

PBI408
Advance Linguistics 1st half year 2012

Lecture 6 Architecture of Language

Lecturer: Siti Mahripah, M.App.Ling.

Today we will ...

- outline the relationship between language, text & grammar
- introduce different observer perspectives on these (including the rank scale, metafunctions, strata)
- focus more specifically on the grammar and the clause
- bridge from traditional grammar into the experiential metafunction

Language ... what is it?

Language ... what is it?

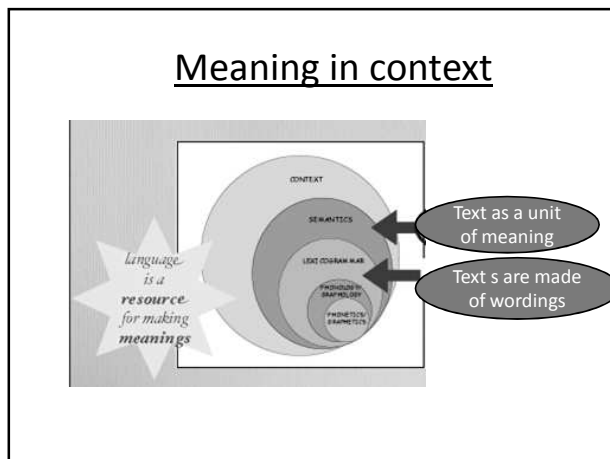
- A (very large) set of resources that we use to make meanings in a context; in a culture

Text ... what is it?

Text ... what is it?

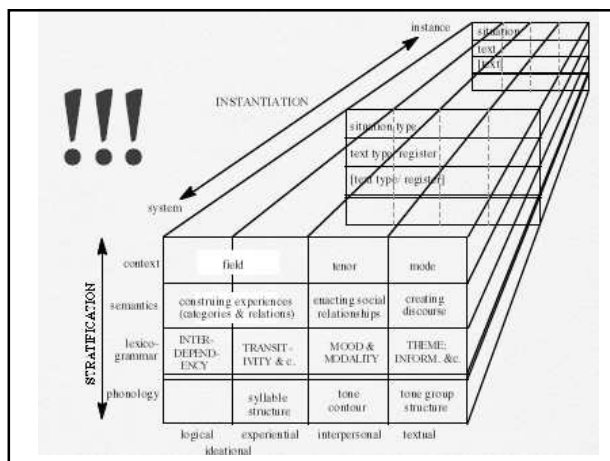
- According to Halliday & Hasan (1976) (in Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004):

the term 'text' refers to any instance of language, in any medium, that makes sense to someone who knows the language.



- we observe language as text
- we interpret the meanings in language as text

- ### how does a text mean?
- a text is centrally concerned with creating meaning in context.
 - across different scales
 - from different perspectives



- ❑ language is a multi-dimensional (abstract) space
- ❑ different observer perspective will give different insight into the meanings that are made
- ❑ think of a house



- Note how each different perspective given us more information about the house.
- i.e. the meaning of the house are illuminated through its context, its structure.



In this course

- We will be shifting our focus onto different dimensions of the text

When we analyze a text for meaning, we add value to our 'folk' theory of meaning ... (typically based on the most salient aspects of the text: orthography (and lexis))

Are you easy to look at?

You may use make-up most tastefully and you might wear the most marvellous dresses, but will you attract unless you have a proportionate figure? Get back that youthful contour by taking Marmola Tablets.

Marmola Brand Anti-fat Tablets are sold by chemists at 1/8 per box, or sent post paid (sans receipts of remittance) by the

MARMOLA DISTRIBUTING AGENCY
 (149) 28 Chikawell Road, Leeson, E.C.1

Orthographic meanings?

e.g. font style, size, bold, color, etc

initial perspective on the text is based on ...

	context	field	tenor	mode	
↑	semantics	constructing experiences (categories & relations)	enacting social relationships	creating discourse	
↑	lexico-grammar	INTER-DEPENDENCY	TRANSITIVITY & c.	MOOD & MODALITY	THEME: INFORM & c.
↑	phonology graphology	syllable structure	tone contour	tone group structure	
		logical	experiential	interpersonal	textual
		ideational			
		METAFUNCTION			

Other perspectives to access meanings...

