

## THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE PRAGMALINGVISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE DESCRIPTION OF ADVERBS FUNCTIONING

*Abstract: The article wishes to highlight the different forms of functioning of some local adverbs, that in a series of sentences called text are not limited to the introduction of spatial information (from the context/co-text), but they function as discursive adverbs, having the purpose of pragma-semantic conjugation of the linguistic units from the text, hence the completion of the textual coherency.*

*Key words: Adverb, coherence, textual or pragmatic connector*

The reconsideration of the statute and functions of certain elements belonging to the language system occurred once with the transition from the non-declarative linguistics, of “system”, of saussurian type, to the functional-declarative linguistics prefigured by Ch.Bally and R.Jakobson and theorized by E. Benveniste: “The enunciation represents the start-up of the language through an individual act of usage.(the enunciation) implies the individual conversion of the language in the speech.”The enunciation perspective has focused its analysis on the concrete mechanisms and conditions that have lead to the realization of communication, of producing the enunciation (sender, receiver, spatial and temporal coordinates, the relationships between the participants etc). Benveniste has emphasized the role that the sender plays in the enunciation, in the statement, defining subjectivity in language as a psychic entity that transcends all past experiences which are assembled and insures the consciousness immutability. Conscience implies the presence of another one and sets the dialogue as a condition of the language.

Mihail Bahtin, literary theorist, defined enunciation as being determined at the same time by the communication situation and by the interlocutor’s presence and, more precisely, by the speaker-interlocutor interaction. The word is the common territory of the speaker and the interlocutor. This way we get to dialogism, theory that is based on the fact that the expression is never a fact of an isolated individual; enunciation is produced bilateral by the locutor and the alocutor, both of them being producers and expositors.

“The speaker’s presence in his/her own enunciation makes each discursive instance to represent an inner reference center. This situation will manifest itself in a game of specific forms, whose function is to maintain a constant and necessary link between the speaker and his/her enunciation. From this perspective (of the enunciation) linguistic units are no longer analyzed only in terms of the grammatical system (it is no longer watched only the morphological and syntactic behaviour), but they are also described as units that have an additional function in a speech, a referential-communicative one.

At the system’s level, the elements of the communication situation are updated in the statement through the person indices (I - speaker, you - alocutor), ‘indices of designation (*this*, *here* etc.) those involving a gesture that designates the object in the pronunciation moment of the term”and “the present class that generates the time class.”

Under these conditions, the system description distinguishes between components that, being directly and circumstantially related to a certain communication situation, represents the enunciation act and other components of the language in the system. Pragmatic perspective essentially alters the description of the linguistic phenomenon through the immixture of the reference and the elements that determine and characterize the declarative and discursive activity in the analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Ovidius University, Constanța

As E. Benveniste said, "sign language exists only in the process of signification. Objects of the world remain objects of the world until the moment of speaking. Only in the specific and unique moment of words enunciation, objects of the world, through their association with a mental model become references". The reference can also be defined as the object of the real world turned into the object of discourse. Therefore, the reference quality is specified by the use of language, "the speech" itself; The reference is the object to which the sign language applies in communication .

The phenomenon that illustrates *par excellence* the enunciation and occurs *in* and *through* enunciation is the language act by which a speaker, selecting and using elements of the language system, designates a non-linguistic reality, namely he designates an "object" / "situation" as part of the world.

In order to demonstrate the role that adverbs have in text organization and, especially, in obtaining textual coherence, we will update the following terms:

1. Text as linguistic unit.
2. Textual coherence.
3. Textual or pragmatic connectors, searching adverbs behavior on phrase and transphrase level.

## 1. The text as linguistic unit.

The text can be defined from different perspectives.

The definition that we selected is that the text is a linguistic configuration consisting of a sequence of units (number of sentences / phrases) coherent syntactically-semantically (syntactical-semantic perspective) and updated by use in the process of communication (written or oral) - DSL (*text*)

a) **Syntactically** the link between linguistic units sequences has, admittedly, the name of syntactic cohesion.

