PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

31

Text and Context. Types of Text. Criteria for Text Classification. Register

Texto y contexto. Tipos de texto. Criterios para la clasificación textual. El registro.

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"In real life, contexts precede texts." With this sentence Halliday and Hasan, in Language, Context, and Text (1985), reversed the order in which linguists had often worked: instead of starting from the words on the page and asking what they mean, they started from the situation that makes those words necessary. A pupil who writes "Dear Sir, I am writing to complain" and a pupil who texts "hey, ur late again" are both using English, and yet neither could swap places without sounding odd. What differs is their context. Welcome to Topic 31.

In order to address it, I will divide the topic into five sections. Firstly, I will define text and examine its relationship with context. Secondly, I will describe the types of text, distinguishing between text type, genre and register. Thirdly, I will review the criteria used to classify texts. Fourthly, I will study register: its three variables, its classifications and the problems it poses for Spanish-speaking learners. Finally, I will reflect on the pedagogical implications within our current educational framework, before concluding.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted for the preparation of this topic. These include: Halliday and Hasan's Cohesion in English (1976) and Language, Context, and Text (1985); de Beaugrande and Dressler's Introduction to Text Linguistics (1981); Swales's Genre Analysis: English in Academic and Research Settings (1990); and Biber and Conrad's Register, Genre, and Style (second edition, 2019), as well as the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and its Companion Volume (2020), and the Cambridge Dictionary. I have also drawn on the LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020), Royal Decrees 217/2022 and 243/2022, and Decrees 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura.