

The background of the slide is an abstract composition of various shades of blue and white. On the left side, there are several white, irregular shapes that resemble ink splatters or paint strokes. One of these shapes features a halftone dot pattern. The rest of the background is a textured blue with subtle variations in tone and some faint, darker blue spots.

# Critical Stylistics

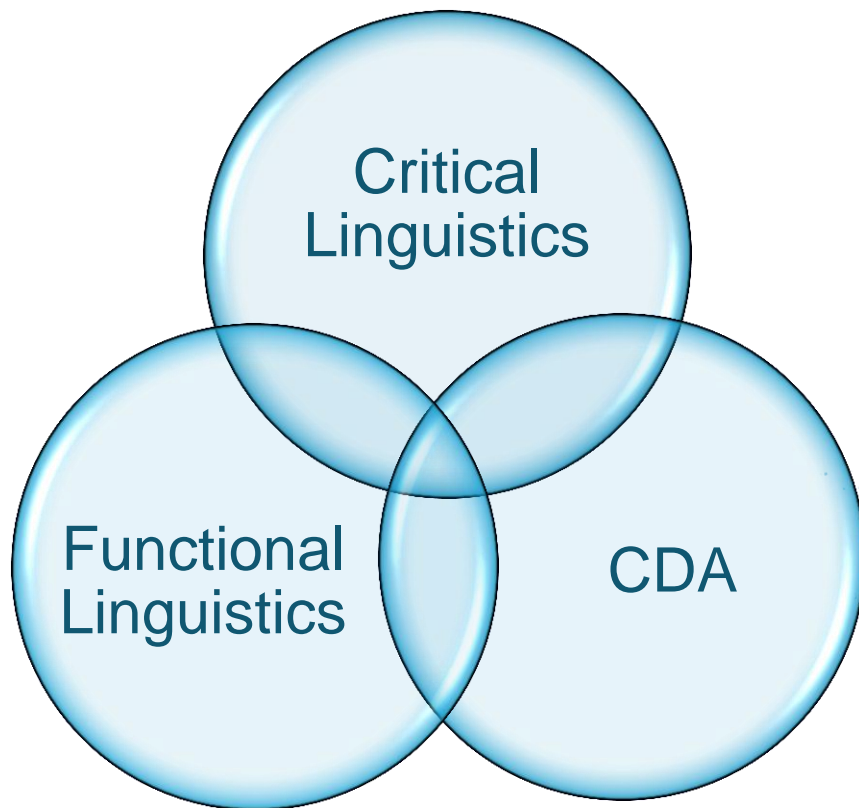
By Anita Arshagian

A person is holding a lit sparkler, which is glowing brightly with many sparks. The person is wearing a dark, textured sweater. The background is white with a large, dark, splatter-like shape that frames the person and the sparkler. The overall mood is festive and celebratory.

# Hello!

Why critical stylistics?

CS initiated by: Lesley Jeffries on 2010 inspired by:



# Critical Discourse Analysis CDA:

CDA has been recognised as a discourse analytical approach that aims to 'critically investigate social inequality as it is expressed, constituted, legitimized and so on, by language use (or in discourse)' (Wodak & Meyer, 2009a, p. 10).

## CDA approaches are:

- the socio-cultural approach (Fairclough, 1989)
- the socio-cognitive approach (Van Dijk, 1993),
- the discourse-historical approach (Wodak, 2001a)
- the social actors approach (Van Leeuwen, 1996, 2008).

*In 2010, Jeffries developed Critical Stylistics (CS) in which she adds to the existing CDA theories a comprehensive set of analytical tools.*

## Critical Linguistics:

The origins of CDA can be traced back to Critical Linguistics, which was introduced by Fowler and Kress.

For them lexical items, syntactic structures and linguistic processes carry and express specific meanings which are socially constructed among groups. Beneath these linguistic structures, there are underlying ideologies that are expressed by the text producer. In order to detect those underlying ideologies, there was a need for linguistic analysis to be 'critical' (p. 186). Critical Linguistics draw its theoretical roots from Halliday's systemic functional linguistics as a base for the interpretation of the text and to expose hidden ideologies.

## Halliday's SFL:

Based on Halliday, critical linguists view language as having three meta-functions:

- The ideational function of language is concerned with representing the world by way of the text producers encoding their experiences of world phenomena.
- The interpersonal function expresses the social relationships between the text producers and the recipients, giving a free space for the text producers to express their attitude towards and evaluation of the representing phenomenon.
- Textual function is the function that enables the text producers to organise the communicated message in relation to the context in which it occurs.



