# INTERPRETATION OF THE CONCEPT OF SPEECH AND DISCOURSE

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**Abstract:** *This article analyzes the concepts of speech and discourse based on modern linguistic approaches. The essence of speech as an individual-linguistic activity, and the role of discourse as a socio-contextual phenomenon, are shown. Also, the main directions of discourse analysis, their psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects are widely covered. The differences between speech and discourse, their interrelationship and assessment from the point of view of modern scientific schools constitute the main content of the article. The results of the study indicate the need for a harmonious use of speech and discursive approaches in the in-depth analysis of language phenomena.*

**Keywords :** *speech, discourse, linguistics, communication, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, context, language units, ideology*

### Theoretical foundations of the concept of speech

Speech is the individual, real-life application of the language system, introduced into scientific circulation by Saussure through the pair "langue" (language) and "parole" (speech). According to him:

- **Language** is a societal, social system;
- **Speech** is a personal, individual act;

Speech is studied through the following aspects:

- **Phonetic aspect** — sounds and their articulation;
- **Grammatical aspect** — morphological and syntactic construction;
- **Semantic aspect** — the meaning of words and sentences;
- **Pragmatic aspect** — the purpose and function of the sentence.

Speech always occurs in a specific purpose, context, and communication situation, which distinguishes it from simple language units

**The meaning and modern interpretations of the concept of discourse**

Discourse is a socio-contextual form of speech activity, which includes not only the act of speech, but also its ideological, cultural, political and psychological aspects. Discourse is a broader concept than text. The disciplines that study discourse include:

- **Pragmatics** — the reason for speaking, context, and illocutionary acts;
- **Sociolinguistics** — differences in the speech of social groups;
- **Psycholinguistics** — how language is formed in the human mind;
- **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)** — how power and ideology are transmitted through language.

Types of discourse:

- **Political discourse** — discourses related to authority, power, ideology;
- **Scientific discourse** — texts based on scientific communication and terminology;
- **Everyday (interpersonal) discourse** — speech that is an informal, social means of communication;
- **Mass media discourse** — journalism, advertising, television;
- **Religious, legal and academic discourse** — areas with special stylistic and linguistic units.

Discourse analysis focuses on the choice of language tools, how they are used, and how they affect the audience. Also, each discourse has a "speaker", a "listener", and a "concrete context".

Speech is the use of language in the processes of expressing and exchanging ideas, a specific form of language as a separate type of social activity. Speech is understood as the processes of its oral and written manifestation, that is, the process of speaking and its result (speech thoughts, works stored in memory or recorded in writing).

In linguistic theory, the concept of speech is contrasted with the abstract concept of language, which is a system of means of expression adopted in a particular language community, and the concrete, somewhat more general concept of language, which is one of the most characteristic manifestations of social existence (life). The original speech (external speech), which serves to convey information and messages to other people in order to influence their behavior and activities, that is, speaking, appears in the form of articulation of language signs perceived by the auditory organs (recorded and reproduced using sound recording equipment) or in the form of a conditional reflection of these signs in writing.

Along with the original speech ("external speech"), there is also internal speech. It is aimed at discussing and solving various issues that help to know in the speaker's mind. Internal speech is carried out in the form of ak/shy processes that occur on the basis of external speech, without the use of sound or writing, but only with clear ideas about the words in vocal speech. Written speech differs from oral speech in that it is somewhat more structured, the words are selected very carefully, it is grammatically clear, but complex in its structure, and the intonation, facial expressions, and hand movements characteristic of oral speech cannot be directly used. There are monological and dialogical types of speech.

In addition to the communicative function, speech can also perform other functions, such as a poetic function. A special form of speech is reading.

Each person's speech has individual, unique characteristics; however, the main elements of language - vocabulary and grammatical structure - do not belong only to individuals, but are universal, that is, they belong to a particular language community as a whole. Speech is closely related to a person's thinking, his consciousness. A person's thoughts are formed and exist in speech. Thanks to speech and on the basis of speech, it is possible to generalize the essence of existence, to develop logical conceptual thinking that goes beyond the scope of individuality and becomes a product of society. Speech is also of great importance in the manifestation and functioning of other aspects of the human psyche, his sensations, perception, memory, thoughts, emotions, will, etc., and in the development of human consciousness. Depending on the field of application, speech takes such forms as artistic speech, scientific speech, and official speech. In any form and in any situation, clarity, fluency, simplicity, and impact should remain the most important characteristics of speech.

### Differences and similarities between speech and discourse

Speech is a part of discourse. Every discourse is made up of speech acts, but for every speech to become a discourse, it must have a context, a social function, and a communicative significance.

### Modern schools of discourse analysis

There are several schools of discourse analysis in modern linguistics:

1. **Theun van Dijk School (cognitive-critical approach)** Focuses on the relationship between language, consciousness, and social consciousness.

2. **Norman Fairclough School (critical discourse analysis)** Explores the language of power, ideological structures, and manipulation.

3. **M. Foucault's approach (discourse and social institutions)** How discourses determine social order and shape norms.

**4. Greek School (argumentative discourse analysis)** Emphasizes systems of argumentation in speech, rhetoric, and speaker goals**.**

**Conclusion** : The concepts of speech and discourse are extremely relevant and necessary categories for today's linguistic research. Their in-depth analysis allows us to study language not only at the level of grammar and syntax, but also in the context of social consciousness, power, ideology, culture, and communication. Therefore, in order to fully understand any linguistic phenomenon, it is necessary not to neglect, along with speech units, the discourse environment in which they are formed.

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