

КИЇВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ІМЕНІ ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКА

ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ  
КАФЕДРА АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ



**Лінгвістика  
і вербальна  
комунікація  
у 21-му столітті...  
тенденції  
і перспективи**

**Linguistics and  
Verbal  
Communication  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:  
Tendencies  
and  
Prospects**

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### **Types of Discourse and Social Practice**

Language as a form of social practice varies according to the social identities of people in interactions, their socially defined purposes, social setting, etc. The relationship between language and society is internal and intrinsic. As language is a part of society, linguistic phenomena are social phenomena of a special sort, and social phenomena are in part linguistic phenomena. Linguistic phenomena are social in the sense that whenever people speak or listen, write or read, they do so in ways which are socially determined and have social effects. Social phenomena are linguistic in the sense that the language activity, which goes on in social situations, is not only a reflection or expression of social processes and practices, it is a part of those processes and practices. E. g., disputes about the precise meaning of political expressions are a constant and familiar aspect of politics. Representatives of different political trends argue about the meanings of words like democracy, nationalization, imperialism, socialism, liberation and terrorism. Very often they use the above enumerated words in more or less pointedly different and incompatible ways.

Discourse refers to the whole process of social interaction of which a text is just a part. A text is a product of the process of text production. Correspondingly text analysis is only a part of discourse analysis, which has also been described as a new "cross-discipline", to which many established disciplines (linguistics, sociology, anthropology, cognitive psychology) have contributed. Discourse involves social conditions which can be specified as social conditions of production and social conditions of interpretation. These social conditions relate to three different "levels" of social organization: 1) the level of the social situation or the immediate social environment in which the discourse occurs; 2) the level of the social institution which constitutes a wider matrix for the discourse; 3) the level of the society as a whole.

In seeing language as discourse and as social practice, one is committing oneself not just to analyzing texts, nor just to analyzing processes of production and interpretation, but to analyzing the relationship between texts, processes and their social conditions, both the immediate conditions of the situational context and the more remote conditions of institutional and social structures.

According to these three dimensions of discourse, three stages of critical discourse analysis are distinguished:

1. Description which is concerned with formal properties of discourse fixation in the form of a text;
2. Interpretation which is concerned with the relationship between text and interaction - with seeing the text as the product of a process of production and as a resource in the process of interpretation;
3. Explanation which is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context - with the social determination of the process of production and interpretation and their social effects.

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