The occupational status of women are morphologically marked, e.g. “actress”, “woman doctor”, while such terms are not used to refer to men. In addition, women are addressed by diminutive forms, such as “Maggie”, “Winnie”. Women are also named by terms that dehumanise them: “piece”, “skirt” or trivialise them: “pet”, “chick”.

Fowler concludes that different linguistic strategies are used to create discriminatory discourse between women and men and represent women as a marked group who are not professional in their occupations, unlike men.



How did we get here?

“understand the precise ways in which texts may transmit, reinforce or inculcate ideologies in their readers” (Jeffries 2010, p. 12).

To explore how the media portray or present particular groups, identities, topics and ideas from an ideological point of view, as well as to unravel the underlying ideologies of representations.

## Critical Stylistics:

Jeffries wants to "give the reader a clear set of analytical tools to follow in carrying out critical analysis of texts, with the aim of uncovering or discovering the underlying ideologies of the texts" (p.6).

CS concerns the textual meaning, which is the core of stylistics, and how this meaning is promoted from Halliday's ideational function of language to represent a version of reality with ideological consequences. Relying on Halliday's suggestion that a language consists of a network of linguistic options that enable users to communicate a particular meaning (Halliday, 2004, p. 23), Jeffries' view is that textual meaning is encoded by the stylistic choice of linguistic features that are embedded in a text.

## Critical Stylistics:

In order to reveal the underlying meaning of a text using linguistic features, Jeffries offers a Critical Stylistic framework that ‘combines the text analysis of stylistics with the ideological awareness of CDA’ (Jeffries & McIntyre, 2010, p. 194).

The list provided by Jeffries is not completely new, but rather it is a collection of previous tools used by critical discourse analyst Fairclough (1989), and critical linguists Fowler (1991) and Simpson (1993), in addition to new tools added by Jeffries which work in a similar way to the more traditional tools such as transitivity and modality (Jeffries, 2010, p. 15).

CS toolkit differs from the previous CDA and Critical Linguistic tools in that the tools are presented in the form of a list of functions that may be represented by more than one linguistic feature. The reason behind this is to overcome ‘the lack of form-function mapping’ (p. 15), as in CDA and its forerunner Critical Linguistics.

## 1 Lexical semantics, generative linguistics, derivational morphology

<b>Naming &amp; Describing</b>	Evaluative adj. within NP	As a pre-modifier to the head noun.
	Post-modification within NP	Restrictive RC as a post-modification of the noun.
	Nominalization	Packaging up a noun as an abstract thing.

Ex. On the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>:

The head of a **brutal regime** that killed, stole and imprisoned at will, assassinating dissidents wherever they were, Gaddafi was nevertheless seen as a comic book dictator: the absurd robes, Ruritanian uniforms, reflective sunglasses, Amazonian bodyguards and ludicrous utterances.

Ex. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Minister Sergei Lavrov said that the Geneva Conventions had been breached with the **killing** of Colonel Gaddafi.

## 2 Ideational meaning SFL

Representing Actions/ Events/ States	Process	Realised by a verbal group
	Participants	Realised by a nominal group
	Circumstances	Realised by an adverbial group or prepositional Phrase.

## The processes are divided into:

Representing Actions/ Events/ States	Material	in which the actor performs the action "Material Action Intention" (known as MAI), or an inanimate actor performing "Material Action Events" (known as MAE)
	Verbalization	in which there is a Sayer who delivers the verbiage and an addressee who receives the verbiage
	Mental	in which the Sensor is the conscious one and the Phenomenon is the thing that is being reacted to. This process is divided to Mental Cognition (known as MC), Mental Perception (known as MP), and Mental Reaction (known as MR)
	Relational	which shows the relation between two participants (Carrier and Attributes), which could be an Intensive Relation process (known as RI), or Possessive Relations (PR).

Ex. on material process by transitive v.:

Libyan rebel forces **launched** offensives against Gaddafi loyalists yesterday.

Ex. on material process by intransitive v.:

Scores of unarmed civilians **died** in the massacre, which precipitated Benghazi into full-scale revolution.

Ex. on verbalisation process:

Colonel Gaddafi **told** the cheering crowd from the ramparts of the Red Castle, an old crusader fort, that he would not go without a fight.

Ex. on mental process:

Daniel Howden sees the regime turn to guerrilla warfare in Jalo.

Ex. on relational process:

Gaddafi has tanks and trucks with missiles.

