

### Discourse Analysis - Perspectives and Stages

Parker, Ian (1992) Discourse Dynamics: Critical Analysis for Social and Individual Psychology, New York: Routledge, pp. 7-20.

#### Preliminary

1. Treat the objects of study as texts which are described, put into words ('objects' can include such things as speech, writing, non-verbal behaviour, braille, Morse code, semaphore, runes, ads, fashion systems, stained glass, architecture, bus tickets, etc.).
2. Explore connotations, allusions, and implications through some sort of free association (best done with other people)

#### Identify objects

3. Ask what objects are referred to, and describe them (turtles, diseases, ghosts, etc.)
4. Talk about the talk as if it were an object, a discourse: "any regulated system of statements" (Henriques et al. in Parker, 1992: 10-11)

#### Identify subjects

5. Specify what types of persons are talked about in the discourse, some of which may already have been identified as objects.
6. Speculate about what they can say in the discourse, what you could say if you identified with them (what rights must you have to speak in that way of speaking?)

#### Take a mass of text and make it a coherent system of meanings

7. Map a picture of the world which this discourse presents.
8. Work out how a text using this discourse would deal with objections to the terminology.

#### Understand the interrelationships between different discourses

9. Set contrasting ways of speaking, discourses, against each other and look for the different objects they constitute.
10. Identify points where they overlap, where they constitute what look like the 'same' objects in different ways.
11. Refer to other texts to elaborate the discourse as it occurs, perhaps implicitly, and addresses different audiences (in children's books, advertisements, jokes, etc.)
12. Reflect on the term used to describe the discourse, a matter which involves moral/political choices on the part of the analyst (describing discourses about 'race' and 'racist' discourses, for example)

#### Discourses are not static - they are historically located

13. Look at how and where the discourses emerged
14. Describe how they have changed, and told a story, usually about how they refer to things which were always there to be discovered

#### Discourses support institutions

15. Identify institutions which are reinforced when this or that discourse is used
16. Identify institutions that are attacked or subverted when this or that discourse appears

#### Discourses support power relations

17. Look at which categories of persons gain or lose from the employment of the discourse
18. Look at who would want to promote and who would want to dissolve the discourse

#### Discourses have ideological effects

19. Show how a discourse connects with other discourses which sanction oppression
20. Show how the discourses allow dominant groups to tell their narratives about the past in order to justify the present, and prevent those who use subjugated discourses from making history.