

Discourse and Text Analysis Field Examination

Subcategories: *Narrative Studies* and *Varieties of Discourse*

May 1996 ~~4~~ 4

INSTRUCTIONS

You have four hours in which to complete this examination.

This examination consists of two parts:

- in Part A, you must answer both Question 1 and Question 2
 - Question 1 requires a close analysis of one of the three texts in the accompanying handout; weighted at 50%
 - Question 2 asks you to discuss specific features of one of the two remaining texts; weighted at 20%
- in Part B, you must answer one of the three questions on theoretical issues; weighted at 30%.

Read the entire examination before beginning. As you select your questions, consider what texts you will select for analysis, how you will fulfill the requirements for coverage of core and subcategory lists, and how much time you will allot to each question.

Part A: Answer Question 1 (50%) and Question 2 (20%)

Question 1

Develop a close analysis of one of Text 1, Text 2, or Text 3. Identify significant structures and relate them to functions using concepts and vocabularies drawn from all three reading lists -- i.e., *Core List*, *Narrative Studies*, and *Varieties of Discourse*.

Question 2

Answer one of the three questions below. In your answer, discuss one of the three texts on the handout not selected for analysis in A (1).

1. Demonstrate in detail the function(s) of at least two of the following in one of the texts:
 - a) anachrony
 - b) intradiegetic narrator
 - c) free indirect discourse
 - d) frequency
 - e) enchainment
 - f) actant
 - g) focalization
 - h) kernel/satellite.

2. Choosing one text, explain how the narrative of the text constructs the subject position

3. Bourdieu says that “as instruments of knowledge and communication, ‘symbolic structures’ can exercise a structuring power only because they themselves are structured. Symbolic power is a power of constructing reality . . .” (*Language & Symbolic Power*). Discuss this statement with reference to one of the texts.

Part B: Answer one of the three questions below (30%)

In your answer, you must discuss writers from at least two of your reading lists -- i.e., *Core List*, *Narrative Studies*, and *Varieties of Discourse*).

1. In what ways are narratives ideological?
2. “As men and women tell the stories of their bodies--what they mean and how they should be considered--so do these stories affect the course of their relationships with others, their career potentials, and their life satisfactions.” (Mary M. Gergen and Kenneth J. Gergen, “Narratives of the Gendered Body in Popular Autobiography” in *The Narrative Study of Lives*). Discuss this statement with reference to at least three writers from your reading list.
3. From Derrida to Volosinov ‘context’ plays an important, if occasionally contestable role in the ways in which discourse analysis is conducted. With reference to at least three writers from your list, discuss the role of ‘context’ in discourse analysis.