

In discourse linguistics, the distinction between **macro functions** and **micro functions** helps us understand language at different levels of analysis. Essentially, macro functions relate to the overall purpose of a text or conversation, while micro functions relate to the specific linguistic choices used to achieve that purpose.

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## Macro Functions

Macro functions are the broad, overarching goals or purposes of a discourse. They are concerned with what the communication as a whole is trying to achieve. These functions often define the entire genre or type of text.

- **Informative:** To convey information or report facts.
    - *Example:* A news report, a scientific paper, or a teacher's lecture.
  - **Narrative:** To tell a story or recount events.
    - *Example:* A novel, a personal anecdote, or a historical account.
  - **Persuasive:** To convince or influence an audience.
    - *Example:* A political speech, an advertisement, or a courtroom argument.
  - **Entertaining:** To provide enjoyment or amusement.
    - *Example:* A joke, a poem, or a piece of fiction.
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## Micro Functions

Micro functions are the specific, localized linguistic actions that contribute to the overall macro function. These are the "nuts and bolts" of a discourse, consisting of the individual words, phrases, and grammatical structures used at the sentence or clause level.

- **Requesting:** Asking for something. (e.g., "Can you pass the salt?")
- **Promising:** Committing to an action. (e.g., "I'll do it tomorrow.")
- **Greeting:** Acknowledging someone's presence. (e.g., "Hello," "How are you?")
- **Questioning:** Eliciting information. (e.g., "What time is it?")
- **Describing:** Giving details about a person, place, or thing. (e.g., "The house was large and red.")

## The Relationship

Macro and micro functions work together in any communicative act. The macro function dictates the overall strategy, while the micro functions are the tactics used to execute that strategy. For instance, a **persuasive** (macro) speech might use a series of **questioning** (micro) statements to engage the audience, a few **narrative** (micro) anecdotes to build emotional connection, and frequent use of **formal links** (micro) to make the argument coherent.

