

ENG306

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



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Course code: ENG 306
Course title: Discourse Analysis
Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: Foundations of Discourse Analysis

Series 2: Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

Series 3: Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices

Series 4: Specialized English Texts and Professional Applications

Series 5: Nigerian English in Social and Regional Contexts

Proposed Outline for Series 1

Part 1.1 Principles of Discourse Analysis

- 1.1.1 Definition and Scope of Discourse Analysis**
- 1.1.2 Historical Development and Relevance**
- 1.1.3 Applications in Language Studies**

Part 1.2 Practices of Discourse Analysis

- 1.2.1 Methods of Analysing Texts and Speeches**
- 1.2.2 Critical Approaches to Discourse**
- 1.2.3 Practical Examples in Academic and Professional Contexts**

Part 1.3 Features of Discourse

- 1.3.1 Coherence and Cohesion as Core Features**
- 1.3.2 Linking Devices in Discourse**
- 1.3.3 Intra- and Inter-sentential Structures**

Part 1.4 Text Description in Discourse Analysis

- 1.4.1 Advertisements and Persuasive Texts**
- 1.4.2 Obituaries and Tributes**
- 1.4.3 Cartoons, Greetings, and Courtesies**



Introduction

Language is not only a tool for communication, it is also a means of shaping thought, identity, and social interaction. To fully appreciate how texts and speeches function in everyday life, it is important to study them beyond the level of grammar and vocabulary. This is where discourse analysis becomes essential. By examining how meaning is constructed and conveyed in different contexts, learners gain insight into the principles that govern effective communication. This Series therefore sets the foundation for the entire course, preparing you to engage critically with texts and spoken language in both academic and professional settings.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the principles and practices of discourse analysis, enabling you to identify, explain, and apply its core features in varied contexts.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the principles of discourse analysis, including its definition, scope, and relevance. Next, we will move on to the practices of discourse analysis, where we will examine methods of analysing texts and speeches as well as critical approaches. Following that, we will consider the features of discourse, focusing on coherence, cohesion, and linking devices. Finally, we will conclude by studying text description in discourse analysis, with attention to advertisements, obituaries, cartoons, greetings, and courtesies. This sequential flow will ensure that you progress from theoretical foundations to practical applications, equipping you with both analytical skills and contextual awareness.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 1.1 define discourse analysis and explain its scope within language studies,
- SLO 1.2 describe the historical development of discourse analysis and evaluate its relevance in contemporary contexts,
- SLO 1.3 demonstrate methods of analysing texts and speeches using discourse analysis practices,
- SLO 1.4 apply critical approaches to discourse in academic and professional settings,
- SLO 1.5 analyse the features of discourse with particular focus on coherence, cohesion, and linking devices, and
- SLO 1.6 construct text descriptions such as advertisements, obituaries, cartoons, greetings, and courtesies using discourse analysis principles.

1.1 Principles Of Discourse Analysis

1.1.1 Definition and scope of discourse analysis

Discourse analysis refers to the study of language beyond the sentence level, focusing on how texts and spoken communication create meaning in social and cultural contexts. It examines patterns of language use, the organisation of ideas, and the interaction between speakers and listeners or



writers and readers. The scope of discourse analysis extends to everyday conversations, academic writing, political speeches, advertisements, and even informal exchanges such as greetings.

By engaging with discourse analysis, learners can uncover how language reflects power, identity, and social relationships. This makes it a vital tool for understanding communication in both professional and personal contexts.

Fill in the blank: Discourse analysis studies language use beyond the level of _____.

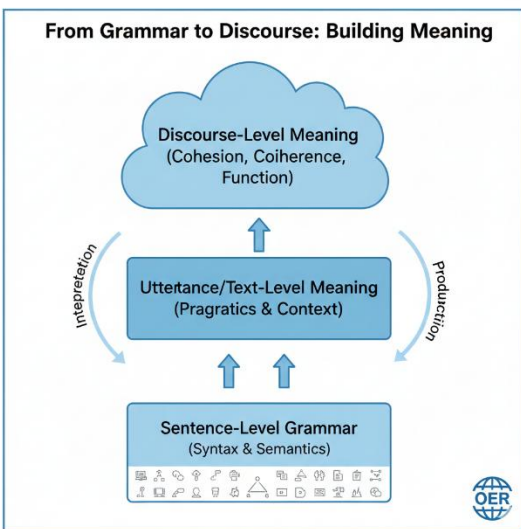


Figure 1.1: Scope of discourse analysis

1.1.2 Historical development and relevance

The origins of discourse analysis can be traced to linguistics, sociology, and philosophy. Early scholars such as Zellig Harris and Michel Foucault contributed to its development by examining how language structures reflect social order and power. Over time, discourse analysis evolved into a multidisciplinary field, drawing insights from psychology, anthropology, and communication studies.

Its relevance today lies in its ability to explain how language shapes public opinion, influences behaviour, and constructs identities. For example, political speeches often employ rhetorical devices to persuade audiences, while advertisements use carefully chosen words and images to attract consumers.

Fill in the blank: One of the early contributors to discourse analysis was _____, who examined how language structures reflect social order.



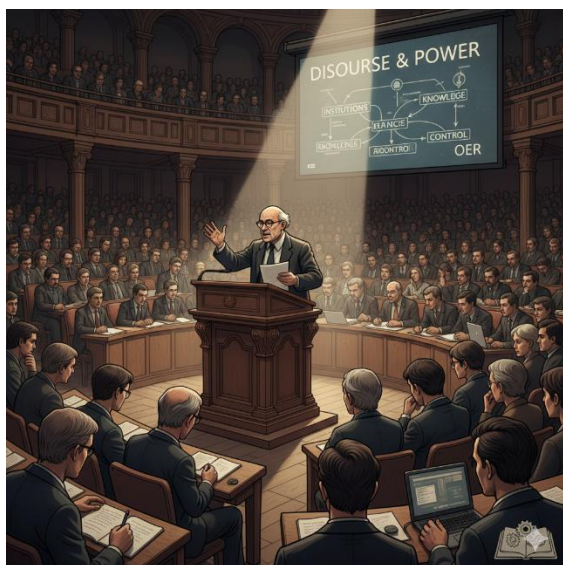


Plate 1.1: Historical roots of discourse analysis

1.1.3 Applications in language studies

Discourse analysis has wide-ranging applications in language studies. It is used to analyse classroom interactions, evaluate professional communication, and critique media texts. In academic contexts, it helps learners identify how arguments are structured and supported. In professional settings, it guides the creation of effective reports, advertisements, and speeches.

By applying discourse analysis, learners can develop critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to produce coherent and persuasive texts. This makes it an indispensable tool for students of English and communication.

Fill in the blank: In professional settings, discourse analysis guides the creation of effective _____, advertisements, and speeches.



Applications of Discourse Analysis		
Domain		Application
		Analyzing classroom interactions to improve teaching
Education & Pedagogy		Evaluating professional communication in business and healthcare
Professional Communication		Evaluating media texts, news, social media
Media & Culture		Critiquing media texts, news, and social media
Academia & Research		Structuring academic arguments & essays



Box 1.1: Selected applications of discourse analysis

Pilot questions 1.1

Which term refers to the study of language beyond the sentence level?

Name one early contributor to discourse analysis.

What is one reason discourse analysis is relevant in contemporary society?

Identify one application of discourse analysis in academic contexts.

Fill in the blank: Discourse analysis helps uncover how language reflects _____.

1.2 Practices Of Discourse Analysis

1.2.1 Methods of analysing texts and speeches

Methods of discourse analysis are systematic approaches used to examine how language functions in texts and spoken communication. These methods may include qualitative techniques such as close reading, where the analyst pays attention to word choice, sentence structure, and rhetorical devices, as well as quantitative approaches such as counting the frequency of certain terms or expressions. Analysts often consider both the micro-level (individual sentences and phrases) and the macro-level (overall organisation and themes).

For example, when analysing a political speech, you might look at how repetition is used to reinforce key ideas, or how metaphors shape the audience's perception. In classroom discourse, you might examine how teachers use questions to guide learning and how students respond.

Fill in the blank: Analysts often consider both the _____-level and the macro-level when conducting discourse analysis.



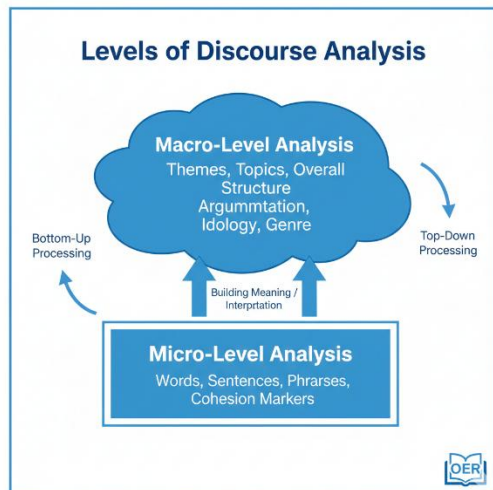


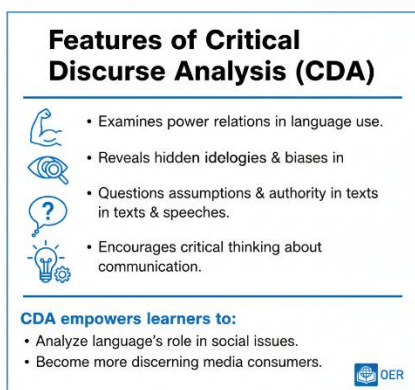
Figure 1.2: Levels of discourse analysis

1.2.2 Critical approaches to discourse

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a branch of discourse analysis that focuses on how language reflects and reinforces power relations in society. CDA examines texts and speeches to reveal hidden ideologies, biases, and assumptions. For instance, media reports may frame events in ways that favour certain groups, while workplace communication may subtly reinforce hierarchies.

By applying CDA, learners can evaluate how language contributes to inequality or social change. This approach encourages critical thinking and helps you to question not only what is said but also how it is said and why.

Fill in the blank: Critical discourse analysis focuses on how language reflects and reinforces _____ relations in society.



Box 1.2: Key features of critical discourse analysis



1.2.3 Practical examples in academic and professional contexts

Discourse analysis is not only theoretical, it has practical applications in everyday life. In academic contexts, it helps students analyse research articles, essays, and classroom interactions. In professional settings, it is used to evaluate reports, advertisements, and workplace communication. For instance, an advertisement may be analysed to see how persuasive language and imagery are combined to influence consumer behaviour.

In professional communication, discourse analysis can highlight how clarity, tone, and organisation affect the effectiveness of reports or presentations. This equips learners with the ability to design texts that are both coherent and persuasive.

Fill in the blank: In advertisements, discourse analysis helps reveal how persuasive _____ and imagery influence consumer behaviour.



Plate 1.2: Discourse analysis in professional contexts

Pilot questions 1.2

What are the two levels often considered in discourse analysis?

Which branch of discourse analysis focuses on power relations in society?

Give one example of how discourse analysis can be applied in academic contexts.

Fill in the blank: Critical discourse analysis reveals hidden _____ in texts and speeches.

How can discourse analysis improve professional communication?

1.3 Features Of Discourse

1.3.1 Coherence and cohesion as core features

Coherence refers to the logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text, ensuring that readers or listeners can easily follow the message. Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs together. While coherence is about meaning and organisation, cohesion



is about the linguistic devices that tie the text together. Both are essential for effective communication.

For example, a coherent essay presents ideas in a logical sequence, while cohesive devices such as pronouns, conjunctions, and transitional phrases help link those ideas smoothly.

Fill in the blank: _____ ensures logical flow of ideas, while cohesion provides grammatical and lexical links between sentences.

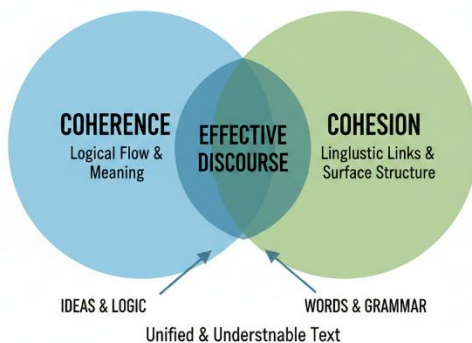


Figure 1.3: Relationship between coherence and cohesion

1.3.2 Linking devices in discourse

Linking devices are words or phrases used to connect ideas within and across sentences. Examples include conjunctions such as *and*, *but*, and *because*, as well as transitional phrases like *in addition*, *however*, and *on the other hand*. These devices guide the reader or listener through the text, signalling relationships such as cause and effect, contrast, or sequence.

Effective use of linking devices enhances both cohesion and coherence, making communication clearer and more persuasive.

Fill in the blank: Words such as *however* and *on the other hand* are examples of _____ devices in discourse.



TYPES OF LINKING DEVICES			
ADDITION	CONTRAST	CAUSE AND EFFECT	SEQUENCE
moreover, furthermore, in addition,	however, on the other hand yet,	because, therefore, as a result,	first, next, finally



Box 1.3: Common linking devices in discourse

1.3.3 Intra- and inter-sentential structures

Intra-sentential structures refer to the devices used within a single sentence to maintain clarity and flow, such as punctuation, conjunctions, and modifiers. Inter-sentential structures refer to the connections between sentences, often achieved through pronouns, repetition of key terms, or transitional phrases. Together, these structures ensure that texts are not only grammatically correct but also meaningful and easy to follow.

For instance, within a sentence, a conjunction like *because* can link two clauses, while between sentences, a pronoun like *this* can refer back to an idea already introduced.

Fill in the blank: Devices used within a single sentence are called _____-sentential structures, while those connecting sentences are called inter-sentential structures.

Type	Examples	Primary Function	Impact on Writing
Intra-sentential	Coordinating conjunctions (<i>and, but</i>), Subordinating conjunctions (<i>if, since</i>), Relative pronouns (<i>who, which</i>), Semicolons.	Links clauses/phrases within the boundaries of a single sentence.	Creates complexity and shows immediate relationships (cause/effect, contrast) between specific actions.
Inter-sentential	Transition words (<i>However, Therefore</i>), Anaphoric references (<i>The dog... It...</i>), Lexical	Connects ideas across different sentences or entire paragraphs.	Builds a "bridge" for the reader, ensuring the narrative or argument



Type	Examples	Primary Function	Impact on Writing
	chains (repetition of key terms).		flows logically from one point to the next.

Table 1.1: Examples of intra- and inter-sentential structures

Pilot questions 1.3

What is the difference between coherence and cohesion?
 Give two examples of linking devices used to show contrast.
 Fill in the blank: _____ refers to the logical flow of ideas in a text.
 What is one example of an intra-sentential structure?
 How do inter-sentential structures contribute to cohesion?

1.4 Text Description In Discourse Analysis

1.4.1 Advertisements and persuasive texts

Advertisements are texts designed to persuade audiences to buy products, adopt ideas, or support services. They often combine language with visual elements to create strong emotional appeal. Key features include catchy slogans, repetition, and persuasive devices such as rhetorical questions. Discourse analysis helps us examine how advertisements use words and images to influence consumer behaviour.

For example, an advert might repeat a phrase like “fresh and natural” to reinforce product quality. It may also use imperatives such as “buy now” to prompt immediate action.

Fill in the blank: Advertisements often use _____ questions and repetition to persuade audiences.



Plate 1.3: Persuasive language in advertisements



1.4.2 Obituaries and tributes

Obituaries are texts that announce the death of a person and provide information about their life, achievements, and family. They are usually formal and respectful in tone. Tributes are texts or speeches that honour and celebrate the life of a person, often delivered at funerals or memorial services. Both are examples of discourse shaped by cultural and social norms.

Discourse analysis helps us understand how obituaries and tributes use language to express respect, grief, and remembrance. For instance, phrases such as “fondly remembered” or “greatly missed” are common markers of respect.

Fill in the blank: Obituaries are usually formal and respectful in tone, while _____ celebrate the life of a person.

Feature	Description	Examples / Markers
Tone	Primarily formal, somber, and deeply respectful . It avoids casual slang unless quoting the deceased.	"It is with heavy hearts," "Distinguished service," "A life well-lived."
Linguistic Markers	Heavy use of euphemisms to soften the reality of death and phrases expressing remembrance .	"Passed away," "Went to be with the Lord," "In loving memory," "Fondly remembered."
Structure	Chronological or thematic arrangement of life events, emphasizing legacy and lineage .	Announcement of death, biographical sketch, list of surviving family, and service details.
Social Norms	Adherence to "De mortuis nil nisi bonum" (Of the dead, say nothing but good). Focuses on virtue and community impact .	Highlighting charitable works, professional milestones, or roles as a parent/mentor.
Cultural Markers	Specific religious or secular symbols and invitations for commemorative actions .	"In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to...", "May their soul rest in peace," or specific burial rites.

Box 1.4: Common features of obituaries and tributes

1.4.3 Cartoons, greetings, and courtesies

Cartoons are visual texts that often use humour, satire, or exaggeration to comment on social or political issues. They combine images with short captions or dialogues. Greetings are expressions



used to initiate social interaction, such as “hello” or “good morning”. Courtesies are polite expressions used to maintain social harmony, such as “please” and “thank you”.

