Text Linguistics and the Question of Communicative Equilibrium: A Critique of the Transmission-Reception Dichotomy

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Abstract :

Linguistics is a core branch of language science. It investigates the structure, functions, and uses of language. Text linguistics, as a modern extension of the field, focuses on analyzing texts as cohesive linguistic units. It moves beyond traditional sentence-level analysis to explore how texts achieve coherence and cohesion. This paper offers a critical examination of two key standards in text linguistics: intentionality and acceptability. It discusses major critiques of these two principles and evaluates the main responses to them. Special attention is given to how reader diversity and cultural background affect textual interpretation.

Keywords: Text linguistics, Text, Textual standards, Intentionality, Acceptability, Communicative equilibrium.

1. Introduction

Text linguistics is defined as the study of texts as interconnected linguistic units. It focuses on internal relations among text components and their external ties to social and cultural contexts. This field is concerned with how texts achieve cohesion and coherence, and how that impacts the reader's overall understanding. Text linguistics is based on a set of standards that define the nature and integrity of a text. Among the most important are intentionality and acceptability, which are central in evaluating texts as functional and complete units.

However, these two standards remain subject to criticism, both theoretically and practically. Their adequacy in capturing the complexities of texts in various contexts is still debated. How can intentionality be identified in texts open to multiple interpretations? What if the author's intent surpasses the immediate context? Is it acceptability an objective standard, or is it shaped by shifting social and cultural norms?

These questions arise in light of challenges faced by traditional models of text linguistics. These models often struggle with contemporary multimodal texts or those rooted in non-Western cultures.

Research Objectives

1.   To offer a critical analysis of intentionality and acceptability, and assess how well they reflect the dynamic nature of texts.

2. To identify theoretical and practical gaps in applying these standards, especially in complex contexts such as literary texts with layered interpretations or interactive digital texts.

3. To examine how external factors—such as social, cultural, or technological contexts—reshape the definition and relevance of these two standards.

4. To propose analytical approaches that incorporate new or adaptable criteria, enhancing the capacity of text linguistics to address texts in a globalized and multimedia-driven era.

Notable Contributions from Western and Arab Scholars

Robert de Beaugrande: It is widely recognized as a leading figure in text linguistics. His work has significantly shaped the field, especially in developing evaluation criteria for texts. Among his most influential concepts are intentionality and acceptability, considered essential for understanding and evaluating texts.

He states: "We will define a text as a communicative occurrence that meets seven standards of textuality. If even one of these standards is not fulfilled, the text fails to achieve textuality[1],The text is a cohesive linguistic unit. It must be studied and understood through its internal cohesion and its interaction with the social context.

This statement summarizes the approach adopted by Robert de Beaugrande in his study of texts. His view is based on the idea that a text should be treated as an integrated linguistic whole. To understand this concept more clearly, we need to explore its core components:

1. An Integrated Linguistic Unit

Integration: A text must be seen as a unified structure. Its different parts interact to produce meaning. Instead of analyzing sentences or paragraphs in isolation, we must study how these elements connect and function together to shape the text as a whole.

Connectivity: De Beaugrande emphasized the importance of how parts of a text are linked. This is achieved through linguistic tools such as pronouns and conjunctions, which contribute to the coherence of the text.

2. Internal Cohesion (Cohesion)

Linguistic Cohesion: This refers to the use of linguistic devices to link sentences and ideas across the text. These include pronouns, connectors, and temporal markers. Internal cohesion is what allows a text to be perceived as unified and understandable.

Illustrative Examples: In a narrative text, the use of pronouns to refer back to characters or events previously mentioned strengthens textual connection. For instance, in a short story, the sentence "Then he went home" following an earlier sentence naming the character, helps to maintain cohesion.

3. Teun A. van Dijk

Teun A. van Dijk focused on the relationship between text and context. He explored how social and cultural factors shape the interpretation of texts.

He stated: "Text linguistics aims to be broader and more inclusive. It deals with all possible forms of text and their various contexts. It also involves theoretical, descriptive, and applied approaches[2].

Saad Musallam: states that a text is "a communicative event that must meet seven criteria in order to be considered a text." This definition is based on the work of foreign linguists such as Robert de Beaugrande and Dresler. It is regarded as one of the most significant definitions adopted by scholars in the field of text

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[1]Robert Debeugerand and Deersler, Introduction to Linguistics and Text, translated by Ilham Abu Ghazaleh, Dar Al-Kitab Press, Cairo, 1st ed., 1993, p. 25.

