**INTRODUCTION TO TEXT LINGUISTICS BEAUGRANDE & DRESSLER**

**SITUATIONALITY DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

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**If a text is a " *communicative occurrence*", as Beaugrande & Dressler have put it ( 1981: 3) , then , that communicative text should be relevant to a particular social context** . **The sixth standards of textuality can be designated *Situation*ality and concerns the factors which make a text relevant to a situation of occurrence. Situationality is related to real time and place. Communicative partners as well as their attitudinal state are important for text's meaning, purpose and intended effect. The situation in which a text is exchanged influences the comprehension of the text. To realize the influence of the situation in comprehending the text, let us consider the following road sign:**

**SLOW**

**CHILDREN**

**AT PLAY**

**Obviously, the grammatical dependencies in the surface text are major signals for sorting out meanings and uses. Still, there may be different interpretations with the road sign. However, the most likely interpretation of the text is obvious because the situation in which the text is presented provides the context which influences how text receivers interpret the text. The group of receivers ( motorists) who are required to provide a particular action will find it more reasonable to assume that ' slow ' requires them to slow down rather than referring to the speed of the cars that are ahead. Pedestrians can tell easily that the text is not directed towards them because varying their speeds is inconsequential and irrelevant to the situation. In this way, the situation decides the sense and use of the text. Different interpretations may indicate that different people in different situations can conclude different meanings from the same text. This is because of their different experiences. But what is important here is that the text must present the knowledge to make sense with a minimum use of words, i. e. maximum economy. Situationality can help the target audience, the *motorists* in our interpretation , understand the message of the text easily. Therefore, the producer must create a text according to the circumstances or conditions in a particular place and at a particular time.**

**What is significant about Beaugrande & Dressler's paradigm is that the standard of situationality is interlinked to *Coherence* which concerns the ways in which the components of the textual word, i.e. the configuration of concepts and relations which underlie the surface text, are *mutually accessible* and *relevant*. A *concept* is the *configuration of knowledge ( cognitive content )* which can be recovered or activated with more or less unity and consistency in the mind. Relations are links between concepts which appear together in a textual world: each link would bear a designation of the concept it connects to. In the illustration, here above, *Children* is an *object* concept and *play* an *action* concept, and the relation *agent-of obtains, because the children are the agents of the action*(p. 4).**

**Situationality can affect the means of cohesion; less cohesive text may be more appropriate than more cohesive text depending on the situation. If the road sign was " *Motorists should reduce their speed and proceed slowly because the vehicles ahead are held up by road works, therefore proceeding at too high a speed may result in an accident"*, every possible doubt of intended receivers and intention would be removed. However, motorists only have a very short amount of time and attention to focus on and react to road signs. Therefore, in such a case, economical use of text is much more effective and appropriate than fully cohesive text.**