

Hi mates!!!!!!

Long time no see!

Hey Shanmu, let  
me in

# Reading Non-Literary Texts

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## Let's identify the following discourses

“Global mean surface temperature has risen by  $1.09^{\circ}\text{C}$  from 1850–1900 to 2011–2020, largely due to human influence (IPCC, 2021).”

“The Earth burns with a fever it cannot shake; glaciers retreat like defeated armies, and coastlines drown under advancing tides.”

Ahhha! Mid sem is coming! Now you are asking questions!

Questions!  
Questions!  
Everywhere questions!



“The vaccine efficacy rate against severe infection is 92% after two doses.”

“For the villagers, the small vial of vaccine carried not just antibodies, but the promise of a safer tomorrow.”

“The Mughal empire centralized revenue collection through the Mansabdari system introduced by Akbar.”

“History itself, call it the collective memory, stumbled under the weight of emperors who believed themselves as eternal as the marble domes they raised.”

“GPT models are based on transformer architecture with billions of parameters trained on vast corpora.”

“Like a parrot with infinite memory, the machine repeats fragments of us back to ourselves, until we are unsure which words are ours.”

“Kinship systems among the Nuer exhibit both patrilineal and segmentary features (Evans-Pritchard, 1940).”

“When I sat among the Nuer elders, their stories unfolded not as data points but as rivers that wound around their cattle and gods.”

# Understanding various discourses



Made with

By the way I drew  
this ha!  
Shanmu,  
acknowledge me!



**Objective:** claim presented as universal,  
independent of personal bias.

Ex: “Water boils at 100°C at sea level.”

**Subjective:** grounded in experience, perspective.

Ex: “Steam rose like a veil between me and the horizon.”

Can objectivity ever be fully  
achieved?

Eating banana is  
objective.

Me eating banana is  
subjective!

hehehehe





## Epistemology:

Science aims for universality, reproducibility

Literature foregrounds particularity, affect, and multiple interpretations

## Objectivity vs. Subjectivity:

Scientific discourse: objectivity absence of perspective; it's a disciplinary convention.

Literary discourse: Subjectivity inaccuracy; it foregrounds situated knowledge.

## Fact vs. Fiction:

**Fact:** Empirically verifiable.

**Fiction:** Imagined, but can contain truths about society, psyche, culture.

**Borderline:** Autobiography, ethnography, historical fiction.

Is a memoir fact or fiction?

Huh! That is a  
good question.

But you tell me



**What is Brevity?:** Brevity is maximum meaning with minimum words without losing accuracy.

Not short for its own sake but short and precise.

**Rule:** If a word adds no meaning then remove it.

## **Why Brevity Matters**

Scientific writing: clarity, replicability, credibility.

Professional genres: abstracts, policy briefs, technical emails.

Literary genres: rare but powerful → haiku, aphorisms, minimalism.

Brevity = short + meaningful.

Concision = removing redundancy.

Ellipsis = purposeful omission, requires inference.

## Brevity in Practice

Because the temperature increased rapidly, the device failed during testing.

Revision 1:

Rapid temperature increase caused device failure during testing.

Revision 2:

Rapid heating caused device failure.

Which is brief but still precise?

**What is Linearity?** : Linearity = arranging ideas in sequential, logical, or chronological order.

**Ensures clarity:** cause, effect, conclusion.

**Why Linearity Matters?:** Science/Professional texts: replicability, persuasion through logic.

**Literary texts:** often break linearity for aesthetic or psychological depth.

Scientific Linear:

“First, participants completed a survey. Next, they underwent MRI. Finally, data were analyzed statistically.”

Literary Non-Linear:

“She stood by the river, but in her mind she was still a child, holding her grandmother’s hand years ago.”

What signals linearity/non-linearity?

**Pitfalls:** oversimplifies, false closure, hides uncertainty.

Example: A history lecture frames colonialism as “beginning in 1600 and ending in 1947.”

**Powers:** clarity, persuasion, replicability, pedagogy.

Example: In a physics lab report, the student first measures resistance, then applies current, and finally records voltage.



# Transformative Writing

I'm done! I'm done!  
Is this fine?



Which discourse prefers brevity?

Can scientific writing be subjective?

Why/why not?

Which discourse accepts non-linear narration?

Give one example of a hybrid discourse.

I'm not answering any of these questions! But don't tell her.

I'm leaving!

See you next time!

Better luck for your mid sem

