An exposition based on Fairclough's three-dimensional modeling

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Abstract: Fairclough believes that language is a part of society, a form of social practice, and that it interacts with and constructs social practice. Based on this, he establishes a three-dimensional framework for discourse analysis, in which any discourse can be seen as a trinity. This paper will analyze Fairclough's three-dimensional model and provide a brief literature review on the use of Fairclough's three-dimensional model in practice. It aims to reveal the role and impact of Fairclough's three-dimensional critical discourse analysis.

1. Introduction

Since 1989, when the concept of "critical discourse analysis" was introduced, Fairclough has done a lot of research on the relative subject. In his view, discourse is a social practice and a manifestation of social structure. Discourse is a unity of "context, interaction and text". Among them, the text is at the bottom of the hierarchy and is the result of interaction. The process of generating and interpreting texts depends on the context. Text, interaction and context are the three main dimensions. On the basis of previous research, Fairclough completed his theory in 1992, and finally formed an outstanding three-dimensional model.

In the development of Critical Discourse Analysis, there is no unified theory and research method because of the large number of scholars involved. Among the famous methods of Critical Discourse Analysis are Norman Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model, Van Dijk's Social Cognitive Analysis, Ruth Wodak's Discourse Historical Analysis and so on.Fairclough is one of the most distinguished and famous professors of linguistics. He is also a pioneer who has made great contributions to Critical Discourse Analysis. Among the many research methods, his theoretical framework for research has been most widely applied by later researchers. Fairclough absorbed mainly from Systemic Functional Linguistics and Sociology to develop a conventional formula for CDA research. That is, "three-dimensional critical discourse analysis", which is considered by academics as a more comprehensive and systematic research method in the field of CDA.

2. The Thoery of Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model

Fairclough, an outstanding representative of critical discourse analysis, proposed a three-dimensional model of CDA with the help of the theory of systemic functional linguistics: chapter, discourse practice and socio-cultural practice, in which discourse practice serves as a

medium to connect chapter and socio-cultural practice. [1]Fairclough believes that language is a part of society, is a form of social practice, and that there is a mutual influence and construction between it and social practice. Based on this, he established a three-dimensional framework for discourse analysis.

The well-known three-dimensional analytic framework owes much to Firth and Halliday's multilevel linguistic system.Fairclough's ideas about a broader analysis of social contexts are also central to Halliday's systemic linguistics, which sees discourse as a system for constructing knowledge, beliefs, social relations, and identities. This is closely related to Halliday's three metafunctions.[2] On the sociological side, Fairclough is more concerned with social conflict, especially the manifestations of power, difference and resistance in discourse. For Fairclough, language or symbol systems are an integral part of every social practice. The main task of CDA is therefore to explore the dialectical relationship between language and social practices. At the level of semiotic systems, genres and styles are expressions of social practices, and the order of discourse derives from society.[3] From a sociological point of view, this mode places extra emphasis on the regulation of social structure and social behavior, and identifies many existing social problems in the pursuit of intellectual liberation.

Fairclough's mode of analysis has gone through three phases: an early phase targeting power and ideology (1989), a mature phase targeting discourse and social change (1992, 1995), and a third phase targeting globalization (1999, 2003, 2006). In this process, he constantly summarizes and learns from other theories and uses them for his own, so as to keep his theory up-to-date.[4]

1) Early stage: In 1992, Fairclough published the book *Discourse and Social Change*, which constructed a social theory of discourse and provided a methodological blueprint for CDA. According to Fairclough, intertextuality occurs when different discourses and genre presentations are interwoven in the same communicative event.[5] Different genres embody different meanings and choices, representing the interests and ideologies of different people or groups. By analyzing intertextuality, the analyst can observe changes in the reproduction of discourse and the consequent changes in the discursive order, and thus link changes in the discursive order to changes in the social structure.

2) Mature stage: On this basis, Fairclough (1995) believes that discourse order is the social order of socio-cultural practices manifested at the discourse level, which includes discourse, genre and style, and can be regarded as a kind of regulation of discourse.[6] These various discursive orders may remain relatively stable, or they may influence and compete with each other. Analyzing the discursive order can reveal the relationships within it, and thus the hidden power relations. Fairclough's idea of discourse analysis has been developed for more than ten years, and although the focus of the research is different in each period, it has always insisted on the point that discourse and social practice are dialectically related.[7]

3) The third stage aiming at globalization: In 2003, Fairclough published *Analysis Discourse,* in which he improved the three-dimensional model of CDA and proposed a more comprehensive and general model, which is usually used to analyze media discourse, concentrating on the study of language, discourse, and power in society.[8] According to Fairclough, any type of discourse can be viewed as a composite of three closely interrelated aspects, namely, (1) text (verbal or written forms of linguistic expression); (2) discursive practices (the act of producing and interpreting language in context); and (3) social practices (the ways in which language is used in a variety of situational, institutional, and social contexts).

