

Introduction to Logic: Argumentation and Interpretation

Vysoká škola mezinárodních a veřejných vztahů

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Introduction to Logic: Argumentation and Interpretation

Annotation

The course offers an overview of topics in logic, communication, reasoning, interpretation and summary of their practical use in communication. It provides basic orientation in terminology of linguistic research and communication, persuasion and communication strategies, understanding the logic games, exercises and tasks, and offers the opportunity to learn the reasoning applied in various situations. The aim is that students not only get familiar with lectures, but also acquire the means of communication and argumentation through exercises and online tests.

Topics

1. Brief history of Logic and its place in science
2. Analysis of complex propositions using truth tables
3. The subject-predicate logic – Aristotelian square
4. Definitions and Terminology
5. Polysemy, synonymy, homonymy, antonymy
6. Analysis of faulty arguments
- 7. Interpretation – rules and approaches**
8. Analysis of concrete dialogue

<http://mediaanthropology.webnode.cz/kurzy/introduction-to-logic/>

Interpretation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Interpretation or **interpreter** may refer to:

Philosophy [[edit](#)]]

- Interpretation (philosophy), the assignment of meanings to various concepts, symbols, or objects under consideration
- Interpretation (logic), an assignment of meaning to the symbols of a formal language
- De Interpretatione*, a work by Aristotle
- Hermeneutics, the study of interpretation theory
- Exegesis, a critical explanation or interpretation of a text

Math, science and computing [[edit](#)]]

- Interpretation (model theory), a technical notion that approximates the idea of representing a logical structure inside another structure
- Interpreter (computing), a program (a virtual processor) that is able to execute instructions written in a high-level programming language
- Interpretation function, in mathematical logic a function that assigns functions and relations to the symbols of a signature
- Interpretations of quantum mechanics, a set of statements which attempt to explain how quantum mechanics informs our understanding of nature
- Interpreter pattern, a software engineering design pattern
- Left brain interpreter, the *post-hoc* construction of explanations by the brain's left hemisphere
- Interpreted language, a programming language that avoids program compilation

Language [[edit](#)]]

- Language interpretation, the facilitation of dialogue between parties using different languages
- Interpretation of tongues, a supernatural ability to understand unknown languages
- Interpretation type**, an element of semantics in [categorical grammar](#) theories
- Semantics, the study of meaning in words, phrases, signs, and symbols

Law [[edit](#)]]

- Judicial interpretation, an interpretation of law by a judiciary
- Statutory interpretation, determining the meaning of legislation
- Authentic interpretation, the official interpretation of a statute issued by the statute's legislator
- Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretations, part of the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP)

Art, literature and performance [[edit](#)]]

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpretation>

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

*An interpretation is an assignment of meaning to the symbols of a formal language. The general study of interpretations of formal languages is called **formal semantics**.*

For example, an interpretation function could take the predicate T (for "tall") and assign it the extension $\{a\}$ (for "Abraham Lincoln"). Note that all our interpretation does is assign the extension $\{a\}$ to the non-logical constant T , and does not make a claim about whether T is to stand for tall and ' a ' for Abraham Lincoln. Nor does logical interpretation have anything to say about logical connectives like 'and', 'or' and 'not'.

*An interpretation often (but not always) provides a way to determine the truth values of sentences in a language. If a given interpretation assigns the value True to a sentence or theory, the interpretation is called a **model** of that sentence or theory.*

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Interpretation or interpreting is the facilitating of oral or sign-language communication, either simultaneously or consecutively, between users of different languages. Translation studies is the systematic study of the theory, description and application of interpretation and translation.

The interpreter's objective is to convey every semantic element as well as tone and register and every intention and feeling of the message that the source-language speaker is directing to target-language recipients (except in summary interpretation, used sometimes in conferences)

Modes

Simultaneous

Consecutive

Whispered

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_interpretation,
<http://www.najit.org/publications/SummaryInterpreting200609.pdf>, S. Bassnett, Translation studies, p.13-37.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Simultaneous interpretation (SI) is when the interpreter must do the best he or she can within the time permitted by the pace of source speech and the advantages of time-saving and not disturbing the natural flow of the speaker. The most common form is extempore SI, where the interpreter does not know the message until he or she hears it.

In the ideal setting for oral language, the interpreter sits in a sound-proof booth and speaks into a microphone, while clearly seeing and hearing the source-language speaker via earphones. The simultaneous interpretation is rendered to the target-language listeners via their earphones.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

In **consecutive interpreting** (CI), the speaker is required to pause to allow interpretation — accuracy is greatly enhanced but the time needed is much greater (possibly double the time needed). The interpreter sits or stands beside the speaker.

