



## THE ROLE OF DISCOURSE ANALYSIS IN EVALUATING WRITING TASKS IN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE EXAMS

*Scientific adviser: **Khonsaidova Maktuba***

*Teacher, Chirchik State Pedagogical University*

[szakirovmaktuba@gmail.com](mailto:szakirovmaktuba@gmail.com)

*Researcher: **Axadxonova Dilnoza***

*Student, Chirchik State Pedagogical University*

[akramovadilnoza2005@gmail.com](mailto:akramovadilnoza2005@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *In today's era of globalization, international language exams (IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge, etc.) have become an important part of the education system, and the assessment of writing skills is of particular importance. This study examines the role and importance of discourse analysis in assessing written tasks in international language exams. Discourse analysis allows us to analyze not only the grammatical correctness of the text, but also its logical consistency, coherence, development of ideas, and the degree to which it achieves a communicative goal. The results of the study show that discourse analysis helps to assess written work more fairly and deeply, since it considers the structural and content aspects of the text based on a comprehensive approach. Assessment based on a discourse approach in international exams allows us to more accurately reflect the real communicative competence of students.*

**Key words:** *Discourse analysis, Writing assessment, International language exams, IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge Assessment, Communicative competence, Cohesion, Coherence, Academic writing, Language evaluation.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Bugungi globallashuv davrida xalqaro til imtihonlari (IELTS, TOEFL, Kembrij va h.k.) ta'lim tizimining muhim qismiga aylanib, yozish ko'nikmalarini baholash alohida ahamiyatga ega. Ushbu tadqiqot xalqaro til imtihonlarida yozma topshiriqlarni baholashda nutq tahlilining roli va ahamiyatini o'rganadi. Diskurs tahlili matnning nafaqat grammatik jihatdan to'g'riligini, balki*



uning mantiqiy izchilligini, izchilligini, fikr rivojlanishini, kommunikativ maqsadga erishish darajasini ham tahlil qilish imkonini beradi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, nutq tahlili yozma ishni yanada adolatli va chuqurroq baholashga yordam beradi, chunki u matnning tarkibiy va mazmuniy jihatlarini kompleks yondashuv asosida ko'rib chiqadi. Xalqaro imtihonlarda nutqiy yondashuvga asoslangan baholash talabalarning real kommunikativ kompetentsiyasini aniqroq aks ettirish imkonini beradi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Diskurs tahlili, Yozishni baholash, Xalqaro til imtihonlari, IELTS, TOEFL, Kembrij baholash, Kommunikativ kompetentsiya, Uyg'unlik, Uyg'unlik, Akademik yozish, Tilni baholash.

**Аннотация:** В современную эпоху глобализации международные языковые экзамены (IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge и др.) стали важной частью системы образования, и оценка навыков письма приобретает особое значение. В данном исследовании рассматривается роль и важность дискурсивного анализа при оценке письменных заданий на международных языковых экзаменах. Дискурсивный анализ позволяет анализировать не только грамматическую правильность текста, но и его логическую последовательность, связность, развитие идей и степень достижения коммуникативной цели. Результаты исследования показывают, что дискурсивный анализ помогает более справедливо и глубоко оценивать письменные работы, поскольку он учитывает структурные и содержательные аспекты текста на основе комплексного подхода. Оценка на основе дискурсивного подхода на международных экзаменах позволяет более точно отразить реальную коммуникативную компетентность студентов.

**Ключевые слова:** Дискурсивный анализ, Оценка письменных работ, Международные языковые экзамены, IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge Assessment, Коммуникативная компетентность, Связность, Последовательность, Академическое письмо, Оценка языковых навыков.



## Introduction

In today's globalization process, as international relations, academic mobility and labor migration increase, the issue of learning foreign languages and their effective assessment is gaining relevance. In particular, international language exams - such as IELTS, TOEFL and Cambridge Assessment - are one of the main tools for determining students' communicative competence in English [10]. Writing tasks play a special role in these exams, as they assess the student's ability to logically express thoughts, justify arguments and coherently structure the text.

Traditional assessment approaches often emphasize grammatical accuracy and lexical richness, but do not take into account the content integrity of the text, discursive coherence and the degree to which the communicative goal is achieved. