

Research  
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Curricula



# Sociolinguistics: The Study of Language in Society

Key Stage 4

English Language

Resource 6

2019



# Resource Six Overview



Topic	Useful Tips to Carry Out Discourse Analysis
GCSE Modules	Critical reading. Comprehension.
Objectives	By the end of this resource you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Have considered what Discourse Analysis is</li><li>✓ Have attempted to write a Discourse Analysis Report on a transcript of an interview</li></ul>
Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the data source</li><li>2. Complete the activities</li><li>3. Explore the further reading</li></ol>
Context	There are two sources: the first explains what Discourse Analysis is; the second is an abridged transcript from President Donald Trump's first interview after becoming president with ABC News, January 2017. You will be using these together.



DISCOURSE

# Resource Six

## Data Source



### Section A

#### Discourse Analysis



While linguistics (or the science of language) very often focuses on grammar, sounds, words, meaning and word order, discourse analysis looks at what is said or written beyond the words. Texts are analysed in context, and this analysis focuses on larger interrelated sections of language. Some aspects that are studied are obvious to us.

When having a conversation you spontaneously know when it's the other person's turn to speak for example. This is called turn taking, and discourse analysts have identified that speakers have systems to determine when one person's turn is over and the next person's turn begins, such as descending intonation, pauses, the other speakers slowing down or winding down.

Bearing this in mind, interruptions that occur when it is clear that the person speaking has not finished speaking signal something else, such as disagreement or provocation. We humans also like to see that we are being listened to, which is signalled by facial reactions such as smiles or nods.

So what is discourse? It is a coherent and continuous stretch of language longer than a sentence, such as a joke or a story for example. It has to be meaningful. Visuals can be discourse, and written and spoken language.

Discourse has to be cohesive, coherent, intentional, acceptable (for the audience), informative, situational, intertextual (i.e. referring to the world beyond the text).

# Resource Six

## Data Source



### Section B

Abridge transcript from  
President Donald  
Trump's first interview  
after becoming  
president with ABC  
News, January 2017:



DAVID MUIR: Mr. President, it's an honor to be here at the White House.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, David.

DAVID MUIR: Let me ask you, has the magnitude of this job hit you yet?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It has periodically hit me. And it is a tremendous magnitude. And where you really see it is when you're talking to the generals about problems in the world. And we do have problems in the world. Big problems. The business also hits because the -- the size of it. The size.

I was with the Ford yesterday. And with General Motors yesterday. The top representatives, great people. And they're gonna do some tremendous work in the United States. They're gonna build plants back in the United States. But when you see the size, even as a businessman, the size of the investment that these big companies are gonna make, it hits you even in that regard. But we're gonna bring jobs back to America, like I promised on the campaign trail.

DAVID MUIR: And we're gonna get to it all right here.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good.

DAVID MUIR: Mr. President, I want to start -- we're five days in. And your campaign promises. I know today you plan on signing the order to build the wall.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Correct.

DAVID MUIR: Are you going to direct U.S. funds to pay for this wall? Will American taxpayers pay for the wall?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Ultimately it'll come out of what's happening with Mexico. We're gonna be starting those negotiations relatively soon. And we will be in a form reimbursed by Mexico which I will say ...

DAVID MUIR: So, they'll pay us back?

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## Data Source



PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yeah, absolutely, 100 percent.

DAVID MUIR: So, the American taxpayer will pay for the wall at first?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: All it is, is we'll be reimbursed at a later date from whatever transaction we make from Mexico. Now, I could wait a year and I could hold off the wall. But I wanna build the wall. We have to build the wall. We have to stop drugs from pouring in. We have to stop people from just pouring into our country. We have no idea where they're from. And I campaigned on the wall. And it's very important. But that wall will cost us nothing.

DAVID MUIR: But you talked -- often about Mexico paying for the wall. And you, again, say they'll pay us back. Mexico's president said in recent days that Mexico absolutely will not pay, adding that, "It goes against our dignity as a country and our dignity as Mexicans." He says ...

(OVERTALK)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: David, he has to say that. He has to say that. But I'm just telling you there will be a payment. It will be in a form, perhaps a complicated form. And you have to understand what I'm doing is good for the United States. It's also going to be good for Mexico.

We wanna have a very stable, very solid Mexico. Even more solid than it is right now. And they need it also. Lots of things are coming across Mexico that they don't want. I think it's going to be a good thing for both countries. And I think the relationship will be better than ever before.

You know, when we had a prisoner in Mexico, as you know, two years ago, that we were trying to get out. And Mexico was not helping us, I will tell you, those days are over. I think we're gonna end up with a much better relationship with Mexico. We will have the wall and in a very serious form Mexico will pay for the wall.

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DAVID MUIR: What are you gonna say to some of your supporters who might say, "Wait a minute, I thought Mexico was going to pay for this right at the start."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'd say very simply that they are going to pay for it. I never said they're gonna pay from the start. I said Mexico will pay for the wall. But what I will tell my supporters is, "Would you like me to wait two years or three years before I make this deal?" Because we have to make a deal on NAFTA. We have to make a new trade deal with Mexico because we're getting clobbered.

We have a \$60-billion trade deficit. So, if you want, I can wait two years and then we can do it nice and easily. I wanna start the wall immediately. Every supporter I have -- I have had so many people calling and tweeting and -- and writing letters saying they're so happy about it. I wanna start the wall. We will be reimbursed for the wall.

DAVID MUIR: When does construction begin?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: As soon as we can. As soon as we can physically do it. We're ...

DAVID MUIR: Within months?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I would say in months. Yeah, I would say in months. Certainly planning is starting immediately.

DAVID MUIR: People feel ...

(OVERTALK)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll be having some really good, really solid plans within a short period of time.

# Resource Six Activities



- Activities**
1. Re-read the transcript of the interview with President Trump. Highlight and annotate examples of the following:
    - Colloquial language
    - Standard English
    - Emotive language
  2. Now watch the part of the interview from the extract at: [Trump Full Interview with David Muir – ABC News](#)  
Here are a few tips and things to watch for.
    - a) Try to identify any hidden subtext such as hidden relations of power.
    - b) Who is exercising the power?
    - c) Who is speaking and who are they speaking for?
    - d) Who is the ideal audience?
    - e) What is unsaid but can still be inferred?
    - f) The use of the passive or devices such as objectification.
    - g) The use of descriptive or strong words for effect.
    - h) How are the events presented? Could they have been presented differently?
    - i) What message does the author intend to convey?
    - j) Are any particular pictures used? To what end?
  3. Now write a short answer for each of the questions above – this will be your analysis.



# Resource Six Activities



## Activities

4. You are now going to turn this into a Discourse Analysis Report by summarising your findings in a mini-essay (1-2 pages of A4 long). You should write in by addressing the following:
  - Establish the context of the data source (what, who, when, why)
  - Explore the production process (what was the medium of the source)
  - Consider the structure of the source (introductions, conclusion etc)
  - Identify linguistic devices (how was language used throughout in relation to the questions above)
  - Your final interpretation of the data source (your conclusions about the source and why/how you came to these)







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