Script

**What is Discourse?**

Communication involves much more than just forming isolated sentences. It is a process where language is used in a complete and purposeful way. In linguistics, this is called discourse, which is defined as a unit of language that is longer than a single sentence and is used in a real-life situation. ​

While grammar deals with small elements like sounds (phonemes) or parts of words (morphemes), discourse analysis studies how language—whether spoken or written—is used in a social setting. This discipline, significantly advanced by the work of linguist Teun van Dijk, examines how larger units of language—such as words, grammar, and crucially, context—combine to give meaning to a conversation or a text. ​

The central idea is that discourse is entirely dependent on context. Real communication goes beyond the words that are spoken; it includes situational knowledge and background information shared by the speaker and the listener. Therefore, meaning cannot be deduced solely from the words uttered but requires an understanding of the circumstances surrounding the communicative act. ​

In summary, discourse is the study of language in action, analyzing how it is structured and interpreted in practice, always considering the situation in which it occurs to achieve effective communication.