In the detailed discourse analysis based on this model, Fairclough focuses on the examination of discourse in terms of description, interpretation, and illustration, which is widely recognized in related research fields.[9] In the field of critical discourse analysis, there are numerous methods and approaches. However, most approaches focus either on linguistic features or on social theories. In

other words, they hardly combine the two. Fairclough takes a dialectical approach to language and other social sciences, combining linguistic, sociological and linguistic theories well.

In a detailed discourse analysis based on this model, Fairclough focuses on the examination of discourse in terms of description, interpretation, and illustration, which is widely recognized in the field of related studies. In the field of critical discourse analysis, there are countless methods and approaches. However, most approaches focus either on linguistic features or on social theories. In other words, they hardly combine the two. From a dialectical perspective, Fairclough links language and other social sciences, well combining linguistic, sociological and linguistic theories.

This interdisciplinary approach not only enriches social science research, but also expands the channels of discourse analysis. As Blommaert (2005) states, Fairclough's three-dimensional model is the most systematic and well-developed model in critical discourse analysis. Therefore, Fairclough's three-dimensional model is able to break through the limitations of time span, society, and topic, and start from the micro-level textual analysis to the macro-level social practice through the intermediary body of discursive practice containing the analysis of discursive order and intertextuality, so as to reproduce and participate in the social practice and realize the mission of transforming the society.

Fairclough's three-dimensional model is able to link language and other social sciences from the perspective of dialectics, combining linguistics, sociology and linguistic theory well. Many foreign scholars have already combined Fairclough's three-dimensional modeling theory with other disciplines and integrated it into specific practices.

The use of Fairclough's three-dimensional model combines linguistics and psychology. For example, Stecher, A (2010) introduces the theory of critical discourse analysis and uses the three-dimensional discourse framework proposed by Fairclough to reveal the discursive dimensions of the processes of productive restructuring and work flexibilization implemented in different countries in the Latin American region, further enriching the field of Latin American research in the psychosocial study of work.

2) Combining Linguistics and Sociology Using Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model Della Pietra, J and Wang, S (2021) used Faircloug's three-dimensional model to analyze 48 editorials published in the South China Morning Post during the crisis period, centering on the development of the debate over the crisis over Hong Kong, China's extradition law. A series of interrelated editorials were effectively analyzed using the model to reveal additional insights into the ongoing political crisis.

3) Combining Linguistics and Medicine using Faye's 3D model. For example, three scholars, Ravn, IM; Frederiksen, K and Beedholm, K (2016), drew on Fairclough's three-dimensional discourse analytic framework to build their own corpus using six policies issued by the Danish Health and Medicines Authority between 2005 and 2013 to shed light on the chronic illnesses of people with chronic illnesses in contemporary Danish chronic illness care policy Representations.

4) Use of Fairclough's three-dimensional model to combine linguistics and pedagogy. For example, Bae, S; Grimm, T and Kim, D (2023) used the websites of four universities in China and South Korea that seek to become world-class universities to form a corpus, and utilized Fairclough's three-dimensional critical discourse analysis to explore how these universities use the text and visual images on their websites to portray themselves, illustrating how current discussions about the WUA The discussion and implications for future research.

Based on a review of previous studies under Fairclough's three-dimensional model, it can be found that this interdisciplinary approach not only enriches social science research, but also expands the channels of discourse analysis. The three-dimensional model is applicable to the analysis of news reports, especially those influenced by ideology, which can clarify not only specific linguistic features, but also some hidden ideological and power influences.[10]

3. Findings and Discussion

Critical Discourse Analysis is more concerned with specific social issues and explores the role of language in them. Therefore, it provides "theories and methods for studying the relationship between different fields of discourse and socio-cultural development". CDA mainly analyzes discourse communication activities in the real society, especially focusing on two non-literary fields. The first area is popular and official discourse, including the discourse of governments, administrators, judicial officials, business organizations, and news agencies; the other area is personal discourse, i.e., formal or informal conversations between individuals. From the beginning, CDA has been regarded as a kind of instrumental linguistics. It focuses on analyzing the relationship between the symbols people produce (such as words, phrases, sentences, etc.) and their communicative meanings, aiming to reveal the ideologies implicit in them, especially the prejudices, bigotry, and misrepresentation of facts that people take for granted, and thus explaining the social conditions of their existence and their role in the struggle for power.

4. Conclusion

So far, the research objects of critical discourse analysis are mainly mass discourse, such as television, advertisements, newspapers, official documents and laws and regulations. The topics of research mainly include sexism and racial discrimination, inequality in education, employment and law, and political strategies. Critical discourse analysis attempts to reveal the often unnoticed relationship between language and ideology through the analysis of the above types of discourse and how the power class uses language to influence people's ideology as well as to safeguard their own interests and the existing social structure.

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