Discourse analysis examines how these texts and expressions reflect cultural values and social relationships. For example, greetings may vary across regions, while courtesies often signal respect and politeness. Cartoons, on the other hand, may reveal public attitudes towards political leaders or social issues.

Fill in the blank: Expressions such as “please” and “thank you” are examples of _____ used to maintain social harmony.

Category	Social Purpose	Linguistic Realization
Cartoons	Satirical / Narrative: To entertain, critique, or simplify complex ideas through visual-textual irony.	Captions, thought bubbles, puns, hyperbolic dialogue, and onomatopoeia.
Greetings	Phatic Communication: To initiate social contact and acknowledge the presence of others.	"Good morning," "How's it going?," "Hi there!," "Welcome."
Courtesies	Relational Maintenance: To mitigate social friction (politeness) and show respect or gratitude.	"Thank you," "Please," "Excuse me," "I appreciate your help."

Figure 1.4: Categories of text description in discourse analysis

Pilot questions 1.4

What is the main purpose of advertisements?

Fill in the blank: _____ are texts that honour and celebrate the life of a person.

What common phrases are used in obituaries to express respect and remembrance?

Give one example of a courtesy expression.

How do cartoons reflect cultural or political values?

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundations of discourse analysis, highlighting its purpose and relevance in language studies. We began by defining discourse analysis and exploring its scope, followed by a discussion of its historical development and significance in contemporary contexts. We then examined practical methods and critical approaches to analysing texts and speeches, before moving on to the essential features of discourse such as coherence, cohesion, and linking devices. Finally, we applied these principles to specific text types including



advertisements, obituaries, tributes, cartoons, greetings, and courtesies, showing how discourse analysis operates in both academic and professional settings.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define discourse analysis and explain its scope (SLO 1.1), describe its historical development and evaluate its relevance (SLO 1.2), demonstrate methods of analysing texts and speeches (SLO 1.3), apply critical approaches in varied contexts (SLO 1.4), analyse features such as coherence, cohesion, and linking devices (SLO 1.5), and construct text descriptions using discourse analysis principles (SLO 1.6). These outcomes provide you with a strong foundation to progress into the next Series, where we will explore coherence, cohesion, and linking devices in greater detail.

Glossary of Terms

Advertisement: A persuasive text designed to promote products, services, or ideas, often combining language and visuals to influence consumer behaviour.

Cohesion: The grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs, ensuring smooth transitions within a text.

Coherence: The logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text, making it easy for readers or listeners to follow the message.

Courtesy: A polite expression such as “please” or “thank you”, used to maintain respect and social harmony in communication.

Critical discourse analysis (CDA): An approach to discourse analysis that examines how language reflects and reinforces power relations, ideologies, and biases in society.

Discourse analysis: The study of language beyond the sentence level, focusing on how texts and spoken communication create meaning in social and cultural contexts.

Greeting: An expression used to initiate social interaction, such as “hello” or “good morning”.

Intra-sentential structure: A linguistic device used within a single sentence, such as conjunctions or punctuation, to link clauses and maintain clarity.

Inter-sentential structure: A linguistic device used to connect ideas across sentences, such as pronouns, repetition, or transitional phrases.

Linking device: A word or phrase that connects ideas within and across sentences, guiding readers or listeners through a text.

Obituary: A formal text announcing the death of a person, often including details of their life, achievements, and family.

Tribute: A text or speech that honours and celebrates the life of a person, usually delivered at funerals or memorial services.

Cartoon: A visual text that uses humour, satire, or exaggeration, often with captions or dialogues, to comment on social or political issues.



Concept Check Questions 1

Objective Questions

- Which term refers to the study of language beyond the sentence level? (Linked to SLO 1.1)
- Who is one early contributor to discourse analysis? (Linked to SLO 1.2)
- Which feature ensures logical flow of ideas in a text? (Linked to SLO 1.5)
- Which branch of discourse analysis focuses on power relations in society? (Linked to SLO 1.4)
- Which type of text is designed to persuade audiences to buy products or adopt ideas? (Linked to SLO 1.6)

Short-Answer Questions

- Define discourse analysis and explain its scope. (Linked to SLO 1.1)
- Describe one way in which discourse analysis is relevant in contemporary society. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
- Give two examples of linking devices used to show contrast. (Linked to SLO 1.5)
- What is the difference between intra-sentential and inter-sentential structures? (Linked to SLO 1.5)
- Identify one common phrase used in obituaries to express respect and remembrance. (Linked to SLO 1.6)

Long-Answer Questions

- Analyse how coherence and cohesion work together to create effective discourse. (Linked to SLO 1.5)
- Evaluate the role of critical discourse analysis in revealing hidden ideologies in media texts. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
- Design a short text description for an advertisement or tribute, applying discourse analysis principles. (Linked to SLO 1.6)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective Questions

- Discourse analysis.
- Zellig Harris (also Michel Foucault).
- Coherence.
- Critical discourse analysis (CDA).
- Advertisement.

Short-Answer Questions

- Discourse analysis is the study of language beyond the sentence level, focusing on how texts and spoken communication create meaning in social and cultural contexts. Its scope includes everyday conversations, academic writing, political speeches, advertisements, and greetings.



It is relevant because it explains how language shapes public opinion, influences behaviour, and constructs identities.

Examples: *however, on the other hand*.

Intra-sentential structures are devices used within a single sentence, such as conjunctions, while inter-sentential structures connect ideas across sentences, such as pronouns or transitional phrases. Common phrases include “fondly remembered” or “greatly missed”.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Coherence ensures logical flow of ideas, while cohesion provides grammatical and lexical links between sentences. Together, they make texts meaningful and easy to follow. Value-added response: Beyond basic clarity, coherence and cohesion also influence how readers interpret arguments and narratives. For instance, cohesive devices like pronouns and conjunctions reinforce coherence by signalling relationships between ideas, thereby enhancing persuasion and readability.

Basic response: Critical discourse analysis examines how language reflects and reinforces power relations, ideologies, and biases. It reveals hidden assumptions in texts and speeches. Value-added response: CDA not only uncovers bias but also empowers readers to challenge dominant narratives. For example, in media texts, CDA can expose how certain groups are marginalised through framing, thereby promoting social awareness and change.

Basic response: A short advertisement might use repetition and persuasive language, such as “Buy now for freshness and quality”. A tribute might use respectful phrases like “fondly remembered” to honour someone. Value-added response: Effective text descriptions also consider cultural context and audience expectations. For instance, an advertisement targeting young people may use informal language and humour, while a tribute in a formal setting may use solemn tone and structured information.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1.1 Principles of Discourse Analysis

Language beyond the sentence level.

Zellig Harris (also Michel Foucault).

It explains how language reflects power, identity, and social relationships.

Effective communication in both professional and personal contexts.

Sentence.

Part 1.2 Practices of Discourse Analysis

Micro-level and macro-level.

Critical discourse analysis (CDA).

Analysing research articles, essays, or classroom interactions.

Ideologies.

By improving clarity, tone, and organisation in reports or presentations.



Part 1.3 Features of Discourse

Coherence ensures logical flow, while cohesion provides grammatical and lexical links.

However, on the other hand.

Coherence.

Conjunctions such as *because*.

They connect ideas across sentences, ensuring smooth transitions.

Part 1.4 Text Description in Discourse Analysis

To persuade audiences to buy products, adopt ideas, or support services.

Tributes.

“Fondly remembered”, “greatly missed”.

“Please”, “thank you”.

By using humour, satire, or exaggeration to comment on social or political issues.

References and Attributions [Series 1]

This section compiles references, suggested open educational resources (OERs), and AI-generated illustration prompts used throughout **Series 1: Foundations of Discourse Analysis**.

General References

Harris, Z. (1952). *Discourse analysis*. *Language*, 28(1), 1–30.

Foucault, M. (1972). *The archaeology of knowledge*. London: Tavistock.

Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language*. London: Longman.

Figures, Plates, Tables, and Boxes

Figure 1.1: Scope of discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a simple diagram showing sentence-level grammar at the base and discourse-level meaning at the top, connected by arrows.”

Suggested OER search string: “discourse analysis scope diagram OER”.

Plate 1.1: Historical roots of discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate an illustration of a philosopher or linguist addressing an audience in a lecture hall.”

Suggested OER search string: “Michel Foucault discourse analysis OER image”.

Box 1.1: Selected applications of discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table-style box listing applications of discourse analysis in education, media, and professional communication.”

Suggested OER search string: “applications of discourse analysis OER”.



Figure 1.2: Levels of discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram with two layers: micro-level (words, sentences) at the bottom and macro-level (themes, organisation) at the top, connected by arrows.”

Suggested OER search string: “levels of discourse analysis diagram OER”.

Box 1.2: Key features of critical discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing the main features of critical discourse analysis, including power, ideology, and bias.”

Suggested OER search string: “critical discourse analysis features OER”.

Plate 1.2: Discourse analysis in professional contexts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate an illustration of a person presenting a report to colleagues in a professional setting.”

Suggested OER search string: “discourse analysis workplace communication OER image”.

Figure 1.3: Relationship between coherence and cohesion

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram with two overlapping circles labelled coherence and cohesion, showing how they interact to create effective discourse.”

Suggested OER search string: “coherence cohesion discourse diagram OER”.

Box 1.3: Common linking devices in discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing categories of linking devices with examples under each category.”

Suggested OER search string: “linking devices discourse OER”.

Table 1.1: Examples of intra- and inter-sentential structures

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table comparing intra-sentential and inter-sentential structures with examples and functions.”

Suggested OER search string: “intra inter sentential structures OER”.

Plate 1.3: Persuasive language in advertisements

AI-generated prompt: “Generate an illustration of a poster advertisement with bold text and persuasive slogans.”

Suggested OER search string: “advertisement persuasive text OER image”.

Box 1.4: Common features of obituaries and tributes

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing features of obituaries and tributes, including tone and cultural markers.”



Suggested OER search string: “obituary tribute discourse analysis OER”.

Figure 1.4: Categories of text description in discourse analysis

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram with three labelled sections: cartoons, greetings, and courtesies, each with examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “cartoons greetings courtesies discourse OER diagram”.

Course code: ENG 306
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Proposed Outline for Series 2

Part 2.1 Coherence in Discourse

- 2.1.1 Definition and importance of coherence
- 2.1.2 Strategies for achieving coherence
- 2.1.3 Examples of coherent texts

Part 2.2 Cohesion in Discourse

- 2.2.1 Definition and importance of cohesion
- 2.2.2 Grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction)
- 2.2.3 Lexical cohesion (repetition, synonyms, collocations)



Part 2.3 Linking Devices in Discourse

- 2.3.1 Types of linking devices (addition, contrast, cause-effect, sequence)
- 2.3.2 Functions of linking devices in texts
- 2.3.3 Effective use of linking devices in academic and professional writing

Part 2.4 Integrating Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

- 2.4.1 Relationship between coherence and cohesion
- 2.4.2 Role of linking devices in enhancing coherence and cohesion
- 2.4.3 Practical applications in text construction

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the foundations of discourse analysis, focusing on its principles, practices, features, and applications in different text types. Building on that foundation, this Series will take you deeper into the essential elements that make communication effective: coherence, cohesion, and linking devices. These features are central to ensuring that texts are not only grammatically correct but also meaningful, logical, and persuasive. Understanding them will help you produce and analyse texts with greater clarity and impact.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to identify, explain, and apply coherence, cohesion, and linking devices in both academic and professional contexts, thereby enhancing your skills in constructing and evaluating effective discourse.

We shall commence this Series by examining coherence in discourse, looking at its definition, importance, and strategies for achieving it. Next, we will move on to cohesion, where we will study both grammatical and lexical cohesion in detail. Following that, we will explore linking devices, considering their types, functions, and effective use in writing. Finally, we will conclude by integrating coherence, cohesion, and linking devices, showing how they work together to strengthen communication and applying them to practical text construction.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 2.1** define coherence in discourse and explain its importance in ensuring logical flow of ideas,
- SLO 2.2** demonstrate strategies for achieving coherence in written and spoken texts,
- SLO 2.3** define cohesion and explain its role in connecting sentences and paragraphs,
- SLO 2.4** analyse grammatical cohesion devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction,



- SLO 2.5** identify and apply lexical cohesion devices including repetition, synonyms, and collocations,
- SLO 2.6** categorise different types of linking devices and explain their functions in discourse,
- SLO 2.7** apply linking devices effectively in academic and professional writing, and
- SLO 2.8** evaluate how coherence, cohesion, and linking devices work together to enhance text construction.

2.1 Coherence In Discourse

2.1.1 Definition and importance of coherence

Coherence refers to the logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text, ensuring that readers or listeners can easily follow the message. It is achieved when sentences and paragraphs are organised in a way that makes sense as a whole. Unlike cohesion, which focuses on grammatical and lexical links, coherence is concerned with meaning and the overall structure of communication.

For example, a coherent essay presents its arguments in a logical sequence, with each point building on the previous one. Without coherence, even grammatically correct sentences may appear disjointed and confusing.

Fill in the blank: _____ ensures that ideas in a text are logically connected and easy to follow.

Level	Component	Function in Coherence
Macro-Structure	Global Coherence	The overarching "Big Picture" where the introduction, body, and conclusion all support a single thesis or goal.
Micro-Structure	Local Coherence	The logical connection between individual sentences (e.g., a "Problem" followed by a "Solution").
Thematic	Topic Consistency	Maintaining a clear focus so the reader doesn't get lost in irrelevant details.

Figure 2.1: Coherence in discourse

2.1.2 Strategies for achieving coherence

Writers and speakers use several strategies to achieve coherence. These include:

- Logical sequencing:** arranging ideas in a clear order, such as chronological or cause-and-effect.
- Consistent focus:** maintaining attention on the main topic without unnecessary digressions.
- Clear transitions:** using phrases like *in addition*, *however*, or *as a result* to signal relationships between ideas.



Paragraph unity: ensuring each paragraph develops a single main idea.

By applying these strategies, texts become easier to read and more persuasive.

Fill in the blank: One strategy for achieving coherence is maintaining _____ focus on the main topic.

Strategy	Implementation	Purpose
Logical Sequencing	Organize content chronologically, spatially, or by importance (e.g., General to Specific).	Helps the reader predict the direction of the argument.
Consistent Focus	Ensure every sentence in a paragraph relates back to the Topic Sentence .	Prevents "tangents" that confuse the central message.
Clear Transitions	Use "signposting" (e.g., <i>In addition</i> , <i>By contrast</i> , <i>Specifically</i>) to signal shifts in thought.	Acts as a bridge between complex ideas across paragraphs.
Paragraph Unity	Limit each paragraph to one main idea . Use the PIE method (Point, Illustration, Explanation).	Creates "digestible" chunks of information for the reader.

Box 2.1: Strategies for achieving coherence

2.1.3 Examples of coherent texts

Coherent texts can be found in academic essays, professional reports, and everyday communication. For instance, a research article is coherent when its introduction, methodology, results, and conclusion are logically connected. Similarly, a business report achieves coherence when its sections flow naturally from problem identification to recommendations.

In spoken discourse, coherence is achieved when speakers organise their ideas clearly, avoiding abrupt shifts in topic. This helps listeners follow the conversation without confusion.

Fill in the blank: A research article achieves coherence when its introduction, methodology, results, and _____ are logically connected.



Context	Structural Strategy	Example of Coherence
Academic Essay	Thesis-Driven Progression	The introduction poses a research question; each body paragraph provides evidence that directly supports the thesis, leading to a synthesized conclusion.
Business Report	Action-Oriented Flow	The text moves logically from Problem Identification (Data/Analysis) to Strategic Recommendations (Solutions/ROI).
Spoken Discourse	Signposted Organization	A speaker uses verbal cues like "First," "Moving on to," and "To wrap up," avoiding abrupt shifts to keep the listener on track.

Table 2.1: Examples of coherence in different contexts

Pilot questions 2.1

What does coherence refer to in discourse?

Fill in the blank: _____ is concerned with meaning and overall structure, not just grammar.

Name two strategies for achieving coherence in writing.

Give one example of coherence in a business report.

Why is coherence important in spoken discourse?

2.2 Cohesion In Discourse

2.2.1 Definition and importance of cohesion

Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs, making texts flow smoothly. Unlike coherence, which focuses on meaning and logical organisation, cohesion is concerned with the linguistic devices that tie ideas together. Cohesion ensures that readers or listeners can see how one sentence relates to another, preventing communication from feeling fragmented.

For example, pronouns such as *he*, *she*, or *this* can refer back to previously mentioned ideas, while conjunctions like *and* or *because* link clauses together.

Fill in the blank: _____ is concerned with the grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs.