On syntactic cohesion criteria - recurrence, parallelism, paraphrase, pro-forms ("substitutes" of some lexical items), ellipse, time, aspect, junction, intonation, what are we interested in now is the presence of pro-forms in a sequence of sentences, an aspect (appearance) frequently invoked as a marker of a units sequence that is part of a whole-unit, called text. The term used in current linguistics to generic meaning, designates "the whole class of words without their own reference which acquires contextual reference in linguistic context, by attaching to a full referential component called referential source". Hence it ensues that in the category of pro-forms the substitutes are also included, a class which includes demonstrative adverbs as well, that we want to analyze in this lecture. This repetition (anaphoric- resume or cataphoric-anticipation) can occur only if the two units are **co-referent**.

Therefore, pro-forms are the main modality of achieving co-reference - understood as textual cohesive mechanism. Unlike deictics category, characterized by exophoric reference (situational), in the case of pro-forms, the reference is endophoric (intra-textual), being at phrase level (in the same sentence, paragraph etc. of the text).

*I went to college. **There** I met my group colleagues.*

In our opinion, it is a relation that has a double nature - grammatical and lexical- semantic – due to the repetition of the referent that is obtained through its substitution with some elements that lack a proper sense (pro-forms) that belong to other morpho-syntactic class than the replaced element.

b) Semantically, this connection is ensured by *consistency*.

c) From a pragmatic perspective, the text is defined as a language unit in use, in other words, it is defined as a result of an enunciation activity. It can be noticed the fact that even if the text depends on the communication situation, it can be detached from the original communication situation and used again in other circumstance that is different from the one that produced it. (even in the situation

in which we have statements with general valid contents: *Water boils at 100 degrees*.-deictic anchored through the Present of the verb).

These three perspectives (syntactic, semantic and pragmatic) provide to the sequence that is considered to be the text a logical order (the sense of the sequence), a temporal order (if we consider the sequence of tenses) and a spatial order (linear order of sentences).

## 2. Coherence - the essential component of the text

Coherence represents the unit of features that ensure the semantic unit of a series of sentences / phrases so that they form a unified whole, in terms of significance. The one who discusses this concept in broad lines is Emanuel Vasiliu in *Introducere in teoria textului* (1990).

The conditions for a series of sentences / phrases to be consistent, to be a text, are:

- a) sentences / phrases must have referential identity (to be co-referent).

- b) In relation to the overall meaning of the text, this does not exclusively represent the sum of the constituent phrases meanings, but it must provide an additional meaning.

This is not generally accepted by E. Vasiliu, who defines semantic consistency as "a type of relation between the meanings of the constituent sentences of a sequence independent of the global meaning of a sentence" (Vasiliu, 1990:60) (The linguist explains this feature using the concept of consistency (logic), on the one hand and, on the other hand, believes that "the impression of coherence is given by the meaning of a sequence of sentences in the extent to which these meanings have a sequence that is more or less in line with the expectations of the speakers" with what is expected to follow in the reporting of the event. E. Vasiliu points out that we cannot understand consistency only from a semantic point of view, but it must also be understood from a pragmatic point of view.

As in the case of personal pronouns, we can see that the local adverbs (the ones belonging to the demonstratives class) that are part of the pro-forms category, we cannot speak of co-referentiality in relation to antecedent / subsequent, because (as E. Vasiliu shows) we cannot talk about the referent of a variable.

What is the place that is labeled by here or there? Given the fact that they are variable they can have as a referent any place that belongs to the universe of reference, therefore a relation of co-referentiality between a sign (with a certain referent) and a variable is not possible. A natural question arises then: What determines the identification of the "good referent"? An appropriate response is the one that takes into account the expectation of the speakers.

In the statement: *I was in Greece. There we visited the Acropolis.*, the presence of the local adverb is justified by the repetition of the antecedent *Greece*, which corresponds to the expectations.