[2] Ton van Dijk, Textual Science: An Interdisciplinary Approach, translated by Hassan Saeed Al-Bahri, Cairo House, Egypt, 1st ed., 2001, p. 14.

linguistics[1]

Abdelmalek Mortad: describes the text as "a vast, intricate, and interconnected world—an inventive message that comes to an end once it is composed. It exists only in the moment of its creation, or what Roland Barthes calls the 'zero moment.'"[2] A text is not merely a collection of sentences. It is a unified structure that requires a comprehensive understanding of its meanings and the connections among its parts.

Textual Standards:

Beaugrande: states: "We define a text as a communicative event that must fulfill seven standards of textuality. If any of these standards is not met, the text cannot be considered communicative[3] **1. Cohesion** Cohesion refers to the linguistic devices that connect the parts of a text. These include pronouns and linking words.

2. Coherence: Coherence concerns the logical structure of meaning within the text. It reflects how ideas are organized to form a clear and understandable flow.

3. Intentionality: This refers to the writer's purpose and communicative intent in producing the text.

4. Acceptability: Acceptability measures how the text is received by its intended audience, based on social and cultural norms.

5. Situationality: Situationality deals with the relationship between the text and the social or cultural context in which it is produced.

6. Intertextuality This relates to how other texts influence or interact with the text being studied.

7. Informativity: Informativity reflects the amount and type of information presented in the text, as well as how it affects the reader.

Focus of the Study:

The Standards of Intentionality and Acceptability

First: The Standard of Intentionality

1. Definition of Intentionality: Intentionality refers to the writer's communicative purpose and the goal behind the text. This standard evaluates how clearly and effectively the writer's intention is conveyed. Understanding the writer's aim is essential when analyzing literary, academic, or media texts.

2. Key Definition: According to Robert de Beaugrande, intentionality is: "The attitude of the text producer in presenting a particular form of language as a text that carries specific meaning, marked by cohesion and coherence. The text is a means to achieve a communicative goal intended by the producer[4]Intentionality refers to the communicative aim that the writer seeks to achieve through the text.

1. Communicative Intention

Definition of Intention: Intentionality concerns the writer's core purpose in delivering a specific message or fulfilling a defined communicative goal through the text. This intention may be explicit and direct, or it may be implicit and layered.

Purpose of the Text: The goal the writer seeks to achieve may be informative, persuasive, entertaining, educational, or critical. Understanding communicative intention requires close analysis of the text to

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[1]Saad Maslouh, Arabic from Sentence Grammar to Text Grammar, Faculty of Arts, Kuwait University, Kuwait, 1990, p. 408

[2]Abdelmalek Mortad, The Literary Text: From Where and To Where?, University Publications Office, 1st ed., p. 42

[3]Robert Debeaugrand and Dresler, Introduction to Linguistics and Text, p. 25

[4]Robert Debeaugrand, Text, Discourse, and Procedure, trans. Tamam Hassan, Dar Alam Al-Kutub, Egypt, Cairo, 1st ed., 1998, p. 103

uncover the writer's primary aim.

2. Achieving the Goal through the Text

Linguistic Devices: To express communicative intention, the writer employs various linguistic tools. These include rhetorical techniques, textual structure, and literary imagery. Such tools help reinforce the message and guide the reader toward a specific understanding.

Textual Structure: Intentionality is also reflected in how the writer organizes the text. Word choice, sentence order, and paragraph structure are all arranged in service of the intended purpose.

Illustrative Examples

Literary Texts: *Example*: In George Orwell's novel 1984, the writer's intention is not limited to telling a story. Through narrative choices and thematic construction, Orwell criticizes totalitarian regimes and explores the dangers of oppressive political systems.[1] The communicative intention is to criticize totalitarian systems and warn against the dangers of absolute power. To achieve this aim, Orwell uses dystopian narrative techniques and symbolic events to reinforce the message.

Analysis: Through close reading, one can see how Orwell works to fulfill his communication goal by constructing a coherent narrative and employing symbols such as Big Brother to represent absolute authority.

Political Texts: *Example* In Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "I Have a Dream"...[2]

The communicative intention in this case is a call for equality and social justice. King uses powerful rhetorical techniques—such as repetition and metaphor—to create a stronger emotional impact on his audience.

Analysis: An analysis of King's "I Have a Dream" speech shows how he employs linguistic tools to strengthen his message and urge people toward social change.

Educational Texts: *Example*: In educational books, the communicative intention is to deliver knowledge in a clear and accessible way for students. The writer uses explanatory tools such as examples and diagrams to achieve this goal.

Analysis: By examining educational texts, we can see how content is structured to support understanding and meet the intended learning objectives.

Interaction Between Intentionality and Other Standards Internal Cohesion: To fulfill the communicative intention, the text must be internally cohesive. Sentences and ideas should be logically connected.

