

Discourse and Text Analysis Field Examination

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

May 2004

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: (1) Answer the following question (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 the Core List and your two Subcategories Lists.

Part A: (2) Answer one of the three questions below. In your answer, discuss one of the three texts not selected for analysis in A(1).

1. Although Texts 1, 2, and 3 are not 'stories' in the literary sense, they all contain narrative elements. Use concepts drawn from at least two (2) authors on the Narrative List to analyze and comment upon narrative elements in the text.
2. Using concepts you think appropriate from all three reading lists, analyze and discuss the construction of subject position(s) in the text.
3. Drawing on the work of three authors from any or all of the reading lists, discuss *heteroglossia* with reference to the text.

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

1. Drawing on the work of three theorists from any of the reading lists, discuss the vagaries of “authorial agency,” including its pitfalls and potentials as a concept useful to discourse analysis.
2. In *Orientalism*, Edward Said posed the question, “Can one divide human reality...into clearly different cultures, histories, traditions, societies, even races, and survive the consequences humanly?” and by “humanly” he simply meant “avoiding the hostility expressed by the division.” The question remains at the heart of much theory of race, class, gender, and nation. With reference to three theorists (besides Said himself) from the readings lists, formulate a response to Said’s question.
3. Eco claimed that “semiotics is in principle the discipline studying everything which can be used in order to lie.” Drawing on three authors from any two of the reading lists, discuss *discourse analysis* as a discipline studying everything which can be used in order to lie.