To "*there*" variable it is attributed a value through the reference to the antecedent, value that is also identified by the interlocutor. If the identification does not occur, the interlocutor demands for an additional information: *Where is there?*

As in the following statement:

*I went to Sinaia, to Predeal and from there to Braşov.*

the local adverb can send to any of the terms *Sinaia, Predeal* (the succession/temporal order of the spatial range of action being unspecified. First *I went to Sinaia, then I went to Predeal, and from there I went to Braşov.*)

If we have a statement like: *I was in Greece. I haven't got there yet.* There cannot be understood by reference to the antecedent, because, apparently, the adverb does not offer a sequence in line with the expectations of the speakers (the two words are not in a relation of co-referentiality anymore). This sequence can be regarded as unitary as long as we assume the existence of the following communication situation: speakers, watching an atlas, discuss and point some places where they spent their holidays. So we can consider this sentence acceptable, regarding the mentioned conditions, but the usage of the adverb is a deictic ostensive one.

In addition to the conformity of the speaker's expectations, the question *What determines the identification of the good referent?* can be answered if we are able to identify the variable in the deep structure of any matrix sentence, were there is an **aposition** that leads to the identification of the variable's value, of the point/place from the reference field (there, *I mean in Greece*).

In the following examples:

1. ...sufletul nu se duce **nici în rai, nici în iad**, fiindcă nu s-a întors nimeni **de-acolo** să ne spună cum e. (M. Preda, Cel mai iubit...)

the identification of the variable's value: from neither of the two designated spaces, in a virtual/mental one.

2. "Mama răniților" nu era deloc o cârciumioară idilică așa cum crezusem, deși **locul unde** era așezată, **unde** la marginea orașului, printre casele acelea rare și sărace, dar în care verdeța și mirosul florilor acopereau totul, era într-adevăr idilic: **de-acolo** se vedeau dealurile împădurite, simțai curenții vâilor în nări, iar cerul înstelat sporea tăcerea locului... (M. Preda, Cel mai iubit dintre pământeni) -unde la marginea orașului - functions as an identifying aposition.

3. Și totuși fata s-a întors la facultate, zise el, fiindcă de la facultate a dispărut, nu din sat." "Da, dar eu am terminat facultatea<sub>1</sub>, n-aveam ce să mai caut **acolo<sub>1</sub>**", i-am răspuns. "Nu trebuia să vă căsătoriți?" "Nu, fiindcă între timp, **acolo<sub>2</sub> la țară<sub>2</sub>**, a cunoscut pe altcineva și mi-a scris că între noi nu mai e nimic." (M. Preda, Cel mai iubit...)

The two occurrences of the local adverb *there* identify different referents, according to the sequence of the events: during college, on a summer holiday, after graduation - empathic movement.

An interesting situation arises in the literary texts, in the presence of both adverbs (*here/there*): when used by different speakers they can designate the same referent /the same space from the referential universe (co-referentiality even in the conditions in which one of the adverbs has a deictic function in reference to the spatial coordinates of the narrated event, and the other one has an anaphoric function in reference to the mentioned antecedent at the level of discourse, of the narration of the events). This situation may occur through the possibility of frame reference movement, according to the character's or speaker's perspective or point of view.

In his theory of mental spaces Fauconnier, 1984 (cf. DEP, 1999, p. 428) distinguished „narrated universe space - the space in which fiction characters are evolving ” and „covered space - the space in which the narrator and the reader are moving”. The function of this space is to allow the reader to be into the fiction. Such an example can be found where alternative designation of the same space with adverbial pair *here/ there* is possible because the reference to PR is made from different perspectives. In a referred speech- if a statement (S<sub>1</sub>) which is made in a situation of enunciation (SE<sub>1</sub>) is inserted in another statement (S<sub>0</sub>), which, in its turn, requires a certain, declarative frame /circumstance (SE<sub>0</sub>) adverbs present in E1 function as deictic by referring directly to SE<sub>1</sub>. However, in order to achieve the orientation in text in which is inserted, these deictics (from E<sub>1</sub>) should be „translated” into declarative frame E<sub>0</sub>. (functioning anaphorically). Therefore, when fragments belonging to direct speech are inserted into text, we may say that deictics are functioning only in relation to SE<sub>0</sub>, SE<sub>1</sub> losing relevance:

