FACOLTÀ DI STUDI UMANISTICI

Lingue e Comunicazione

Lingue e culture per la mediazione linguistica

Lingua Inglese 2

LESSON 2

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Unit 2

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

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

- *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 Monterrosso 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.

- Narration is often agent-oriented. Narration refers to the development of the trip 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

- 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.

- *“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)*

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)*
- 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)

- 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.
- W*ould* 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

- Present, through the use of through- and 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*

- *“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
- Five types of argumentative style: informal, ironical, appreciatory, depreciatory, and persuasive (1st p. s. & present tense)

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
- Five styles: the formal, the comparative, the informal, the illustrative, and the technical/formal ones.

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)


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

1) Papers should not exceed 7000 words (including footnotes and Works Cited) and should follow the latest MLA Handbook. Papers should be submitted in double-spaced format (two hard copies and a disk) to the editors of the issue at the following addresses: Tina Krontiris, School of English, Aristotle University, 541 24 Thessaloniki, Greece, and Jyotsna G. Singh, Department of English, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1036.

2) Chapter Eight
The Deathday Party

October arrived, spreading a damp chill over the grounds and into the castle. Madam Pomfrey, the nurse, was kept busy by a sudden spate of colds among the staff and students. Her Pepperup potion worked instantly, though it left the drinker smoking at the ears for several hours afterward. Ginny Weasley, who had been looking pale, was bullied into taking some by Percy. The steam pouring from under her vivid hair gave the impression that her whole head was on fire.

Raindrops the size of bullets thundered on the castle windows for days on end; the lake rose, the flower beds turned into muddy streams, and Hagrid's pumpkins swelled to the size of garden sheds. Oliver Wood's enthusiasm for regular training sessions, however, was not dampened, which was why Harry was to be found, late one stormy Saturday afternoon a few days before Halloween, returning to Gryffindor Tower, drenched to the skin and splattered with mud.

Even aside from the rain and wind it hadn't been a happy practice session. Fred and George, who had been spying on the Slytherin team, had seen for themselves the speed of those new Nimbus Two Thousand and Ones. They reported that the Slytherin team was no more than seven greenish blurs, shooting through the air like missiles.

(Source: Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Scholastic, USA, 1999)

3) **Italy faces a sudden surge in covid-19 cases**

Events are cancelled, roads are closed

WITH DISCONCERTING suddenness, Italy has found itself the European country worst affected by covid-19. By February 23rd the number of people infected with the coronavirus that first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan had leapt to 152, a jump of around 100 within a day. Three of them, all in their late 60s or older, have already died. Italy now has the third-most cases in the world, after China itself, where 77,000 have been infected, and South Korea, where the total has surged to more than 600.

Two clusters of infection have emerged, both in the north. One is south-east of Milan, around the town of Codogno; the other is south-west of Venice, near Padua. Both areas have been quarantined, restricting the movement of around 50,000 people. An extra 500 police officers have been sent to carry out patrols and man roadblocks on roads to and from the two areas.

Four of Sunday's Serie A football matches, all at northern grounds, were called off. The government in Rome slapped a ban on school excursions.

Luca Zaia, the governor of Veneto, announced that he was bringing Venice's renowned carnival to an end at midnight on February 23rd, thereby cancelling the last two days of a festival that draws around 3m visitors every year.

4) New York

When Sinatra sang: "If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere," about this city of eight million inhabitants, he wasn't kidding. People don't come to New York City to relax. Instead, they gravitate to Gotham to be the best of the best in their professions. And for visitors, that means everyone – from chefs to performers to bartenders to artists – are at the top of their game, making this bustling Metropolis truly one of the world's greatest playgrounds. Manhattan may still be the core of the Big Apple, but the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens have been grabbing some attention of late with great dining, shopping and nightlife scenes of their own.

When to go to New York

New York is a year-round destination with four distinct seasons. Winter can be magical, with thick snowfalls followed by cloudless skies, but also unpredictable: one winter might regularly blanket the city in snow and the next year there will be only one giant storm. Summer is the most consistent, as the air turns sticky and humid, but the warm weather brings out the fun. Spring and autumn are the optimum times to visit, highlighted by clear blue skies and a crispness to the air. October visitors will be treated to trees turning to golden red for the autumn.

5) Oak

noun

noun: **oak tree**

1.

a large tree which bears acorns and typically has lobed deciduous leaves. Oaks are dominant in many north temperate forests and are an important source of durable timber used in building, furniture, and (formerly) ships.

2.

an annual flat horse race for three-year-old fillies run on Epsom Downs, over the same course as the Derby. It was first run in 1779. (Oxford Languages)

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.