Social Context: Communicative intention is influenced by the social and cultural environment in which the text is produced. Understanding this context helps clarify the intended meaning

The Importance of Intentionality in Textual Analysis

De Beaugrande's definition of intentionality emphasizes the importance of understanding the writer's communicative aims when analyzing texts. By studying intentionality, scholars and researchers can develop a deeper and more comprehensive interpretation. This leads to more accurate and informed readings.

According to De Beaugrande, intentionality is a cornerstone in textual analysis. It allows researchers to uncover the writer's purpose and how that purpose is realized through the text. Examining intentionality helps produce a full interpretation that accounts for both social context and the linguistic choices used to

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[1] George Orwell, 1984, published in 1949, translated by Muhammad Al-Harith Al-Nabhan, Al-Tanweer Publishing and Distribution House, Beirut, Lebanon, 2014.

[2] Martin Luther King Jr., I Have a Dream, August 2, 1963, delivered during a march in front of the Lincoln Memorial (Washington) demanding freedom and equality for whites and blacks.

express the writer's goal.

3. Criticisms of the Intentionality Standard

Difficulty in Identifying Authorial Intent

Criticism: Accurately determining the writer's intention can be difficult. Intentions are not always clear and may be layered or ambiguous. A general reader may interpret the text differently than an experienced scholar or critic. These varying interpretations raise questions about whether it is possible to reach a unified understanding of the author's intended meaning. This can lead to multiple readings that challenge any fixed evaluation based on a single intention.

Example: A literary work such as The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry...[1] The text can be understood either as a children's story or as a philosophical work. The interpretation depends on the reader. This difference in meaning highlights the challenge of identifying the author's exact intention.

Contextual Influence

Criticism: The social and cultural context plays a major role in interpreting texts. This makes it difficult to rely solely on authorial intent when evaluating meaning. Context can significantly alter how a text is understood. As a result, interpretations often vary depending on the reader's background and the environment in which the text is read.

Example: A political text may be interpreted differently in another cultural setting. Political and social backgrounds vary. A reader from a democratic society may read the text differently than one from an authoritarian context. This reflects how deeply context shapes understanding.

Multiple Intentions

Criticism: Texts often carry multiple and complex intentions. It is not always possible to identify one single or primary aim. A writer may seek to accomplish several goals within the same text. This complexity adds another layer of difficulty when analyzing intention.

Example: The novels of George Orwell carry political, social, and literary intentions. 1984, for instance, critiques totalitarian regimes but also presents philosophical reflections on power and freedom. This makes it difficult to reduce the work to one clear intention.

4. Defending the Standard of Intentionality

The Integrative Interpretation

Definition of Integrative Interpretation Integrative interpretation is an analytical approach that considers social and cultural context, along with the writer's multiple intentions. It aims to provide a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the text. Instead of trying to isolate a single intent, this method explores the various dimensions of the work and how it engages with multiple layers of meaning.

Applying Integrative Interpretation

Multiple Intentions

Example: In The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, integrative interpretation can help uncover the various intentions of the text—childhood, philosophy, and social criticism.

Analysis:
Rather than seeking one intent, it is more useful to examine how the author uses symbolic storytelling and ambiguous characters to communicate several ideas. The writer may intend to offer a story for children, while also presenting a philosophical critique of adult society.

Multiple Contexts

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[1]Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince, translated by Mohamed Tahami Al-Amari, Arab Cultural Center, Casablanca, Morocco, 2nd ed., 2013.

Example: In political texts such as the speeches of Winston Churchill...[1] During World War II, integrative interpretation can combine the political, military, and social contexts to understand multiple intentions.

Analysis: Churchill may have sought to inspire patriotism, boost public morale, and secure international support. Integrative interpretation helps clarify how these intentions interact with the changing conditions of war.

Benefits of Integrative Interpretation

Accuracy and Flexibility: Integrated interpretation enhances the accuracy and adaptability of textual analysis. Instead of limiting the reading to a single interpretation, critics can explore multiple dimensions that add depth to the text.

Comprehensiveness: This approach allows for more holistic explanations that reflect the real complexities found in literary and intellectual works.

The Importance of Context in Analyzing Intentionality

Definition of Context: Context refers to the social, cultural, and historical circumstances in which texts are produced and read. Understanding the context offers valuable insight into the conditions under which a text was written and how these conditions shape the author's intent.

Applying Contextual Analysis

Social and Cultural Context

Example: *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert[2]:

Analysis: To understand Flaubert's intention in criticizing social classes and bourgeois morality, it is essential to consider the social context of 19th-century France. This context helps explain how social and moral values influence the interpretation of the novel.