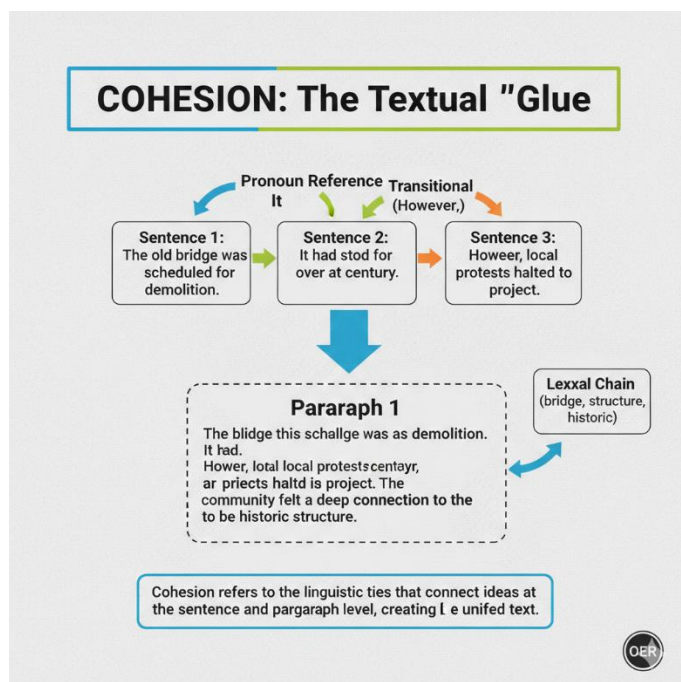


Figure 2.2: Cohesion in discourse

2.2.2 Grammatical cohesion

Grammatical cohesion refers to the use of grammatical devices to link sentences and clauses. The main types include:

Reference: using pronouns or demonstratives (e.g., *he, this*) to refer back to something already mentioned.

Substitution: replacing one item with another (e.g., *do* in "I like apples and so do I").

Ellipsis: omitting words that are understood from context (e.g., "Want some?" instead of "Do you want some?").

Conjunction: using words like *and, but, because* to connect ideas.

Fill in the blank: The omission of words that are understood from context is called _____.

Type	Description	Example
Reference	Using pronouns or demonstratives to point back to a previously mentioned entity.	"The report is finished. It is on your desk."
Substitution	Replacing a specific word or phrase with a filler word to avoid repetition.	"I don't like this pen . Do you have a better one ?"



Type	Description	Example
Ellipsis	Omitting a word or phrase that is clearly understood from the context.	"She ordered coffee, and he [ordered] tea."
Conjunction	Using words to signal a logical relationship between clauses or sentences.	"The results were inconclusive. Therefore , we must retest."

Box 2.2: Types of grammatical cohesion

2.2.3 Lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion refers to the use of vocabulary to create links between sentences and paragraphs. Common devices include:

Repetition: repeating key words to reinforce ideas.

Synonyms: using words with similar meanings to avoid monotony while maintaining connection.

Collocations: words that naturally occur together (e.g., *make a decision*, *strong tea*).

Lexical cohesion is particularly important in academic and professional writing, where consistent terminology helps maintain clarity and precision.

Fill in the blank: Words that naturally occur together, such as *make a decision*, are examples of _____.

Device	Example	Function
Repetition	"The climate is changing rapidly. This climate shift affects us all."	Reinforces key ideas and ensures the reader stays focused on the primary subject matter.
Synonyms	"It was a big challenge for the team. Overcoming such a major obstacle required grit."	Maintains variety to prevent "word fatigue" while keeping the underlying concept linked.
Collocations	"Before we make a decision , we must consider the heavy rain expected tonight."	Creates natural associations that sound "right" to a native speaker, smoothing the transition between ideas.

Table 2.2: Examples of lexical cohesion



Pilot questions 2.2

What does cohesion refer to in discourse?

Fill in the blank: Using pronouns such as *he* or *this* to refer back to something already mentioned is called _____.

Name two types of grammatical cohesion.

Give one example of lexical cohesion using synonyms.

Why is lexical cohesion important in academic writing?

2.3 Linking Devices In Discourse

2.3.1 Types of linking devices

Linking devices are words or phrases used to connect ideas within and across sentences. They guide readers or listeners by signalling relationships such as addition, contrast, cause and effect, or sequence. Common types include:

Addition: moreover, furthermore, in addition.

Contrast: however, on the other hand, yet.

Cause and effect: because, therefore, as a result.

Sequence: first, next, finally.

These devices are essential for creating texts that are easy to follow and persuasive.

Fill in the blank: Words such as *moreover* and *in addition* are examples of linking devices that show _____.

Category	Examples	Logical Function
Addition	<i>Moreover, furthermore, in addition, also</i>	Adds extra information that supports or expands on the current point.
Contrast	<i>However, on the other hand, yet, conversely</i>	Signals a shift in direction, a counter-argument, or a limitation.
Cause & Effect	<i>Therefore, as a result, consequently, because</i>	Shows that the following statement is a direct outcome of the previous one.
Sequence	<i>First, next, finally, subsequently</i>	Organizes ideas chronologically or in a prioritized list.

Box 2.3: Types of linking devices



2.3.2 Functions of linking devices in texts

The main function of linking devices is to make relationships between ideas explicit. They help readers understand whether a point is being extended, contrasted, explained, or concluded. For example, in academic writing, linking devices clarify the structure of arguments, while in professional reports they ensure that recommendations are logically connected to evidence.

Fill in the blank: Linking devices make relationships between ideas _____, helping readers follow the text more easily.

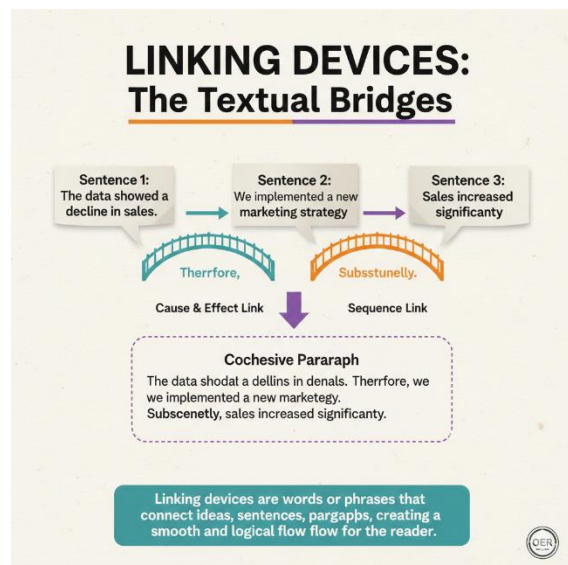


Figure 2.3: Linking devices as connectors in discourse

2.3.3 Effective use of linking devices in academic and professional writing

Effective use of linking devices requires balance. Overusing them can make writing feel mechanical, while underusing them may leave ideas disconnected. Writers should choose linking devices that match the intended relationship between ideas and vary their use to maintain reader interest.

In academic writing, linking devices strengthen arguments by showing logical progression. In professional contexts, they improve clarity in reports, proposals, and presentations.

Fill in the blank: Overusing linking devices can make writing feel _____, while underusing them may leave ideas disconnected.



Context	Example of Linking Device Use	Primary Function	Impact on Reader/Listener
Academic Essay	"The data remained consistent throughout the trial; therefore , the results support the hypothesis."	Cause-Effect	Validates the logical conclusion of an argument based on evidence.
Business Report	" In addition to increasing market share, the new strategy will reduce operational costs."	Additive	Highlights the multi-faceted benefits of a proposal to stakeholders.
Presentation	" Finally , we recommend adopting this policy to ensure long-term sustainability."	Sequential / Conclusive	Provides a clear "verbal cue" that the session is reaching its peak or conclusion.

Table 2.3: Examples of effective use of linking devices

Pilot questions 2.3

What are linking devices used for in discourse?

Fill in the blank: Words such as *however* and *yet* are examples of linking devices showing _____.

Give one example of a linking device used to show cause and effect.

Why is balance important when using linking devices in writing?

Provide one example of effective use of linking devices in a business report.

2.4 Integrating Coherence, Cohesion, And Linking Devices

2.4.1 Relationship between coherence and cohesion

Coherence and **cohesion** are closely related features of discourse. Coherence ensures that ideas are logically organised and meaningful, while cohesion provides the grammatical and lexical links that tie those ideas together. A text may be cohesive without being coherent if the links are present but the ideas lack logical flow. Conversely, a text may be coherent but not cohesive if the ideas are clear but the linguistic connections are weak. Effective communication requires both.

Fill in the blank: A text may be cohesive but not _____ if the ideas lack logical flow.





Figure 2.4: Relationship between coherence and cohesion

2.4.2 Role of linking devices in enhancing coherence and cohesion

Linking devices play a vital role in bridging coherence and cohesion. They make relationships between ideas explicit, guiding readers or listeners through the text. For example, words like *therefore* or *as a result* show cause-and-effect relationships, while *however* signals contrast. By using linking devices appropriately, writers and speakers strengthen both the logical flow (coherence) and the linguistic ties (cohesion).

Fill in the blank: Linking devices strengthen both the logical flow of ideas and the _____ ties between sentences.

Functions of Linking Devices: Enhancing Coherence & Cohesion in Text

Function	Description	Impact
Relationships	Signal the logical connection between ideas	Clarifies how sentences relate (e.g., cause, contrast, addition)
Logical Flow (coherence)	Ensures the overall text makes and follow a clear argument path	Ensures overall text makes and follow clear argument path
Linguistic Ties	Reinforce linguistic ties (cohesion)	Connects sentences and paragraphs explicit linguistic markers
Guidance through texts	Guide readers and listeners with explicit linguistic markers	Helps the audience follow the text's anticipate new points

Linking devices act as "signposts" to create a clear, unified, and easy-to-follow message.



Box 2.4: Functions of linking devices

2.4.3 Practical applications in text construction

Integrating coherence, cohesion, and linking devices is essential in constructing effective texts. In academic writing, this integration ensures that arguments are logically structured, linguistically connected, and easy to follow. In professional contexts, such as reports or presentations, it enhances clarity and persuasiveness. Everyday communication also benefits, as conversations become smoother and more meaningful when these features are applied together.

For instance, a well-written essay uses coherence to organise ideas, cohesion to connect sentences, and linking devices to signal transitions. Together, they create a text that is both readable and convincing.

Fill in the blank: A well-written essay uses coherence to organise ideas, cohesion to connect sentences, and _____ to signal transitions.

Discourse Integration: Coherence, Cohesion & Linking Devices

Feature	Function	Example
Coherence	Logical organization of ideas across text	Thesis-driven essay: Introduction → Body → Conclusion
Cohesion	Grammatical & lexical connections within text	
Explicit signals of relationships	Pronouns ('it'), Synonyms (big/large), Conjunctions (and)	Transitional phrases: 'Therefore', 'However', 'In addition'

Effective discourse weaves these elements together for a clear, unified, and engaging message.

Table 2.4: Integration of coherence, cohesion, and linking devices

Pilot questions 2.4

What is the difference between coherence and cohesion?

Fill in the blank: Linking devices strengthen both coherence and _____.

Give one example of a linking device that signals cause and effect.

How does integrating coherence, cohesion, and linking devices improve academic writing?

Provide one example of how these features work together in everyday communication.



Series Summary

This Series has focused on the essential features that make communication clear, logical, and persuasive. We began with coherence, examining its definition, importance, and strategies for achieving logical flow in texts. We then moved on to cohesion, exploring both grammatical and lexical devices that connect sentences and paragraphs. Following that, we studied linking devices, considering their types, functions, and effective use in academic and professional contexts. Finally, we integrated coherence, cohesion, and linking devices, showing how they work together to strengthen text construction across different settings.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define and explain coherence (SLO 2.1), demonstrate strategies for achieving it (SLO 2.2), define and explain cohesion (SLO 2.3), analyse grammatical cohesion devices (SLO 2.4), apply lexical cohesion devices (SLO 2.5), categorise and explain linking devices (SLO 2.6), apply them effectively in writing (SLO 2.7), and evaluate how all three features combine to enhance communication (SLO 2.8). These outcomes provide you with practical tools for producing well-structured texts and for critically analysing discourse in both academic and professional contexts.

Glossary of Terms

Addition linking device: A word or phrase such as *moreover* or *in addition* that signals extra information is being added to a text.

Coherence: The logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text, ensuring that readers or listeners can easily follow the message.

Cohesion: The grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs, making texts flow smoothly.

Collocation: Words that naturally occur together, such as *make a decision* or *heavy rain*, used to create lexical cohesion.

Conjunction: A grammatical cohesion device such as *and*, *but*, or *because* that connects clauses or sentences.

Ellipsis: A grammatical cohesion device where words are omitted because they are understood from the context, e.g., “Want some?” instead of “Do you want some?”.

Grammatical cohesion: The use of grammatical devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction to link sentences and clauses.

Lexical cohesion: The use of vocabulary, including repetition, synonyms, and collocations, to create links between sentences and paragraphs.

Linking device: A word or phrase that explicitly signals relationships between ideas, guiding readers or listeners through a text.

Reference: A grammatical cohesion device where pronouns or demonstratives (e.g., *he*, *this*) refer back to something already mentioned.

Repetition: A lexical cohesion device where key words are repeated to reinforce ideas and maintain connection.

Sequence linking device: A word or phrase such as *first*, *next*, or *finally* that signals the order of ideas or events.



Substitution: A grammatical cohesion device where one item is replaced with another, e.g., *do* in “I like apples and so do I”.

Synonym: A word with a similar meaning to another, used to maintain variety while linking ideas in a text.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective Questions

Which feature of discourse ensures logical flow and clarity of ideas? (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Which grammatical cohesion device involves omitting words understood from context? (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Which lexical cohesion device uses words that naturally occur together, such as *make a decision*? (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Which type of linking device signals contrast between ideas? (Linked to SLO 2.6)

Which feature focuses on grammatical and lexical links between sentences and paragraphs? (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Short-Answer Questions

Define coherence in discourse and explain its importance. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Describe one strategy for achieving coherence in writing. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Identify two types of grammatical cohesion devices. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Give one example of lexical cohesion using synonyms. (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Explain why balance is important when using linking devices in academic writing. (Linked to SLO 2.7)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse how coherence and cohesion work together to create effective discourse. (Linked to SLO 2.8)

Evaluate the role of linking devices in enhancing both coherence and cohesion in professional texts. (Linked to SLO 2.6, SLO 2.7, SLO 2.8)

Design a short text passage that demonstrates the integration of coherence, cohesion, and linking devices. (Linked to SLO 2.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective Questions

Coherence.

Ellipsis.

Collocation.

However, on the other hand, yet.



Cohesion.

Short-Answer Questions

Coherence is the logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text, ensuring that readers or listeners can follow the message easily. It is important because it makes communication meaningful and persuasive.

One strategy is logical sequencing, where ideas are arranged in a clear order such as chronological or cause-and-effect.

Reference and substitution.

Example: “challenge” and “obstacle”.

Balance prevents writing from becoming mechanical through overuse, or disconnected through underuse.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Coherence ensures logical organisation of ideas, while cohesion provides grammatical and lexical links between sentences. Together, they make texts clear and connected.

Value-added response: Beyond clarity, coherence and cohesion influence persuasiveness and readability. Cohesive devices such as pronouns and conjunctions reinforce coherence by signalling relationships between ideas, thereby strengthening arguments and narratives.

Basic response: Linking devices enhance coherence by showing logical flow and cohesion by connecting sentences. They make relationships between ideas explicit. **Value-added response:** In professional texts, linking devices improve clarity and persuasiveness. For example, in reports, *therefore* signals cause-and-effect, while *in addition* adds supporting evidence. Their effective use ensures that recommendations are logically tied to evidence, enhancing credibility.

Basic response: A passage such as: “Education is vital. It shapes society. Therefore, governments must invest in schools.” This shows coherence (logical flow), cohesion (repetition of *education*), and linking devices (*therefore*). **Value-added response:** A more advanced passage might integrate varied devices: “Education is vital for national progress. Schools provide opportunities for growth, and they also foster innovation. However, without adequate funding, these benefits cannot be realised. Therefore, governments must prioritise investment in education.” This demonstrates coherence through logical progression, cohesion through repetition and synonyms (*education, schools*), and linking devices (*and, however, therefore*).

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Part 2.1 Coherence in Discourse

Coherence refers to the logical flow and clarity of ideas in a text.

Coherence is concerned with meaning and overall structure, not just grammar.

Logical sequencing and clear transitions.

Flow from problem identification to recommendations.

It helps listeners follow the conversation without confusion.



Part 2.2 Cohesion in Discourse

Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical links that connect sentences and paragraphs.

Reference.

Substitution and ellipsis.

“Challenge” and “obstacle”.

It ensures clarity and precision by maintaining consistent terminology.

Part 2.3 Linking Devices in Discourse

Linking devices are used to connect ideas and signal relationships between them.

Contrast.

Therefore.

Balance prevents writing from becoming mechanical or disconnected.

“In addition, the new strategy will reduce costs.”

Part 2.4 Integrating Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

Coherence ensures logical organisation, while cohesion provides linguistic links.