?

	context	field	tenor	mode	
↑	semantics	constructing experiences (categories & relations)	enacting social relationships	creating discourse	
↑	lexico-grammar	INTER-DEPENDENCY	TRANSITIVITY & c.	MOOD & MODALITY	THEME: INFORM & c.
↑	phonology graphology	syllable structure	tone contour	tone group structure	
		logical	experiential	interpersonal	textual
		ideational			
		METAFUNCTION			

Beginning with context....

Are you easy to look at? ||| *clause complex boundaries*

Are you easy to look at? || You may use make-up most tastefully and you may wear the most marvellous dresses, but will you attract unless you have a proportionate figure? ||

Get back that youthful contour by taking Marmola tablets. ||

'Marmola' Brand Anti-fat tablets are sold by chemists at 3/8 1/2 per box, or sent post paid (on receipt of remittance) by the MARMOLA DISTRIBUTING AGENCY (D149) 86 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.1 ||

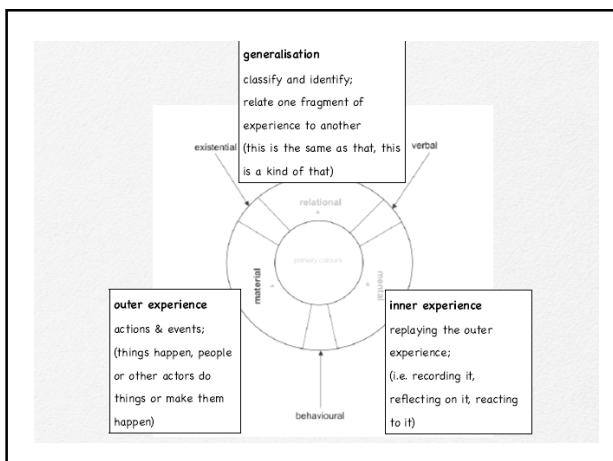
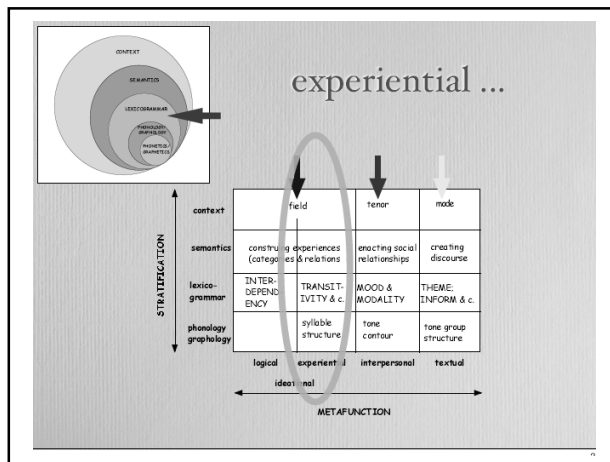
Are you easy to look at? ||| *clause boundaries*

Are you easy to look at? || You may use make-up most tastefully and you may wear the most marvellous dresses, || but will you attract || unless you have a proportionate figure? ||

Get back that youthful contour || by taking Marmola tablets. ||

'Marmola' Brand Anti-fat tablets are sold by chemists at 3/8 1/2 per box, || or sent post paid (on receipt of remittance) by the MARMOLA DISTRIBUTING AGENCY (D149) 86 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.1 ||

• We can now use what we know about the rank scale and take a metafunctional perspective on the wordings ...

