PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

39

Strategies for Text Analysis

Estrategias de análisis del texto.

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NOVIEMBRE DE 2026

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

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness." Charles Dickens needs only a handful of repeated words to tell us how a whole era felt, and any reader who stops to ask how he does it has already begun to analyse a text. Welcome to Topic 39: Strategies for Text Analysis. A text is never a mere string of sentences; it is an act of communication that somebody produced, for somebody, in some situation, and learning to read it means learning to recover all of that from the words on the page.

In order to address the topic, I will divide it into five main sections. Firstly, I will define what a text is and what it means to analyse one, looking at text, discourse, genre and register. Secondly, I will examine the reader's strategies, that is, how a reader approaches a text, activates knowledge and builds meaning. Thirdly, I will study the linguistic strategies of analysis: cohesion and coherence, register, and pragmatic meaning. Fourthly, I will turn to the analysis of literary texts and the contribution of stylistics, with two short worked examples. Finally, I will reflect on the pedagogical and didactic implications of this content within our current educational framework.

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, de Beaugrande and Dressler's Introduction to Text Linguistics, Brown and Yule's Discourse Analysis, Swales's Genre Analysis: English in Academic and Research Settings, Leech and Short's Style in Fiction and Nuttall's Teaching Reading Skills in a Foreign Language, as well as the online sources Encyclopaedia Britannica and Project Gutenberg for the literary quotations. I have also drawn on the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (2001) and its Companion Volume (2020), on the LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020), on Real Decreto 217/2022 and 243/2022, and on Decreto 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, modified in 2023.