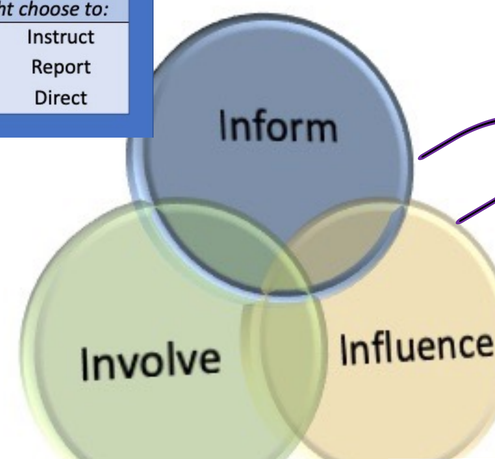
Essential Discourse Analysis for Interpreters: Discourse Cues, Structures, and Strategies

CONTENT + INTENT → STRUCTURES & STRATEGIES → CUES & FEATURES → BUILDING MEANING

Discourse Intent: INFORM
Presenter might choose to:

Describe	Instruct
Define	Report
Explain	Direct



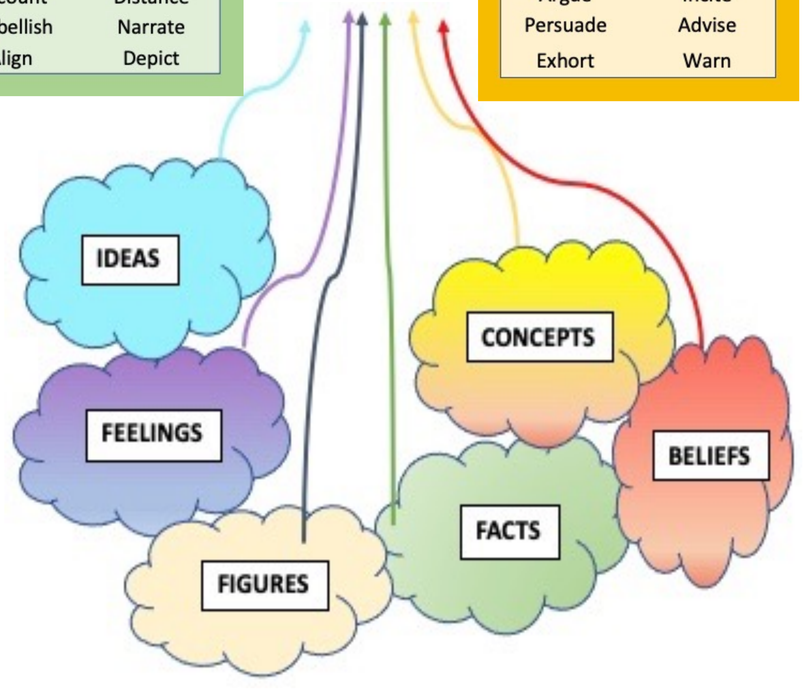
Discourse Intent: INVOLVE
Presenter might choose to:

Recount	Distance
Embellish	Narrate
Align	Depict

Discourse Intent: INFLUENCE
Presenter might choose to:

Argue	Incite
Persuade	Advise
Exhort	Warn

INTENT



CONTENT

Linguistic & Paralinguistic Patterns & Purposes

Cues, Structures, & Strategies: Combinations of features we chose (and others track) to create cohesive connections

Cohesive Cues
- Repetition
- Prosody (intonation, pacing, pausing)
- Emphasis/stress

Cohesive Structures (within and across turns, topics, etc.)
- Opening
- Body
- Closing
- Discourse Marker
- Utterance
- Topic shift
- Boundary Marker

Cohesive Strategies
- Descriptions
- Explanations
- Listing
- Apologies
- Favors
- Comparison
- Time Changes
- Constructed Action/Dialogue

Interaction Strategies
- Turn Taking
- Overlap
- Interruptions



Physical Communicative Cues & Features

ASL: SIGNS +

Physical Elements of interaction Sight &/or Sound-based

Features: What we choose to use that others SEE &/or HEAR and/or FEEL (physically) that can be used in combination to reflect cohesion

ASL Features (sight-based)
- Spatial Map:
  - left/right
  - up/down
  - near/far
- Body & Head: *movement, location, orientation*
  - position: (e.g.left, center, right)
  - rotation
  - body lean
  - head/chin tilt
- Facial Expressions:
  - Mouth: NMS/affect
  - Eyes: Gaze/blink
- Hand usage: *handshape, movement, location, palm orientation, number*
  - Dominant/non-dominant hands
  - 2-handed Independent hands
  - 2-handed Simultaneous hands



Interpreter

English: WORDS +

Physical Elements of interaction Sight &/or Sound-based

Features: What we choose to use that others SEE &/or HEAR and/or FEEL (physically) that can be used in combination to reflect cohesion

English features (sound-based)
- Sounds
  - Articulation
  - Pitch
  - Volume

English features (sight-based)
- Facial Expressions
- Gestures
- Body movement

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