

Discourse, Persuasion and Responsibility

[10 hours]

Prof. Juana I. Marín Arrese

Universidad Complutense de Madrid

This seminar aims to raise students' awareness of strategies used by speakers/writers in persuasive discourse. It addresses issues such as the use of legitimising strategies by means of the operationalization of modality and evidentiality in discourses, the degrees of speaker/writer commitment to the communicated information, and the extent to which there is mystification of speaker/writer responsibility and accountability for the information. The seminar brings together the potential of Cognitive Linguistics and the perspective of Evolutionary Psychology in the explanation of human communicative abilities and behaviour with the critical stance assumed by Critical Discourse Analysis.

Session 1. CDA, EP, CL. (Tuesday 7th February, 11:00-14:30)

1.1. CDA: Theoretical tenets and methodological principles.

1.2. What is missing from CDA.

1.3. Toward a Cognitive approach to CDA.

1.4. Legitimising strategies in discourse.

1.5. Mystification of responsibility in discourse.

Readings: Chilton (2005), Hart (2011)

Session 2. Construal. (Wednesday 7th & 8th February, 11:00-14:00)

2.1. Meaning and Conceptualization.

2.2. Dimensions of Construal. Subjective and Objective construal.

2.3. Grounding. Modality.

Readings: Langacker (2008), CH 3, 9

Session 3. Evidentiality and Modality. (Wednesday 8th February, 11:00-14:00)

3.1. Modality. Modality and potency.

3.2. Evidentiality.

3.3. Evidentiality vs. Modality.

Readings: Dendale & Tasmowski (2001), Langacker (2008)

Session 4. Stancetaking in discourse. (Thursday 9th February, 11:00-14:30)

4.1. Stancetaking.

4.2. Effective vs. Epistemic stance.

4.3. Case Study 1. Stancetaking in political discourse: the Iraq War.

Readings: Marín Arrese (2011a, b)

Session 5. Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity in discourse. (Thursday 9th February, 11:00-14:30)

5.1. Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity.

5.2. Case Study 2. Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity in the Iraq Inquiry.

Readings: Marín Arrese (2011a, b)

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- Chilton, Paul (2005) Missing links in mainstream CDA. In: R. Wodak and P. Chilton (eds.) *A New Agenda in (Critical) Discourse Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 19-51.
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- Marín Arrese, Juana I. (2011a). Epistemic legitimizing strategies, commitment and accountability in discourse. *Discourse Studies* 13: 789-797.
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