

Critical discourse analysis

Three different approaches



M.A.K. Halliday's SFL

- Role of M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in shaping modern DA & TS?
- **Munday** (2001): SFL → a powerful theoretical framework for understanding how language functions within social contexts
- **Fairclough** (2003): SFL → deeply connected with the relationship between language and social life
- **Halliday's** model ≠ a direct branch of CDA
- SFL = essential tools and concepts that CDA later expanded upon.



- Halliday's theory + Martin and White (2005) = the **Appraisal Framework**.
- Appraisal Framework → attitudes/ evaluations/ emotions
- Examines how translators manage evaluative meaning and ideological stance across languages.



Origins of Halliday's SFL= Malinowski→Firth→Halliday

- Halliday's approach origins = Malinowski's (1923) "context of situation."
- **Malinowski** → language cannot be understood in isolation from the social and cultural circumstances
- Every utterance → shaped by the activity/ purpose it serves within its social environment.
- Meaning ≠ static. It = the interaction between language, participants, and context.

This socially grounded view of language = central to DA + theoretical foundation → understanding how meaning is constructed, interpreted, and translated within dynamic social practices.



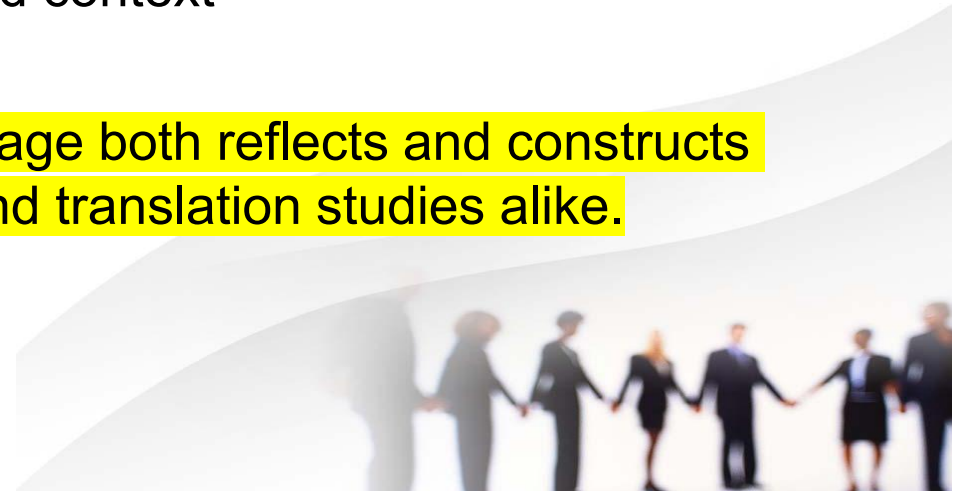
- **Malinowski** → interpretation of any utterance/linguistic act = 2 interrelated dimensions:
 - context of situation & context of culture.
 - context of situation = immediate social/physical environment
 - context of culture = broader cultural norms/values/beliefs shaping that interaction.
 - Meaning = relationship between text, situation, and culture ≠ language alone.
- This contextual view of language → J.R. Firth (1957)
- **Firth** : social & functional approach to language:
 - meaning = contextdependent,
 - meaning = always “a function in context.”



- **Halliday** followed **Firth's** understanding of context as “a viable schematic construct”
- Halliday = context of situation → extralinguistic circumstances
- Extralinguistic circumstances= social roles/relationships/setting/topic/medium.

- Halliday expanded Firth's “system” → networks of situations = SFL
- This theory views language as a social semiotic system;
- Communication = the primary function of language
- All linguistic choices reflect the interaction between text and context

SFL = a comprehensive framework for analyzing how language both reflects and constructs social reality, making it central to discourse analysis and translation studies alike.



Halliday's dimensions & metafunctions

- In Halliday's view → 'text'+ 'context of situation'+ 'context of culture' = interdependent
- Context of a situation → 3 dimensions influencing language use:
'field', 'tenor', and 'mode' of discourse.
- **Field**: what is happening — the nature of the activity or subject matter.
- **Tenor**: the participants, their roles, relationships, and attitudes.
- **Mode**: the function of language — spoken or written, formal or informal.
- Halliday's 3 main functions of language: ideational/interpersonal/textual
- **Ideational** (field) → expresses content and experience.
- **Interpersonal** (tenor) → conveys relationships, attitudes, and social roles.
- **Textual** (mode) → organizes information to create coherence and cohesion