### 3 Lexical semantics

Textual equivalence  
relations

Including a noun phrase apposition, parallel structure, and an intensive relational transitivity pattern

Equating &  
Contrasting

Textual opposition

Including negated opposition, transitional opposition, comparative opposition, replacive opposition, concessive opposition, explicit opposition, parallelism, and contrastives

Ex. on appositional equivalence:

So ended the career of Muammar Mohammed Abu Minyar Gaddafi, mercurial leader of Libya, patron of international terrorism, desert mystic, narcissist, figure of fun, one-time great survivor, Ronald Reagan's mad dog.

Ex. on opposition relations:

Col. Muammar Gaddafi **offered an amnesty** to Libyan rebels yesterday, but **threatened a bloodbath** if the West tried to intervene in his fight to stay in power.

## 4 Text linguistics

### Exemplifying & Enumerating

#### Exemplifying

By giving examples or listing, using certain textual markers which are more structurally defined and easier to identify in many cases; like for example, for instance, to exemplify

#### Enumerating

By listing all members of the category; like two-, three-, four-part lists or more

Ex. on enumeration:

Cameron said: 'Six months ago, this country took the difficult decision to commit our military to support the people of Libya. I said at the time that this action was **necessary, legal and right** - and I still believe that today.'

## 5 Generative linguistics

<b>Prioritising</b>	Exploiting information structure	By using a fronting process by which the main clausal element of a sentence is placed at the beginning of the sentence
	Transformation	By transforming it from active to passive or vice versa
	Subordination	By making it less susceptible to debate or question

Ex. on exploiting information structure:

It's a **weapon of mass destruction** that Col. Gaddafi is willing to train on his own people.

Ex. on subordination:

David Cameron and other Western leaders were on the brink of ordering military action against Col. Muammar Gaddafi last night amid fears **that the Libyan dictator could use chemical weapons against his own people.**

## 6 Pragmatics

### Implying & Assuming

#### Presupposition

Definite NPs that have a definite article or a demonstrative or a possessive are the main triggers of an existential presupposition that presupposes the existence of an entity. Logical presupposition, on the other hand, could be borne out in a text by a number of triggers, including: factive and change-of-state verbs, cleft constructions, iterative words, comparative constructions, and embedded relative clauses

#### Implicature

By flouting the Gricean maxims of cooperative principle: the maxims of quality, quantity, relation and manner. These principles could be flouted by giving false, irrelevant or unclear information or by giving more information than is required

Ex. on appositional equivalence:

The Gaddafi regime **continued** to use **its** air force against the opposition yesterday.

## 7 Syntax

### Presenting Others' Speech & Thought

#### Speech

Narrator's report of speech (NRS)  
Narrator's report of speech act (NRSA)  
Free indirect speech (FIS)  
Indirect speech (IS)  
Direct speech (DS)

#### Thoughts

Narrator's report of thought  
Narrator's report of thought act  
Indirect thought  
Free indirect thought  
Direct thought

Ex. on direct speech:

Farida, a lawyer, said: 'I was sorry that his life ended so easily. He should have been brought to justice and faced the families who suffered because his troops raped their women or killed their men, or made to explain how he used money to manipulate people. Forget the 42 years, I'm just talking about what happened since February 17 [when the revolution began].'

Ex. on indirect speech:

NATO said yesterday that about 200,000 Libyan civilians were still threatened by Gaddafi loyalists, mainly in Sirte and Bani Walid.

## 8 Pragmatics

<b>Representing time, space &amp; society</b>	Deictics	At how the text creates its deictic center and draws the receivers in, they forsake their deictic centers and assume a viewing posture from within the text, making them more susceptible to textual ideology.
	Other space builders	The inclusive pronouns (to construct group identification and establish consensus) and verbs of lead the receiver to occupy the discourse producer's space.

## 9 Morpho-syntax

### Negating

The creation of non-existent worlds in order to improve a story and persuade discourse receivers into fearing, seeking, or believing the conjured up reality; it is an implicature arising from disobeying the relational principle.

## 10 Syntax

### **Hypothesizing**

Involves a discussion of whether a hypothetical scenario could be created by a method which expresses the text creator's viewpoint in a way that negation does, but more explicitly.

Ex. on representing time, space & society:

Young lady is threatened by her family to be killed. She imprisoned herself in a room afraid to be killed. Her brother already threatened to kill her. **Many Iraqi women** have been killed under “honor killing” in the **last few years** and government is silent.

Ex. on negating:

To all Iraqi Ladies and girls

This year may be the year of rights right of life, education, home, peace and Parliament **should** promulgate laws for this because Iraqi woman has endured too much in these years

Ex. on hypothesizing:

#OneUNIraq would like to honor all the brave Iraqi women and men who, in the face of challenges, have shown great resilience in striving for a world that is more equal and fair. We are #GenerationEquality



Thanks!

Any questions?