

Situational Discourse Semantic (SDS) Model

Adapted from Norris & Hoffman (1993)

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT	DISCOURSE CONTEXT	SEMANTIC CONTEXT
<p style="text-align: center;">DECONTEXTUALIZED</p> <hr/> <p>Level 10: LOGICAL Mental objects <i>created through language alone</i>—can't see it (e.g. linguistic processing) -----</p> <p>Level 9: SYMBOLIC <i>Make up</i> a story/give information that <i>could be concrete</i>, but without Context -----</p> <p>Level 8: RELATIONAL How actions/characters/ etc. <i>within an event relate</i>: e.g. talking about events at a birthday party -----</p> <p>Level 7: DECENTERED Talking about <i>an observed experience</i> - didn't actually put own body through it; retelling a tv show/movie -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 6: EGO-CENTERED <i>Talking about your own experience</i>—retelling about your vacation</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">DECONTEXTUALIZED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTEXTUALIZED</p> <hr/> <p>Level 5: LOGICAL <i>Make up a story</i>, support with pictures or print -----</p> <p>Level 4: SYMBOLIC <i>Pretend play with miniatures</i> or <i>retell a story with pictures/print/toys</i> -----</p> <p>Level 3: RELATIONAL Play or talk about a <i>routine using real objects</i> -----</p> <p>Level 2: DECENTERED Talk about a <i>sensorimotor event as it is happening</i> -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 1: EGO-CENTERED Sensorimotor exploration of <i>objects on own body</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTEXTUALIZED</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Level 10: INTERACTIVE (Multiple topics) <i>Different experiences happen to different characters but in the end it all comes together</i>, or the <i>characters are united by a common story</i> (e.g., Seinfeld) -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 9: COMPLEX (Parallel perspectives) Story is told by several characters, but they <i>all share their perspectives of the same events</i> (e.g., we all had same experience but processed it differently) -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 8: COMPOUND (Two Or more episodes) Story contains <i>at least two complete episodes</i>, told from the perspective of a single character. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 7: COMPLETE (Initiating event, Plan/Attempt, Consequence, Resolution) Story contains an initiating event, which sets up some problem to be solved/goal to be achieved. The characters then formulate plans or make attempts (can be mental or physical attempts) to solve the problem/achieve the goal. The consequence of these plans/attempts is communicated, <i>and then a resolution is included—the moral of the story.</i> -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 6: ABBREVIATED (Initiating event, Plan/Attempt, Consequence) Story contains an <i>initiating event</i>, which sets up problem to be solved/goal to be achieved. Characters then <i>formulate plans/make attempts</i> (can be mental or physical attempts) <i>to solve the problem/achieve the goal</i>. The <i>consequence</i> of these plans/attempts is communicated. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 5: REACTIVE SEQUENCE Ideas are expressed in <i>a cause-effect chain order</i> (key words: conjunctions) that makes sense, <i>but there is no overriding plan or intent.</i> -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 4: ORDERED SEQUENCE Ideas are linked in <i>ARBITRARY temporal order</i> (key words: temporal markers) but <i>no clear cause-effect relationship.</i> -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 3: DESCRIPTIVE LIST Ideas are <i>organized by topic only</i>—a grocery list of information. There are categorical links, but <i>no temporal or causal links.</i> -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 2: COLLECTION Utterances that may be <i>loosely associated but are not structured by category</i>, time, or cause-effect. <i>Topic is easily changed</i> because it is only loosely established. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 1: DISCRETE EVENTS/ISOLATED FACTS Disconnected information; <i>utterances that are basically reactions to the moment.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Level 10: METALANGUAGE E.g., Why words are words, “syllableness” -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 9: ANALOGIES Figurative language, indirect meaning -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 8: EVALUATION Judgment/value, significance. <i>Key words:</i> weighted comparisons (better than) -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 7: INFERENCE Forming meaning beyond what is directly stated. <i>Key words:</i> conjunctions. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 6: INTERPRETATION Psychologically assigning meaning based on perceptual cues. <i>Key words:</i> “I think ...” -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 5: ATTRIBUTION Characteristic qualities, information about state. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 4: DESCRIPTION Suggests relationships between objects, events, and agents. How actions relate. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 3: LABELING Naming wholes, or listing part of wholes, directly matches perception. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 2: INDICATION Nonlinguistic (e.g. pointing). Meaning is only understood in context. -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 1: REACTION No communicative intent or purpose</p>

