**Textual analysis (the study of text)**

**Level: second year**

**Sections: A and B**

**Content**

1. **An introduction to textual analysis**
2. **Reading process in textual analysis**
3. **Text structures ( organizational patterns)**
4. **Compare and contrast text structure**
5. **Cause and effect text structure**
6. **Problem and solution text structure**
7. **Description text structure**
8. **Chronological text structure**

**1. Textual analysis defined**

Textual analysis is a methodology of gathering information from a text to understand how people belonging to a particular society and culture respond and comprehend the environment around them.

In other words, investigating information necessary to understand a text and to explore the likely interpretations and meanings made about a text to find out the ways in which members of various cultures make sense of the world (McKee, 2003).

Textual analysis involves an analysis of text meanings based on the text’s main idea, supporting details (evidence) the author’s writing purpose and language (genre, implications, symbols etc..).

Texts can be anything that we induce meanings from. Webpage, email, production description, books, essays, articles, and images are instances of what is deemed to be texts for analysis.

In conducting textual analysis the aim is not to identify the correct interpretation and meaning of the text, yet to shed light upon what interpretations are likely and possible. In so doing, many mental connections begin to intertwine leading to a deeper comprehension of texts and an open mindedness to more possibilities that underline a particular text (for text are “polysemic” ; they imply multiple interpretations).

“to obtain a sense of the ways in which in particular culture at particular time people make sense of [texts] and importantly by [beholding reality from different angles]”.(McKee,2003).

**2. READING PROCESS IN TEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

3.Text structures (patterns of organization)

Text structure refers to the way ideas are organized in a text. Recognizing the text structure type helps grasping the text meaning and the author’s writing aim along with fostering a long-term memorization of information contained in the text.

Patterns of organization are listed below:

1. Compare and contrast text structure
2. Cause and effect text structure
3. Problem and solution text structure
4. Descriptive text structure
5. Chronological/sequence/process text structure

1. Compare and contrast text structure (pattern of organization)

The author of the compare and contrast text explains how two or more things are alike and how are they different

* Signal words for compare and contrast text structure:

Alike, although, as opposed to, alternatively, both, but, compared with, different from, on the contrary, on the other hand, similar to, yet, nonetheless, nevertheless, in contrast, likewise, like, each, however, in common, in the same way, conversely, correspondingly, differently etc..

Example: compare and contrast between autumn and spring seasons

2. Cause and effect text structure

* Aim: show a list of causes and the resulting outcomes
* Cause= what made something to happen
* Effect= what happened as a result
* Signal words for cause and effect text structure

Because, because of therefore, this leads to, accordingly, due to , for this reason, thus, consequently, as a result, if..then( pattern), since, so that, the effects of etc..

Example 1: the tornado caused a lot of damages

Tornado= cause

Lot of damages ( not clearly specified, though) = effect

Example 2: unexpected drought, floods and increased unseasonal temperature are caused by the global warming

1. Problem and solution text structure

* Aim: identify a problem and a solution(s) to the problem
* Problem= an undesired situation supported by evidence
* Solution= the desired outcome
* Signal words for problem and solution text structure

The problem is, the dilemma is, the puzzle is, the question is, solve, fix, issue, one answer is, one reason for the problem is etc..

Example: global warming (the undesired climate change) can be tackled by

* Planting more trees ( solution 1)
* Switching to renewable sources of energy ( solution 2)
* Protecting the world’s tropical forest (solution 3)

1. Descriptive text structure

* Aim: describes a topic by listing a set of its features, qualities etc.. enabling the reader to create a mental visualization when reading the text
* Description=show specific descriptive details about a given topic ( scene, character, natural view etc..)
* Signal words for descriptive text structure

To illustrate, to begin with, for instance, an example, beside, also, in addition to, characterized by etc..

Example1:

1. Chronological/ sequence/ process text structure

* Aims:
* The author presents and organizes events/steps that take place over time
* When the chronological text structure is used, events/ steps are arranged and described in the order of their occurrence

Chrono=time

**a text arranged chronologically= structured in order in which events happened**

Logy= order

* signal words for chronological/sequence/ process text structure
* first, second, third
* earlier, before, after, then, next, finally
* soon after, meanwhile, previously, initially