Historical Context:

Example: The writings of Martin Luther King Jr.

Analysis: Examining King's speeches within the context of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States aids in understanding his communication intentions. It allows for a study of how his speeches interact with social and political conditions to achieve goals of equality and justice.

Political Context:

Example: George Orwell's 1984

Analysis: To grasp Orwell's intention in criticizing totalitarian regimes, one must examine the global political climate after World War II and the rise of totalitarian states. The political context helps interpret the symbols and characters in the novel as reflections of the political reality of that time.

Benefits of Integrating Context in Analysis

- **Providing a Rich Background:** Context offers a rich background for textual analysis, enabling a more accurate interpretation of the author's aims and communicative intentions.

- **Comprehensive Analysis:** Combining textual analysis with social and cultural context enhances the effectiveness of the intentionality criterion, making the analysis more comprehensive and grounded.

Detailed Examples of Applying Integrated Interpretation and the Importance of Context

Example:

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[1]Prime Minister of the United States from: (1940-1945), (1951-1955) and was a military leader.
[2]Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880), Novel: Madame Bovary, Translated by: Rahba Akkawi, Dar Al-Harf Al-Arabi for Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, Lebanon.

Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude[1]:

Integrative Interpretation: The novel can be analyzed through multiple intentions. These include a critique of Colombian history, an exploration of magical reality, and an understanding of the nature of time and historical cycles.

Context: To grasp Márquez's intention in presenting a story that spans several generations in the town of Macondo, it is necessary to consider the social and political context of Latin America. This includes the impact of historical events such as colonization and internal conflicts.

Albert Camus's Novel The Plague[2]:

Integrated Interpretation: The novel can be analyzed through multiple intentions, including existential philosophy, criticism of fascism, and an exploration of human nature when faced with disasters.

Context: To understand Camus's intention in writing The Plague, it is essential to consider the historical context of World War II and the Nazi occupation of France. Additionally, one must take into account the existential philosophy for which Camus was a prominent figure.

Integrated interpretation and contextual analysis are vital tools for achieving a comprehensive and profound understanding of authorial intent. Through integrated interpretation, critics can reach a multi-layered understanding of texts and the varied intentions the author aims to convey. Furthermore, contextual analysis provides a rich background that explains the circumstances in which the text was written and how these conditions influenced the author's purpose. These tools make textual analysis more precise and flexible, thus enhancing the capacity of text linguistics to offer valuable insights and deep understanding of literary works.

Second: The Criterion of Acceptability

1. The Concept of Acceptability

The concept of acceptability and its key definitions: Acceptability is a criterion used in text analysis to evaluate how well texts are accepted by their intended audience. This criterion depends largely on the social and cultural standards that define what is considered acceptable or appropriate within texts. To understand acceptability more deeply, it is helpful to review the most important definitions related to this criterion.

Robert de Beaugrande's definition of acceptability: Robert de Beaugrande defines acceptability as "the degree to which a text conforms to the social and cultural norms of the intended audience"[3]

Definition Analysis:

Text's Conformity with Social Norms: Meaning: This refers to how well the text aligns with the prevailing values and social standards of the community to which it is addressed. For instance, texts dealing with sensitive subjects such as religion or politics must respect the dominant social values and beliefs to be deemed acceptable.

Examples:

- **Religious Text:** A text may be considered acceptable if it adheres to the religious values and principles prevailing in the target society.

- **Political Text:** If a text addresses political issues, it must take into account the political and cultural context of the society to be accepted.

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[1]Gabriel Garcia, One Hundred Years of Solitude, translated by Mahmoud Masoud, Dania House for Translation, Publishing and Distribution, Syria, Damascus, 1st ed., 1991.

[2]Alberto Camus, The Plague, translated by Kawthar Abdel Islam Al-Buhairi, Dar Al-Thaqafa Al-Arabiya for Printing, Cairo, 1st ed., n.d.

[3]Robert Debeaugrand, Text, Discourse, and Action, p. 104.

Text's Conformity with Cultural Norms: Meaning: This refers to the degree to which the text respects the dominant culture, including traditions, customs, and literary conventions familiar to the target audience.

Examples:

- **Literary Text:** A novel exploring marriage customs within a specific society should align with that community's understanding of these traditions to be acceptable.

Theo A. Van Dijk's Definition of Acceptability: Van Dijk views acceptability as "the extent to which a text can achieve its communicative purpose within various social contexts."

Definition Analysis:

Text's Ability to Achieve Its Communicative Goal: Meaning:

This concerns the effectiveness of the text in conveying its message or fulfilling its communicative purpose with the intended audience. The text must be clear and impactful within its reading context to succeed.