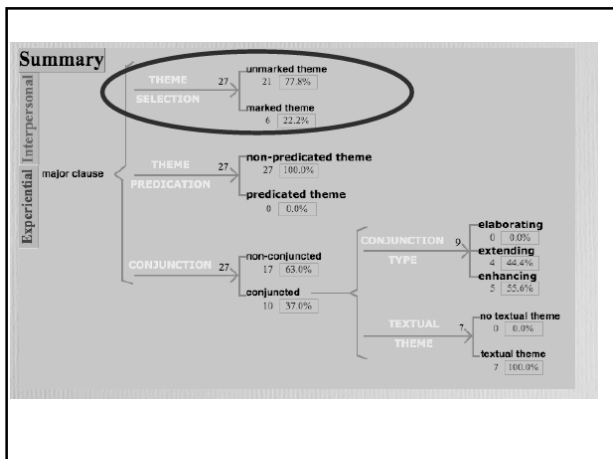
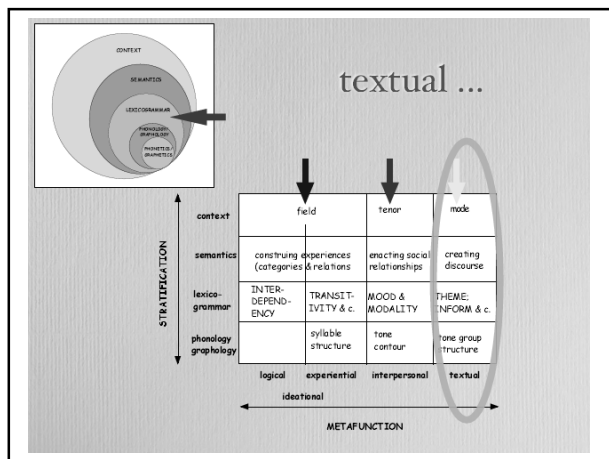
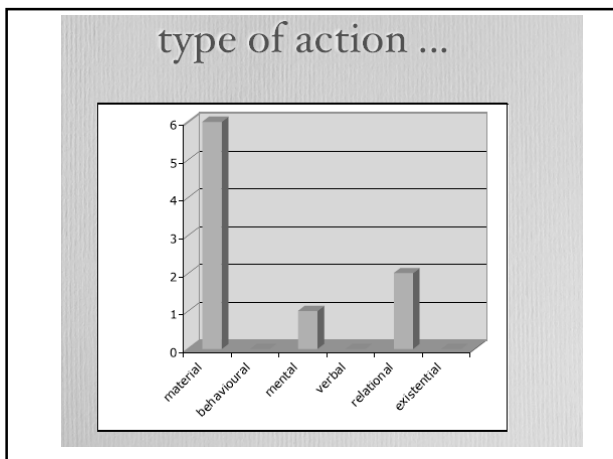


Are you easy to look at? ||| *type of action*

Are you easy [[to look at]]? || You may use make-up most tastefully || and you may wear the most marvellous dresses, || but will you attract || unless you have a proportionate figure? ||

Get back that youthful contour || by taking Marmola tablets. ||

'Marmola' Brand Anti-fat tablets are sold by chemists at 3/8 1/2 per box, || or sent post paid (on receipt of remittance) by the MARMOLA DISTRIBUTING AGENCY (D149) 86 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.1 ||



(1) Are you easy to look at?: I	Are	you	easy (to look at)?
THEME	Theme		Rheme
(2.1) You may use make-up most tastefully!	You	may	use make-up most taste-fully
THEME	Theme		Rheme
(2.1) and you may wear the most marvellous dresses, I	and	you	may wear the most marvellous dresses
THEME	Theme		Rheme
(2.1) but will you attract I	but	will	you attract?
THEME	Theme		Rheme
(2.4) unless you have a proportionate figure? I	unless	you	have a proportionate figure?
THEME	Theme		Rheme
(3.1) Get back that youthful contour!	Get back		that youthful contour
THEME	Theme		Rheme

Are you easy to look at? ||

topical Theme

Are you easy to look at? || You may use make-up most tastefully || and you may wear the most marvellous dresses, || but will you attract || unless you have a proportionate figure? ||

Get back that youthful contour || by taking Marmola tablets. ||

'Marmola' Brand Anti-fat tablets are sold by chemists at 3/8 1/2 per box, || or sent post paid (on receipt of remittance) by the MARMOLA DISTRIBUTING AGENCY (D149) 86 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.1 ||

Source:
 Herke, M. (2010). Week one: The architecture of language [Powerpoint slides]. Unpublished manuscript, LING900. Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.