

PORTIONS FOR A LEVEL EXAM

Text and discourse analysis

Spoken language and spoken groups

English as a Global language

Child language acquisition

1. What is discourse ?

Discourse is any spoken or written language that is longer than a sentence

2. What is utterance?

Utterance a stretch of spoken language which is often preceded by silence and followed by silence or a change of speaker. It is often used as an alternative to *sentence* in conversation analysis since it is difficult to apply the traditional characteristics of a written sentence to spoken language..

3. What is the structure of unscripted speech?

1. Opening greetings

2. **Turn-taking**

3. **Adjacency pairs** ‘

4. Holding the floor

5. Clashing

6. turn-taking

7. Repairing

8. **Topic**

9. Conversation endings

4. What are features of unscripted speech?

Phatic communion

Adjacency pairs

Voiced pauses

False starts

Repetition

Turn-taking

Overlaps and interruptions

Hedges/vague language

Modality

Ellipsis

Transactional language

5. Explain Grice's maxims

Maxims of quantity

1 Make your contribution to the conversation as informative as necessary.

2 Do not make your contribution to the conversation more informative than necessary

Maxims of quality

- 1 Do not say what you believe to be false.
- 2 Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

Maxims of manner

- 1 Avoid obscurity of expression.
- 2 Avoid ambiguity.
- 3 Be brief – don't ramble.
- 4 Be orderly.

Maxim of relation

- 1 Be relevant.

6. What is conversational face ?

It is the image that a person has of themselves as a conversationalist

What is face-threatening acts

Acts or words which appear to threaten the self-esteem of a speaker in conversation

What is positive politeness?

Positive politeness strategies intended to minimise the threat to the hearer's self-esteem

7. What are paralinguistic features?

Body language, gestures, facial expressions, tone, speed and pitch of voice are all examples of the paralinguistic features which add to the meaning of the total discourse, even if the speakers are not consciously aware of them. When one or more of these features is absent, as in a phone conversation, it is often difficult to interpret the speaker's intentions. The main features of spoken discourse are as follows:

- Tone relates to the emotion associated with the utterance; you can generally tell whether someone is irritated, happy, sad or bored by the expression they use when speaking
- Pitch is a musical term and, in language, relates to the level of voice production, whether it is high or low. We squeal in a high pitch and younger children also have high-pitched voices. Characteristically, when we speak to babies we raise the pitch of our voices. Pitch is closely associated with the sounds we make.
- Volume is the level of voice production, whether loud or soft . Everyone has their own characteristic volume level when they speak, and volume may change according to the circumstances.
- Speed relates to the pace at which someone speaks and again this is related to the circumstances of the social interaction. When excited or frightened, we may speak faster. Conversely, when we are uncertain, or wish to be very careful about what we are saying, we tend to speak more slowly.

Work in progress