Examples:

- **Educational Text:** A textbook must be clear and easily understood to effectively teach students.

- **Advertising Text:**A commercial advertisement must be persuasive and attractive to successfully attract customers.

Various Social Contexts:

Meaning: This indicates how the text interacts with diverse social settings, including the social, economic, and cultural backgrounds of the target audience.

Examples:

- **Social Text:**An article addressing social justice issues must be sensitive to cultural and social differences among readers to be accepted in different contexts.

Detailed Explanation with Illustrative Examples:

1. Text Conformity with Social and Cultural Norms

- **Religious Texts:** Example: Ihya' Ulum al-Din (The Revival of the Religious Sciences) by Al-Ghazali[1]

Analysis: This book aligns with the social and cultural standards of the medieval Islamic society. It reinforces Islamic values and interprets Islamic law in ways that are consistent with the dominant religious beliefs and values of that era.

Political Texts:

Example: The writings of Nelson Mandela, such as Long Walk to Freedom.

Analysis:
These writings correspond with the social and cultural norms of post-apartheid South African society. They promote values of freedom, justice, and equality.

2. The Text's Ability to Achieve Its Communicative Purpose

Educational Texts:

Example: *Principles of Economics*by JS Mill.

Analysis:

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[1]Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, Ihya' Ulum al-Din, Dar al-Minhaj for Publishing and Distribution, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 1st ed., 2012, number of parts: 11.

This book fulfills its communicative purpose by clearly explaining economic concepts in a manner that students can easily understand. This clarity makes the text acceptable and effective in educational contexts.

Advertising Texts: Example: Apple's "Think Different" campaign[1].

Analysis: The advertisement achieves its communication purpose through a strong and compelling message that attracts customers to Apple's products. This makes the advertisement both acceptable and effective.

3. Different Social Contexts:

Social Texts:

Example: *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin[2].

Analysis: Although the book sparked significant controversy upon its publication, it ultimately gained acceptance within various scientific and cultural circles. This acceptance is due to its ability to present a novel theory explaining evolution, making it a pivotal text in modern scientific understanding.

Literary Texts:

Example: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe[3].

Analysis: The novel presents a depiction of the cultural and social conflicts in pre-colonial Nigeria. It is widely accepted because it offers a deep understanding of African cultures and fosters effective communication with readers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Acceptability is a crucial criterion in text analysis. It reflects how well a text aligns with the social and cultural norms of its intended audience. It also indicates the text's ability to fulfill its communicative purpose within various social contexts. Robert de Beaugrande's definition emphasizes the alignment of the text with social and cultural standards. Meanwhile, Teun A. van Dijk highlights the importance of the text's capacity to achieve its communication goals. By understanding and applying these definitions, analysts can provide comprehensive and accurate interpretations that consider the complex interactions between text, context, and audience.

3. Criticisms of the Acceptability Criterion

Cultural Relativity:

Criticism: The acceptability criterion depends heavily on cultural and social norms, which vary across societies. This variability makes the criterion unstable and difficult to apply uniformly. What is acceptable in one culture might be rejected in another, reflecting differing values and standards.

Example: A literary text might be accepted in a liberal society but rejected in a conservative one due to contrasting values. This difference complicates the universal application of the acceptability criterion.

Temporal Changes:

Criticism: Social and cultural standards evolve over time, making it difficult to rely on acceptability as a long-term measure for evaluating texts. Texts once deemed acceptable might not be so at the present, highlighting the challenges of using acceptability as a fixed standard.

Example: Texts accepted in earlier periods may be considered inappropriate today due to changes in social values. For instance, classical literary works may face contemporary criticism for racial or gender biases.

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[1] https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/-Think differently
[2] Charles Darwin, On the Origin of Species, translated by Magdy Mahmoud El-Meligy, Hindawi Foundation for Education and Culture, Egypt, Cairo, 1st ed., 2014.
[3] Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart, trans. Fahmi Naguib, Dar Al Fikr, Syria, Damascus, 2008.

Personal Influence:

Criticism:

Interpretations of acceptability can be affected by readers' personal experiences and individual backgrounds, making the criterion highly subjective. A reader with certain experiences might interpret a text very differently from another, adding a layer of subjectivity to text analysis.

Example: A casual reader might find a text interesting, while an academic researcher could see it as unoriginal or simplistic. This variation reflects individual differences in text reception.

4. Defenses of the Acceptability Criterion

The Dynamic Nature of Acceptability: The concept of dynamism in acceptability stresses the need to view the acceptance of texts as a changing process influenced by social, cultural, and temporal shifts. This view suggests that acceptability should not be seen as a fixed notion. Instead, it should be understood as a flexible process adapting to changing societal and temporal conditions. Recognizing this dynamism offers a more inclusive and adaptable framework for analyzing and evaluating texts.

