

Department of English Language and Literature  
University of Waterloo  
PhD Field Exam: Discourse and Text Analysis  
Subcategories: Varieties of Discourse, Narrative Studies

May 25, 2007

**INSTRUCTIONS**

You will have four hours to complete the examination.

The examination consists of Part A and Part B. Part A contains two questions, both of which you **MUST** answer. Question 1 is worth 50% of the mark, Question 2, 20% of the mark. Part B consists of four questions, of which you must answer one, which will be worth 30% of the mark.

In Part A, your answer to Question 1 requires you to draw on the work of at least one theorist from each of your category lists. Question 2 allows you to refer to some of this work again, so long as you also use the work of at least one theorist not drawn on in Question 1. Part B requires that you draw on the work of at least three theorists from at least two categories, one of whom may be someone you discuss in Part A. This means you will discuss a *minimum* of six theorists on the exam. Obviously, you may draw on more if you like. Please note that a theorist who appears in two categories still counts as a single writer.

Make sure you read the entire examination before beginning. As you select your questions, consider which 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 both questions**

**Question 1 (50%):**

Develop a close analysis of Text 1, Text 2, or Text 3. Be sure to identify the sources of your theoretical framework. Your answer must draw from theorists on the Core List and your two Subcategory Lists.

**Question 2 (20%):**

Answer one of the four questions below with reference to one of the texts not analyzed in Question 1. Your answer must draw on the work of at least one theorist not referred to in Question 1.

1. Show how “context” or “situation” structures the discourse of the chosen text.
2. Show how one of the following phenomena or groups of phenomena function in the chosen text:

- a. Genre and generic conventions
- b. Transitivity
- c. Kernel and satellite events
- d. Cohesion
- e. analepsis and prolepsis (flashbacks and foreshadowings)
- f. focalization, point of view

3. Describe the narrative structure of your chosen text, using the ideas of at least two theorists.

4. Discuss the meanings afforded by the interaction of narrative and non-narrative elements in the chosen text.

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

In your answer, you must discuss the work of at least three theorists from at least two of your three categories (i.e., Core and your two Subcategories). One of these theorists, but only one, may be someone whose work you have discussed in Part A.

1. Is narrative inherently ideological? Masculine? Western? Discuss whether and how narrative conventions serve dominant ideologies.

2. Can discourse analysis be merely descriptive, that is, neutral, or is any discourse analysis necessarily critical or evaluative?

3. What is the best way to conceptualise the relationship between power and discourse?

4. What should the object of “discourse analysis” be? The utterance? The text? The speech act? Discuss what is at stake in choosing an object.