

FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



Chapter 2

Organization of language text

Objectives

- Main types of text structures
 - Sentence organization
- Literary and rhetorical devices

I. Language Text structures

1. Definition

Text structure - the way in which a writer organizes language & information within text to serve a specific purpose. Depending on the goal of the writer, text can be structured in various ways to best communicate information to a reader clearly & effectively. The structure of a text's beginning, middle, & end is directly influenced by the intention & purpose of the writer.

2. Types of language text structures

- Description
- Sequence
- Cause and effect
- Compare and contrast
- Problem and solution

Description structure

Description structure - a text structure that is designed to create a vivid, detailed description of something.

This is achieved by using descriptive language to describe traits, features, & characteristics of the subject.

Ex. *“Two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, come together in Joshua Tree National Park. A fascinating variety of plants and animals make their homes in a land sculpted by strong winds and occasional torrents of rain. Dark night skies, a rich cultural history, and surreal geologic features add to the wonder of this vast wilderness in southern California”*

Sequence text structure

** There are two ways that sequence text structure can be used: to communicate a chronological sequence of events or steps in a procedure.*

** Sequence text structure for the purpose of chronological events - a common structure used in historical literature or non-fictional literature.*

** Sequence structure for procedural information is common in educational literature from cooking instructions to scientific methods.*

Ex. 1: *“World War I, also known as the Great War, began in 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. His murder catapulted into a war across Europe that lasted until 1918.” - World War I*

Ex. 2: *“Pulse flour, sugar, and salt in a food processor to combine. Add butter and process until the largest pieces of butter are pea-size. Transfer to a large bowl.”*

Cause and effect

Cause & effect text structure - primarily used to communicate the causal relationship between an event, action, or idea & what follows.

The text is designed to make the causality & correlation between the two clear to the reader.

Ex. *“After inflating, the universe slowed down its expansion rate but continued to grow, as it does still. It also cooled significantly, allowing for the formation of matter — first neutrinos, electrons, quarks, and photons, followed by protons and neutrons.” - How Did the Big Bang Happen?*

Compare and contrast

Oftentimes, writers need to analyze the similarities & differences between two subjects. A compare & contrast text structure allows them to do just that. These comparisons are typically between people, places, events, ideas, or concepts.

Ex. *“Beethoven has a much more fiery personality.*

Whereas Mozart’s music is clean & precise, Beethoven employs many surprises in his music. Many times he will build up the music as if it’s leading to something only to suddenly get soft – his trademark use of subito piano.”

— Mozart vs. Beethoven

Problem and solution

The problem & solution text structure is designed to present a problem & transition into a proposed solution for said problem. The structure is designed to both create reasonable cases for why the problem exists and/or is important *and* why the proposed solution can be effective.

This text design is common in political literature & speech as well as business & technology.

Ex. *“Transportation is the second leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. (burning a single gallon of gasoline produces 20 pounds of CO₂). But it doesn't have to be that way. One way to dramatically curtail transportation fuel needs is to move closer to work, use mass transit, or switch to walking, cycling or some other mode of transport that does not require anything other than human energy. There is also the option of working from home & telecommuting several days a week.”*

Sentence & Paragraph in the text

Understanding the characteristics & types of sentences and paragraphs in a text & their roles, we can apply knowledge about sentences & paragraphs to analyze the texts.

Characteristics of sentences in text

- Sentences in texts are diverse in structure & closely related to each other in terms of grammar & semantics.
- Sentences in text are stylistic
- Sentences in the text are closely coordinated.

Sentence organization/structure

What is Sentence Structure?

Sentence structure is how the basic grammatical elements (a subject, predicate, & sometimes direct or indirect objects) of a sentence are put together.

These include the necessity for a subject, predicate, & object (in that order) in every sentence. Beyond that, we can add additional elements like prepositions & dependent clauses.

Advanced sentences can weave these elements together to create more & more complex structures.

4 types of sentence structure

Simple Sentences

The most basic type of English sentence is the simple structure. / a sentence is composed of just one **independent clause** – a clause which contains a **subject** (the noun performing the action of the sentence) & **predicate** (the action being taken) & expresses a complete thought.

Like all sentences, it can also contain a direct object (the noun receiving the action of a sentence) or indirect object (the object for whom the action is being done).

Compound Sentences

> Combining two or more independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction (or, and, but, yet, for, nor, so) or a semicolon.

Ex. - *She was sick, so she didn't go to school.*

- *I was exhausted, but I worked all night.*

- *Mom was still at work, and Dad was out to dinner.*

Complex Sentences

> *Consist of an independent clause & a dependent clause.*

A dependent clause is an incomplete thought (e.g., “Although I was sick, ...” “Because he was gone, ...”) & thus needs to be attached to an independent clause. It’s also known as a subordinate clause.

Ex. - *If he was so funny, the whole crowd would have been laughing.*

- *I went to dinner because I was hungry.*

Compound-Complex Sentences

* Compound-complex sentences combine the ideas behind both compound & complex sentences: they contain at least two independent clauses & a dependent clause.

* Using the coordinating conjunction/semicolon, & the dependent clauses.

Ex. - *Because he was injured, the team played with a short bench and their rivals beat them soundly.*

- *I wondered what became of him; if he liked Chicago so much, it made no sense for him to up and leave.*

Basis for dividing paragraphs

- Based on the function of the paragraphs

Opening paragraph, developing paragraph, closing paragraph, transition paragraph.

- Based on meaning

+ *Segments by incident, by time, by space in a major event.*

+ *Segments according to differences in tasks.*

+ *Paragraphs into small issues within the big problem.*

Paragraph structure

- * **The paragraph has a topic sentence**

- + Interpretation paragraph: there is an explanatory interpretation & a demonstrative interpretation.