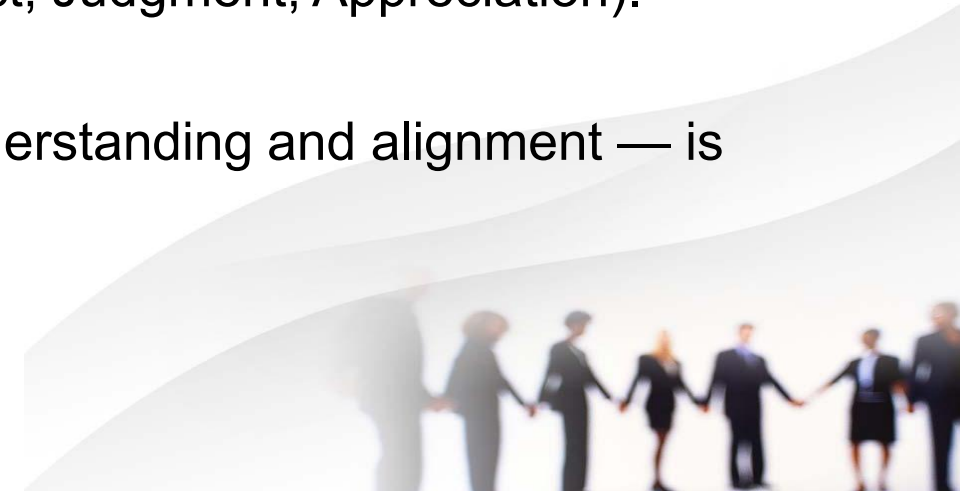
Appraisal Theory

- Interpersonal metafunction became the focus of the Sydney School led by James R. Martin and Peter R. R. White.
- Appraisal Theory?
- Martin' appraisal (2000) = semantic resources
- Appraisal's focuses = language of evaluation — how linguistic choices convey emotion, judgment, and appreciation.
- White' appraisal (2001, 2015) = system for exploring how texts adopt stances/ construct personas/ manage interpersonal relationships.
- Sydney scholars' aim= moving beyond the traditional grammar-based view of dialogue as a mere “exchange of information” or “goods and services.”
- language → social act building solidarity and community between communicators.



Domains of Appraisal

- **Engagement**: the “play of voices around opinions in discourse.”
- Monoglossic (a single voice) × heteroglossic (recognizing diverse perspectives)
- **Graduation**: the scaling of intensity — how feelings and evaluations are amplified or softened
E.x. studies like Li and Zhu (2019, 2020) have applied this system to political discourse.
- **Attitude**: emotional, moral, and aesthetic evaluations (Affect, Judgment, Appreciation).
- The framework reveals how intersubjectivity — shared understanding and alignment — is built between participants.



Norman Fairclough's three-dimensional model

- Fairclough ?
- Fairclough linked language use to broader structures of power, ideology, and social change.
- Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model?
- Fairclough → “critical” and “non-critical” approaches to discourse.

- Critical approaches = exploring how discourse both reflects and shapes power relations, ideologies, and social identities.

- Non-critical approaches (such as Sinclair and Coulthard's) = describing discourse patterns and structures

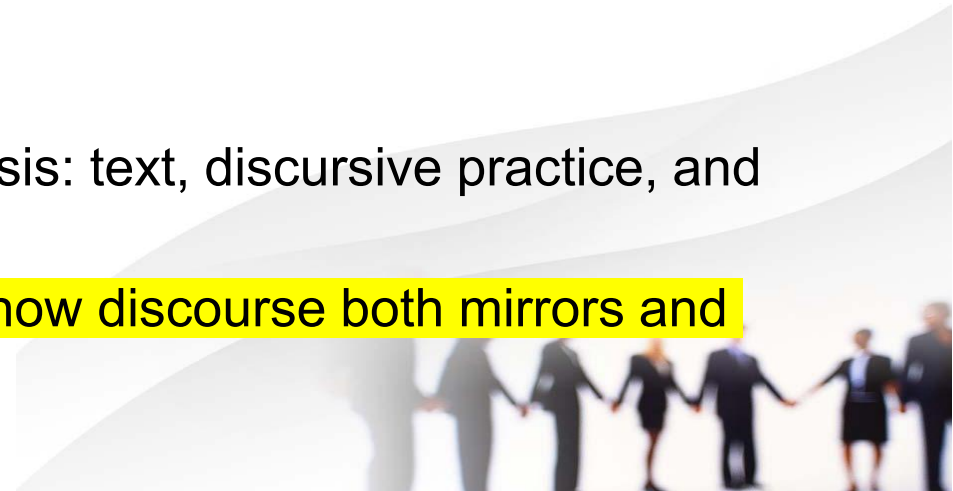


- Importantly, Fairclough's work = textually oriented, but ≠ text-limited!
- DA must connect micro-level linguistic features with macro-level social structures.
- Comprehensive DA → textual analysis + theoretical inquiry into how those texts function within broader social contexts.
- This integration distinguishes Fairclough's model from purely linguistic or purely philosophical approaches, such as Foucault's, which often disregard the textual dimension.
- Fairclough's model captures this balance between language and society by analysing discourse through three interrelated dimensions:
 - **Text**: linguistic features and structures (vocabulary, grammar, cohesion).
 - **Discursive Practice**: processes of text production, distribution, and consumption.
 - **Social Practice**: the wider social/cultural context that shapes and is shaped by discourse.

Discourse is both a product of social structures and a tool for social change.

- Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model = comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamic relationship between language, discourse, and society.
- Fairclough → language ≠ neutral tool = reciprocal/ communicative process through which social relations, ideologies, and power structures are both shaped and transformed.
- Adopting insights from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), he focused on how language operates as a form of social practice , a site where meaning-making and power negotiation occur.
- Fairclough's model → three interconnected levels of analysis: text, discursive practice, and social practice.

interdependence between language and society, showing how discourse both mirrors and drives social change.



Analytical Stages of CDA

- Fairclough (1989) → description, interpretation, and explanation
- **Description:** focuses on the formal linguistic properties of a text.
- **Interpretation:** examines the relationship between text and interaction.
- **Explanation:** connects the interaction with the broader social context.

Discourse is both socially constitutive and socially conditioned.

