



FACOLTÀ DI STUDI UMANISTICI
Lingue e Comunicazione

Lingua Inglese 2

LESSON 3

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Unit 2

- What do the expressions chaining strategies & text types make you think of?

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What do the expressions chaining strategies & text types make you think of?

Writers organize texts in different ways depending on the purpose.

- ✓ Sequence (Chronological order)
- ✓ Spatial organization
- ✓ Question and answer
- ✓ Compare and contrast
- ✓ Problem and solution
- ✓ Cause and effect

What type of grammatical markers are used in such different ways of textual organization?

Werlich's text types

- The textual organisation of the domain is reflected in the way linear relations develop: they stand for temporal, causal, spatial, or social relations between referents in the world described by that text (Ramm 2000, 156).
- Narrative, descriptive, expository, instructive and argumentative

Narrative text types

- The most universal type. The purpose is to entertain, to tell a story, or to provide a literary experience.
- Narrative texts have to do with real-world events and time. They may be fictional (fairy tales, novels) or nonfictional (newspaper report). They are characterised by a sequencing of events expressed by dynamic verbs and by adverbials such as “and then”, “first”, “second”, “third”
- Example: First we packed our bags and then we called a taxi. After that we... etc.

Narrative text types

- *Ex. My itinerary was a 3 day one, during the peak of summer in Mid July. The 1st night I stayed in Pisa, from memory the last train from Pisa central to Monterosso was at 9.30pm and to be conservative I did not think I would arrive in time to make the train. (JD Chronicles)*
- Historic/temporal factual or conceptual events, action-recording sentences.
- Events and participants are chronologically portrayed through temporal circumstances or participant roles.

Narrative text types

- Stories, events or actions have their inherent chronological order, usually aimed at presenting facts. This story telling involves the participation of elements such as character, characterization, setting, plot, conflict and theme.
- Narrative texts are usually organized in terms of time.
- Typical language components of narrative texts are time and space indicators, copular sentences (*be, seem, appear, look, ecc*) presentatives (*There is/there are*), sequence of temporarily ordered relative clauses, and stative and intransitive verbs.

- Narration is often agent-oriented. Narration refers to the development of the story through the use of predicate verbs such as *start* and *change*. Facts develop along an itinerary: *we spotted, we did not, we continued, we came across*, etc. Adverbials of place but especially of time are frequent.
- 1st ps + simple past. The report as the most formal one
- From positions and directions in space, to technical objective descriptions

- *By means of a judicious mixture of concessions and tax relief, Eleonora brought the country under control within a few months. Her popularity increased when, in 1392, she published the Carta de Logu, a written constitution ... (Insight Guide 2001: 49)*
- *In 1478 yet another Sardinian dream of maintaining the island's independence was shattered near the little town of Macomer, which lies some 15 km (810 miles) further southwards. (ibid.: 226)*

Descriptive text types

- Descriptive texts are concerned with the location of persons and things in space. Attributes of people, animals, items or places, or to provide a detailed, neutral presentation of a literary situation.
- They will tell us what lies to the right or left, in the background or foreground, or they will provide background information which, perhaps, sets the stage for narration.
- State or positional verbs plus adverbial expressions are employed in descriptions Examples: 1) The operation panel is located on the right-hand side at the rear; 2) New Orleans lies on the Mississippi.

Descriptive text types

- Analysis of places, people and relations (subject matter), by the use of spatial chaining strategies indicated by spatial positions in the sentence.
- Spatial circumstances occupy the theme position
- Descriptions range from technical, objective neutral properties to, and more frequently, attitudinal and evaluative/hyperbolic, metaphorical, comparative and evocative viewpoints
- Subjective impressions of relations and qualities, impressionistic descriptions. Adverbials of place to reinforce the style.

Descriptive text types

- As an example, descriptions of objects tend to be based around the component parts, description of places seem often to follow a particular visual orientation. While the description of a plant will typically follow a bottom-up orientation.
- Example of descriptive texts are brochures, descriptions of animals, description of scientific and technical concepts.
- Basic components of description are specifying, classifying and defining.
- Moreover, much description in Western tradition is based on relating what is being described with something else.

