

Discourse and Text Analysis Field Examination

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

November 1994

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 reading of one of Text 1, Text 2, or Text 3. In your analysis, be sure to identify the sources of your theoretical framework. Your answer must draw from all three reading lists--i.e., *Core List*, *Narrative Studies*, and *Varieties of Discourse*.

Question 2

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

- a. Explain how the traiting of character(s) advances the strategic nature of one of the texts.
- b. Describe and discuss the significance of the multi-generic nature of one of the texts.
- c. Discuss the function of one of the following pairs as it pertains to one text:
 - i. kernel and satellite events
 - ii. narrative enchaining and embedding
 - iii. analepses and prolepses.
- d. Discuss how institutional or organizational context shapes specific features of one text.

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

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

1. Many of the writers on the Discourse and Text Analysis lists would agree with Bakhtin's assertion that "verbal discourse is a social phenomenon," although they may not all mean the same thing by it. Discuss the specific ways in which Bakhtin and two other writers conceive discourse as social.
2. Discuss the role of discourse in the construction of ideology.
3. "Narrative constructs and constrains human identities; it is, then, both a site of social empowerment and social control." Discuss.