English 7872: Conversation and Discourse Analysis (Seminar in English Linguistics)

Galey Modan

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Thursdays 12:15-3:00

447 Denney Hall

While many researchers look at discourse in terms of *what* people say (the content), linguistically-based discourse analysis attends to the*structure* of discourse -- *how* people say what they say, how the components of language are put together, what patterns emerge, and what effects those patterns have on the way that we understand and evaluate what's being said. This class considers discourse from both a structural linguistics perspective – as language above the sentence level – and a critical discourse analysis perspective – as language that shapes perspectives and ideology. Drawing from subfields including interactional sociolinguistics, pragmatics, conversation analysis, ethnography of communication, and critical discourse analysis, we will explore how social contexts at various scales both help to construct and are partly constructed by discourse that occurs in or in relation to them.

The approach that we will take is a micro-level one, focusing on how the details of linguistic structure convey social and political meaning. You’ll gain facility with the major schools of discourse analysis, their history, major scholars, and relation to other fields and to each other; learn how to collect discourse data; transcribe talk in order to comprehensively represent features of spoken language in written form; and identify and analyze linguistic, paralinguistic, and interactional patterns in various genres of speech and writing.

The course is suitable both for linguistics students and students with no linguistic training who want to gain skills to analyze discourse as part of a larger project in other fields of study.

Questions? Email me at modan.1@osu.edu