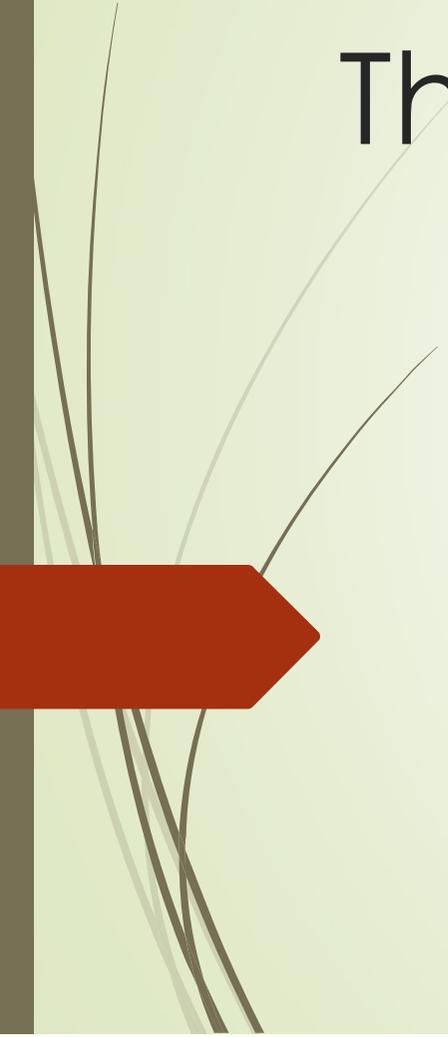


The concept of 'text'





What is “Text”?

- **A text is often quoted as a body of language which is composed of several desperate units.**
- **It is a channel through which entry to the world of “meaning is possible.**
- **A text always has a context of its own. It is subjected to the dictates of time and space. As time changes the text too changes and continues to assume significance and relevance.**
- **A text may be called a ‘mirror’ as it reflects the current of ideas which sweeps across the world of civilization.**
- **It is a link between the present and the future.**



What constitutes and text?

- ▶ A text is expected to have a well defined structure.
- ▶ It should have a purpose of its own.
- ▶ It stands on the foundation of character.

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- The idea of text is closely connected to the field of communication.
 - Communication is not just an arrangement of words or phrases. It is much deeper than mere application of grammar.
 - It is a world of context interlinked with purpose, participants, tools, signs and symbols.



Other definitions of “text”

- ▶ The **Linguist Werlich** (a text ‘is an extended structure of syntactic units such as words, groups, and clauses and textual units that is marked by both coherence among the elements and completion. whereas a non—text consists of random sequences of linguistic units such as sentence, paragraphs or sections in any temporal and/ or spatial extension
- ▶ **Beaugrande and Dressler:** (Text has a part which is visible’ and another part which so deep. The visible part of the text is called surface text which is actually a set of expressions in use and these expressions make some knowledge explicit whereas some other part of the knowledge implicit)



Text and Cohesion

- cohesion is what contributes to basic composition of unity.
- Unity includes all such parts and segments of a language' structure which contribute the making of an idea which supports the structure of language to function its role in a context.
- According to Halliday and Hasan 'text' is a semantic unit which is linked in many ways to the society's ever pulsating life. A text is a context where in language as a tool is employed to analyze or interpret different social interactions among the members of a community who have common interest, aspirations and hope.



Context and Text

- ▶ According to Halliday and Hassan texts can't be approached without referring to the **situation** as the context 'in which texts unfold and in which they are to be interpreted'
- ▶ There are three situational parameters that help the participants of the communication activity make prediction about the ever-growing meanings that are being exchanged. These are **field**, **tenor**, and **mode of discourse**.
- ▶ **Field of discourse** refers to what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place. It indicates what that that the participants are engaged in, in which the language figures as essential components.
- ▶ **The tenor of discourse** refers to 'who is taking part, to the nature of participants, their statuses and roles'
- ▶ **Mode of discourse** is a term which refers to 'what 'part the language is playing, what it is the participants are expecting the language to do for them in that situation, they symbolic organization of the text.

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- **Text context of culture** is another important factor which merits our attention here.
 - context of culture is an essential element through which one comprehends texts.
 - The context of culture is the broader background against which the text has to be interpreted



Text and sentence

- ▶ The text is an ACTUAL SYSTEM, while sentences are elements of VIRTUAL SYSTEMS. The sentence is a purely grammatical entity to be defined only the level of syntax. The text, on the other hand, must be defined according to the complete standards of textuality.
- ▶ A sentence is either 'grammatical' or 'ungrammatical' in the sense that it conforms to the traditional forms of grammar or departs from it. A text, on the other hand, is either 'acceptable' or 'unacceptable' according to a complex gradation, and contextual 'motivations are always relevant.