Consecutive interpretation can be conducted in a pattern of short or long segments according to the interpreter's preference. In short CI, the interpreter relies mostly on memory whereas, in long CI, most interpreters will rely on note-taking. Consecutive interpreting of whole thoughts, rather than in small pieces, is desirable so that the interpreter has the whole meaning before rendering it in the target language. This affords a truer, more accurate, and more accessible interpretation than where short CI or simultaneous interpretation is used.

Consecutive interpretation may be the chosen mode when bilingual listeners are present who wish to hear both the original and interpreted speech or where, as in a court setting, a record must be kept of both.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

In **whispered interpreting** (chuchotage, in French) sometimes called whispering simultaneous, the interpreter does not normally whisper, but simply speaks softly using voiced speech. This necessitates very close proximity to the target(s) and can be tiring due to the posture adopted.

Because of the intense concentration needed by interpreters to hear every word spoken and provide an accurate rendition in the target language, professional interpreters work in pairs or in teams of three, so that the interpreters can switch and rest after interpreting for about ten to twenty minutes (depending on the difficulty of the content).

Interpretation – rules and approaches

A philosophical interpretation is the assignment of meanings to various concepts, symbols, or objects under consideration. Two broad types of interpretation can be distinguished: interpretations of physical objects, and interpretations of concepts (Conceptual model).

Scientific interpretation

Descriptive interpretation

A descriptive interpretation (also called a factual interpretation) is when at least one of the undefined symbols of its formal system becomes the name of a physical object, or observable property.

Scientific model

When scientists attempt to formalize the principles of the empirical sciences, they use an interpretation to model reality. The aim of these attempts is to construct a formal (meta)system that will serve as a conceptual model of reality.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

Text analysis reveals systemic relations between elements of the text.

Expert interpretation is based on analysis of the work and on criticism.

Interpretation of the reader (within the reader's game) vs. expert

Deconstruction of the structure of the text = text segmentation to its components and characteristics of the relationship between these components in matters of content, language and function...

Semantic structure is the result of language processing of the content.

The process of comprehension and interpretation (understanding the meaning of the text) involves interpretation as the final phase of the reception, during which the recipient derives from **the sense** of the communicate (outer goal - the pragmatic value of utterance), ie. **events outside** of the text.

interpretive subjectivism: recipient's individuality , speech evaluation, individual situations, conditions, handling, etc.

semiotic object - a work of art - an artifact

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

1. The beginnings of literary interpretation

In the 18th and 19th centuries the greatest literary critics (**Samuel Johnson, Matthew Arnold**) dealt mainly with artistry of the literary work. They researched when the work is to be read allegorically, and when not. Prominent literary critics of the late 19th and early 20th century were **George Saintbury** and **Herbert Grierson**.

2. New Criticism

Predecessor of the new criticism **Ivory Armstrong Richards** issued in 1929 the work *Practical Criticism: A Study of Literary Judgement*. He demanded that every formal and significant component of the poems should be taken into consideration as a necessary part when interpreting. The term New Criticism was first used in 1941 by **John Crowe Ransom**, in his book *The New Criticism*.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

New critics have established their doctrine on that the form and content of the poems are inseparable. Leading representatives were **Cleanth Brooks, William Kurtz Wimsatt, Monroe Beardsley** and **Thomas Stearns Eliot**.

Later the New Criticism rejected all historical and authorial influences. Hence their biggest problem: if we ignore these influences, a huge amount of text interpretation is possible.

Kenneth Burke has not limited himself to a separate text, but tried to expand its ties with the importance of psychological, sociological and cultural phenomena. He tried to "use everything can be used" (anything goes: Paul Feyerabend), but according to his critics this leads to endless allegory (other meanings).

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

3. Hermeneutics

The term hermeneutics introduces **Eric Donald Hirsch** in his work *Validity in Interpretation*. Hermeneutics is actually a science of interpretation.

Hirsch's opponent was **Hans-Georg Gadamer**. He introduced the concept of fusion of horizons - identification of reader's perspective currently with a historical perspective of the text.

Friedrich Schleiermacher - the founder of modern hermeneutics – divides interpretation into two methods: comparative and divinatory. The divinatory method tries to understand the author as an individual, while the comparative includes the author under general type. Its typical features are then to be found in comparison with other of the same type. Another hermeneutic was **Wilhelm Dilthey**.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

4. Post-structuralism

In the US the post-structuralism means Derridean deconstruction. This was introduced by **Jacques Derrida** his lecture *Structure, sign and play in the discourse of the human sciences* (1966). Deconstructionists deny that the text should have any meaning, because every interpretation is false – by looking at the text secondary meanings (TRACES - tracks) and proving that they contradict the main meaning of the work.