Social, Cultural, and Temporal Transformations: Changes in society, culture, and time significantly affect how texts are received and interpreted. Values and standards considered acceptable at one time may evolve, requiring a reassessment of texts in light of these changes.

Illustrative Examples:

Classical Literary Texts: *Example:* Gustave Flaubert's novel Madame Bovary**[1]**

When it was first published in the mid-nineteenth century, the novel sparked widespread controversy due to its treatment of subjects such as marital infidelity and physical desires. At that time, French society considered these topics unacceptable. Flaubert was tried on charges of offending public morality. Although he was acquitted, the novel remained contentious. In the modern era, Madame Bovary is regarded as one of the greatest literary works that deeply analyze the human psyche and society. Cultural changes and evolving social values have made it possible to interpret and appreciate the novel through critical literary standards rather than moral judgments. This shift reflects how acceptability adapts over time.

Modern Artistic Works: *Example: The Literary Works of Marquis de Sade***[2]:**

De Sade's works, which contain sexual and violent themes, were banned in most places for long periods. They were considered socially and culturally unacceptable due to their shocking content.

In the modern era, De Sade's writings are studied within literary, philosophical, and psychological contexts. They are viewed as part of avant-garde literature that explores moral and psychological boundaries. This shift reflects how acceptance standards can change over time alongside the development of social thought.

Political and Social Texts: *Example: The writings of Martin Luther King Jr.:* During the 1960s, Martin Luther King's speeches and writings on civil rights and anti-racism were considered radical by some in American society. Today, however, King's works are celebrated as an essential part of American cultural heritage. They are taught in schools and universities as examples of moral courage and the struggle for justice. This change in acceptance illustrates the evolution of social values regarding justice and equality.

The Importance of Dynamism in Critical Analysis: Dynamism in acceptability is a vital tool for conducting comprehensive and multidimensional text analysis. By considering social, cultural, and temporal shifts, critics and scholars can offer more precise and realistic interpretations of texts. This enhances our understanding of how texts influence societies over different historical periods.

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[1]Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary, translated by Suhail Idris, Dar Al-Adab, Beirut, Lebanon, 2006.
[2]Marquis de Sade, The Misfortunes of Virtue, translated by Nizar Ayoun al-Sud, Dar al-Hiwar for Publishing and Distribution, Latakia, Syria, 2004.

Applying Dynamism in Critical Analysis:

•   **Considering Historical Context:** When analyzing older texts, researchers must examine the historical context in which these texts were produced. The prevailing values and norms of that time can provide a better understanding of the degree to which a text was accepted. *Example:* Understanding ancient literary works like Homer's Iliad and Odyssey requires looking at ancient Greek culture and society to grasp their meanings and impact.

•   **Analyzing the Impact of Social Changes:** Researchers should study how social changes affect the reception of texts. Interpretations may shift over time alongside evolving social values. *Example:* Feminist literary criticism reveals how interpretations of texts addressing women's issues and rights have transformed with the progress of feminist movements.

•   **Adapting to Cultural Changes:** Critics must consider how cultural shifts influence text reception. Texts once deemed unacceptable in one culture may be embraced in another or at a different time. *Example:* Translated world literature offers insights into how texts are received across various cultures, reflecting cultural differences in acceptance.

Dynamism in the acceptability criterion is a fundamental aspect of critical textual analysis. It enables a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of how texts are received across different times and cultures. By taking social, cultural, and temporal changes into account, researchers can provide integrated and multidimensional interpretations. This strengthens their ability to evaluate texts with greater accuracy and realism.

Cultural Adaptation in the Acceptability Criterion:

•   **Concept of Cultural Adaptation:** Cultural adaptation refers to the necessity of understanding and addressing cultural differences when analyzing and evaluating texts. This criterion emphasizes that the acceptance of texts should not be considered apart from the cultural context in which they are produced and consumed. A profound understanding of diverse cultures helps interpret texts in ways appropriate to their contexts, thus enhancing the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the acceptability standard.

•   **Importance of Cultural Adaptation:** Cultural adaptation can improve the effectiveness of the acceptability criterion in several ways:

1.   **Providing More Accurate Interpretations:** A deep understanding of various cultural contexts allows for interpretations that align with those contexts.

2.   **Enhancing Inclusiveness in Analysis:** Cultural adaptation permits viewing texts from multiple perspectives, offering a more inclusive analysis.