Cohesion.

As a result.

It ensures arguments are logically structured, connected, and easy to follow.

In conversation, speakers use transitions like “anyway” or “so” to keep ideas connected and meaningful.

References and Attributions [Series 2]

This section compiles references, suggested open educational resources (OERs), and AI-generated illustration prompts used throughout **Series 2: Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices**.

General References

Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman.

Tanskanen, S. K. (2006). *Collaborative dialogue: Coherence in spoken and written discourse*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

McCarthy, M. (1991). *Discourse analysis for language teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Figures, Plates, Tables, and Boxes

Figure 2.1: Coherence in discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing a flow of ideas from introduction to conclusion, labelled coherence.”

Suggested OER search string: “coherence in discourse diagram OER”.



Box 2.1: Strategies for achieving coherence

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing strategies for achieving coherence in writing.”

Suggested OER search string: “strategies for coherence in writing OER”.

Table 2.1: Examples of coherence in different contexts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing examples of coherence in academic essays, business reports, and spoken discourse.”

Suggested OER search string: “examples of coherence in texts OER”.

Figure 2.2: Cohesion in discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing sentences connected by arrows labelled cohesion.”

Suggested OER search string: “cohesion in discourse diagram OER”.

Box 2.2: Types of grammatical cohesion

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing types of grammatical cohesion with brief examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “grammatical cohesion types OER”.

Table 2.2: Examples of lexical cohesion

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing examples of repetition, synonyms, and collocations as lexical cohesion devices.”

Suggested OER search string: “lexical cohesion examples OER”.

Box 2.3: Types of linking devices

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing types of linking devices with examples under each category.”

Suggested OER search string: “types of linking devices discourse OER”.

Figure 2.3: Linking devices as connectors in discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing linking devices as bridges connecting ideas across sentences.”

Suggested OER search string: “linking devices connectors diagram OER”.

Table 2.3: Examples of effective use of linking devices

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing examples of linking devices used in academic essays, business reports, and presentations.”

Suggested OER search string: “effective use of linking devices examples OER”.

Figure 2.4: Relationship between coherence and cohesion



AI-generated prompt: “Generate a Venn diagram showing coherence as logical organisation, cohesion as linguistic links, and overlap as effective discourse.”

Suggested OER search string: “coherence cohesion relationship diagram OER”.

Box 2.4: Functions of linking devices

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing functions of linking devices in enhancing coherence and cohesion.”

Suggested OER search string: “functions of linking devices discourse OER”.

Table 2.4: Integration of coherence, cohesion, and linking devices

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing integration of coherence, cohesion, and linking devices with functions and examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “integration of coherence cohesion linking devices OER”.

Course code: ENG 306

Course title: Discourse Analysis

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: Foundations of Discourse Analysis

Series 2: Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

Series 3: Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices

Series 4: Specialized English Texts and Professional Applications

Series 5: Nigerian English in Social and Regional Contexts

Proposed Outline for Series 3

Part 3.1 Textual structures in discourse

3.1.1 Definition and importance of textual structures

3.1.2 Common textual structures (narrative, descriptive, expository, argumentative)

3.1.3 Functions of textual structures in communication

Part 3.2 Paragraph organisation and devices

3.2.1 Principles of paragraph unity and coherence

3.2.2 Topic sentences and supporting details



3.2.3 Transitional devices within and across paragraphs

Part 3.3 Applications of textual and paragraph devices

3.3.1 Academic writing contexts (essays, reports)

3.3.2 Professional communication (memos, proposals)

3.3.3 Everyday discourse (letters, online posts)

Part 3.4 Integrating textual structures and paragraph devices

3.4.1 How textual structures shape paragraph organisation

3.4.2 Role of devices in maintaining flow across texts

3.4.3 Practical examples of integrated text construction

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined coherence, cohesion, and linking devices, focusing on how these features combine to create effective and meaningful discourse. Building on that foundation, this Series will turn to the organisation of texts and paragraphs, exploring how structures and devices shape communication. Whether in academic essays, professional reports, or everyday writing, understanding textual structures and paragraph organisation is essential for producing clear, persuasive, and well-structured discourse.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the principles of textual structures and paragraph devices, and to equip you with the skills needed to organise ideas effectively, construct unified paragraphs, and apply devices that maintain flow across different types of texts.

We shall commence this Series by examining textual structures in discourse, including narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative forms. Next, we will move on to paragraph organisation and devices, focusing on unity, topic sentences, supporting details, and transitions. Following that, we will explore applications of textual and paragraph devices in academic, professional, and everyday contexts. Finally, we will conclude by integrating textual structures and paragraph devices, showing how they work together to produce coherent and persuasive texts.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 3.1 define textual structures in discourse and explain their importance,

SLO 3.2 identify common textual structures such as narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative forms,

SLO 3.3 analyse the functions of textual structures in communication,



- SLO 3.4** explain the principles of paragraph unity and coherence,
SLO 3.5 construct paragraphs using topic sentences and supporting details,
SLO 3.6 apply transitional devices effectively within and across paragraphs,
SLO 3.7 demonstrate the use of textual and paragraph devices in academic, professional, and everyday contexts, and
SLO 3.8 evaluate how textual structures and paragraph devices integrate to produce coherent and persuasive texts.

3.1 Textual Structures In Discourse

3.1.1 Definition and importance of textual structures

Textual structures refer to the organised patterns or frameworks that shape how information is presented in a text. They provide a blueprint for arranging ideas so that readers or listeners can easily follow the message. Common structures include narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative forms. Each structure serves a distinct purpose, whether it is to tell a story, describe a scene, explain a concept, or persuade an audience.

The importance of textual structures lies in their ability to make communication clear, purposeful, and effective. Without structure, texts may appear confusing or disjointed, even if the sentences are grammatically correct.

Fill in the blank: _____ provide a blueprint for arranging ideas so that readers or listeners can easily follow the message.



Figure 3.1: Textual structures in discourse



3.1.2 Common textual structures

There are several widely recognised textual structures:

Narrative structure: Organises information as a story with characters, events, and a sequence of actions.

Descriptive structure: Focuses on portraying details of people, places, or objects to create vivid imagery.

Expository structure: Presents facts, explanations, or instructions in a clear and logical manner.

Argumentative structure: Builds a case by presenting claims, supporting evidence, and counterarguments to persuade the reader.

Each of these structures is suited to particular contexts. For example, narratives are common in literature, while argumentative structures dominate academic essays.

Fill in the blank: A text that presents claims, evidence, and counterarguments to persuade the reader is organised using an _____ structure.

Structure	Primary Function	Example Contexts	Key Linguistic Features
Narrative	Tells a story by sequencing events involving characters over time.	Novels, personal accounts, biographies.	Past tense verbs, temporal markers (e.g., <i>then, suddenly</i>).
Descriptive	Creates vivid imagery or technical detail of people, places, or objects.	Travel writing, technical reports, poetry.	Adjectives, sensory language, spatial markers (e.g., <i>next to, below</i>).
Expository	Explains, informs, or defines a subject with objective clarity.	Textbooks, manuals, news articles.	Present tense, definitions, logical connectors (e.g., <i>specifically, for instance</i>).
Argumentative	Persuades the audience by presenting a claim supported by evidence.	Academic essays, debates, opinion pieces.	Modal verbs (<i>should, must</i>), evaluative language, contrastive links.

Table 3.1: Common textual structures and their functions



3.1.3 Functions of textual structures in communication

Textual structures serve several functions in communication. They:

- Provide clarity by organising ideas logically.
- Enhance reader engagement by matching structure to purpose.
- Support comprehension by guiding readers through the text.
- Strengthen persuasiveness in contexts where arguments are required.

For instance, a descriptive passage in a travel blog engages readers by painting a vivid picture, while an expository passage in a manual ensures clarity and precision. Choosing the right structure is therefore critical to achieving the intended communicative goal.

Fill in the blank: Textual structures enhance reader _____ by matching organisation to purpose.

Function	How it Works	Communication Outcome
Provide Clarity	By following a predictable pattern (e.g., Problem-Solution), the reader knows where to find specific information.	Reduces cognitive load and prevents confusion.
Enhance Engagement	Structures like Narrative tap into human psychology by building tension and resolution.	Keeps the audience interested and invested in the "story."
Support Comprehension	Breaking complex information into Expository categories (Definition, Comparison, Contrast) makes it digestible.	Ensures the audience actually learns or retains the information.
Strengthen Persuasiveness	Argumentative structures use the logic of "Claim → Evidence → Warrant" to build an undeniable case.	Increases the likelihood that the audience will change their mind or take action.

Box 3.1: Functions of textual structures

Pilot questions 3.1

What are textual structures in discourse?

Fill in the blank: _____ is the structure that presents facts and explanations in a clear manner.

Name two common textual structures and their functions.

Why are textual structures important in communication?

Give one example of how textual structures enhance reader engagement.

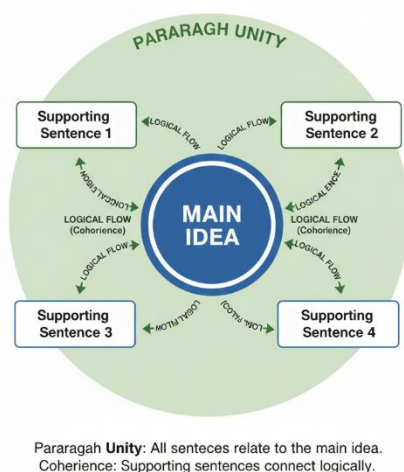


3.2 Paragraph Organisation And Devices

3.2.1 Principles of paragraph unity and coherence

Paragraph unity means that all sentences within a paragraph focus on a single main idea. Every supporting sentence should contribute to developing that idea, without digressions. **Paragraph coherence** refers to the logical flow of sentences within the paragraph, ensuring that ideas are connected and easy to follow. Together, unity and coherence make paragraphs clear, purposeful, and effective.

Fill in the blank: _____ ensures that all sentences in a paragraph focus on a single main idea.



OER

Figure 3.2: Unity and coherence in paragraphs

3.2.2 Topic sentences and supporting details

A **topic sentence** is the sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph. It sets the direction for the rest of the paragraph. **Supporting details** are sentences that explain, illustrate, or provide evidence for the topic sentence. Effective paragraphs begin with a clear topic sentence, followed by supporting details that expand or clarify the idea.

For example, in a paragraph about climate change, the topic sentence might state the main idea, while supporting details provide evidence such as rising temperatures or melting ice caps.

Fill in the blank: The sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph is called the _____ sentence.



Feature	Description	Impact on the Reader
Main Idea Clarity	Explicitly states the central point or claim of the paragraph.	Prevents the reader from having to "guess" what the paragraph is about.
Directional Focus	Limits the scope of the discussion to a manageable topic.	Sets expectations for what will be proven or explained in the following sentences.
Precision	Avoids unnecessary details or "fluff" that belongs in the supporting sentences.	Keeps the "opening hook" sharp and easy to digest.
Purposeful Link	Connects the specific paragraph point back to the overall thesis or goal.	Maintains Global Coherence by showing how this piece fits into the whole.

Box 3.2: Features of effective topic sentences

3.2.3 Transitional devices within and across paragraphs

Transitional devices are words or phrases that connect ideas within a paragraph or link one paragraph to another. They guide readers through the text by signalling relationships such as addition (*furthermore*), contrast (*however*), cause and effect (*therefore*), or sequence (*next*).

Effective use of transitions ensures that paragraphs do not feel isolated but instead contribute to the overall flow of the text. Overusing transitions can make writing mechanical, while underusing them may leave ideas disconnected.

Fill in the blank: Words such as *however* and *therefore* are examples of _____ devices that connect ideas in writing.

Type	Example Phrases	Core Function	Impact on Flow
Addition	<i>Moreover, furthermore, in addition, additionally</i>	Adds a layer of supporting information to the current point.	Strengthens an argument by stacking evidence.
Contrast	<i>However, on the other hand, conversely, nonetheless</i>	Signals a shift, a difference, or a direct opposition to the previous idea.	Prepares the reader for a counter-argument or nuance.



Type	Example Phrases	Core Function	Impact on Flow
Cause & Effect	<i>Therefore, as a result, consequently, hence</i>	Demonstrates a logical consequence or a "reason-to-result" link.	Solidifies the "Why" behind your statements.
Sequence	<i>First, next, finally, subsequently, meanwhile</i>	Indicates the chronological or prioritized order of ideas.	Organizes the text into a clear, predictable timeline.

Table 3.2: Examples of transitional devices

Pilot questions 3.2

What is paragraph unity?

Fill in the blank: _____ refers to the logical flow of sentences within a paragraph.

What is the role of a topic sentence in a paragraph?

Give one example of a supporting detail in a paragraph about climate change.

Provide two examples of transitional devices that show cause and effect.

3.3 Applications Of Textual And Paragraph Devices

3.3.1 Academic writing contexts

In academic writing, **textual structures** and **paragraph devices** are essential for presenting arguments clearly and logically. Essays, reports, and research papers rely on expository and argumentative structures to explain concepts and persuade readers. Within these texts, paragraphs must demonstrate unity and coherence, beginning with topic sentences and supported by evidence or examples. Transitional devices ensure that sections flow smoothly, guiding the reader through complex arguments.

Fill in the blank: Academic essays often rely on _____ structures to present claims and evidence in a persuasive manner.

Text Type	Primary Structure	Paragraph Device Focus	Strategy for Success
Essay	Argumentative	Topic Sentences & Transitions	Every paragraph begins with a clear claim that links back to the thesis, using transitions to pivot between ideas.



Text Type	Primary Structure	Paragraph Device Focus	Strategy for Success
Report	Expository	Supporting Details & Logical Flow	Focuses on "scannability." Paragraphs are often shorter, using bullet points or data to support clear, informative headings.
Research Paper	Expository / Argumentative	Evidence Integration & Coherence	Combines factual reporting (Literature Review) with persuasive analysis (Discussion), requiring seamless "synthesizing" of sources.

Table 3.3: Applications in academic writing

3.3.2 Professional communication

In professional contexts, such as memos, proposals, and business reports, textual structures and paragraph devices enhance clarity and persuasiveness. Expository structures are often used to present information clearly, while argumentative structures support recommendations. Paragraph devices such as topic sentences and transitions ensure that ideas are easy to follow, making documents more effective for decision-making.

For example, a business proposal may begin with an expository section outlining the problem, followed by an argumentative section presenting solutions and evidence.

Fill in the blank: Professional communication often uses _____ structures to present information clearly and logically.

Document Type	Dominant Textual Structure	Paragraph Device Priority	Communication Goal
Memos	Expository	Clear Transitions	To provide internal updates or instructions with zero ambiguity.
Proposals	Expository + Argumentative	Persuasive Topic Sentences	To define a problem (Expository) and argue for a specific solution (Argumentative).
Reports	Expository	Topic Sentences & Supporting Details	To document findings and data in a way that is easy to reference and scan.



Box 3.3: Applications in professional communication

3.3.3 Everyday discourse

Everyday communication also benefits from textual structures and paragraph devices. Letters, emails, and online posts often use descriptive or narrative structures to engage readers, while transitions and topic sentences help maintain clarity. Even informal texts require organisation to ensure that the message is understood.

For instance, a personal letter may use narrative structure to recount events, while an online post may use expository structure to explain a viewpoint.

Fill in the blank: Everyday communication such as letters and online posts often use _____ or narrative structures to engage readers.

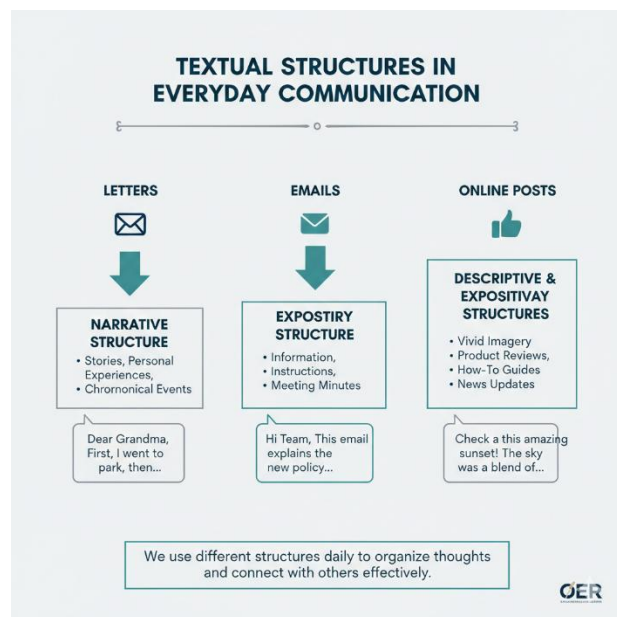


Figure 3.3: Applications of textual structures in everyday discourse

Pilot questions 3.3

Which textual structures are commonly used in academic essays?

Fill in the blank: Business proposals often combine expository and _____ structures.