5. Marxism, cultural materialism, new historicism

Original Marxists argued that literature reflects the socioeconomic situation (**Christopher Caudwell**, **György Lukács** - theory of reflection). This, however, denied **Louis Althusser**, who said that literary works are not determined by socioeconomic status, but are the result of a complex network of relationships that are not so easy to interpret.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

6. Reception aesthetics and reader-oriented theories

In Germany at the University of Konstanz the reception theory was created as a counterweight to Western materialism. Its leader is **Hans Robert Jauss** (essay *Literary History as a challenge to literary criticism*). He argues that the sender is as important as the recipient, literary work is meaningless until it is re-created in the reader's mind. He introduces the concept of **horizon expectations**, ie. that readers read works with certain expectations, which are based on their knowledge of other works of the same genre. Literary work disrupts expectations and surprise readers.

Wolfgang Iser emphasizes the reading rather than the historical reception, and rejects the interpretation as the search for objective meaning or hidden meaning.

Norman Holland and **Stanley Fish** argue that reader should take the interpretation as the interaction between his unique intellect and text.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

7. Feminist Interpretation

Feminist interpretation protagonists: **Kate Millet** (Sexual Politics), **Josephine Donovan**, **Mary Ellman**, **Elaine Showalter**, **Jane Tompkins**, **Jacqueline Rose** (Hamlet – Mona Lisa of literature), **Catherine Belsey**.

8. Anti-interpretation paradigm

Furthest from the interpretation is the **formalist criticism**, which does not look at content, but addresses only the stylistic quality of the text.

The most famous protagonist was **Susan Sontag**. She published a book *Against Interpretation* (1964). Against new criticism there are also structuralists headed by **Roland Barthes**.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Theory of interpretation

Philosophical dictionary on the term hermeneutics: *"the meaning of the text is always the joint work of the person who left it, and whoever works with it"*

Philosophical Dictionary (Filozofický slovník), Olomouc, 1998, p. 168.

Hermeneutics is generally considered to be (philosophical) science about the methods of proper understanding and interpretation of texts. In addition to its own interpretation the process involves **exegesis** – interpretation, explanation, clarification with the help of all available historical data.

The development of hermeneutics starts from the second half of the 17th century. Since the mid-18th century the modern hermeneutics rises associated with, for example, **Wilhelm von Humboldt** (1767-1835) and **Friedrich Schleiermacher** (1768-1834). Friedrich Schleiermacher, for example, argued that the text can be understood only when you understand the whole of the context in which the text was written.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Another hermeneutically oriented thinker was a German philosopher, psychologist and philosopher of life **Wilhelm Dilthey** (1833-1911), who in the book *About the origin of the hermeneutics* introduced so called **Hermeneutic circle**. In this work it appears the idea that hermeneutics should contain the general rules of interpretation on which all spiritual sciences could be based as they according to Dilthey stand on an **interpretative knowledge** and that would strengthen their independence from the methods of the natural sciences.

The German philosopher and phenomenologist **Hans-Georg Gadamer** (1900-2002) also uses the conception of the hermeneutic circle. He argued that this circle has its origin in a certain **pre-understanding** of the text with which the reader accesses the consummation of the text itself. Another important point of hermeneutical approach is to find a reliable, if possible, the original text of the literary work piece, and a comparison of the original text and its subsequent editions in a historical context.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Hans-Georg Gadamer determined in his work *Truth and method* the forms of another component of the proper interpretation of the text. This component is **the tradition**, which he defined as a live stream of experience passed from generation to generation, which is transmitted by means of speech, and thus becomes a part of our linguistic world.

When interpreting the text we approach it equipped with the same or similar tradition, which was the author was equipped with at the time of writing the text. In the interpretation of the text it is, however, necessary to try to distance ourselves from the tradition; it is necessary for to be able to take the position of the observer and allow criticism.

Martin Heidegger (1889-1976) argued that understanding does not apply primarily to something outside of us, eg. to a text, but that it directly relates to our own being, ie. on the actual life. To our own existence, according to Heidegger we relate so that we somehow understand and we are such as what understand.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Umberto Eco's theory of interpretation

- dichotomy of **empirical – model author**, **empirical – model reader**
- Empirical author = real figure of the author
- Model author = "Anonymous voice" whom we know only what we communicate between the first and last word in the novel – Eco names him Nerval
- Empirical reader = everyone who reads
- Model reader = ideal type; reader, which author wishes for his text
- read in two ways: the first, on purpose, or deeper, with pleasure
- Second-degree model reader reads the text several times and eventually reveals the author's model and understands what he is asked to do.

Interpretation – rules and approaches

Russian formalism

story time, discourse time and the reading time

Fabula is the story, the sum of events and stories related with time and cause. **Syuzhet** (plot) is a scheme, concrete form of the story.

These are terms originating in Russian formalism and employed in narratology that describe narrative construction. They were first used by **Vladimir Propp** and **Viktor Shklovsky**.

Mikhail Bakhtin is also not convinced that fabula and syuzhet is a complete explanation of the relationship of narrative and story. Like Derrida, Bakhtin is suspicious of the hegemonic relation that narrative has over story.

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Thank you for your attention!

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