
Text:

(1) When a male octopus spots a female, his normally greyish body suddenly becomes striped. He swims above the female and begins caressing her with seven of his arms. If she allows this, he will quickly reach toward her and slip his eighth arm into her breathing tube.

(2) The complexities of the English language are such that even native speakers cannot always communicate effectively, as almost every American learns on his first day in Britain. Indeed, Robert Burchfield, editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, created a stir in linguistic circles on both sides of the Atlantic when he announced his belief that American English and English English are drifting apart so rapidly that within 200 years the two nations won’t be able to understand each other at all.

(3) The Captain has made a mistake. He will marry the female and bury her in an empty hole. He felt paint. So he sat against the drain which was under repair. The enemy forces were trapped. So the taxis had to hurry to the pleasant grassy slopes to save them.

(4) I went home very late last night. At night, owls come out and hunt. Harry Potter uses an owl to have his mail delivered. The mail was very erratic over the Christmas holidays. The holidays were too short, and short indeed is this paragraph.

(5) So strongly and metaphysically did I conceive of my situation then, that while earnestly watching his motions, I seemed distinctly to perceive that my own individuality was now merged in a joint stock company of two; that my free will had received a mortal wound; and that another mistake or misfortune might plunge innocent me into unmerited disaster and death.

(6) The door!

Texture: organization of a text (temporal ordering, e.g.), what organizes language as such, ‘A text has a texture, and this is what distinguishes it from something that is not a text. It derives this texture from the fact that it functions as a unity with respect to its environment.’ (H+H, 1976:2)

Coherence: factual content, consistence of a text
Cohesion: part of texture, explicit formal grammatical and lexical ties, linguistic marking of coherence, a relation where one item provides the source of the interpretation of another

Cohesive tie – ‘a single instance of cohesion, a term for one occurrence of a pair of cohesively related items’ (H+H, 1976:3)

- Cohesive ties grammatical (‘occurrence of a pair of cohesively related items’, H+H 1976:3, cohesion is achieved by speakers’ relating their utterances to previous ones through the use of cohesive relations, namely through establishing cohesive ties (these relations exist between parts of a text, they must be endophoric, H+H)
  - **Reference**, e.g. a male octopus – he swims... a female - if she allows this
  - **Substitution**, e.g. Thursday looks good, and so does Friday. That was a great meeting. Let’s settle on the date for the next one.
  - **Ellipsis** (Substitution by a zero element), e.g. Will you be there? I will (be there).
  - **Conjunction**, e.g. So strongly..... that while earnestly...(a correlative conjunction in an adverbial clause of cause, used for emphasis)

- Cohesive ties lexical
  - **Reiteration**, e.g. ..seven of his arms – his eighth arm
  - **Collocation** (semantic not syntagmatic): male – female, language – speaker, mortal wound – death

- Other means of textual cohesion
  - **Temporal ordering**, e.g. I seemed distinctly to perceive that my own individuality was now merged in a joint stock company of two; that my free will had received a mortal wound
  - **Development of the theme**, i.e. ordering of the text into units of information so that the given information precedes the new information, the information structure

Cohesive chains – cohesive ties enter into cohesive chains (identity vs. similarity chains), which run throughout a text revealing how different parts of a text are related to each other, cf.

*(7) Police arrest 12 in Heathrow robbery case*
Police officers in London this morning arrested twelve people and recovered a ‘substantial amount of money’ in connection with a daring $3.2m (£2.2m) robbery from a Securicor van at London’s Heathrow airport in March.

Ten men and two women – aged between 21 and 33 years old – were arrested in the early morning raids across London this morning on allegations including conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to money launder.

They have been taken to three separate police stations in the capital and are interviewed by police. Police did not yet know exactly how much money had been recovered from two of the premises searched.

Scotland Yard said officers would continue to carry out searches at a number of residential and business addresses across London for several more hours. The arrests took place at addresses in Norwood Green, Southwall, Northolt, Isleworth and Hounslow.

The robbery took place on March 19, when thieves apparently hijacked a Securicor van containing two silver cashboxes that had just been unloaded from a South African airlines plane.

Definition of a text:

A text is a stretch of language which seems appropriately coherent in actual use. That is, the text ‘coheres’ in its real-world context, semantically and pragmatically, and it is also internally or linguistically coherent. For this letter facet, the term ‘cohesive’ has been applied, referring to the actual forms of linguistic linkage. (CGEL, p. 1423)

1. Text is defined as language in use, i.e. in terms of function and situation.
2. Text is internally structured
3. A text must display a ‘cohesive harmony’ (texts 3, 4 do not display this), logics (make sense with respect to the outer world)
4. The basic unit of a text: sentence
5. No structural patterns as in sentences (e.g. *an interrogative text vs. an interrogative sentence)
6. A text – unlike sentence – is not a grammatical unit but rather a semantic and even a pragmatic one. (CGEL, p. 1423)

Context and Co-text

Text analysis is concerned with the interpretation of language in context. That refers to the situation (context of situation), the culture (context of culture), but also to the text/talk in which the object of our
study is embedded. To distinguish between linguistic and non-linguistic context, we use **context** (situation, culture) and **co-text** (linguistic environment), cf.

(8) The Mayor of New York having a speech in front of the Rockefeller Centre on the occasion of the Independence Day: 'We gathered *here* to commemorate all the brave men owing to whom *this country* attained *its* freedom from the British rule.'

**Power of context (co-text)**

(9) ‘Me to!’

Possible text in which this might occur (CGEL, pp. 1423-4):

*This noise is giving me a headache.*

*Me too!*

*I wish I had a drink.*

*Me too!*

*They called me.*

*Me too!*

**Practice** (H+H, 1976:341-344, Text II, conversation)

(10) *Can I tell you about the time when I screamed?*

*Yes, do.*

*Well, I met a thief in my house. I had one of those nice, old houses – I was very lucky. It was about thirty years old, on stone pillars, with a long stone staircase up and folding doors back on to a verandah. And I came through the door from the kitchen, and a thief carrying my handbag emerged through my bedroom door into the living room at the same moment.*

*Splendidly timed!*
I couldn't believe my eyes for a minute. I gave a little sort of gulp, and it flashed through my mind
‘this won’t do’, and d’you know what I did? I screamed! And my scream went wafting out on the
night air! And some neighbours who – they were my nearest neighbours, but they were still some
distance away – came rushing along. They were awfully good, and they said afterwards they
thought I had been being murdered. Well, I couldn’t have made more noise if I had been. But I’d
surprised myself. Really, the sound that went floating out on the air I didn’t know I had it in me,
and they said it would make my fortune if I sent it to Hollywood. And I may say it surprised the
thief sufficiently that he dropped my handbag and fled. [...]