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## A Method for Text Interpretation by Linguistic Structuralism and Semantics

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### Today's Topics


1. Main Issues of Text Interpretation
2. Necessity of some Systematic Method to Find the Meaning of a Text ?
3. Grounded Theory Approach: Use of Property and Dimension
4. Linguistic Structuralism and Semantics
5. A Method Proposed
6. Future Issues

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### 1. Main Issues

1. Text interpretation is subjective.  
Is it scientific?
2. No systematic method for all researchers




**Quantitative Analysis : Statistical Methods**  
**Scientific Manual**

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### 2. Necessity of some Systematic Method to Find the Meaning of a Text ?

1. Scientific studies need a common method to provide a manual for text interpretation for every researchers.
2. If we have a manual for text interpretation, even a novice researcher may be able to find some important categories of interest.

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### 3. Grounded Theory Approach

**Strauss A, Corbin J (1998) *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*, second edit. Sage Publications.**


**Saiki CS(2008) *Seminar for Qualitative Research Method: Learning Grounded Theory Approach*, enlarged edit., Igaku Shoin (in Japanese).**

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### GTA by Strauss, and Saiki

**Open Coding, etc. :**  
**Property and Dimension : Labeling**



**Making Manual**

**How can we develop the model of interest?**

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**What is this?**

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Property	Dimension
Shape	Round
Color	Red and/or Green
Size	About Fist
Weight	Light (not so heavy)
Tastable	Yes (Food)
Taste	Sweet-and-Sour

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**Substantial Things:**  
Easy to find the properties and dimensions.

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**Conceptual things in a text**

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When I heard the diagnosis, it was scary. I panicked. Everything was doing well early in this pregnancy, and I felt good – no morning sickness, and I had a lot of energy. Then all of a sudden, I was told I had diabetes. What a shock since this is my first baby. My main concern is for the baby. I worry about the baby. I want this baby so much. I am really scared 'cause I waited so long to have this baby and I don't want anything to go wrong.

(Strauss A, Corbin J (1998), 61)

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**4. Linguistic Structuralism and Semantics**

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**First Step of Text Interpretation****(Ex) Open coding in GTA (or Microanalysis):**

We use our experiences and sensitivities to detect properties and dimensions of some concept.



**depending on**  
**Researcher's ability**

For our convenience, we need clues for making easier and more systematic way.

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**Language Structure**

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**Ken Machida (2011) :**

*Foundation of the linguistic structure, 141-142, Keiso Shobo (Tokyo) (in Japanese)*

**Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM)****Anna Wierzbicka (1998) :**

*The Semantics of English Causative Constructions in a Universal-Typological Perspective, Michael Tomasello ed.(2009) The New Psychology of Language: Cognitive and Functional Approaches to Language Structure, 113-153, Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc. Inc. (Psychology Press)*

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**Language Structure of Text (Affairs)**

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**Time interval:** origin/current, past, or future**Closeness:** whole or part**Degree of Truth:****Space:** true/real or imaginary/near or distant**Probability:** probable/necessary or accident/ or ~p**Polarity:** affirmation or negation**Relation:****Definiteness:** definite or indefinite**Numberness:** singular or plural, uncertain**Theme, Subjective Group, Objective Group,****Movement/origin to goal/, Place, Appendix**

Ken Machida (2011). Foundation of the linguistic structure, 141-142, Keiso Shobo, Tokyo.

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## To think important elements of sentence

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**Theme:** (should be detected, or frequently presumed)

**Subjective Group:** Who (did what)?

**Objective Group:** Whom (be done by whom/what)?

**Movement:** Change of the situation (from, to)

**Place:** Where (and/or from, to)?

**Time:** When?

**Closeness:** whole or part

**Degree of Truth:**

**Space:** true/real or imaginary/near or distant

**Probability:** probable/necessary or accident/ or ~p

**Polarity:** affirmation or negation

**Appendix:** additional/optional information

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## Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM)

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### Two Fundamental Assumptions:

- 1) Every language has an irreducible core in terms of which the speakers can understand all complex thoughts and utterances.
- 2) The irreducible cores of all natural languages match, so that we can speak, effectively, of the irreducible core of all languages, reflecting the irreducible core of human thought.

Anna Wierzbicka : The Semantics of English Causative Constructions in a Universal-Typological Perspective, Michael Tomasello ed. (1998) The New Psychology of Language: Cognitive and Functional Approaches to Language Structure, 113-153, Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc. Inc. (Psychology Press, 2009)

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## Conceptual Primitives

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**Substantives:** I, You, Someone (Person), Something (Thing), People, Body

**Determiners:** This, The Same, Other

**Quantifiers:** One, Two, Some, Many/Much, All

**Attributes:** Good, Bad, Big, Small

**Mental Predicates:** Think, Know, Want, Feel, See, Hear

**Speech:** Say, Word, True

**Actions, Events, Movements:** Do, Happen, Move

**Existence and Possession:** There is, Have

**Life and Death:** Live, Die

**Logical Concepts:** Not, Maybe, Can, Because, If

**Time:** When (Time), Now, After, Before, A Long Time,

A Short Time, For Some Time

**Space:** Where (Place), Here, Above, Below, Far, Near, Side, Inside

**Intensifier, Augmentor:** Very, More

**Taxonomy, Partonomy:** Kind of, Part of

**Similarity:** Like

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## To use Conceptual Primitives to describe Properties and Dimensions if possible.

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I, You, Someone (Person), Something (Thing), People, Body  
This, The Same, Other

One, Two, Some, Many/Much, All  
Good/Bad, Big/Small, Very, More, True  
Not, Kind of, Part of, Like

Think, Know, Want, Feel, See, Hear, Say, Word  
Do, Happen, Move. There is, Have, Live/Die  
Maybe, Can

Because, If

When (Time), Now, After/Before,  
A Long Time/A Short Time, For Some Time  
Where (Place), Here, Above/Below, Far/Near, Side/Inside

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When I heard the diagnosis, it was scary. I panicked. Everything was doing well early in this pregnancy, and I felt good – no morning sickness, and I had a lot of energy. Then all of a sudden, I was told I had diabetes. What a shock since this is my first baby. My main concern is for the baby. I worry about the baby. I want this baby so much. I am really scared 'cause I waited so long to have this baby and I don't want anything to go wrong.

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In order to interpret the text obtained by research for detecting concepts of an interesting phenomena, introducing the current knowledge of linguistics seems to be useful and reasonable to devise a new method in qualitative researches.

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**Thank You Very Much  
for Your Attention!**

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