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HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF TEXT: FROM SENTENCE TO DISCOURSE

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Abstract This study investigates the hierarchical structure of text from sentence to discourse level, emphasizing the interaction between syntactic and semantic components. Drawing on text linguistics and discourse analysis, the research applies descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods to literary, scientific, and educational texts. The findings reveal that text is a multi-layered system where micro-, meso-, and macro-level structures function interdependently to ensure coherence, cohesion, and communicative effectiveness.

Keywords text hierarchy, discourse analysis, syntax, semantics, cohesion, coherence

Annotatsiya Ushbu tadqiqot matnning ierarxik tuzilishini gap darajasidan diskurs darajasigacha o‘rganadi hamda sintaktik va semantik komponentlar o‘rtasidagi o‘zaro ta’sirni yoritadi. Matn lingvistikasi va diskurs tahliliga asoslangan holda, tadqiqotda badiiy, ilmiy va o‘quv matnlariga nisbatan tavsifiy, tahliliy va qiyosiy metodlar qo‘llanildi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, matn ko‘p qatlamli tizim bo‘lib, unda mikro, mezo va makro darajadagi tuzilmalar o‘zaro bog‘liq holda faoliyat yuritadi hamda matnning bog‘liqligi, yaxlitligi va kommunikativ samaradorligini ta’minlaydi.

Kalit so‘zlar: matn ierarxiyasi, diskurs tahlili, sintaksis, semantika, bog‘liqlik, yaxlitlik

Аннотация Данное исследование посвящено изучению иерархической структуры текста от уровня предложения до уровня дискурса с акцентом на взаимодействии синтаксических и семантических компонентов. Опираясь на теорию текстовой лингвистики и дискурсивного анализа, в работе применяются описательный, аналитический и сравнительный методы к художественным, научным и учебным текстам. Результаты показывают, что текст представляет собой многоуровневую систему, в которой микро-, мезо- и макроуровневые структуры функционируют

взаимосвязанно, обеспечивая связность, целостность и коммуникативную эффективность текста.

Ключевые слова: иерархия текста, дискурсивный анализ, синтаксис, семантика, когезия, когерентность.

Introduction

In contemporary linguistics, text is understood as a complex, hierarchically structured communicative unit rather than a simple sequence of sentences. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), textual meaning emerges through cohesive and coherent relations that operate across different levels of language organization.

The hierarchical structure of text includes sentence (micro-level), paragraph (meso-level), and discourse (macro-level). Each level contributes uniquely to meaning construction. While syntax organizes linguistic form, semantics ensures conceptual unity. Their interaction plays a decisive role in achieving textual integrity.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of hierarchical text organization, focusing on how syntactic and semantic relations operate across levels. The novelty of the research lies in its integrated approach combining structural, functional, and discourse perspectives.

Methodology

The study employs a qualitative research design. The descriptive method is used to identify hierarchical levels, the analytical method examines syntactic-semantic relations, and the comparative method highlights differences across genres.

Data were collected from:

- Literary texts (rich semantic structures)
- Scientific articles (logical and explicit organization)
- Educational materials (simplified discourse patterns)

The analysis focuses on identifying patterns of cohesion, coherence, and hierarchical organization.

Results and Discussion

The findings confirm that text is organized hierarchically into three interconnected levels:

1. Micro-level (Sentence): grammatical and syntactic structure
2. Meso-level (Paragraph): logical development and cohesion
3. Macro-level (Discourse): global coherence and communicative intent

Each level contributes to the overall meaning of the text through specific linguistic mechanisms.

Level	Unit	Key Features	Function
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Micro	Sentence	Syntax, grammar, structure	Form basic meaning
Meso	Paragraph	Cohesion, connectors	Develop unified idea
Macro	Discourse	Context, pragmatics	Ensure global coherence

Syntactic and Semantic Interaction

At the sentence level, syntactic structures determine grammatical relations, while semantic roles define meaning. At the paragraph level, cohesion devices such as conjunctions and reference create logical connections. At the discourse level, coherence emerges through thematic progression and contextual interpretation.

This multi-level interaction demonstrates that syntax and semantics are not independent but function as an integrated system.

Level	Syntactic Function	Semantic Function
Sentence	Structure formation	Meaning expression
Paragraph	Linking sentences	Idea development
Discourse	Text organization	Global interpretation

Comparative Analysis

The analysis shows variation across text types. Literary texts demonstrate high semantic depth and stylistic complexity. Scientific texts prioritize clarity and logical structure. Educational texts simplify both syntax and semantics for pedagogical purposes.

Conclusion

The hierarchical structure of text is a fundamental concept in modern linguistics. The interaction of syntactic and semantic components across levels ensures coherence and effective communication. This study contributes to text linguistics by providing an integrated model of hierarchical organization.

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