- “*There’s only so much panini, pizza and pasta you could stomach everyday so we went to a Chinese restaurant just downstairs our hostel for dinner. The food was not bad but we had the most ridiculous fried wantan here, which was a deep fried ravioli actually lol*” (vkeong).
- Use of the simple past + simple present of static or motion verbs (not leading to a change) is existential (e.g., *There’s*) and shows timelessness. We may get a vivid image of the writer’s experience.
- Use of 1st p and of a non-personal third p.

- *Following Via Cagliari, 3 km south of Oristano is the suburb of Santa Giusta, named for a local martyr and her church, set in a fine position on a low hill, in front of a little park incongruously lit by street lamps from a Jetson cartoon. (2002: 126)*
- *Dominating a high point in the centre of Santa Giusta, virtually a satellite of Oristano just 3km south on the Stagno di Santa Giusta lagoon, is the proud basilica of the same name. (Lonely Planet 2003: 177)*
- *Three kilometres south of Oristano, eucalyptus woods round the Stagno di Santa Giusta provide shade for picnics and birdwatchers (Rough Guide 2002: 175)*

- «This morning at 9am, a school bus collided with a car at the intersection of Jones and Heard streets. There were no injuries on the school bus, but medical personnel performed checks on each student and the driver before those students were transported to their schools».

Instructive text type

- Stages to be followed by the reader, constructed through sequential chaining strategies of temporal circumstances or processes. People and objects are related through intended future behaviour (Bondi 1999: 16). The reader is expected to follow the steps: *“Start out at the FORK WHERE THE SURFACED ROAD ENDS by following the gravel track to the right. (...) Cross the bridge, go up the opposite embankment for a few paces. And turn right at the junction. Now follow ...”* (Flower Landscapes 2001: 70)

Instructive text type

- These texts are usually written in attempts to tell the reader what to do in a clearly specified situation, usually referring to future activities. The author of an instructive text assumes the reader knows very well what he wants to do, but needs to be told how to do it. **A RECIPE** is a typical example. Procedural discourse usually consists of a set of ordered steps marked by enumerative or temporal markers.
- The author's style and choice of words are usually unemotional, objective and the style is simple, straightforward and aimed at precision. Syntax is dominated by imperatives and sentences in the passive voice

Instructive text type

- Recipes, instructions or prescriptions

“Bring your binoculars: the lagoons are flamingo heaven ... you’ll find blinds where you can watch them ...” (Cadogan Guide 2003: 157)

«Wash hands with soap and water. After washing basil and tomatoes, blot them dry with clean paper towel. Using a clean cutting board, cut tomatoes into quarters».

- An evident future behaviour, an action-demanding sentence, constructed through sequential chaining strategies of temporal circumstances or processes. The reader is expected to follow the steps, through the use of the imperative form, e.g., *Trust me, always remember*, the passive voice and modal verbs.
- *Would* is used to give advice and when history is uncertain; *must* shows evaluation, e.g. “*must be painful*”; *will* is employed when giving recommendations and introducing the following site on the itinerary, as in “*you will need to spend at least three good hours to see...*”, “*you will also see ...*”.

- *If clauses* are employed with the same purpose: persuasion. Directions are followed on the authority of practical validity
- The point of view may be subjective, as in instructions, or objective, as in directions and regulations. It is expressed through the 1st person or the 2nd person

Main difference

- Narrative, descriptive and instructive texts have grammatical forms associated with them which may be expanded to form sequences of a textual nature.
- They are all centred around real-world events and things.
- In contrast, expository and argumentative texts are cognitively oriented, as they are concerned with explanation and persuasion, which are both mental processes.

