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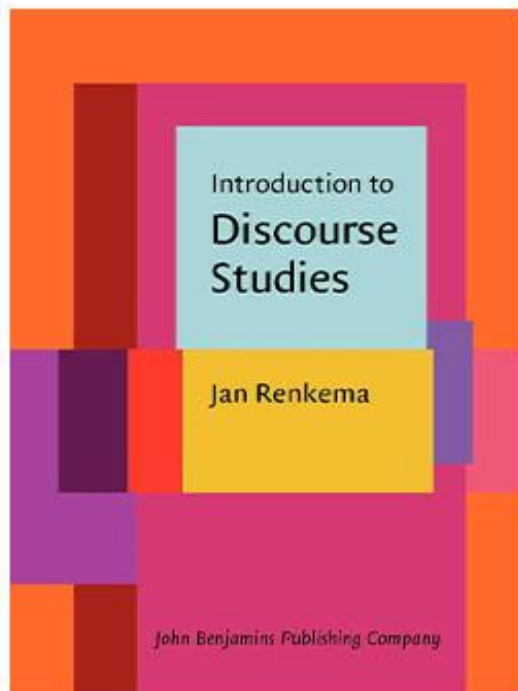
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**Jan Renkema**



**Introduction to Discourse Studies**

عنوان درس: درآمدی بر تحلیل گفتمان

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# Chapter 1

# Introduction

## □ Discourse Studies:

- The discipline
- The relationship between form and function
- Oral and written communication
- Several disciplines

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- 1. The relationship between form and function**
- 2. A separate discipline for the investigation of this relationship**

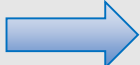

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## 1) The relationship between form and function

**A:** Say, there's a good movie playing tonight!

**B:** Actually, I have to study.

**A:** the form  statement      the function  of an invitation

**B:** the form  statement      the function  of a refusal

## 1) The relationship between form and function

- a. The new office complex is situated in the old city center. **The architectural firm of Wilkinson and Sons designed it.**
- b. The new office complex is situated in the old city center. **It was designed by the architectural firm of Wilkinson and Sons.**

## The aim of discourse studies

- ❑ Description of the relations between forms and their functions in communication.

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## 2) Why should there be a separate discipline discourse studies?

- ❑ To many researchers the best answer is that the investigation of the relation between form and function requires contributions from different disciplines such as Linguistics, literature, ...
- ❑ The concepts are taken from many disciplines.  
**A common ground is necessary.**

Discourse studies → common ground



## Chapter 2

# Communication as action

(P. 11)

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## Communication as Action

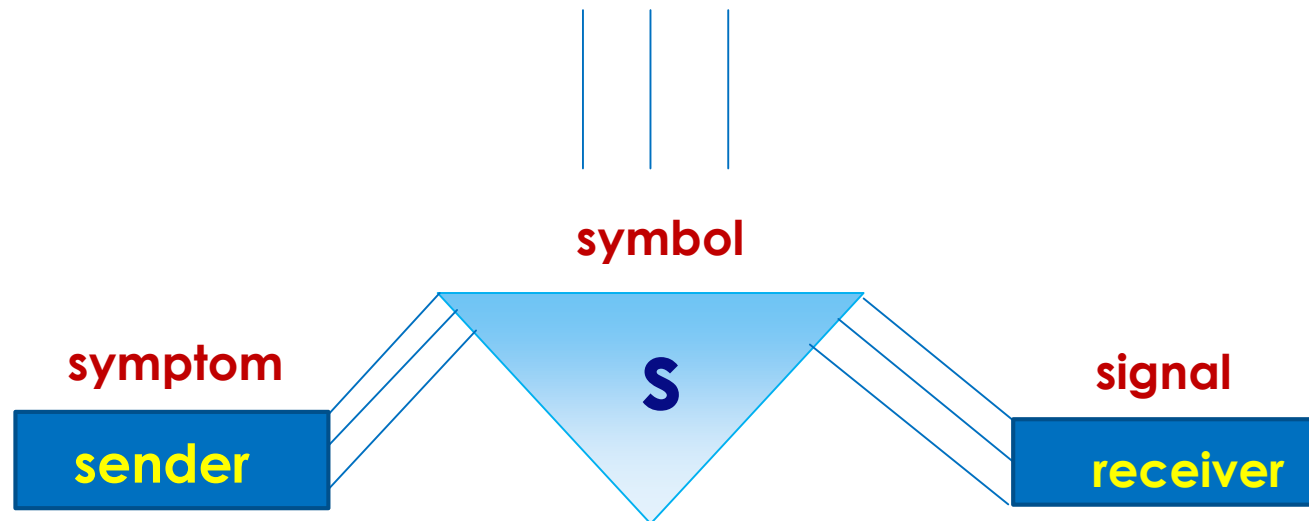
### □ Plato's Cratylus ...

- Speech as a form of action
- Words as instruments with which actions can be performed

**Organon model (by Karl Bühler):**  
(language as a tool (Organon), instrument)

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**Objects and states of affairs**



# Oto Jespersen:

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The essence of language

To make himself  
Understood



**Human  
activity**

To understand what  
was in the mind of the  
speaker

## Speech act theory:

- language as a form of acting
- What people are doing when they use language
- How people perform speech acts such as apologizing, promising, ordering, etc.

