

PRACTICAL TASKS

1. Identifying Discourse Markers

Task:

Read a short paragraph and identify all discourse markers (e.g., however, therefore, in fact, meanwhile, on the other hand).

I wanted to join the meeting; however, my schedule was full. In fact, I had three deadlines that day. Therefore, I asked my colleague to attend instead.

2. Analysing Speech Acts

Task:

Identify the speech act (request, apology, refusal, compliment, warning, promise). Explain how language softens or strengthens the act.

*"Could you please send me the report by noon?"
"I'm really sorry, but I may need an extra hour."*

3. Cohesion Chains

Task:

Find cohesion devices:

- reference (he, it, this issue)
- lexical chains (synonyms, repetitions)
- ellipsis
- substitution
- conjunctions

Explain how they contribute to text unity.

Maria bought a new laptop yesterday. The device is much faster than her old one. This improvement will help her finish projects more efficiently.

4. Power and Hierarchy in Discourse

Task:

Compare two interactions:

Text (Doctor–Patient):

"You need to start the medication today. Please follow the dosage exactly."

Text (Employer–Employee):

"Could you send me the completed file by 5 p.m.? Let me know if you need resources."

Identify linguistic markers of power (imperatives, modal verbs, hesitations, turn-taking). Explain how hierarchy shapes discourse.

5. Genre Analysis

Task:

Compare two genres (e.g., a news article vs. an Instagram post).

Identify differences in:

- purpose
- audience
- structure
- tone
- vocabulary
- visual elements (if any)

Text (News Article):

“According to the Ministry’s latest report, unemployment decreased by 3% this quarter.”

Text (Instagram Post):

“Feeling grateful today 🍀 New opportunities are on the horizon!”

6. Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough-based mini task)

Task:

Choose a short political or media statement.

Identify:

- word choices used to construct authority or fear
- framing strategies
- “us vs. them” distinctions

Explain how language shapes ideology.

Text:

“Our community must protect itself from harmful outside influences. Only strong leadership can ensure safety for all.”