3.   **Facilitating Cultural Translation:** It improves the quality of translation and interpretation, aiding the effective transmission of meanings and intentions across different cultures.

Illustrative Examples:

•   Translated literary texts:

Example: "One Thousand and One Nights" (The Arabian Nights): This famous collection of stories, which belongs to the Arab heritage, has been translated into many languages over the centuries. Each translation takes into account the cultural context of the target language.

Analysis:
In English translations, the focus may be on elements of fantasy and myth to suit Western audiences. In contrast, French translations might emphasize literary and poetic aspects. Adapting to the target culture helps make the text more acceptable and understandable for new readers.

Literary Works Addressing Social Issues: *Example: "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe:* This novel deals with the impact of colonialism on Nigerian society. It is considered a key work in African

literature.

Analysis: When analyzing the novel within the African context, attention is given to the social and cultural effects of colonialism. In Western criticism, focus might shift to narrative structure and literary techniques. Such cultural adaptation aids in offering a comprehensive understanding of the text across different contexts.

Religious Texts and Translation: *Example: Translation of the Quran:* Translating the Qur'an requires a deep understanding of Islamic culture and the Arabic language, as well as the culture and language of the target audience.

Analysis: Translations into English may need additional explanations for certain religious and cultural terms that may be unfamiliar to Western readers. Cultural adaptation here helps convey meanings more accurately and respectfully across different contexts.

Media Texts: *Example: Media Coverage of Global Events:* Media coverage of events such as political protests or natural disasters can vary significantly across cultures.

Analysis: Western media might focus on humanitarian and economic aspects, while local media in affected regions may emphasize cultural and religious factors. This cultural adaptation provides a more integrated and clear portrayal of events.

Practical Applications of Cultural Adaptation:

- **Literary Translation:** A literary translator must be familiar with both the source culture and the target culture to accurately convey meanings and symbols.

Example: Translating the poetry of Hafez Shirazi requires a deep understanding of Persian culture, Islamic poetic traditions, and the literary culture of the target language.

- **Academic Text Analysis:** Scholars should consider cultural differences when analyzing texts from different cultures, focusing on historical and cultural contexts.

Example: Studying traditional Japanese literature, such as the works of Murasaki Shikibu, requires understanding the social and cultural context of Japan's Heian period.

- **Engagement with Media Texts:** Media outlets should be aware of cultural differences when covering international events to offer balanced and fair reports. *Example:* Media coverage of Middle Eastern events must take religious and cultural differences into account to avoid bias and provide a comprehensive picture.

Cultural adaptation is a fundamental element of the acceptability criterion in text linguistics. It enhances the accuracy and inclusiveness of text analysis. By understanding and adjusting to cultural differences, analysts can offer more precise and comprehensive interpretations of texts. This improves their ability to evaluate texts more realistically and flexibly. Employing cultural adaptation can also raise the quality of translation and interpretation, contributing to more accepted and understood texts in various contexts.

Differences in Reader Levels and Their Impact on Intentionality and Acceptability

The Experienced Reader: In academic criticism, the experienced reader—such as a scholar or critic—possesses a broad knowledge base. This allows them to analyze texts deeply and uncover hidden meanings and multiple intentions. Such readers can comprehend the various complexities within texts and provide informed interpretations. They are skilled in employing advanced analytical methods and theoretical frameworks to interpret texts within their historical and cultural contexts.

Example: A literary scholar might offer a comprehensive analysis of James Joyce's Ulysses, drawing on their understanding of the literary, philosophical, and cultural contexts in which the text was written. This scholar can interpret complex literary symbols and narrative techniques, enabling a multi-layered reading of the work.

Interaction with the Text: The experienced reader relies on sophisticated analytical tools to understand texts in different contexts. This enables deep critical readings that may reveal new aspects often overlooked by less experienced readers.

Example: An experienced reader may use discourse analysis to examine how power and knowledge are constructed in political texts or apply semiotic theory to decode literary symbols. They might also engage in interdisciplinary studies, connecting texts to ideas from philosophy or sociology.

The Ordinary Reader:

Basic Understanding: The ordinary reader, such as a student or casual reader, often lacks advanced analytical tools. They tend to focus more on surface meanings and direct readings. This type of reader may struggle to interpret complex or multi-dimensional texts.

Example: An ordinary reader might find Ulysses by James Joyce confusing and difficult to understand, whereas the experienced reader can analyze and appreciate its multiple layers. The ordinary reader may also find it challenging to follow non-traditional narrative styles or to grasp complex literary symbols.

Engagement with the Text: The ordinary reader usually focuses on the entertaining or straightforward educational aspects of a text. They may find it difficult to understand deeper or symbolic meanings, leading to more limited interpretations.