## Three kinds of action by John Austin (1967)

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- ❖ **Locution:** the act of producing an utterance
- ❖ **Illocution:** the act that is committed by producing an utterance
- ❖ **Perlocution:** the production of an effect through locution and illocution

## Felicity conditions that illocutions must meet (John Searle, 1969)

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### □ Felicity conditions:

#### ❖ Circumstances required for **illocutions** to be successful:

- a.** *The propositional content condition*
- b.** *The preparatory condition*
- c.** *The sincerity condition*
- d.** *The essential condition*

## To promise

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- a. The propositional content condition**  
A future act to be carried out by the speaker
- b. The preparatory condition**  
The content of the promise is not a matter.  
The promise must be advantageous to the addressee.
- c. The sincerity condition**  
The speaker must honestly be willing to fulfill the promise.
- d. The essential condition**  
The responsibility of carrying out the act



## Another approach by Habermas (1981)

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Speakers claim that their illocutions are valid.

# Types of illocution (Habermas)

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<b>Aspect of the utterance</b>	<b>Claim to validity</b>	<b>Type of illocution</b>	<b>Example of illocution</b>
<b>symbol</b>	<b>truth</b>	<b>constative</b>	<b>predicting claiming describing</b>
<b>symptom</b>	<b>sincerity</b>	<b>expressive</b>	<b>promising congratulating</b>
<b>signal</b>	<b>legitimacy</b>	<b>regulative</b>	<b>inviting requesting ordering</b>

# What is an IFID?

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- Illocutionary force indicating device**
- An Indication of the intended illocutions**
- Performative verbs, word order, intonation, accent ...**

# The co-operative principle:

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## **A principle of conversation**

**Grice (1975)**

- ☐ Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the speech exchange.**

# Maxims:

Supporting the co-operative principle are four maxims:

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- **Quantity:** Make your contribution **as informative as is required**. Do not make your contribution more, or less, informative than is required.
- **Quality:** Try to be **truthful**, and don't give information that is false or that is not supported by evidence.
- **Relation:** Try to be **relevant**.
- **Manner:** Try to be **brief, and orderly**. Avoid obscurity and ambiguity.

# Relevance theory by Sperber & Wilson (1995)

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- ❑ An essential feature of most communication is “**understanding each other**”.
- ❑ language in use is characterized by **indeterminacy** or **underspecification**.
- ❑ **If the discourse situation is not known** → **vague or ambiguous utterances**

**There is a good movie tonight.**

Invitation → O.K. Let's go.  
Advice → O.K. I'll go there.

## Politeness theory Goffman (1956)

### **Face:**

The image that a person projects in his social contacts with others.

#### **Positive face:**

The desire to be appreciated or valued by others.

#### **Negative face:**

The desire to be free and not interfered with.

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### **Face threatening acts (FTAS):**

- Forming a threat to the other's positive or negative face**
- Refusing a request or reproaching someone**

### **Face work techniques /politeness:**

- To reduce the violation of face and preserve stability**
- To prevent or repair the damage caused by FTAS**



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- ❑ **Solidarity politeness:** Face work that is aimed at positive face (e.g. giving compliments).
  
- ❑ **Respect politeness:** Face work that deals with negative face.
  - Not infringing another's "domain" in the communication.

## Brown and Levinson (1978): A theory

- ❑ The relationship between the intensity of the threat to face and linguistically realized politeness.
- ❑ The intensity of the threat to face is expressed by a **weight (W)**.
- ❖ This weight is the sum of three social parameters:

- a. the rate of imposition (**absolute weight**)
- b. the social distance
- c. the power of the addressee

## Brown and Levinson (1978):

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Absolute weight:

“May I borrow your car?”

“May I borrow your pen?”

The factors distance and power influence the ultimate weight.

## Brown and Levinson (1978):

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□ Intensity of threat to face

$$W(\text{FTA}) = R + D + P$$

**Weight of Face Threatening Act = Rate of imposition + social Distance + power**

## Strategies for doing FTAs

### ❖ Do the FTA

#### **On record**

Without redressive action (bald)

With redressive action (action used to improve the stability and to minimize or prevent a loss of face)

Positive Politeness

Negative Politeness

#### **Off record**


The FTA is not recognizable. (I'm just so cold; "Then close the window")

### ❖ Don't do the FTA


**When the risk of speaking is too great.**

# Tests


**1. In Organon model, a sign functions as a ... as it says something about the objects and states of affairs.**

-  a. Symbol
- b. Signal
- c. Symptom
- d. signifier

**2. The examples of constatives are.....**

-  **a. Claiming and describing**
- b. Inviting and requesting**
- c. Promising and congratulating**
- d. Ordering and asking**

### **3. According to Plato's Cratylus,.....**

- a. Communication is a subdivision of action**
- b. Speech is oral production of communication**
-  **c. Words are instruments with which actions can be performed**
- d. Language is a tool which humans use to communicate**



**4. According to Austin( 1976), illocution refers to.....**

**a. the act of producing an utterance**

**✓ b. the act that is committed by producing an utterance**

**c. the production of an effect through locution and illocution**

**d. an act which is performed by the utterance itself**

**5.** In the following conversation, B is acting in accordance with the cooperative principle and is mostly adhering to the maxim of .....

**A:** I am out of petrol.

**B:** There is a garage round the corner.

**a. Quantity**

**b. Quality**

**c. Manner**

 **d. Relevance**

Never stop until you are proud of yourself.



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