Give one example of how paragraph devices enhance clarity in professional communication.

What textual structures are often used in everyday communication such as letters?

Why are textual structures and paragraph devices important in online posts?



3.4 Integrating Textual Structures And Paragraph Devices

3.4.1 How textual structures shape paragraph organisation

Textual structures provide the overall framework for a piece of writing, while paragraph organisation ensures that this framework is realised at the sentence level. For example, in an argumentative essay, the structure dictates that claims, evidence, and counterarguments must be presented. Paragraph organisation then ensures that each claim is developed in a unified and coherent way, with topic sentences, supporting details, and transitions guiding the reader.

Fill in the blank: In an argumentative essay, textual structure dictates the presentation of claims, evidence, and _____.

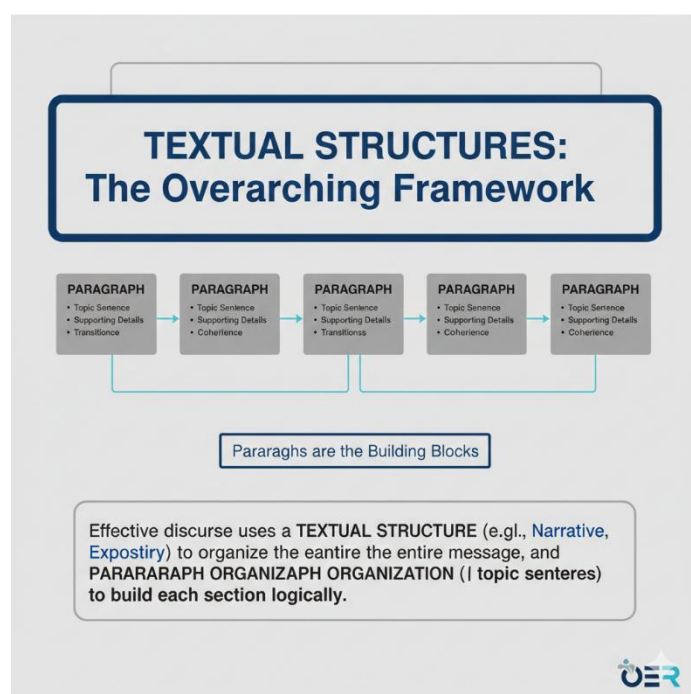


Figure 3.4: Relationship between textual structures and paragraph organisation

3.4.2 Role of devices in maintaining flow across texts

Paragraph devices such as topic sentences, supporting details, and transitional devices ensure that ideas flow smoothly within and across paragraphs. When combined with textual structures, they help maintain consistency and clarity throughout the text. For instance, transitions like *in addition* or *however* not only connect sentences but also signal shifts in the larger structure, guiding readers through the text's progression.

Fill in the blank: Transitional devices such as *however* and *in addition* help maintain _____ across paragraphs.



Device	Primary Role	Impact on the Reader
Topic Sentences	Foundation: Introduces the main idea of the paragraph.	Provides an immediate "anchor" so the reader understands the purpose of the upcoming text.
Supporting Details	Substance: Expands, clarifies, and provides evidence for the topic sentence.	Builds credibility and depth, transforming a simple claim into a fully developed thought.
Transitional Devices	Connection: Links sentences and paragraphs together.	Acts as the "logical glue" that prevents the writing from feeling disjointed or "choppy."

Box 3.4: Devices that maintain flow across texts

3.4.3 Practical examples of integrated text construction

When coherence at the text level and organisation at the paragraph level are combined, the result is a well-structured and persuasive piece of writing. For example, a research paper may use an expository structure to present findings, with each paragraph organised around a clear topic sentence and supported by evidence. Similarly, a business proposal may integrate expository and argumentative structures, with paragraphs carefully organised to present problems, solutions, and recommendations.

Fill in the blank: A business proposal may integrate expository and _____ structures to present problems and solutions effectively.



Integrated Text Construction: Examples

Context	Textual	Paragraph Organization Focus
Research Paper	Expository	Topic Sentences, Evidence, Evidence, Transitions (TEA)
Business Proposal	Expository + Argumentative	"Recent studies on climate migration show a clear trend. "Evidence): A 2023 report on 30% increase and displacement regions. This urgent need for new infrastructure.
Narrative	Expository + Argumentative	"Our current software system outdates and inefficient. (Support): "hereby, increases operational costs.
Business Proposal	Problem-Solution Organization	"We propose implementing the new "InnovateX" platform."
1. Narrative Essay	"We renewed): Organizing and operational costs.	"The old an Detail, silent, weathered, and storm-tossed, for dark.
2. Narrative	"We renewed): Organized and organized 15%.	"Suddenly, surged, Vivid Detail. for years.
3. Suddoply	"The old – span' stodi – silent, weathered – against storm and storm-tossed the sea. Achieve of the 10%." (Hoe curter, geurpat the nearby village.	

(END OF OER SERIES)

Table 3.4: Examples of integrated text construction

Pilot questions 3.4

How do textual structures shape paragraph organisation?

Fill in the blank: Transitional devices help maintain _____ across paragraphs.

Give one example of a paragraph device that introduces the main idea.

What textual structures are often integrated in business proposals?

Why is integration of textual structures and paragraph devices important in research papers?

Series Summary

This Series has explored how texts and paragraphs are organised to achieve clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness. We began by defining textual structures and examining their importance, before moving on to common forms such as narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative. Then, we studied paragraph organisation, focusing on unity, coherence, topic sentences, supporting details, and transitional devices. Following that, we considered applications of these principles in academic, professional, and everyday contexts. Finally, we integrated textual structures and paragraph devices, showing how they work together to produce effective and well-structured texts.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define and explain textual structures (SLO 3.1), identify and analyse their functions (SLO 3.2, SLO 3.3), explain and construct coherent



paragraphs (SLO 3.4, SLO 3.5), apply transitional devices effectively (SLO 3.6), demonstrate the use of these features in different contexts (SLO 3.7), and evaluate their integration in producing persuasive texts (SLO 3.8). These outcomes provide you with practical skills for organising ideas at both the text and paragraph level, strengthening your ability to write and analyse discourse across academic, professional, and everyday settings.

Glossary of Terms

Addition linking device: A word or phrase such as *moreover* or *in addition* that signals extra information is being added to a paragraph or text.

Argumentative structure: A textual structure that presents claims, supporting evidence, and counterarguments in order to persuade the reader.

Coherence (paragraph): The logical flow of sentences within a paragraph, ensuring ideas are connected and easy to follow.

Descriptive structure: A textual structure that focuses on portraying details of people, places, or objects to create vivid imagery.

Expository structure: A textual structure that presents facts, explanations, or instructions in a clear and logical manner.

Narrative structure: A textual structure that organises information as a story with characters, events, and a sequence of actions.

Paragraph unity: The principle that all sentences within a paragraph should focus on a single main idea.

Supporting details: Sentences that explain, illustrate, or provide evidence for the topic sentence in a paragraph.

Textual structures: Organised patterns or frameworks that shape how information is presented in a text, such as narrative, descriptive, expository, or argumentative.

Topic sentence: The sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph and sets the direction for the rest of the paragraph.

Transitional devices: Words or phrases such as *however*, *therefore*, or *next* that connect ideas within and across paragraphs, guiding readers through the text.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

Which textual structure presents facts, explanations, or instructions in a clear and logical manner? (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Which principle ensures that all sentences in a paragraph focus on a single main idea? (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Which sentence expresses the main idea of a paragraph and sets its direction? (Linked to SLO 3.5)

Which type of transitional device signals contrast between ideas? (Linked to SLO 3.6)



Which textual structure is commonly used in essays to persuade readers with claims and evidence? (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Short-Answer Questions

Define textual structures in discourse and explain their importance. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Identify two common textual structures and describe their functions. (Linked to SLO 3.2, SLO 3.3)

Explain the difference between paragraph unity and coherence. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Give one example of a supporting detail in a paragraph about climate change. (Linked to SLO 3.5)

Provide two examples of transitional devices that show cause and effect. (Linked to SLO 3.6)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse how textual structures influence paragraph organisation in academic writing. (Linked to SLO 3.3, SLO 3.4)

Evaluate the role of textual and paragraph devices in professional communication such as reports or proposals. (Linked to SLO 3.7)

Design a short text passage that integrates textual structures and paragraph devices effectively. (Linked to SLO 3.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

Expository structure.

Paragraph unity.

Topic sentence.

Contrast devices (e.g., *however*, *on the other hand*).

Argumentative structure.

Short-Answer Questions

Textual structures are organised patterns that shape how information is presented in a text. They are important because they provide clarity, purpose, and effectiveness in communication.

Narrative structure tells a story with events and characters, while descriptive structure creates vivid imagery of people or places.

Unity ensures all sentences focus on one main idea, while coherence ensures logical flow and connection between sentences.

Example: "Rising global temperatures have led to the melting of polar ice caps."

Therefore and as a result.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Textual structures such as argumentative or expository forms guide how paragraphs are organised. Each paragraph develops a single idea with a topic sentence, supporting details, and transitions. **Value-added response:** In academic writing, textual structures not only



shape paragraph organisation but also influence persuasiveness. For example, argumentative essays require paragraphs that present claims, evidence, and counterarguments, while expository essays demand clarity and logical sequencing. This integration ensures both coherence and credibility.

Basic response: Textual and paragraph devices make professional communication clear and easy to follow. Reports use expository structures with topic sentences and transitions, while proposals combine expository and argumentative structures. **Value-added response:** Beyond clarity, these devices enhance persuasiveness and decision-making. For instance, a proposal may begin with an expository overview of a problem, followed by argumentative paragraphs presenting solutions. Transitional devices ensure smooth flow, making the document professional and convincing.

Basic response: Example passage: “Education is vital for national progress. Schools provide opportunities for growth. Therefore, governments must invest in education.” **Value-added response:** More advanced passage: “Education is vital for national progress. Strong schools provide opportunities for growth and innovation. However, without adequate funding, these benefits cannot be realised. Therefore, governments must prioritise investment in education.” This integrates expository and argumentative structures, with topic sentences, supporting details, and transitions.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 3]

Part 3.1 Textual Structures in Discourse

Textual structures are organised patterns or frameworks that shape how information is presented in a text.

Expository structure.

Narrative structure tells a story with events and characters; descriptive structure creates vivid imagery of people or places.

They make communication clear, purposeful, and effective.

A descriptive passage in a travel blog engages readers by painting a vivid picture.

Part 3.2 Paragraph Organisation and Devices

Paragraph unity means all sentences in a paragraph focus on a single main idea.

Coherence.

It expresses the main idea and sets the direction for the paragraph.

Example: “Rising global temperatures have led to the melting of polar ice caps.”

Therefore and as a result.

Part 3.3 Applications of Textual and Paragraph Devices

Argumentative structures.

Argumentative structures.

Topic sentences and transitions make ideas easy to follow.

Narrative structures.

They ensure clarity and organisation so that the message is understood.



Part 3.4 Integrating Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices

They provide the overall framework, while paragraph organisation ensures each idea is developed clearly.

Flow.

Topic sentence.

Expository and argumentative structures.

They ensure findings are presented clearly, logically, and persuasively.

References and Attributions [Series 3]

This section compiles references, suggested open educational resources (OERs), and AI-generated illustration prompts used throughout **Series 3: Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices**.

General References

Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman.

McCarthy, M. (1991). *Discourse analysis for language teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Paltridge, B. (2012). *Discourse analysis: An introduction*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Tanskanen, S. K. (2006). *Collaborative dialogue: Coherence in spoken and written discourse*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Figures, Tables, and Boxes

Figure 3.1: Textual structures in discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing four labelled blocks: narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative, connected under the heading textual structures.”

Suggested OER search string: “textual structures in discourse diagram OER”.

Table 3.1: Common textual structures and their functions

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative structures with functions and examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “types of textual structures examples OER”.

Box 3.1: Functions of textual structures

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing functions of textual structures in communication.”

Suggested OER search string: “functions of textual structures discourse OER”.

Figure 3.2: Unity and coherence in paragraphs



AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing a central circle labelled ‘main idea’ with arrows pointing to supporting sentences, demonstrating unity and coherence.”

Suggested OER search string: “paragraph unity coherence diagram OER”.

Box 3.2: Features of effective topic sentences

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing features of effective topic sentences in writing.”

Suggested OER search string: “topic sentence features OER”.

Table 3.2: Examples of transitional devices

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing types of transitional devices with examples and functions.”

Suggested OER search string: “transitional devices examples OER”.

Table 3.3: Applications in academic writing

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing applications of textual structures and paragraph devices in essays, reports, and research papers.”

Suggested OER search string: “academic writing textual structures OER”.

Box 3.3: Applications in professional communication

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing applications of textual structures and paragraph devices in memos, proposals, and reports.”

Suggested OER search string: “professional communication textual structures OER”.

Figure 3.3: Applications of textual structures in everyday discourse

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing letters, emails, and online posts linked to narrative, expository, and descriptive structures.”

Suggested OER search string: “textual structures everyday communication OER”.

Figure 3.4: Relationship between textual structures and paragraph organisation

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing textual structures as a large framework with smaller blocks labelled paragraphs inside it.”

Suggested OER search string: “relationship between textual structures and paragraph organisation OER”.

Box 3.4: Devices that maintain flow across texts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing devices that maintain flow across texts with examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “paragraph devices flow across texts OER”.



Table 3.4: Examples of integrated text construction

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing examples of integrated text construction in research papers, business proposals, and narrative essays.”

Suggested OER search string: “examples of integrated text construction OER”.

Course code: ENG 306

Course title: Discourse Analysis

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: Foundations of Discourse Analysis

Series 2: Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

Series 3: Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices

Series 4: Specialized English Texts and Professional Applications

Series 5: Nigerian English in Social and Regional Contexts

Proposed Outline for Series 4

Part 4.1 Specialised English texts

4.1.1 Definition and characteristics of specialised texts

4.1.2 Types of specialised texts (legal, medical, technical, academic)

4.1.3 Functions and contexts of specialised texts

Part 4.2 Professional applications of specialised texts

4.2.1 Business communication (reports, proposals, memos)

4.2.2 Workplace documentation (manuals, guidelines, policies)

4.2.3 Public and institutional communication (press releases, official statements)

Part 4.3 Analysing and producing specialised texts

4.3.1 Strategies for analysing specialised texts

4.3.2 Techniques for producing professional documents

4.3.3 Common challenges and solutions in professional writing



Part 4.4 Integrating specialised texts into discourse analysis

- 4.4.1 Role of specialised texts in broader discourse contexts
- 4.4.2 Impact on professional identity and communication effectiveness
- 4.4.3 Case studies of specialised text use in practice

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored textual structures and paragraph devices, focusing on how texts are organised and how paragraphs achieve unity, coherence, and flow. Building on that foundation, this Series will turn to specialised English texts and their professional applications. In today's world, professionals across fields such as law, medicine, business, and academia rely on specialised forms of English to communicate effectively. Understanding these texts and how they function in professional contexts is therefore a vital part of discourse analysis.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to specialised English texts and to equip you with the skills needed to analyse, produce, and apply them in professional communication. By the end of the Series, you will be able to recognise the features of specialised texts, apply them in workplace and institutional contexts, and evaluate their role in broader discourse.

We shall commence this Series by examining specialised English texts, defining their characteristics and exploring types such as legal, medical, technical, and academic. Next, we will move on to professional applications, considering how specialised texts are used in business communication, workplace documentation, and public or institutional contexts. Following that, we will analyse and practise producing specialised texts, focusing on strategies, techniques, and common challenges. Finally, we will conclude by integrating specialised texts into discourse analysis, looking at their role in shaping professional identity and communication effectiveness, supported by case studies.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 4.1** define specialised English texts and explain their key characteristics,
- SLO 4.2** identify different types of specialised texts such as legal, medical, technical, and academic,
- SLO 4.3** analyse the functions and contexts in which specialised texts are used,
- SLO 4.4** apply specialised English texts in professional communication such as reports, proposals, and memos,
- SLO 4.5** demonstrate the use of specialised texts in workplace documentation including manuals, guidelines, and policies,
- SLO 4.6** evaluate the role of specialised texts in public and institutional communication such as press releases and official statements,
- SLO 4.7** employ strategies for analysing specialised texts effectively,



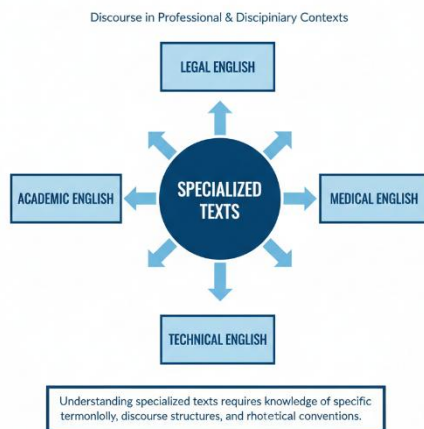
- SLO 4.8** produce professional documents using appropriate techniques and devices,
SLO 4.9 identify common challenges in professional writing and propose suitable solutions,
and
SLO 4.10 assess how specialised texts integrate into broader discourse analysis, including their impact on professional identity and communication effectiveness.

