2.1. Definitions

a) **Stylistics** is a method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language (Simpson 2004:2).

b) **... three key aspects of stylistics. These are:**
   1. The use of linguistics (the study of language) to approach literary texts;
   2. The discussion of texts according to objective criteria rather than [...] purely subjective and impressionistic values;
Thornborrow & Wareign’s approach to stylistics CANNOT be unconditionally accepted because...

a) The meaning of a text does not entirely depend upon the language choices of its author. It also depends on the processes of interpretation undertaken by the reader/listener and a range of contextual factors (cultural background, circumstances in which the text is read, etc.).

b) Its claims on objectivity cannot be held, if only because the actual decision of which elements (of the text) are chosen for analysis is a subjective one.

c) Because of the wide range of texts with which Stylistics concerns itself nowadays, the aesthetic properties of a text are not the primary focus of analysis.
2.2. Interdisciplinarity
- Linguistics
- Pragmatics
- Literary Theory (particularly, reception theory; reader-response criticism)
- Psychology
- Social Theory
- . . .

2.3. Object of study
- Originally: literary texts
- Nowadays, any text, literary (e.g. a poem) or otherwise (an advert, an E-text, etc.), written or spoken.

2.4. Purpose of study
- Initially:

  . . . to explain how meaning in a text was created through a writer’s linguistic choices.

  ➢ Underlying linguistic theory: Saussurean structuralism, which considered the text as a monologic, stable, self-referential entity.
- Currently:

. . . to explain the relationship between the text and the context in which it is both PRODUCED and RECEIVED.

. . . MEANING IS NOT stable and absolute: it depends on the linguistic structures used in the text AND on the PROCESSES OF INTERPRETATION UNDERTAKEN BY THEIR READER OR LISTENER.

2.5. Method of study:

The 3 Rs of stylistic analysis (Simpson 2004:3):

1\textsuperscript{st} R: Rigorous: i.e. based on structured models of language, not on impressionistic comments.

2\textsuperscript{nd} R: Retrievable: i.e. the method of analysis is retrievable if it is based on explicit criteria, so that other analysts can test them and find out how the analysis reached its conclusions.

3\textsuperscript{rd} R: Replicable: i.e. other analysts should be able to apply the same criteria on the same text and obtain the same results, or on similar texts, obtaining comparable results.
What do discourse analysts do?

✔ Study texts, whether written or spoken, whether long or short, paying particular attention to the relationship between texts and the contexts in which they are created and used.

✔ DAs work at text level, NOT at sentence level (as grammarians do) or word level (as lexicologists do), for instance.

✔ DAs are concerned with utterances or sequences of words written or spoken in specific contexts.
 ✓ DAs focus their analysis on the following:

1. Who are the participants (writer, speaker(s), reader(s), listener(s))?
2. What is their relationship (Equals or power / knowledge difference)?
3. What are their goals in engaging in discourse?
4. How do we know what writers / speakers mean?

What factors enable us to interpret the text?
What do we need to know about the context and what clues are there in the surrounding context that help us understand the text?

 ✓ DAs do what regular language users do, but they do it... consciously / deliberately / objectively / systematically.
How can DA be defined, then?

DA is the study of language viewed communicatively and/or the study of communication viewed from the linguistic point of view.

- Language in use
- Language beyond the sentence
- Language as meaning in interaction
- Language in situational and cultural context
What is CA?

- The study of spoken discourse has been approached from different disciplinary areas.
- One such area is having an important impact on applied linguistics at large and on language education in particular: Sociology.
- The study of SPOKEN DISCOURSE from the point of view of Sociology is known as

CONVERSATION ANALYSIS (CA)

- CA is concerned with the detailed organization of everyday interaction, particularly with dialogic, spoken discourse of a fairly informal character.
- CA focuses on conversation because it offers an appropriate and accessible resource for sociological enquiry. It favors fine-grain analyses, often of quite short stretches of conversation. Key questions for CAs are:
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2.6. References:

2.7. Further reading: