

## Introduction

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*Storytelling and Conversation* focuses on discourse analysis. Discourse analysis looks at language in use, analyzing patterns beyond the level of the sentence, seeking to understand how language users build cooperative understanding through interaction. In this volume, contributors explore the context of communication, both from within and outside the discourse.

As a linguist, researcher, and interpreter, discourse analysis holds a special interest for me. As a linguist, I look at how discourse takes the study of language into the realm of practical applications; in other words, language in use. As a researcher, I know that discourse analysis of sign languages is still in its infancy compared to the longer histories of phonology, morphology, and syntax. As an interpreter, I study discourse analysis to learn the way each interpretation must be faced: from beginning to end, in context, using natural, real-world data to better understand the underlying meaning of each interaction. I hope this book is only the beginning of many more studies of discourse in sign languages.

In keeping with this series' goals, this volume presents an international perspective, including papers on the sign languages of Bali, Italy, England, and the United States. It is fascinating to see the intricate discourse patterns that have evolved in different languages. The papers explore two approaches to discourse: the analysis of the internal context of discourse and the analysis of the external context. An analysis of the internal context looks at the structures of language within a text that are used by signers to reflect their intended meaning. An analysis of the external context of discourse investigates the ways that languages influence and shape their communities and the ways those communities integrate and influence language use.

Focusing on the internal context of discourse, five authors investigate the ways that signers shape their messages, creating cohesion and coherence. Karen Emmorey and Brenda Falgier investigate signers' use of space for talking about space. Gary Morgan then analyzes the ways that signers package events, using space to accomplish complex narrative tasks. Jennifer Rayman focuses on the linguistic tools signers choose from to structure storytelling. Meryl Glaser then analyzes the internal context of text telephone conversations for strategies used to add affect, emphasis, and comment to these interactions.

Investigating the external context of language use, Jan Branson, Don Miller, and I Gede Marsaja discuss the integration of deaf people and sign language into the language communities of Bali—where the hearing populations integrate deafness and sign language into their religion and community life. Sabina Fontana describes the language mixing that results from the prolonged contact and interaction between deaf parents and hearing children.

The final two papers tie the internal and the external contexts together. Karen Christie, Dorothy M. Wilkins, Betsy Hicks McDonald, and Cindy Neuroth-Gimbrone discuss the application of internal text styles of ASL and English to teaching written English to Deaf students. These internal structures are explicitly taught as a means of improving written English, an important means of fitting into the external language communities in which Deaf people live. In the last paper, Melanie Metzger analyzes the language choices made by an interpreter who must shift footing in order to manage the “interpreter’s paradox.”

I am grateful to Ceil Lucas for the opportunity to be the guest editor for this volume, the fifth in the series, and am indebted to the patience of Ivey Pittle Wallace and Christina Findlay at Gallaudet University Press. The contributors have all worked with me to produce this volume, and I thank each of them for their valuable contributions.

Finally and most importantly, I express my gratitude and admiration for a special friend, June Zimmer. Her work in discourse analysis spurred my own interest, her support as a fellow researcher encouraged my work, and her friendship as a fellow student and colleague have continued to inspire me long after her death. This volume is dedicated to her memory.