

# Interletral

Cited bibliography and some pointers for further reflection <sup>1</sup>

## 1.7 From Classical Rhetoric to Textual Linguistics

### 1.7.1 The Three Genres of Classical Rhetorical Tradition

- Aristotle, *Rhetoric* (4th century BC), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010

Aristotle's *Rhetoric* is a reflection on the ways language can be used to persuade. It was written at a time when public speaking—whether in the courtroom, at political assemblies, or in the theater—was at the heart of social life. In this work, Aristotle identifies three modes of persuasion: *ethos*, which relies on the speaker's credibility and reputation; *pathos*, which appeals to the audience's emotions to influence their perception and decisions; and *logos*, which is based on rational and logical argumentation, grounded in evidence and reason. He also discusses the three types of speeches that we have studied: *deliberative*, *judicial*, and *epideictic*. Aristotle emphasizes the importance of the structure of a speech, the relevance of examples, and the careful arrangement of arguments to achieve the greatest persuasive effect. In doing so, he draws attention to the connection between content, style, and context, viewing a speech not only as a vehicle for ideas but also as a tool for action. This work, which brings together linguistics, rhetoric, and persuasive communication, is regarded as the classical foundation for discourse analysis.

### 1.7.2 Classical Rhetorical Categories for Discourse Analysis

- Chaïm Perelman & Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca, *The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation* (1958), Notre Dame, Indiana, University of Notre Dame Press, 1969, translated by John Wilkinson & Purcell Weaver.

Chaïm Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca develop a modern approach to argumentation focused on rational persuasion in concrete situations. They show that the effectiveness of an argument does not depend on a universal truth but on the audience's agreement. The authors distinguish different types of arguments and analyze the structures that make persuasion possible, for example by appealing to shared principles and social norms. The "new rhetoric" presented in this work contrasts with traditional formal logic by incorporating the pragmatic and contextual dimensions of argumentation.

### 1.7.3 Cohesion and coherence

- M. A. K. Halliday & Ruqaiya Hasan, *Cohesion in English* (1976), London, Longman.

In 1976, Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan developed a theory of textual cohesion based on the study of the links that connect elements of a text to ensure its unity and continuity. Among these cohesive relationships, they focused particularly on reference expressed through nouns and pronouns, substitution, ellipsis, logical connectors, and lexical cohesion mechanisms (such as repetition, synonymy,

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<sup>1</sup> The title of a work in French indicates that no complete translation into English has been published and that it is necessary to consult the work in French.

hyponymy, and hypernymy). With an approach that is both descriptive and systematic, Halliday and Hasan laid the foundations for text linguistics and discourse analysis.

- Van Dijk, Teun A., *Text and Context: explorations in the semantics and pragmatics of discourse* (1977), London, Longman.

Teun A. Van Dijk examines the relationship between text and context. An approach that combines semantics (linguistic meaning) and pragmatics (use in context) allows him to analyze how textual structures produce meaning, organize information, and guide interpretation. Van Dijk also highlights the role of cognitive schemas, expectations, and social relationships in the construction of meaning in discourse, laying the foundations for an analysis that integrates the linguistic dimension, cognition, and a sociological perspective.

- M. Charolles, « Introduction aux problèmes de la cohérence des textes. Approche théorique et étude des pratiques pédagogiques » (1978), in: *Langue française* 38, pp. 7-41

Michel Charolles shows that coherence is not limited to simple syntactic or lexical continuity, but relies on logical, thematic, and referential relationships between statements, as well as on the organization of information according to a pattern that is intelligible to the reader. Charolles emphasizes the role of cognitive expectations and shared knowledge in the construction of meaning.

- Charolles Michel, « Cohésion, cohérence et pertinence du discours » (1995), *Travaux de Linguistique : Revue Internationale de Linguistique Française*, De Boeck Université, p. 125-151.

In this article, Michel Charolles explains that cohesion and coherence are complementary concepts. He suggests a method that combines linguistic and pragmatic approaches to study how discourse elements are connected, integrated, and made relevant. Charolles argues that linguistic description alone is insufficient to account for meaning-making in discourse and that it is necessary to study the pragmatic and cognitive parameters, which function as interpretive instructions guiding the recipient to connect segments of discourse in a meaningful way.

- Jean-Michel Adam, *La linguistique textuelle. Introduction à l'analyse textuelle des discours* (2011), Paris, Armand Colin.

In this 2011 work, Jean-Michel Adam proposes a systematic approach to the study of texts as complete and organized units of meaning. He emphasizes the principles of cohesion and coherence, thematic structures, and the logical and referential relationships that allow a text to function as an intelligible whole. The book combines linguistic theory and discourse analysis methods to show how texts produce meaning in various contexts and how discourse units interact to guide understanding.