4.1 Specialised English Texts

4.1.1 Definition and characteristics of specialised texts

Specialised English texts are written or spoken materials that use language tailored to a specific professional or disciplinary context. They are characterised by technical vocabulary, precise structure, and adherence to conventions that ensure clarity and accuracy. Examples include legal contracts, medical reports, technical manuals, and academic articles. These texts differ from general communication because they prioritise precision, formality, and audience-specific requirements.

Fill in the blank: _____ texts are characterised by technical vocabulary, precise structure, and adherence to conventions that ensure clarity and accuracy.



OER

Figure 4.1: Types of specialised English texts

4.1.2 Types of specialised texts

Specialised texts vary according to the field in which they are used:

Legal texts: Documents such as contracts, statutes, and case reports. They are characterised by formal language, precision, and adherence to legal conventions.



Medical texts: Reports, prescriptions, and research articles that use specialised terminology to ensure accuracy in diagnosis and treatment.

Technical texts: Manuals, guidelines, and specifications that explain processes or systems in engineering, computing, or other technical fields.

Academic texts: Essays, journal articles, and dissertations that follow scholarly conventions and use discipline-specific vocabulary.

Each type of specialised text serves a distinct purpose and requires careful attention to language and structure.

Fill in the blank: Manuals, guidelines, and specifications are examples of _____ texts used in engineering and computing.

Type	Common Examples	Key Linguistic & Structural Features
Legal	Contracts, statutes, case reports, deeds.	Extremely formal; uses archaic terms (e.g., <i>aforementioned</i>); highly precise to avoid loopholes.
Medical	Patient reports, prescriptions, clinical trial articles.	Heavy use of Greek/Latin-based terminology; prioritizes absolute accuracy and standardized abbreviations.
Technical	User manuals, safety guidelines, software specifications.	Focuses on imperative verbs (instructions); uses a logical, step-by-step process structure.
Academic	Peer-reviewed journals, dissertations, conference papers.	Follows strict scholarly conventions (e.g., APA/MLA); uses hedging language (<i>suggests</i> , <i>possibly</i>) and discipline-specific jargon.

Table 4.1: Types of specialised texts and their features

4.1.3 Functions and contexts of specialised texts

Specialised texts serve important functions in professional and disciplinary communication. They:

- Ensure accuracy and precision in conveying information.
- Establish credibility and authority in professional contexts.
- Facilitate decision-making by providing structured and reliable information.
- Support collaboration across specialised fields by standardising language and conventions.

For example, a medical report ensures accurate communication between doctors, while a legal contract provides clarity and enforceability in agreements.

Fill in the blank: Specialised texts establish _____ and authority in professional contexts.



Function	Description	Professional Impact
Ensure Accuracy & Precision	Uses standardized terminology and rigid structures to eliminate ambiguity.	Reduces the risk of errors in critical fields like medicine, law, or engineering.
Establish Credibility	Demonstrates the author's mastery of the field's discourse and conventions.	Builds trust with peers and stakeholders, signaling that the writer is an "insider."
Facilitate Decision-Making	Provides data-driven insights and structured arguments (e.g., a feasibility report).	Allows executives and professionals to act based on evidence rather than intuition.
Support Collaboration	Provides a "common language" for experts across different organizations or regions.	Enables global teams to work together seamlessly on complex technical projects.

Box 4.1: Functions of specialised texts

Pilot questions 4.1

What are specialised English texts?

Fill in the blank: _____ texts are characterised by technical terminology and accuracy in diagnosis and treatment.

Name two types of specialised texts and give one example of each.

Why are specialised texts important in professional contexts?

Give one function of specialised texts in supporting collaboration across fields.

4.2 Professional Applications Of Specialised Texts

4.2.1 Business communication (reports, proposals, memos)

In business contexts, **specialised texts** are used to communicate ideas clearly and persuasively. Reports provide structured information for decision-making, proposals present solutions or recommendations, and memos deliver concise updates within organisations. These texts often employ expository and argumentative structures, supported by precise vocabulary and formal tone. Effective business communication relies on clarity, logical organisation, and the use of transitional devices to guide readers through complex information.

Fill in the blank: Business proposals often combine expository and _____ structures to present solutions and recommendations.



Text Type	Primary Purpose	Dominant Structure	Key Features
Reports	To provide objective data and findings to inform organizational decisions.	Expository	Highly structured with headings; uses neutral, factual language; data-heavy.
Proposals	To offer solutions, request funding, or suggest recommendations.	Expository + Argumentative	Strategic and persuasive; focuses on "problem-solution" logic; evidence-based.
Memos	To share concise internal updates, policies, or directives.	Expository	Brief and direct; uses a standardized header (To/From/Date/Subject); formal but urgent.

Table 4.2: Applications of specialised texts in business communication

4.2.2 Workplace documentation (manuals, guidelines, policies)

Workplace documentation ensures that processes, standards, and expectations are communicated consistently. **Manuals** explain procedures step by step, **guidelines** provide recommendations for best practices, and **policies** establish rules and standards. These texts are typically expository, using clear instructions and technical vocabulary. Their purpose is to reduce ambiguity and ensure that employees can perform tasks accurately and consistently.

Fill in the blank: Workplace _____ establish rules and standards that employees must follow.

Document Type	Primary Function	Dominant Feature	Language Style
Manuals	Provide step-by-step instructions for completing specific tasks.	Process-oriented: Focuses on chronological sequence.	Imperative verbs (e.g., <i>"Connect the cable," "Press the button"</i>).
Guidelines	Offer recommended practices or suggestions for optimal performance.	Advisory: Provides a framework rather than a strict mandate.	Conditional language (e.g., <i>"It is recommended," "Should be considered"</i>).



Document Type	Primary Function	Dominant Feature	Language Style
Policies	Establish the mandatory rules, standards, and boundaries of the organization.	Authoritative: Defines "what" is allowed or required.	Declarative and modal verbs (e.g., " <i>Employees must, "Is prohibited"</i> ").

Box 4.2: Features of workplace documentation

4.2.3 Public and institutional communication (press releases, official statements)

Public and institutional communication uses specialised texts to inform, persuade, or reassure audiences. **Press releases** announce events, decisions, or achievements, while **official statements** clarify positions or provide responses to issues. These texts must balance precision with accessibility, ensuring that information is accurate yet understandable to a wider audience. They often combine expository and persuasive elements, using formal tone and structured organisation to maintain credibility.

Fill in the blank: _____ releases are used to announce events, decisions, or achievements to the public.

[Insert Figure here] Diagram showing public communication examples: press releases (inform), official statements (clarify), institutional reports (persuade). *Figure 4.2: Public and institutional communication using specialised texts* AI prompt suggestion: "Generate a diagram showing press releases, official statements, and institutional reports as examples of public communication." Search string: "public institutional communication specialised texts OER"

Pilot questions 4.2

What is the purpose of reports in business communication?

Fill in the blank: Business proposals often combine expository and _____ structures.

Name two types of workplace documentation and their functions.

Why are policies important in workplace communication?

What type of specialised text is used to announce events or achievements to the public?

4.3 Analysing And Producing Specialised Texts

4.3.1 Strategies for analysing specialised texts

Analysing **specialised texts** requires attention to both language and context. Key strategies include identifying technical vocabulary, recognising structural conventions, and noting the intended audience. For example, a legal contract may use precise terms with binding implications, while a



medical report relies on terminology that ensures accuracy in diagnosis. By focusing on these features, learners can interpret specialised texts more effectively and understand their communicative purpose.

Fill in the blank: Analysing specialised texts requires attention to both _____ and context.

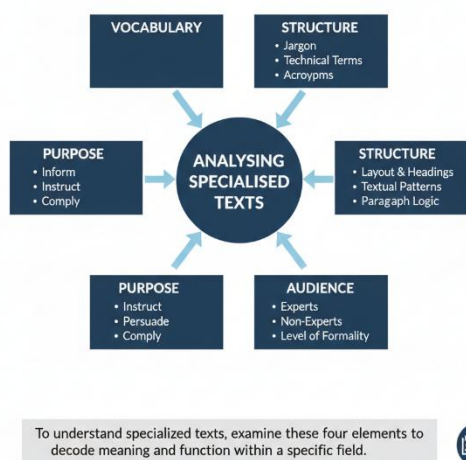


Figure 4.3: Strategies for analysing specialised texts

4.3.2 Techniques for producing professional documents

Producing professional documents involves applying conventions of specialised texts while maintaining clarity and precision. Techniques include drafting clear topic sentences, using appropriate technical vocabulary, and organising information logically. Writers must also consider tone, ensuring it is formal and suitable for the context. For example, a workplace manual should use step-by-step instructions, while a proposal should combine factual explanation with persuasive language.

Fill in the blank: Producing professional documents involves applying conventions of specialised texts while maintaining _____ and precision.

Technique	Professional Application	Desired Outcome
Drafting Clear Topic Sentences	Placing the "bottom line" or main point at the start of every paragraph.	Enhances scannability for busy readers and establishes paragraph unity.
Using Technical Vocabulary	Employing field-specific terms (jargon) accurately and consistently.	Establishes credibility and ensures precision within a specialized context.



Technique	Professional Application	Desired Outcome
Logical Organization	Choosing a structure (e.g., Problem-Solution or Chronological) that fits the purpose.	Supports comprehension by providing a predictable roadmap for the reader.
Maintaining Formal Tone	Avoiding slang, contractions, and overly personal anecdotes.	Projects authority and ensures the document is suitable for official records.

Box 4.3: Techniques for producing professional documents

4.3.3 Common challenges and solutions in professional writing

Professional writing often presents challenges such as overuse of jargon, lack of clarity, or poor organisation. These issues can make texts difficult to understand or reduce their effectiveness. Solutions include simplifying language where possible, using transitions to connect ideas, and revising drafts to improve coherence. Writers should also adapt their texts to the needs of their audience, ensuring accessibility without sacrificing accuracy.

Fill in the blank: One common challenge in professional writing is the overuse of _____, which can make texts difficult to understand.

Challenge	Impact on Communication	Strategic Solution
Overuse of Jargon	Alienates non-experts and hides the main point behind "dense" language.	Simplify where possible: Use technical terms for precision, but define them or use plain English for broader audiences.
Lack of Clarity	Causes delays, creates ambiguity, and leads to costly misunderstandings.	Revise for Precision: Focus on active verbs and specific nouns. Remove "filler" words that don't add value.
Poor Organization	The reader gets lost in the data and cannot find the "actionable" information.	Apply Structural Logic: Use clear textual frameworks (like Problem-Solution) and strong transitional devices.
Audience Mismatch	The tone or detail level is either too simple (insulting) or too complex (unusable).	Contextual Adaptation: Analyze the reader's needs first. Adjust the "depth" of evidence and the formality of the tone accordingly.



Table 4.3: Challenges and solutions in professional writing

Pilot questions 4.3

What are two strategies for analysing specialised texts?

Fill in the blank: Producing professional documents involves applying conventions of specialised texts while maintaining _____ and precision.

Name one technique for producing professional documents.

What is one common challenge in professional writing?

Give one solution to improve clarity in professional writing.

4.4 Integrating Specialised Texts Into Discourse Analysis

4.4.1 Role of specialised texts in broader discourse contexts

Specialised texts do not exist in isolation; they form part of wider discourse communities. For example, legal documents contribute to the broader discourse of justice, while medical reports feed into the discourse of health and patient care. These texts shape how professionals communicate, collaborate, and make decisions. By situating specialised texts within discourse analysis, we can see how they influence meaning-making beyond their immediate context.

Fill in the blank: Legal documents contribute to the broader discourse of _____.

SPECIALISED TEXTS & THEIR BROADER DISCOURSE CONTEXTS

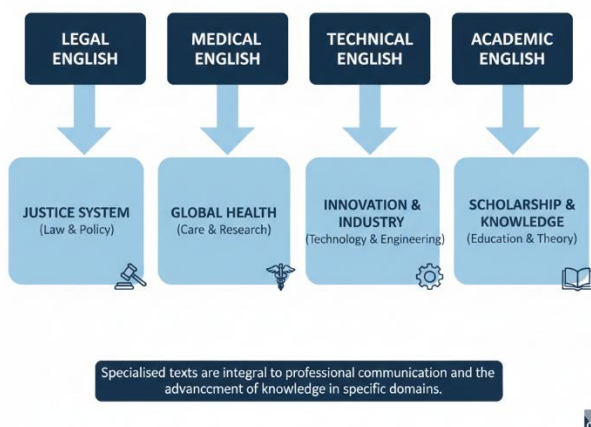


Figure 4.4: Role of specialised texts in broader discourse contexts



4.4.2 Impact on professional identity and communication effectiveness

Specialised texts also shape **professional identity**, as they reflect the values, norms, and expertise of a discipline. For instance, the ability to draft a precise legal contract signals competence in law, while producing a clear technical manual demonstrates expertise in engineering. These texts enhance **communication effectiveness** by ensuring that messages are credible, authoritative, and tailored to professional audiences.

Fill in the blank: The ability to draft a precise legal contract signals competence in the field of _____.

Impact Area	Influence on the Professional	Communication Outcome
Professional Values	Reflects the ethics and norms of the field (e.g., objectivity in science).	Aligns the writer's voice with the expectations of the industry.
Disciplinary Expertise	Demonstrates deep knowledge of field-specific concepts and jargon.	Proves competence and "insider" status to peers and stakeholders.
Credibility & Authority	Uses established conventions to project a persona of reliability.	Increases the weight of the author's recommendations or findings.
Effectiveness	Streamlines complex ideas into actionable professional formats.	Ensures goals are met with minimal misunderstanding or friction.

Box 4.4: Impact of specialised texts

4.4.3 Case studies of specialised text use in practice

Case studies provide practical examples of how specialised texts function in real-world contexts. A press release announcing a corporate merger demonstrates how institutions use structured communication to inform stakeholders. A medical research article illustrates how technical language conveys findings to a scholarly audience. Analysing such cases helps learners see the integration of textual structures, paragraph devices, and specialised conventions in action.

Fill in the blank: A medical research article illustrates how technical language conveys findings to a _____ audience.



Case Study	Specific Text Type	Primary Function	Structural Focus
Corporate Merger Announcement	Press Release	To inform stakeholders and maintain market credibility during a transition.	Front-loaded Expository: The most critical news appears in the first paragraph to prevent speculation.
Medical Research Article	Academic / Medical	To convey clinical findings to a scholarly audience for peer review.	IMRaD Structure: (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) ensures standard scientific logic.
New Software Rollout	Technical Manual	To provide step-by-step instructions for end-users to minimize downtime.	Chronological Process: Heavy use of imperative verbs and sequential transitions.

Table 4.4: Case studies of specialised text use

Pilot questions 4.4

How do specialised texts contribute to broader discourse contexts?

Fill in the blank: The ability to draft a precise legal contract signals competence in the field of _____.

What impact do specialised texts have on professional identity?

Give one example of a case study where specialised texts are used in practice.

Why are case studies useful in understanding specialised texts?

Series Summary

This Series has focused on specialised English texts and their professional applications, highlighting their importance in fields such as law, medicine, business, and academia. We began by defining specialised texts and examining their characteristics, before exploring different types including legal, medical, technical, and academic. Then, we moved on to professional applications, considering how these texts are used in business communication, workplace documentation, and public or institutional contexts. Following that, we studied strategies for analysing and producing specialised texts, looking at techniques and common challenges in professional writing. Finally, we integrated specialised texts into discourse analysis, examining their role in broader contexts, their impact on professional identity, and practical case studies.



By completing this Series, you should now be able to define and identify specialised texts (SLO 4.1, SLO 4.2), analyse their functions and contexts (SLO 4.3), apply them in professional communication (SLO 4.4–4.6), employ strategies for analysis and production (SLO 4.7, SLO 4.8), address challenges in professional writing (SLO 4.9), and assess their integration into discourse analysis (SLO 4.10). These outcomes provide you with practical skills for working with specialised texts across professional and disciplinary settings, strengthening both your analytical and communicative competence.

Glossary of Terms

Academic texts: Specialised documents such as essays, journal articles, and dissertations that follow scholarly conventions and use discipline-specific vocabulary.

Business communication: Professional texts including reports, proposals, and memos that convey information, recommendations, or updates in a structured and formal manner.

Guidelines: Workplace documents that provide recommended practices to ensure consistency and quality in professional tasks.

Legal texts: Documents such as contracts, statutes, and case reports that use formal language and precise conventions to ensure clarity and enforceability.

Manuals: Instructional documents that explain processes or procedures step by step, often used in technical or workplace contexts.

Medical texts: Professional documents such as reports, prescriptions, and research articles that rely on technical terminology to ensure accuracy in healthcare communication.

Memos: Concise business documents used to share updates or information within organisations.

Policies: Workplace documents that establish rules and standards employees must follow to ensure compliance and consistency.