- + Inductive paragraph: has inductive explanation-synthesis, inductive deduction.

- + Synthesis-composition-composition section.

- * **The paragraph does not have a topic sentence**

- + Parallel paragraph: there are parallel lists that follow, parallel parallels that contrast.

- + Chain paragraph: sentences are tightly linked together. The previous sentence is the premise for the next sentence.

literary devices

What are literary devices?

Literary devices are methods used by authors to enhance their writing & convey a message or emotion in a more captivating way.

Literary devices can be found throughout texts of all genres, from novels to television scripts to song lyrics.

* Types of literary devices include metaphors, similes, allegories, alliterations, puns, & foreshadowing.

Simile

A simile - a popular literary device used to compare two ideas or concepts that are dissimilar.

It typically uses the words “like” or “as” to form an interesting comparison between otherwise unrelated concepts.

This helps authors create a vivid image & make their writing more engaging & lively. Similes can also be employed to invoke emotion, as a way of making readers relate experiences to the plot of a story or poem.

Ex. *“My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite”.*

Metaphor

A metaphor - a figure of speech in which one thing is metaphorically expressed as though it were something else, making whatever it is describing seem more vivid, meaningful, & interesting.

* Metaphors are powerful literary devices to make your writing more engaging & relatable. They can be used to draw a comparison between two unrelated objects or ideas to create an understanding or insight for the reader.

Imagery

Imagery - an essential literary device that authors use to help their readers create imagery in their minds of what is taking place in the story.

- A key component in painting a vivid picture for the reader and helps them to understand a particular setting or mood within the text.
 - > Imagery serves mainly to add depth & insight into a passage through the use of vivid language that evokes imagery & emotion.

Allusion

An allusion: - a literary device commonly used by authors to provide deeper meaning to their stories.

- A reference to an event, person, place, or thing that may not be directly related to the story's plot but alludes to a larger context.

Symbolism - a literary device is a powerful tool for authors and playwrights alike. When symbolism is used, an object or character can take on a meaning greater than what appears on the surface.

Foreshadowing is a literary device that creates anticipation and mystery because it foretells or forewarns about events that have yet to come. This technique can be used not just to bring the reader's attention to what will happen, but also to surprise them.

Motifs are recurring patterns of images, ideas, and symbols that are used to convey motifs in literature. It's a powerful literary device that serves multiple purposes.

Motifs can add depth and clarity to the plot, reveal the underlying message of a story, or even develop motifs throughout the narrative arc.

Alliteration - a literary device that involves the repetition of certain sounds at the beginning of multiple words within a sentence or phrase. It can bring rhythm and familiarity to text by creating an alluring effect on readers, as alliteration reinforces ideas, making them easier to remember.

Juxtaposition - a powerful literary device that allows readers to juxtapose two seemingly disparate elements & observe how they interact with one another in a creative juxtaposition.

> presenting different ideas, values, or contexts side-by-side to allow readers to understand their similarities & differences.

Rhetorical devices

A rhetorical device - a linguistic tool that employs a particular type of sentence structure, sound, or pattern of meaning in order to evoke a particular reaction from an audience.

Each rhetorical device is a distinct tool that can be used to construct an argument or make an existing argument more compelling.

Types of Rhetorical Devices

4 types of rhetorical devices:

- **Logos (ngôn từ)**. Devices in this category seek to convince & persuade via logic and reason. They will usually make use of statistics, cited facts, and statements by authorities to make their point and persuade the listener.

- **Pathos (cảm xúc)**. These rhetorical devices base their appeal in emotion. This could mean invoking sympathy or pity in the listener, or making the audience angry in the service of inspiring action or changing their mind about something.

- **Ethos (đặc trưng)**. Ethical appeals try to convince the audience that the speaker is a credible source, that their words have weight & must be taken seriously because they are serious & have the experience & judgment necessary to decide what's right.

- **Kairos (thời gian)**. This is one of the most difficult concepts in rhetoric; devices in this category are dependent on the idea that the time has come for a particular idea or action. The very timeliness of the idea is part of the argument.

- **Alliteration (Láy âm)**, a sonic device, is the repetition of the initial sound of each word

- **Onomatopoeia (từ tượng thanh)**- a sonic device, refers to a word that emulates the real-life sound it signifies (ex. using the word "bang" to signify an explosion).

- **Humor** (hài hước) creates connection & identification with audience members, thus increasing the likelihood that they will agree with the speaker. Humor can also be used to deflate counter-arguments & make opposing points of view appear ridiculous.

- **Hyperbole** (cường điệu) - an exaggerated statement that conveys emotion & raises the bar for other speakers.

Ex. - Once you make a hyperbolic statement like “My idea is going to change the world,” other speakers will have to respond in kind or their more measured words may seem dull & uninspiring in comparison.

- *“Ladies and gentlemen, I've been to Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and I can say without hyperbole that this is a million times worse than all of them put together.” –The Simpsons.*

> *Here, hyperbole is used to humorous effect in order to undermine the superficial point of the sentence.*

- **Anadiplosis (lặp lại từ cuối của câu)** is the use of the same word at the end of one sentence & at the beginning of the subsequent sentence, forming a chain of thought that carries your audience to the point you've chosen.

Ex. "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." –Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back.

> Anadiplosis. The pairs of words at the beginning & ending of each sentence give the impression that the logic invoked is unassailable & perfectly assembled.

Revision

1. What are types of text structures?
 2. Organization of sentence
3. What are Literary & Rhetorical devices