1. S-a oprit într-o zi în dreptul unei străzi, s-a uitat de-a lungul ei cu o expresie preocupată, impenetrabilă, și mi-a șoptit: „O luăm **pe-aici!**” Era o stradă laterală, rău pavată, fără trotuar și n-am înțeles de ce trebuia s-o luăm **pe-acolo**. (...) Am rămas pe loc clipe lungi nedumerit: de ce nu vroisem să merg **pe-acolo pe unde** dorise ea? ...Nu-mi dădeam seama, dar am avut sentimentul obscur că sunt dus **pe-acolo**, că nu vroia din pur hazard să ne plimbăm prin hârtoape și hămăituri de câini, și am spus nu. (Preda, 1984, I, p.69)

The adverb *here*, in the narrative plan, is a pure deictic. Changing the registry, shifting the proper events plan in the narrated events, require the use of the anaphoric *there*, that can be considered, in our opinion, an item of textual coherence in the sense of creating „an expected” link between given sequences. This mental shift in an evoked spatial context, can take place in an oral communication: for example, in a conversation between a doctor and a patient, the two participants are organizing their space

according to the perspective of the other; to facilitate the message decoding gesture indications are absolutely necessary:

Doctor: *Does it hurt you here* (sore point)?

Patient: *Yes, there.*

Or:

*Not there, here.* (pointing to another sore point).

The two participants in communication are using different terms to indicate the same place, which is possible by adapting to the speaker coordinates and associating with the use of deictic gesture (deictic ostensive). Alternating the use of those two adverbs that are based on the opposition near/far is neutralized when the relationship between two or more close (visible) points for participants in communication is observed: *He nails here and here./ One there and one there./ Two are sitting here and two there*; in such situations, the use of adverbs is usually associated with the gesture that identifies the location. Alternating in a fragment those two adverbs of place (the same PR) - common in dialectal texts or popular language version - is explained by the relativity of distance perceived by participants in communication as well as "maintaining emotional distance."

**3. Textual or pragmatic connector** is a word or phrase that ensures the semantical and formal bond between the components of the sentence, participating in thematic cohesion and coherence of the text and guides the interpretation of the reading of the sentence, facilitating the configuration of the textual sense. Textual or pragmatic connectors represent a profound heterogeneous class of terms involved in the articulation of discursive-pragmatic relations achieved between the sentence components, at a phrase or a trans-phrase level. Conjunctions, adverbs, interjections, discursive anaphoric structures, of negation etc. belong to the textual connectors category.

The option for the discursive pragmatic local adverbs is motivated by their importance, on the phrase level as well as on the trans-phrase level, as a sign of textual coherence, but also as indexes of the communicative intention and implicitly, with an important part in the understanding and interpretation of the text.

As known, local adverbs register in the class of elements which, by their nature, anchor the sentence in the communication situation being situated among the spatial deixis elements. They encode spatial information regarding interlocutors' position, the distance between them, the placement in different spaces (if we consider the deictic agreement: *He comes here. Go there.* - Intrinsic deictic spatial expressions. What interests us, however, is when demonstrative local adverbs not only refer to specific spatial coordinates, extra-linguistically retrievable, but also refer to parts of a text or discourse or verbal exchange that contains them or they refer to a new discourse situation.

