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Critical Discourse Analysis

- CDA is an analytical methodology that considers language, practice, and context.
- CDA understands that discourse is constructed out of the interplay of language, practice, and context
- A type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.

- CDA aims to reveal how discourse structures are used to produce (or challenge) social dominance, discrimination, social order, and social inequality.
- CDA allows linguists to analyze specific features of language that have ideological implications and promises to offer a similarly productive framework for translation studies.

Multiplicity of Definitions

- Discourse remains a relatively abstract term compared with other linguistic concepts
- Stubbs (1983) → the term discourse analysis is very ambiguous
- Widdowson (1995; 2004) → the concept is diffuse, admits diverse interpretations, and is intrinsically complex and quite abstract, unlike some other concepts in sociology.

Pure Linguistics

- Brown and Yule (1983) → ‘language in use’
- Sinclair and Coulthard (1978) → “the way in which units above the rank of clauses are related and patterned”
- Georgakopoulou and Goutsos (1997) → “the study of the use of language for communication in context”

Sociolinguists

- Wodak (2002) → constituting situations, objects of knowledge, and the social identities of and relationships between people and groups of people
- Mills (2003) → “ a system which structures the way that we perceive reality”.

- Foucault (1982) → “the general domain of all statements, sometimes as an individualisable group of statements, and sometimes as a regulated practice that accounts for a number of statements”.
- Fairclough (1989) → “whole process of social interaction of which a text is just a part”
- (Fairclough 1995) → “a particular way of constructing a particular (domain of) social practice”
- (Fairclough 2003) → “a particular way of representing some part of the (physical, social, psychological) world”

- Mills (2003) → “both the means of oppressing and the means of resistance”
- Angermuller et al. (2014)

A pragmatic understanding → a process of contextualizing text, language in use, the situated production of speech acts or a turn taking practice. (linguistic and microsociological discourse analysts) .

A socio- historical understanding → an ensemble of verbal and non- verbal practices of large social communities. (macrosociological discourse theorists interested in power)

Reisigl and Wodak's (2009) suggested definition of discourse may be an optimal summary of how scholars in sociolinguistics / social sciences see it. They define it as

- a cluster of context- dependent semiotic practices that are situated within specific fields of social action
- socially constituted and socially constitutive
- related to a macro- topic
- linked to the argumentation about validity claims such as truth and normative validity involving several social actors who have different points of view

The Features of Discourse Analysis

According to Bax (2011), there are six main features of discourse analysis:

- Authentic, interactive, and naturally occurring language
- Authentic texts of any size
- Considered in context
- Intertextuality
- Ideology and viewpoints
- Socio- political implications and consequences

Authentic, Interactive, and Naturally Occurring Language

- Discourse consists of authentic, interactive, and naturally occurring language rather than invented examples, inspired by the recognition that “language, action and knowledge are inseparable”
- While texts are “non-interactive monologue”
- the fictional language created for the some fictional language used in movies cannot be subject to discourse analysis, unless

- they are used in news articles to build a certain narrative or support a specific argument, because they are ‘invented’ languages .
- discourse materialises in variable stretches of language, irrespective of mode
- discourse can incorporate non- verbal material, such as images and signs

Thank you