Press releases: Public communication texts used to announce events, decisions, or achievements to stakeholders and the wider audience.

Professional identity: The sense of competence, credibility, and expertise that professionals project through their use of specialised texts.

Specialised English texts: Written or spoken materials tailored to specific professional or disciplinary contexts, characterised by technical vocabulary, precise structure, and adherence to conventions.

Technical texts: Documents such as manuals, guidelines, and specifications that explain processes or systems in fields like engineering or computing.

Workplace documentation: Organisational texts including manuals, guidelines, and policies that communicate standards, processes, and expectations clearly.

Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective Questions

Which type of specialised text is characterised by formal language, precision, and adherence to legal conventions? (Linked to SLO 4.2)



Workplace manuals, guidelines, and policies are examples of what category of texts? (Linked to SLO 4.5)

Which specialised text is used to announce events, decisions, or achievements to the public? (Linked to SLO 4.6)

Producing professional documents requires maintaining clarity and _____. (Linked to SLO 4.8)

Which specialised text type is most common in scholarly communication such as journal articles and dissertations? (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Short-Answer Questions

Define specialised English texts and explain their key characteristics. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Identify two types of specialised texts and describe their functions. (Linked to SLO 4.2, SLO 4.3)

Explain why policies are important in workplace communication. (Linked to SLO 4.5)

Give one strategy for analysing specialised texts. (Linked to SLO 4.7)

Provide one common challenge in professional writing and suggest a solution. (Linked to SLO 4.9)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse how specialised texts are applied in business communication, using reports, proposals, and memos as examples. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Evaluate the role of specialised texts in shaping professional identity and communication effectiveness. (Linked to SLO 4.10)

Design a short professional document that demonstrates the integration of specialised text conventions, such as tone, vocabulary, and organisation. (Linked to SLO 4.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective Questions

Legal texts.

Workplace documentation.

Press releases.

Precision.

Academic texts.

Short-Answer Questions

Specialised English texts are materials tailored to professional or disciplinary contexts, characterised by technical vocabulary, precise structure, and adherence to conventions.

Legal texts ensure clarity and enforceability in agreements, while medical texts ensure accuracy in healthcare communication.

Policies establish rules and standards, ensuring consistency and compliance in workplace communication.

One strategy is identifying technical vocabulary and recognising its role in conveying meaning.



Challenge: Overuse of jargon. Solution: Simplify language where possible and revise drafts for clarity.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Reports provide structured information, proposals present solutions, and memos deliver concise updates. Each uses specialised structures to ensure clarity and effectiveness.

Value-added response: Beyond their basic functions, these texts influence decision-making and organisational efficiency. Reports provide evidence for strategic choices, proposals persuade stakeholders with structured arguments, and memos maintain internal communication flow. Together, they demonstrate how specialised texts sustain professional operations.

Basic response: Specialised texts reflect professional norms and values, enhancing credibility and authority. **Value-added response:** They also shape identity by signalling expertise. For example, drafting a legal contract demonstrates competence in law, while producing a technical manual shows engineering expertise. These texts strengthen communication effectiveness by aligning with disciplinary expectations and audience needs.

Basic response: Example passage: “This report outlines the new safety procedures. Employees must follow the steps provided to ensure compliance.” **Value-added response:** More advanced passage: “This report outlines the revised safety procedures designed to enhance workplace compliance. Employees are required to follow the step-by-step instructions provided. Failure to adhere may result in disciplinary action. These procedures reflect our commitment to maintaining a safe and efficient environment.” This integrates specialised vocabulary, formal tone, and logical organisation.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 4r]

Part 4.1 Specialised English Texts

Specialised English texts are written or spoken materials tailored to specific professional or disciplinary contexts, characterised by technical vocabulary, precise structure, and adherence to conventions.

Medical texts.

Legal texts (e.g., contracts) and technical texts (e.g., manuals).

They ensure accuracy, credibility, and effective communication in professional contexts.

They support collaboration across fields by standardising language and conventions.

Part 4.2 Professional Applications of Specialised Texts

Reports provide structured information for decision-making.

Argumentative structures.

Manuals explain procedures step by step, and policies establish rules and standards.

Policies are important because they ensure compliance and consistency in workplace communication.

Press releases.



Part 4.3 Analysing and Producing Specialised Texts

Identifying technical vocabulary and recognising structural conventions.

Clarity.

Drafting clear topic sentences.

Overuse of jargon.

Simplify language and revise drafts to improve clarity.

Part 4.4 Integrating Specialised Texts Into Discourse Analysis

They contribute to broader discourse communities such as justice, health, innovation, and scholarship.

Law.

They reflect professional values, demonstrate expertise, and enhance credibility and communication effectiveness.

A press release announcing a corporate merger.

Case studies show practical examples of how specialised texts function in real-world contexts.

References and Attributions [Series 4]

This section compiles references, suggested open educational resources (OERs), and AI-generated illustration prompts used throughout **Series 4: Specialised English Texts and Professional Applications**.

General References

Bhatia, V. K. (2014). *Analysing genre: Language use in professional settings*. London: Routledge.

Hyland, K. (2009). *Academic discourse: English in a global context*. London: Continuum.

Swales, J. M. (1990). *Genre analysis: English in academic and research settings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Candlin, C. N., & Maley, Y. (1997). *Intertextuality and interdiscursivity in the discourse of law*. In B. Gunnarsson et al. (Eds.), *The construction of professional discourse*. London: Longman.

Figures, Tables, and Boxes

Figure 4.1: Types of specialised English texts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing specialised texts in the centre with arrows pointing to legal, medical, technical, and academic categories.”

Suggested OER search string: “specialised English texts diagram OER”.

Table 4.1: Types of specialised texts and their features



AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing types of specialised texts with examples and key features.”

Suggested OER search string: “types of specialised texts examples OER”.

Box 4.1: Functions of specialised texts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing functions of specialised texts in professional communication.”

Suggested OER search string: “functions of specialised texts OER”.

Table 4.2: Applications of specialised texts in business communication

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing reports, proposals, and memos with their purposes, structures, and features.”

Suggested OER search string: “business communication specialised texts OER”.

Box 4.2: Features of workplace documentation

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing manuals, guidelines, and policies with their features.”

Suggested OER search string: “workplace documentation manuals guidelines policies OER”.

Figure 4.2: Public and institutional communication using specialised texts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing press releases, official statements, and institutional reports as examples of public communication.”

Suggested OER search string: “public institutional communication specialised texts OER”.

Figure 4.3: Strategies for analysing specialised texts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing four strategies for analysing specialised texts: vocabulary, structure, audience, and purpose.”

Suggested OER search string: “strategies for analysing specialised texts OER”.

Box 4.3: Techniques for producing professional documents

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing techniques for producing professional documents.”

Suggested OER search string: “techniques for producing professional documents OER”.

Table 4.3: Challenges and solutions in professional writing

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing challenges in professional writing with solutions.”

Suggested OER search string: “challenges in professional writing solutions OER”.



Figure 4.4: Role of specialised texts in broader discourse contexts

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing specialised texts connected to broader discourse contexts such as justice, health, innovation, and scholarship.”

Suggested OER search string: “specialised texts discourse contexts OER”.

Box 4.4: Impact of specialised texts on professional identity and communication effectiveness

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing the impact of specialised texts on professional identity and communication effectiveness.”

Suggested OER search string: “impact of specialised texts professional identity OER”.

Table 4.4: Case studies of specialised text use

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing case studies of specialised text use with text type and function.”

Suggested OER search string: “case studies specialised texts OER”.

Course code: ENG 306

Course title: Discourse Analysis

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: Foundations of Discourse Analysis

Series 2: Coherence, Cohesion, and Linking Devices

Series 3: Textual Structures and Paragraph Devices

Series 4: Specialized English Texts and Professional Applications

Series 5: Nigerian English in Social and Regional Contexts

Proposed Outline for Series 5

Part 5.1 Historical and linguistic background of Nigerian English

5.1.1 Origins and development of Nigerian English

5.1.2 Influence of indigenous languages

5.1.3 Distinctive linguistic features



Part 5.2 Social contexts of Nigerian English

- 5.2.1 Nigerian English in education
- 5.2.2 Nigerian English in media and literature
- 5.2.3 Nigerian English in everyday communication

Part 5.3 Regional varieties of Nigerian English

- 5.3.1 Northern Nigerian English features
- 5.3.2 Western Nigerian English features
- 5.3.3 Eastern Nigerian English features

Part 5.4 Nigerian English in global and professional contexts

- 5.4.1 Nigerian English in international communication
- 5.4.2 Nigerian English in professional domains (law, business, academia)
- 5.4.3 Challenges and prospects for Nigerian English

Introduction

Language in Nigeria reflects the country's diversity, with English serving as both an official language and a medium of wider communication. Over time, Nigerian English has developed distinctive features shaped by indigenous languages, social contexts, and regional influences. It is not only a marker of identity but also a tool for education, media, literature, and professional communication. Understanding Nigerian English in its social and regional contexts is therefore essential for appreciating how language functions in everyday life and in broader discourse.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to Nigerian English as a variety of English shaped by local and global influences, and to equip you with the skills to analyse its social roles, regional variations, and professional applications.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical and linguistic background of Nigerian English, including its origins, development, and distinctive features. Next, we will examine its social contexts, focusing on education, media, literature, and everyday communication. Following that, we will move on to regional varieties, considering features of Northern, Western, and Eastern Nigerian English. Finally, we will conclude by discussing Nigerian English in global and professional contexts, highlighting its role in international communication, professional domains, and its future prospects.



Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 5.1** define Nigerian English and explain its historical origins and development,
- SLO 5.2** describe the influence of indigenous languages on Nigerian English,
- SLO 5.3** identify distinctive linguistic features of Nigerian English,
- SLO 5.4** analyse the role of Nigerian English in education,
- SLO 5.5** evaluate the use of Nigerian English in media and literature,
- SLO 5.6** explain how Nigerian English functions in everyday communication,
- SLO 5.7** distinguish features of Northern Nigerian English,
- SLO 5.8** distinguish features of Western Nigerian English,
- SLO 5.9** distinguish features of Eastern Nigerian English,
- SLO 5.10** assess the role of Nigerian English in international communication,
- SLO 5.11** apply knowledge of Nigerian English to professional domains such as law, business, and academia, and
- SLO 5.12** evaluate challenges and prospects for Nigerian English in social and global contexts.

5.1 Historical And Linguistic Background Of Nigerian English

5.1.1 Origins and development of Nigerian English

Nigerian English refers to the variety of English that has evolved in Nigeria, shaped by historical, cultural, and linguistic influences. Its origins can be traced back to the colonial period when English was introduced as the language of administration, education, and trade. Over time, English became the official language, but it adapted to local realities, resulting in distinctive forms of pronunciation, vocabulary, and usage.

Fill in the blank: The origins of Nigerian English can be traced back to the _____ period when English was introduced as the language of administration and education.





Figure 5.1: Historical development of Nigerian English

5.1.2 Influence of indigenous languages

Indigenous languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa have significantly influenced Nigerian English. This influence is seen in loanwords, code-switching, and unique expressions that reflect cultural realities. For example, words like *agbada* (traditional attire) or *okada* (motorcycle taxi) have entered Nigerian English vocabulary. Pronunciation patterns are also shaped by the phonological systems of local languages, giving Nigerian English its distinctive sound.

Fill in the blank: Indigenous languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa have influenced Nigerian English through _____, code-switching, and unique expressions.

Source Language	Word in Nigerian English	Meaning/Context	Linguistic Function
Yoruba	Agbada	A large, flowing robe worn by men, often for formal occasions.	Cultural noun (Attire)
Hausa	Okada	A commercial motorcycle used for public transport.	Lexical innovation (Transport)



Source Language	Word in Nigerian English	Meaning/Context	Linguistic Function
Igbo	Obi	The central building or living area in a traditional family compound.	Cultural noun (Architecture)
Various (Pidgin/Local)	Oga	A term for a boss, leader, or person in authority.	Social honorific

Table 5.1: Examples of indigenous language influence on Nigerian English

5.1.3 Distinctive linguistic features

Nigerian English has developed distinctive linguistic features that set it apart from other varieties of English. These include:

Lexical innovations: New words or expressions created to reflect Nigerian realities (e.g., *long leg* meaning influence or connections).

Phonological features: Pronunciation influenced by indigenous languages, often resulting in syllable-timed rhythm rather than stress-timed rhythm.

Syntactic variations: Sentence structures that reflect local speech patterns, such as “I am coming” used to mean “I will be back soon.”

These features make Nigerian English a dynamic and expressive variety, reflecting both global English norms and local cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English often uses a syllable-timed rhythm rather than a _____-timed rhythm.

Feature Type	Description	Representative Examples
Lexical Innovation	The creation of new idioms or the reassignment of meanings to English words.	"Long leg" (influence/connections), "Next tomorrow" (the day after tomorrow), "Branch" (to stop by a place).
Phonological Features	A shift from the "stress-timed" rhythm of British English to a syllable-timed rhythm.	Consonants are often simplified, and vowel sounds like /ɔ:/ (as in <i>caught</i>) and /ɒ/ (as in <i>cot</i>) may merge.



Feature Type	Description	Representative Examples
Syntactic Variations	Changes in sentence structure and the usage of verbs or pronouns.	"I'm coming" (meaning "I'll be right back"), the use of "can be able," and pluralizing non-count nouns (e.g., "equipments").

Box 5.1: Distinctive features of Nigerian English

Pilot questions 5.1

What is Nigerian English and how did it originate?

Fill in the blank: The origins of Nigerian English can be traced back to the _____ period.

Give two examples of indigenous language influence on Nigerian English.

What are three distinctive linguistic features of Nigerian English?

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English often uses a syllable-timed rhythm rather than a _____ - timed rhythm.

5.2 Social Contexts Of Nigerian English

5.2.1 Nigerian English in education

Nigerian English plays a central role in education as the language of instruction in schools, colleges, and universities. It is used in textbooks, examinations, and classroom communication. While it provides access to global knowledge, it also reflects local realities through distinctive vocabulary and expressions. Teachers and learners often switch between Nigerian English and indigenous languages to aid understanding, creating a unique bilingual environment.

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English is the language of _____ in schools, colleges, and universities.



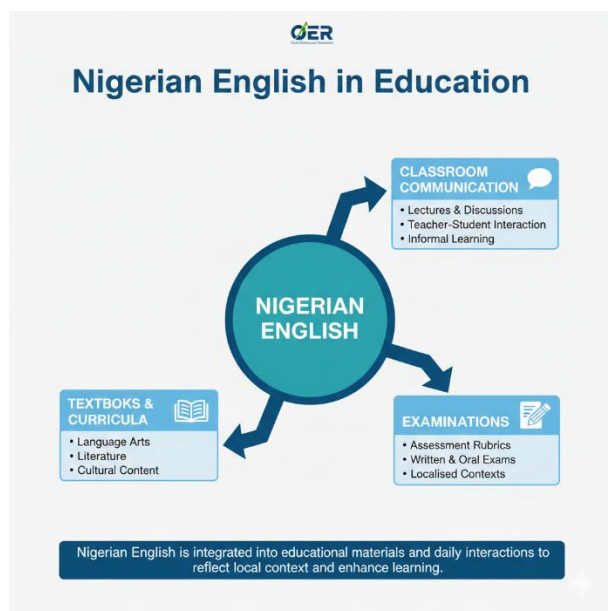


Figure 5.2: Nigerian English in education

5.2.2 Nigerian English in media and literature

In media and literature, Nigerian English is used to reflect cultural identity and reach diverse audiences. Newspapers, radio, television, and online platforms employ Nigerian English to communicate effectively with the public. Writers also use Nigerian English in novels, plays, and poetry to capture authentic voices and experiences. This creative use of language strengthens national identity and makes literature relatable to readers.

Fill in the blank: Nigerian writers often use Nigerian English in novels, plays, and poetry to capture _____ voices and experiences.

Sector	Mode of Application	Primary Goal
Traditional Media	Newspapers (e.g., columnists) and broadcast stations use NE idioms and tonal structures.	To foster a sense of community and improve public communication accessibility.
Digital Platforms	Blogs, social media, and influencers utilize NE (and Pidgin) for viral content.	To maximize engagement and reach a broad, diverse demographic of internet users.
Literature	Authors (e.g., Achebe, Adichie) embed localized syntax and indigenous words into their prose.	To reflect true cultural identity and provide a realistic portrayal of Nigerian life.

Box 5.2: Nigerian English in media and literature



5.2.3 Nigerian English in everyday communication

Nigerian English is widely used in everyday communication, especially in urban centres where people from different ethnic backgrounds interact. It serves as a lingua franca, enabling speakers of different indigenous languages to communicate effectively. Everyday Nigerian English often includes colloquial expressions, loanwords, and code-switching, making it dynamic and expressive.

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English serves as a _____ franca, enabling speakers of different indigenous languages to communicate effectively.