We have the following excerpts as examples:

5. *Cunoaștem toți asemenea întâmplări scabroase și în același timp de un comic imens, ca s-o mai relatez aici pe a lui.* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 136) (indicating a space of the text also obtaining a temporal value)

6. *Anturajul victimei...totul pornește de acolo* [„from that moment” - depending on the situation expressed]; *știrile pe care le aveau se opreau acolo unde se opriseră și ale mele, acolo=atunci* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 83)

7....*ceasul care a fost întors pentru noi din chiar secunda când am fost scoși din neant, acolo în pântecul matern.* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 198)

8. „*Ei na! am exclamat batjocoritor, simțindu-i slăbiciunea, parcă aici e vorba de bună creștere...*” „*Dar despre ce e vorba?*” „*E vorba despre religie.*” (Preda, 1984, I, p. 48) (here it refers to a situation accured in the communication situation and transposed in the discourse universe)

9. *Dumnezeu nu i-a dat și nu i-a luat nimic, aici e toată chestia.* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 52)

In an oral communication we have the same textual functioning:

10. CJ: *da, el a trimis o telegramă cu rezultatul*

LDJ: *Înainte de a fi măsluit*

CJ: *Înainte de a fi măsluit și care s-a și publicat imediat. Și după aceea a fost tras la răspundere și a intrat de-a dreptul în dizgrație imediat ca mare trădător, adică a spus adevărul. Și de acolo i s-au tras*



*doisprezece ani de închisoare cu lanțurile la picioare...* [there does not designate a certain place, but a symbolic one, stated in the text - "the truth" –anaphoric usage, making reference to the referential content mentioned in a previous and close sequence].

When the dialogue appears in inserted fragments belonging to direct or indirect free style it is possible that the appointment shall be made by different adverbs: *here / there* but receiving an additional function (outside of the specification of the site), namely that of marking the transition from the speech plan to the events recounted:

11. A: *și-i zic lu Costică care era dă trei ani pă front: „mă Costică, hai să vedem câmpu dă mine dă pă litoral ” și ne ducem acolo<sub>1</sub>.* [in the narrative plan] *Și ne vād rușii.....*

A: *m-am culcat și eu acolo<sub>2</sub>.* [in the narrative plan] *cu fața la pământ. Au tras patruzeci de minute după ceasul meu (...)*

A: *hai să mergem la câmpu dă mine să vedem ce-a mai rămas. Ce s-a-ntâmplat să vedem cum e acolo<sub>3</sub>.* [at the moment of the dialogue] *locu (...) să vedem un loc unde bătuseră ei cu tunurile, unde să-ncap eu culcat (...) n-am găsit între gropile de obuz acolo<sub>4</sub>,* [in the narrative plan, the adverb is accompanied by the determinative propositional] *unde știam noi cu precizie c-am fost. ...nu era în câmpu dă mine. Era mai încoace* [attracting interlocutors in terms of events narrated, using the adverb denoting close since the events plan instead sought "minefield"- „câmpul de mine”]...*prin urmare cum am scăpat eu dăcât cu voia lu Dumnezeu de acolo<sub>5</sub>* [narrative plan] *vezi? Așa că e limpede „băi Costică ești sigur aici<sub>1</sub>?” „domn sublent aicea<sub>2</sub> este locu unde am fost eu și dumneavoastră ați fost aicea<sub>3</sub> precis”...<sup>2</sup>* [here and there send the same space; using two different adverbs is justified by changing discursive register; aici<sub>1</sub>, aicea<sub>2</sub>, aicea<sub>3</sub> deictic occur due to direct speech].

The literary texts are frequently overlapping spatial and temporal values. Interference of the spatial deictics (also of the time) in terms of the story is justified by the existence of the two areas I mentioned before "universe story space" and "space map" which makes it possible to explain the change of the spatial values to temporal values (and vice versa). "The presence of spatial rather than temporal deictics belongs to the same trend of realizing the statement"<sup>3</sup>.

