of form but of meaning.*

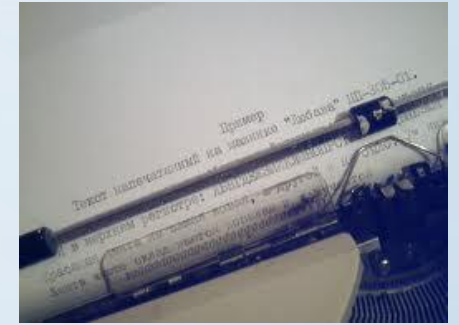
Hatim and  
Mason (1990)

- “a set of mutually relevant communicative functions, structured in such a way as to achieve an overall rhetorical purpose”.



# 7 standards of textuality

by Robert De Beaugrande and W.Dressler



- Cohesion
- Coherence
- Intentionality
- Acceptability
- Informativity
- Contextuality
- Intertextuality

Thanks for attention!

## Task for Seminar 1

- Lecture 1 (Test on terms and classifications).
- Studying 'text': the heterogeneity of approaches
- Report "The problem of defining terms 'text' and 'discourse'"