Feature	Practical Example	Communicative Function
Colloquial Expression	"He used <i>long leg</i> to get the job."	Social Reality: Describes local socio-political phenomena (nepotism/influence) succinctly.
Loanword	"I'll take an <i>Okada</i> to the junction."	Cultural Context: Provides names for objects and services that have no direct Western equivalent.
Code-switching	"The meeting was long, <i>nne</i> , I am tired."	Identity Expression: Builds rapport and signals shared heritage within a conversation.
Semantic Shift	"I am <i>coming</i> " (meaning: I will be right back).	Pragmatic Efficiency: Adapts English verbs to align with local concepts of time and movement.

Table 5.2: Features of Nigerian English in everyday communication

Pilot questions 5.2

What role does Nigerian English play in education?

Fill in the blank: Nigerian writers often use Nigerian English in novels, plays, and poetry to capture _____ voices and experiences.

Give two examples of Nigerian English in media or literature.

What is one feature of Nigerian English in everyday communication?

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English serves as a _____ franca in everyday interactions.

5.3 Regional Varieties Of Nigerian English

5.3.1 Northern Nigerian English features

Northern Nigerian English reflects the influence of Hausa and other northern languages. Pronunciation often shows syllable-timed rhythm, with less emphasis on stress patterns typical of British English. Vocabulary includes loanwords such as *okada* (motorcycle taxi) and *suya* (spiced



grilled meat). Sentence structures may also carry traces of Hausa syntax, giving Northern Nigerian English a distinctive flavour.

Fill in the blank: Northern Nigerian English vocabulary includes loanwords such as _____, meaning spiced grilled meat.

Feature	Example	Influence Source	Functional Impact
Loanword	Suya	Hausa	Provides a specific name for the iconic spicy skewered meat.
Loanword	Okada	Hausa	Derived from the brand name, popularized in the North for commercial cycles.
Phonology	Syllable-timed rhythm	Hausa phonology	Gives the speech a "staccato" beat where every syllable is stressed equally.
Lexical Substitution	Using "f" for "p" (or vice versa)	Hausa phonetic inventory	Affects pronunciation in words like "people" (sometimes heard as <i>feofle</i>).

Table 5.3: Features of Northern Nigerian English

5.3.2 Western Nigerian English features

Western Nigerian English is shaped by Yoruba language patterns. Pronunciation often reflects Yoruba tonal influence, and vocabulary includes words such as *agbada* (traditional attire) and *buka* (local eatery). Syntax may also reflect Yoruba structures, with expressions like “I am coming” used to mean “I will be back soon.” These features make Western Nigerian English expressive and culturally rich.

Fill in the blank: Western Nigerian English vocabulary includes words such as _____, meaning traditional attire.

Feature	Example	Significance
Tonal Influence	Rising/falling pitch patterns on English words.	Reflects the tonal nature of Yoruba, where pitch changes a word's meaning.
Vocabulary	Agbada (clothing), Buka (local eatery), Ashoke (fabric).	Integrates local lifestyle and culinary culture into the English lexicon.



Feature	Example	Significance
Syntax	<i>"She is the one that...?" or "It is me that..."</i>	Reflects the focus-marking structures common in Yoruba speech patterns.
Honorifics	Use of "Ma" or "Sir" at the end of almost every sentence.	Upholds the high cultural value placed on respect and age hierarchy.

Box 5.3: Features of Western Nigerian English

5.3.3 Eastern Nigerian English features

Eastern Nigerian English reflects the influence of Igbo language. Pronunciation often carries Igbo tonal patterns, and vocabulary includes words such as *obi* (traditional house) and *akara* (bean cake). Sentence structures may also reflect Igbo syntax, with direct translations influencing English usage. Eastern Nigerian English is known for its distinct rhythm and culturally embedded expressions.

Fill in the blank: Eastern Nigerian English vocabulary includes words such as _____, meaning bean cake.



Figure 5.3: Regional varieties of Nigerian English

Pilot questions 5.3

What language influences Northern Nigerian English?

Fill in the blank: Northern Nigerian English vocabulary includes loanwords such as _____, meaning spiced grilled meat.

Give two examples of vocabulary from Western Nigerian English.



What tonal influence shapes Eastern Nigerian English pronunciation?

Fill in the blank: Eastern Nigerian English vocabulary includes words such as _____, meaning bean cake.

5.4 Nigerian English In Global And Professional Contexts

5.4.1 Nigerian English in international communication

Nigerian English has moved beyond national boundaries, becoming a recognised variety in international communication. It is used in diplomatic exchanges, global business, and academic collaborations. While it retains distinctive local features, speakers often adjust their usage to ensure intelligibility in global contexts. This adaptability demonstrates the flexibility of Nigerian English as both a local and international medium of communication.

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English is used in diplomatic exchanges, global business, and _____ collaborations.



OER

Figure 5.4: Nigerian English in international communication

5.4.2 Nigerian English in professional domains (law, business, academia)

In professional domains, Nigerian English serves as the language of documentation, negotiation, and knowledge dissemination. In **law**, it is used in contracts and court proceedings, often blending formal English with local expressions. In **business**, Nigerian English facilitates proposals, reports, and workplace communication. In **academia**, it is the medium for lectures, research papers, and scholarly debates. Each domain adapts Nigerian English to its specific needs, making it a versatile professional tool.



Fill in the blank: Nigerian English is the medium for lectures, research papers, and scholarly debates in the field of _____.

Domain	Core Applications	Key Example Use	Strategic Function
Law	Contracts, court proceedings, legislative drafting.	Legal Documentation: Use of specific Nigerian legal precedents and terminology.	Ensures Justice and Policy are communicated within the Nigerian statutory framework.
Business	Proposals, annual reports, workplace memos.	Organizational Communication: Incorporating local idioms (e.g., "long leg") to discuss corporate ethics.	Enhances Communication Effectiveness by aligning with local corporate culture.
Academia	Lectures, research papers, thesis defense, debates.	Scholarly Writing: Investigating "indigenization" or local case studies using NE structures.	Demonstrates Disciplinary Expertise while contributing to global scholarship.

Table 5.4: Nigerian English in professional domains

5.4.3 Challenges and prospects for Nigerian English

Despite its strengths, Nigerian English faces challenges such as negative attitudes, lack of standardisation, and tension between local identity and global intelligibility. Some critics view it as “incorrect” English, while others celebrate it as a legitimate variety. The prospects for Nigerian English are promising, as it continues to gain recognition in global linguistics and literature. Its role in shaping identity and bridging local and international contexts ensures its relevance for the future.

Fill in the blank: One challenge Nigerian English faces is the lack of _____, which makes it difficult to establish uniform standards.

Category	Key Factors	Impact on Discourse
Challenges	Negative Attitudes: Often perceived as "broken" or "incorrect" compared to British standards.	Can undermine the credibility of speakers in highly formal or colonial-leaning settings.



Category	Key Factors	Impact on Discourse
	Lack of Standardisation: Absence of a definitive local dictionary or style guide for professional use.	Creates inconsistency in specialised texts and educational curricula.
	Global vs. Local Tension: The struggle to remain "internationally intelligible" while being "locally relevant."	Risk of audience mismatch when communicating with non-Nigerians.
Prospects	Growing Recognition: Inclusion in major dictionaries (OED) and recognition by global tech (Google/Meta).	Validates NE as an authoritative voice in the global knowledge economy.
	Cultural Identity: Acts as a linguistic glue for a nation with 500+ indigenous languages.	Strengthens professional identity and national unity through a shared lingua franca.
	International Relevance: Spread via Afrobeats, Nollywood, and the diaspora.	Increases Nigeria's "Soft Power" and influence on global discourse contexts .

Box 5.4: Challenges and prospects for Nigerian English

Pilot questions 5.4

What role does Nigerian English play in international communication?

Fill in the blank: Nigerian English is the medium for lectures, research papers, and scholarly debates in the field of _____.

Name one professional domain where Nigerian English is applied.

What is one challenge Nigerian English faces today?

Give one prospect for Nigerian English in global contexts.

Series Summary

This Series has examined Nigerian English in its social and regional contexts, highlighting its importance as both a national and international variety of English. We began with its historical and linguistic background, tracing its colonial origins, the influence of indigenous languages, and its distinctive features. Then, we explored its social roles in education, media, literature, and everyday communication. Following that, we considered regional varieties shaped by Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo influences. Finally, we discussed Nigerian English in global and professional contexts, focusing on its role in diplomacy, law, business, academia, and its challenges and future prospects.



By completing this Series, you should now be able to define Nigerian English and explain its development (SLO 5.1–5.3), analyse its social roles (SLO 5.4–5.6), distinguish regional varieties (SLO 5.7–5.9), and assess its global and professional applications (SLO 5.10–5.12). These outcomes provide you with the knowledge and skills to recognise Nigerian English as a dynamic variety shaped by local identity and global relevance, reinforcing its place in both everyday and professional communication.

Glossary of Terms

Agbada: A Yoruba word adopted into Nigerian English, referring to a flowing traditional attire worn by men.

Akara: An Igbo word used in Nigerian English, meaning bean cake, a popular local delicacy.

Buka: A Yoruba word in Nigerian English, referring to a local eatery or food joint.

Code-switching: The practice of alternating between Nigerian English and indigenous languages within the same conversation to aid understanding or express identity.

Colloquial expression: Informal phrases or idioms in Nigerian English that reflect social realities, such as *long leg* meaning influence or connections.

Indigenous language influence: The impact of local Nigerian languages such as Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo on Nigerian English vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax.

Lingua franca: A common language used for communication among people with different native languages; Nigerian English often serves this role in everyday interactions.

Loanword: A word borrowed from indigenous languages and used in Nigerian English, such as *okada* (motorcycle taxi) or *suya* (spiced grilled meat).

Nigerian English: A recognised variety of English shaped by Nigeria's colonial history, indigenous languages, and cultural contexts, with distinctive vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax.

Obi: An Igbo word used in Nigerian English, meaning a traditional house or family compound.

Okada: A Hausa word adopted into Nigerian English, meaning motorcycle taxi.

Suya: A Hausa word used in Nigerian English, referring to spiced grilled meat, a popular delicacy.

Syllable-timed rhythm: A pronunciation pattern common in Nigerian English, influenced by indigenous languages, where each syllable is given roughly equal time, unlike the stress-timed rhythm of British English.

Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective Questions

Which historical period marked the introduction of English into Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 5.1)
Nigerian English vocabulary includes loanwords such as *okada*, meaning what? (Linked to SLO 5.2)



Nigerian English often uses a _____-timed rhythm rather than a stress-timed rhythm. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

Which domain uses Nigerian English in contracts and court proceedings? (Linked to SLO 5.11)

One challenge Nigerian English faces today is the lack of _____. (Linked to SLO 5.12)

Short-Answer Questions

Define Nigerian English and explain its distinctive features. (Linked to SLO 5.1, SLO 5.3)

Give two examples of indigenous language influence on Nigerian English. (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Explain how Nigerian English functions in education. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Identify one way Nigerian English is used in media or literature. (Linked to SLO 5.5)

Provide one example of Nigerian English in everyday communication. (Linked to SLO 5.6)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the features of Northern, Western, and Eastern Nigerian English, highlighting the influence of Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo. (Linked to SLO 5.7–5.9)

Evaluate the role of Nigerian English in international communication and professional domains. (Linked to SLO 5.10–5.11)

Assess the challenges and prospects of Nigerian English in global contexts. (Linked to SLO 5.12)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective Questions

Colonial period.

Motorcycle taxi.

Syllable.

Law.

Standardisation.

Short-Answer Questions

Nigerian English is a recognised variety shaped by colonial history and indigenous languages. Its distinctive features include lexical innovations, syllable-timed rhythm, and syntactic variations.

Examples: *agbada* (Yoruba, traditional attire), *suya* (Hausa, spiced grilled meat).

Nigerian English is the language of instruction, used in textbooks, examinations, and classroom communication.

Writers use Nigerian English in novels and plays to reflect authentic voices and cultural identity.

Everyday Nigerian English includes colloquial expressions such as *long leg* meaning influence.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Northern Nigerian English shows Hausa influence with words like *suya* and syllable-timed rhythm. Western Nigerian English reflects Yoruba tonal patterns and vocabulary such as *agbada*. Eastern Nigerian English carries Igbo tonal influence and words like *akara*.



Value-added response: These regional varieties illustrate how Nigerian English adapts to local linguistic systems. Hausa contributes loanwords and rhythm, Yoruba adds tonal and syntactic features, while Igbo influences pronunciation and vocabulary. Together, they enrich Nigerian English with cultural diversity.

Basic response: Nigerian English is used in diplomacy, business, and academia, serving as a medium for communication and documentation. **Value-added response:** In law, Nigerian English blends formal English with local expressions. In business, it supports proposals and workplace communication. In academia, it facilitates lectures and scholarly writing. Internationally, Nigerian English demonstrates adaptability, balancing local identity with global intelligibility.

Basic response: Challenges include negative attitudes and lack of standardisation, while prospects involve growing recognition and cultural relevance. **Value-added response:** Nigerian English faces tension between being seen as “incorrect” and being celebrated as a legitimate variety. However, its increasing presence in literature, global linguistics, and professional domains shows strong potential for future acceptance and influence.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 5]

Part 5.1 Historical and linguistic background of Nigerian English

Nigerian English is a recognised variety of English shaped by colonial history and indigenous languages. It originated during the colonial period and developed distinctive features over time.

Colonial period.

Examples: *agbada* (Yoruba, traditional attire), *okada* (Hausa, motorcycle taxi).

Lexical innovations, phonological features (syllable-timed rhythm), syntactic variations.

Stress.

Part 5.2 Social contexts of Nigerian English

It is the language of instruction in schools, colleges, and universities, used in textbooks, examinations, and classroom communication.

Authentic.

Newspapers and broadcast media use Nigerian English for public communication; writers use it in novels and plays to reflect cultural identity.

Colloquial expressions, loanwords, and code-switching.

Lingua.

Part 5.3 Regional varieties of Nigerian English

Hausa.

Suya.

Agbada (traditional attire) and *buka* (local eatery).

Igbo tonal influence.

Akara.

Part 5.4 Nigerian English in global and professional contexts



It is used in diplomacy, global business, and academia, serving as a recognised variety in international communication.

Academia.

Law, business, or academia (any one domain).

Lack of standardisation.

Growing recognition and cultural relevance in global linguistics and literature.

References and Attributions [Series 5]

This section compiles references, suggested open educational resources (OERs), and AI-generated illustration prompts used throughout **Series 5: Nigerian English in Social and Regional Contexts**.

General References

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Jowitt, D. (1991). *Nigerian English usage: An introduction*. Lagos: Longman Nigeria.

Adegbija, E. (2004). *The domestication of English in Nigeria*. In A. B. Kachru, Y. Kachru, & C. L. Nelson (Eds.), *The handbook of World Englishes*. Oxford: Blackwell.

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Figures, Tables, and Boxes

Figure 5.1: Historical development of Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a timeline diagram showing the development of Nigerian English from colonial introduction to modern adaptation.”

Suggested OER search string: “history of Nigerian English timeline OER”.

Table 5.1: Examples of indigenous language influence on Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing examples of indigenous language influence on Nigerian English with words and meanings.”

Suggested OER search string: “indigenous language influence Nigerian English examples OER”.

Box 5.1: Distinctive features of Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing distinctive features of Nigerian English with examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “distinctive features Nigerian English OER”.

Figure 5.2: Nigerian English in education



AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Nigerian English used in textbooks, examinations, and classroom communication.”

Suggested OER search string: “Nigerian English in education OER”.

Box 5.2: Nigerian English in media and literature

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing Nigerian English applications in media and literature.”

Suggested OER search string: “Nigerian English media literature examples OER”.

Table 5.2: Features of Nigerian English in everyday communication

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing features of Nigerian English in everyday communication with examples and functions.”

Suggested OER search string: “Nigerian English everyday communication examples OER”.

Table 5.3: Features of Northern Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing features of Northern Nigerian English with examples and sources.”

Suggested OER search string: “Northern Nigerian English features Hausa influence OER”.

Box 5.3: Features of Western Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing features of Western Nigerian English with examples.”

Suggested OER search string: “Western Nigerian English Yoruba influence OER”.

Figure 5.3: Regional varieties of Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Northern, Western, and Eastern Nigerian English varieties with their language influences.”

Suggested OER search string: “regional varieties Nigerian English Hausa Yoruba Igbo OER”.

Table 5.4: Nigerian English in professional domains

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a table showing Nigerian English applications in law, business, and academia.”

Suggested OER search string: “Nigerian English professional domains law business academia OER”.

Figure 5.4: Nigerian English in international communication

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a diagram showing Nigerian English used in diplomacy, business, and academia.”



Suggested OER search string: “Nigerian English international communication OER”.

Box 5.4: Challenges and prospects for Nigerian English

AI-generated prompt: “Generate a box listing challenges and prospects for Nigerian English.”

Suggested OER search string: “challenges and prospects Nigerian English OER”.