Example: An ordinary reader might enjoy a literary novel as a simple story without recognizing its philosophical or social symbolism. For instance, Albert Camus's The Plague might be read merely as a narrative about an outbreak in the city of Oran, while the deeper existential and human resistance symbolism goes unnoticed.

Illustrative Examples from Literature: *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy[1]

The Experienced Reader: The experienced reader is capable of understanding the historical and philosophical dimensions of the novel. They analyze complex characters and the relationships among them. Additionally, they grasp the political and social messages Tolstoy seeks to convey.

The Ordinary Reader: The ordinary reader may focus mainly on the basic storyline and characters without delving into the symbolic elements or philosophical messages.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez[2]

Experienced Reader: The experienced reader appreciates the narrative techniques used in magical realism. They understand the complex and multi-layered symbols Márquez employs to represent Latin American history and culture.

Ordinary Reader: The ordinary reader may focus on the supernatural events and unique characters without delving into the cultural and political messages embedded in the novel.

The Impact of Reader Levels on Intentionality and Acceptability

Intentionality:

- *Experienced Reader:* The experienced reader understands the multiple intentions within texts. They can analyze the writer's diverse aims based on their knowledge of the subject and cultural context. They employ advanced analytical tools such as semiotic analysis and critical discourse analysis to identify the various intentions.

- *Ordinary Reader:* The ordinary reader may struggle to understand the multiple layers of intentionality. They tend to focus more on clear and straightforward messages, potentially missing more complex and implicit meanings within the text.

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[1] Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace, translated by Sami Al-Daroubi, Dar Al-Awda, Lebanon, Beirut, 1981.
[2] Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude, translated by Saleh Almani, Syria, Damascus, 1997.

Acceptability:

• *Experienced Reader:*The experienced reader can evaluate acceptability by drawing on a deep understanding of cultural and historical contexts. They recognize that texts may be accepted in some contexts and rejected in others and can adapt to such variations.

• *Ordinary Reader:*The ordinary reader often relies on the dominant cultural values and norms of their own society. This may result in limited assessments of texts and difficulty in appreciating works that diverge from their own cultural background.

Reader proficiency plays a critical role in how texts are interpreted and understood. Experienced readers have a greater capacity to infer hidden meanings and analyze multiple intentions. In contrast, ordinary readers rely more on surface-level understanding and direct meanings. This difference significantly influences how texts are received and evaluated. It underscores the importance of developing flexible and comprehensive analytical tools that consider variations among readers and diverse cultural contexts.

Conclusion:

• Intentionality and acceptability are two fundamental criteria in text linguistics. They provide valuable tools for analyzing and evaluating texts accurately and comprehensively. Despite some criticism directed at these criteria, intentionality contributes to understanding the writer's intentions and the communication goals they seek to achieve. Meanwhile, acceptability helps assess the degree to which a text aligns with the social and cultural standards of its intended audience.

• Intentionality allows researchers and scholars to delve deeply into texts and uncover hidden meanings and multiple intentions that might not be evident to general readers. Through analytical intentionality, experienced readers can apply advanced analytical tools, such as semiotic analysis and critical discourse analysis, to grasp the various dimensions of texts. This deep understanding enhances their ability to offer comprehensive interpretations grounded in historical and cultural contexts.

• On the other hand, acceptability is a dynamic criterion that adapts to social, cultural, and temporal changes. Understanding acceptability requires attention to the shifting contexts in which texts interact. This facilitates more accurate and realistic assessments of texts. Cultural adaptation plays a central role here, enabling researchers to appreciate cultural differences and address them in ways that contribute to multidimensional, integrated interpretations.

• Differences in readers' proficiency levels significantly affect how texts are interpreted and received. Skilled readers, thanks to their broad knowledge background and advanced analytical techniques, can comprehend the complex layers within texts and provide deep critical readings. Conversely, ordinary readers tend to rely more on surface understanding and direct meanings, which may lead to limited interpretations. This difference highlights the importance of developing flexible and comprehensive analytical criteria that consider differences among readers and diverse cultural contexts.

• By addressing criticisms effectively, the efficacy of text linguistics can be enhanced, leading to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of texts. Developing analytical standards that consider changing contexts and varying reader levels allows for more precise and inclusive interpretations. This strengthens texts' capacity to communicate effectively with wide and diverse audiences.

• Intentionality and acceptability offer crucial frameworks for a thorough and profound understanding of texts. They contribute to informed interpretations that take into account the writer's communicative intentions and the acceptance of texts within diverse cultural settings. This integrated understanding enhances text linguistics' ability to provide valuable insights and deep comprehension of literary and cultural texts.

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