Argumentative text type

- Intended to convince or persuade the reader of a certain point of view, or to understand the author's reasons for holding certain views on a matter under discussion.
- Demonstration brochures, government speeches, debates, face-to-face, ecc.
- The author will analyse the problem and present his/her opinion, along with the argument that led to that opinion. The language used will reflect his/her personal views on the subject matter. Not neutral and may include irony and sarcasm, as well as emotional terminology.
- Classical template: introduction, explanation, outline of the argument, proof, refutation and conclusion.
- Other possible variants...

Argumentative text type

- Present, through the use of counter-argument patterns, and of a conjunctive theme:

“Summer would be the best time to see Rome, when the temperature is at an average 25°C and the weather is calmer too. But that is also during the tourism peak season so plan your trip early, especially the accommodation part.” (vkeong)

- Attitudes sustained in relation with their opposites.
- Recommendation is often introduced by expressions such as *It is advisable, would be the best time*

Argumentative text type

Oliver Green 10EZ

Argumentative Essay

Over the last few years there have been massive debates and arguments about whether or not there should be a limit on immigration to the U.K. Before you can make up your mind you should consider opinions on both sides of the argument. It is very difficult to make a choice that will keep both sides happy, and it is very difficult to make a choice for or against. Politicians and the public have views on why there should be a limit on immigration to the U.K. What are they?

There are a number of key issues to think about, for example over population. There have been estimates that by the year 2081 the U.K may have a population of over 108 million people. At the moment there are about 65 million people living in this country. Houses are being built everywhere to cope with the ever increasing immigration rates. Building houses ruins the countryside and also leads to more pollution and more government money being spent on resources that are running out etc.

If the amount of people immigrating to the U.K each year was limited, building houses would not be half the problem it will be if immigration isn't sorted out. If there was a limit on immigration to the U.K the number of houses being built would shrink considerably.

A second big issue is illegal immigrants and asylum seekers. If there was a limit to immigration into the U.K it may remove a huge number of illegal immigrants

- *“Dripping with washing strung across the balconies, many of the high blocks are run-down and don’t admit much light, though the lack of fuss or traffic makes for an agreeable stroll through the long alleys ...” (2002: 73)*
- *“Although Poetto may do for a morning dip or an evening out, it probably won’t meet your requirements for the perfect beach – and you don’t need to go very far from Cagliari to find something nearer the mark.” (ibid.: 94)*

- Typical expressions are opinion verbs, or expressions of intention, decision, expectations and beliefs. Expectations may not be fulfilled:

“But honestly most of the food did not really suit our tastebuds, and I am not a drinker so I wasn’t able to appreciate their wine too. So, only the spicy roast pork managed to leave us with a memorable taste.” (vkeong, 2010, Rome).

- Negative sentences and contrastive expressions

Expository text type

- Expository or explanatory texts are written in attempts at analyzing, explaining, describing and presenting facts, events and processes that may be complicated.
- Frequently called on in learning environments where students are expected to listen, speak, read and write new concepts.
- Examples may be BROCHURES, LAB PROCEDURES, GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. Their structures determined by logical coherence, but aspects of time and space may be also quite important, depending on the subject matter.
- An expository text should be fairly detailed and precise in order to convey accurate and objective information. The language used is neutral, objective and analytical. No emotionally loaded terms and subjective comments.

Expository text type

- Other authors find these text types can also be be subjective (essay) or objective (summary, explication, definition). They may be analytical (starting from a concept and then characterizing its parts; e.g. definitions) or synthetic (recounting characteristics and ending with an appropriate concept or conclusion; e.g. summaries).
- They are characterized by **state verbs and epistemic modals** (*Pop music has a strong rhythmic beat; Texts may consist of one or more sentences*) or **by verbs indicating typical activities or qualities** (*fruitflies feed on yeast*)

Expository text type

- Generic concepts are dealt with, as well as the definition or explanation, along various degrees of subjectiveness (through characterisation specified by participant roles)
- Ideas and impressions are summarised from constituent elements of concepts, ideas or impressions, or analysed into their constituent elements
- The writer presentation of statement & stance aims at persuading the reader and generate consensus
- Verbs are often in the present tense, passive voice and impersonal forms