In our opinion, the use of adverbs of place *here* and *there* to denote a point on the time axis does not just express the need to establish a relationship between the two plans, but also the need to maintain textual coherence:

12. *Cunoaștem toți asemenea întâmplări scabroase și în același timp de un comic imens, ca s-o mai relatez aici pe a lui. Râd acum, când sunt detașat de tot.* (Preda, 1984, I, p.135-136) [time or space value of the text - textual deictic]

13. *Dar mai e până acolo. Să revenim la Matilda.* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 183) (functioning anaphorically/cataphorically - the projected area of speech that has not been updated within the text yet.)

From the above mentioned examples, it appears that these adverbs (*here / there*) lose their spatial value, functioning only as deictic textual or this textual functioning is being added spatial information. Also, there are situations in which the structures containing the place adverbs *here/ there* may contain special non-spatial attitude or expression that refers to the speaker or to apposition set.

These adverbs can also be used in non-spatial structures: negative constructions (having usually a superlative value) like in *'till there* which means *exceedingly, utterly (big, heavy, beautiful: This is not such a \*tillthere-thing, child, said the old woman.* (Creangă) and familiar language *What do I have from there?* ("What are the advantages of me being there?") (an immediately leaving from the designated space).

The analysis of this adverbial couple, fundamental to spatial deixis demonstrates that the operation and their behavior imply not just phrastic level but also the trans-phrastic level. Loss of proper

<sup>2</sup> IVLRA, p.49 (*Amintiri de pe front*).

<sup>3</sup> Liliana Ionescu Ruxăndoiu, (1995), *Conversation - structures and strategies*, p 82.

spatial value determines the emergence of functioning at a discursive level. The adverbial couple *here / there* appears frequently with a deictic value of textual sequences delimiting text and textual coherence.

On the other hand, the terms have the function of over organize the discourse deixis of communicatively text. As seen in the examples:

12. *Dar fii liniștit, nu e supărat pe tine (ține la tine!) și nici pe mine nu e, a zis doar atît: „...gata, Matilda, mi-am plătit datoria față de tatăl meu, de-aici înainte nu mai plec....”* (Preda, 1984, I, p. 180)

13. *Până acum ne-a fost și nouă! D-aici înainte numai Dumnezeu să-și facă milă de noi și d-ai noștri.* (P. Ispirescu, *Legende sau basmele românilor, adunate din gura poporului*, București, 1882, p. 218-228.)

Apart the adverbs that we discussed and which operate at a discursive level, there is in the circumstantial adverbs class some meta-discourse deictic expressions like: *first, first of all, secondly*, the linguistic ordered sequences, which can add adverbs *supra, infra, idem* etc. - Where we identify a function for release of information transmitted relationship itself with the statement included in the communicative process.

Instead of conclusions, we retain some aspects of practice adverbs discourse-pragmatic role:

- Adverbs of place in demonstratives class that have been given as an example are part of the elements that can be both anaphora (with the observation that it is a potential coreferentialiy to the anphoric with a variable) and deictic.
- The contribution of pro-forms to semantic consistency is not achieved by their meaning, but by the way they relate to the speakers (speakers is consistent with expectations).
- Even if the circumstantial clauses are required for purposes of the verb, they may involve zero anaphora: *he had gone home at two o'clock, but had not arrived yet (at home)*. - A special type of anaphora is represented by the antecedent of relative introductory element (relative pronouns and adverbs).
- Adverbs of place indicating proximity, such as the adverb *here* are the limit of discourse deixis and anaphora, approaching more deictic status. But you did not mean "at this point of the speech," but refers to the referential content mentioned in a previous sequence evoked and close, its use is anaphoric (see example: *De aici i s-a tras.*). They can serve to introduce a new theme in speech: *Aici revin asupra mamei.*, organize information and to rank the ideas.

We believe that without understanding the pragmatic role of these connectors in the utterance / text decoding overall meaning of a text would suffer, especially where, as GALR (2005), "there is nothing special to mark the various pragmatic connections between sentences or phrases that make up a text, understood as a result of the speech. [...] There may be a certain preference for occurrence of connectors in the text, due to their pragmatic discursive role" (GALR, 2005/II: 729)

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