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## ISSUES OF TEXT LINGUISTICS

Nargiza Maxsudova Aslanbekovna

Andijon davlat chet tillari instituti,

ingliz tili amaliyoti kafedrası o‘qituvchisi

[mahsudovanargiza277@gmail.com](mailto:mahsudovanargiza277@gmail.com)+998912891501

ORCID ID 0009-0003-4325-7789

Mirolimova Marjonaxon ikromjon qizi

A student of Andijan State Institute of Foreign languages.

### Abstract

Text linguistics is a subfield of linguistics that focuses on the study of texts as communicative events. This article explores the key issues within text linguistics, including coherence, cohesion, intertextuality, and the role of context in understanding texts. By examining these elements, we can gain insights into how texts function in communication, how meaning is constructed, and the implications for language teaching and computational linguistics.

**Keywords:** Text linguistics, coherence, cohesion, intertextuality, context, communicative events, discourse analysis.

Coherence is a crucial aspect of text linguistics, referring to the logical connections that make a text meaningful. It encompasses several dimensions:

The organization of information in a text often follows a thematic progression, where the main topic is introduced, developed, and concluded. This structure helps readers follow the argument or narrative. Readers construct mental representations of the information presented in a text. These models are influenced by their background knowledge and the cues provided in the text. Research by Kintsch (1998) emphasizes that coherence is achieved when readers can integrate new information into their existing knowledge structures. The coherence of a text affects the cognitive load on readers. Texts that are coherent require less effort to understand, allowing



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for better retention and recall of information (McNamara et al., 2007). This has implications for educational practices, as coherent texts can enhance learning outcomes.

Cohesion refers to the linguistic elements that connect sentences and paragraphs, creating a sense of unity. Key aspects include:

This involves the use of synonyms, antonyms, and collocations to link ideas. For example, using the word “car” and later referring to it as “vehicle” creates lexical ties that enhance cohesion. This includes the use of conjunctions (e.g., “and,” “but”), pronouns (e.g., “he,” “it”), and ellipsis (omitting repeated information). Halliday and Hasan (1976) identified various cohesive devices that contribute to the overall flow of a text. While cohesion refers to explicit linguistic links, coherence is about the underlying logical connections. A text can be cohesive yet lack coherence if the ideas do not logically connect.

Intertextuality is a concept introduced by Julia Kristeva (1980) that highlights the interconnectedness of texts. It encompasses: Texts often reference or build upon other texts, creating layers of meaning. For instance, literary works may allude to historical events, other literary pieces, or cultural artifacts, enriching the reader's understanding. Intertextuality is heavily influenced by cultural context. Understanding the references within a text requires knowledge of the cultural background, which can vary widely among readers. This has implications for translation and cross-cultural communication. Intertextuality is vital in discourse analysis, as it allows researchers to examine how texts influence each other within specific genres or social contexts. This can reveal power dynamics, ideological positions, and social norms embedded in language use (Fairclough, 1992).

Context plays a significant role in how texts are interpreted and understood. Key considerations include: The immediate environment in which communication occurs affects meaning. This includes factors such as the speaker's intention, the audience's background, and the physical setting (Brown & Yule, 1983). Cultural norms and values shape how texts are produced and received. For example, politeness strategies may vary across cultures, influencing how messages are conveyed and interpreted. Texts often contain cues that help situate them within a specific context. These can



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include explicit references to time, place, and social roles, which guide readers in understanding the intended meaning.

The exploration of coherence, cohesion, intertextuality, and context reveals the complexities of language use in communication. Understanding these elements not only enhances our comprehension of texts but also informs practical applications in education, linguistics, and computational analysis. Future research in text linguistics should continue to investigate how these issues interact and influence each other, particularly in the context of digital communication and multilingual environments. Text linguistics examines the structure and function of texts beyond the sentence level. This field is crucial for understanding how meaning is conveyed in written and spoken discourse. The primary issues in text linguistics revolve around several core concepts:

Coherence refers to the overall clarity and logical flow of ideas in a text. It is achieved through the organization of information and the use of thematic progression. Theories of coherence often involve mental models, where readers construct an understanding based on their prior knowledge and the information presented in the text.

Cohesion involves the linguistic devices that connect sentences and paragraphs, such as conjunctions, pronouns, and lexical ties. These devices help create a seamless narrative or argument, guiding the reader through the text. Analyzing cohesion can reveal how effectively a text communicates its message.

Intertextuality highlights the interconnectedness of texts. This concept suggests that no text exists in isolation; rather, each text is influenced by and references other texts. Understanding intertextuality is essential for analyzing literary works, media, and academic texts, as it enriches the interpretation of meaning. The context in which a text is produced and received plays a critical role in its interpretation. Context includes cultural, social, and situational factors that shape how texts are understood. This section discusses the importance of context in text analysis and its implications for language learning and teaching.

The study of text linguistics addresses fundamental questions about how texts function in communication. By exploring coherence, cohesion, intertextuality, and



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context, we can better understand the complexities of language use. This knowledge is essential for educators, linguists, and anyone involved in text analysis.

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