

THE CONCEPT OF TEXT IN LINGUISTICS

Toshpulatova Shirina Ziyoviddinova

Accociate professor of Oriental University

Atakulova Kamola Ulug'bekovna

1st year master's student at Oriental University

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The concept of text occupies a central position in modern linguistics as the primary unit of communication and meaning-making. This article examines theoretical foundations of the text, focusing on its linguistic, structural, semantic, and pragmatic features. The discussion highlights definitions, textual characteristics, and the role of text linguistics in contemporary research.

1. Introduction

The notion of text has long been a subject of interest in linguistic theory. Earlier approaches viewed text as a mechanical sequence of sentences. However, modern linguistics recognizes text as a dynamic and contextually shaped entity. Text linguistics developed as a response to the limitations of structural linguistics, emphasizing that language must be analyzed beyond the sentence level. A text represents a meaningful, coherent, and purposeful unit reflecting cognitive, communicative, and social functions.

2. Definitions of Text

There is no single, universally accepted definition of text due to its diverse forms and functions. Some scholars define text as a coherent and cohesive sequence of linguistic signs serving a communicative intention. Others describe it as a complete unit of meaning. A third approach views text as the linguistic realization of discourse, shaped by communicative context and intention. These definitions indicate the multidimensional nature of texts.

3. Key Characteristics of Text

Modern linguistics identifies several essential characteristics of text. Cohesion refers to grammatical and lexical devices linking sentences. Coherence denotes semantic unity and logical organization. Intentionality highlights the producer's communicative purpose. Acceptability refers to the appropriateness of a text for its context and audience. Informativity concerns the degree of new information. Situationality underscores the role of context. Intertextuality reflects connections between texts through references or shared cultural elements.

4. Structural and Semantic Aspects

Structurally, a text consists of microstructures—sentence-level organization and cohesive elements—and macrostructures, which include the thematic and logical arrangement of ideas. Semantically, texts convey meaning through explicit and implicit signals, requiring contextual interpretation. Meaning emerges not only from lexical choices but also from pragmatic and situational cues.

5. Pragmatic and Communicative Dimensions

Texts function within communicative situations and serve specific purposes such as informing, persuading, or instructing. Pragmatics examines how speakers use texts to achieve goals and influence audiences. Context, background knowledge, and cultural norms all contribute to text interpretation, making text analysis inherently interdisciplinary.

6. Types of Texts

Texts can be classified according to structure and communicative purpose: narrative texts present events in sequence; descriptive texts depict characteristics; expository texts explain ideas; argumentative texts present claims supported by evidence; and instructional texts provide procedural guidance. Each type has distinctive linguistic and semantic features.

7. The Role of Text Linguistics

Text linguistics explores how texts are structured, how they function in communication, and how readers interpret them. It intersects with discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, and stylistics. These interdisciplinary links underscore the importance of text analysis in understanding human communication and cognition.

8. Conclusion

The concept of text is multifaceted and central to linguistic inquiry. A text is more than a sequence of sentences—it is a coherent, meaningful, and purposeful communicative unit

shaped by context and intention. As communication continues to evolve in modern society, the study of texts remains essential for linguistic and interdisciplinary research.