Text types

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Few texts are pure realizations of a single type:

- Advertisements may be both argumentative/persuasive (this is good because...) and instructive/exhortative (So buy now!)
- Expository texts can be neutral or contain evaluative elements (reviews, references, letters to the editor...)
- Laws regulate some aspects of society, leading the behaviour of its members, but also inform on these aspects (they are both instructive and expository)

Source: Gramley, S., Pätzold, K.M., *A Survey of Modern English*, London, Routledge, 1992

- «This morning at 9am, a school bus collided with a car at the intersection of Jones and Heard streets. There were no injuries on the school bus, but medical personnel performed checks on each student and the driver before those students were transported to their schools».

POST CARD



We're having a brilliant time in Scotland. You get such a feeling of space. The hills seem to go on forever. The only trouble is the weather. It hasn't stopped raining since we arrived!

2. You should not park where you see these signs and markings: 'No Parking', 'Clearway', double yellow lines beside the kerb, double white lines in the middle of the road.

3. Visit Rome, capital of Italy and ancient capital of the Roman Empire, which is blessed with splendid ruins, delightful markets and intriguing narrow streets that beckon the adventurous explorer.

4. This car has an aluminium body to resist rust and bumper shields that can absorb an impact of up to 7 mph without distortion.



Which text type is it?

- First we packed our bags and then we called a taxi. After that we... etc.
- New Orleans lies on the Mississippi.
- Would you hand me the paper?
- I wonder what the paper says about the weather
- Pop music has a strong rhythmic beat
- Texts may consist of one or more sentences

2) Most artists are very nervous of scientific analysis. They feel it destroys something about the human aspect of creativity. [...] Some fear that too much analysis will only break the spell. Likewise, most scientists see the creative arts as an entirely subjective development that long ago left science to tread the long road to objective truth alone. Whole books have been written about this bifurcation, but here I want to talk about some interesting points of contact between art and science that are facilitated by the growth in our

3) Yes, I have returned to this arcaded city, unwisely, it may be. I rented a place in one of the little alleyways hard by the Duomo, I shall not say which one, for reasons that are not entirely clear to me, although I confess I worry intermittently about the possibility of a visit from the police. It is not much, my bolt-hole, a couple of rooms, lowceilinged, dank; the windows are so narrow and dirty I have to keep a table lamp burning all day for fear of falling over something in the half dark.

4) The geography of the Aran Islands is very simple, yet it may need a word to itself. There are three islands: Aranmor, the north island, about nine miles long; Inishmaan, the middle island, [...] nearly round in form; and the south island, Inishere – in Irish, east island, – like the middle island but slightly smaller. They lie about thirty miles from Galway, up the centre of the bay, but they are not far from the cliffs of County Clare, on the south, or the corner of Connemara on the north.

5) Acanthus A thistle-like plant (common to the warm Mediterranean region) whose narrow and pointed-lobed leaves, when stylized, form the characteristic decoration of the Corinthian and Composite Orders of columns.

6) President George W. Bush has told us that the question of whether to withdraw from Iraq is one that his successors will have to deal with – not him. I don't think so. Bush is not going to have that luxury of passing Iraq along. You see, the insurgency in Iraq is in its "last throes" – just like Dick Cheney said. Unfortunately, it's being replaced by anarchy in many neighborhoods – not democracy. And I don't believe the American people will put up with two and half more years of babysitting anarchy instead of midwifing democracy.

7) The dancers were trickling away on to the touchlines of the long-floor. The walls were decorated with scenes from the remoter past, portrayed in what no doubt an advanced style, so that in the one nearest Dixon, for example, some lack of perspective or similar commodity made a phalanx of dwarf infantrymen seem to be falling from the skies upon their much larger barbarian adversaries who, unaware of this danger overhead, gazed threateningly into the empty middle distance. Lowering his eyes from these memorials, he caught sight of Michie talking and laughing with his girl. She had the kind of water-gipsy face that affected him uncomfortably.