

Discourse as a **process** refers to the dynamic, interactive, and ever-changing nature of communication as it happens in real-time. This view focuses on the ongoing, unfolding series of choices that speakers and writers make as they produce language.

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### Key Characteristics of Discourse as Process

- **Dynamic and Unfolding:** It's not a static object but a continuous activity. The meaning of what is being said is constructed moment-by-moment by all participants.
- **Interactive:** It's heavily influenced by interaction between people. A conversation, for example, is a collaborative process where turns are taken, and each person's contribution affects the next.
- **Emphasis on Negotiation:** Meaning isn't pre-set; it's negotiated and co-constructed by the participants. The context of the communication (social setting, shared history, etc.) is vital to understanding the process.
- **Focus on Micro-Functions:** This view looks at the immediate functions of language, such as how someone uses a question to open a conversation or how a hesitation mark ("um," "like") signals a pause in thought.

In this view, the discourse itself is the process, not just the result. It's the "how" and "why" of language use, highlighting the strategic choices people make to achieve their communicative goals. This contrasts with the view of discourse as a **product**, which focuses on the final, tangible text

