

What is Discourse?

- The term 'discourse analysis' refers to a range of approaches in several disciplines and theoretical traditions.
- The term *discourse analysis* was first

- One starting point is that discourse analysis usually refers to a research approach in which language material, such as talk or written texts, and

- *Discourse analysis* examines patterns of language across texts and considers the relationship between language and the social and cultural contexts in which it is used.
- Scholars influenced by Foucault (1972, 1980) sometimes use "discourse" in a related but somewhat different sense, as a count noun. "Discourses" in this sense can be enumerated and referred to in the plural.

What is discourse Analysis

- Discourse analysts often find it useful to divide longer stretches of discourse into parts according to various criteria and then look at the particular characteristics of each part.
- The process of discourse analysis can be characterized in terms of two approaches, and we might think of these as the ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ aspects of analysis:
 1. In the top-down approach, discourse analysts begin from an understanding or a conceptualization (their own) of the context in which the discourse is taking place.

2. A bottom-up approach, by contrast, will tend to begin with an analysis of the language— the sounds, words, utterances, interactional routines, and so forth – that are used in the

Bibliography

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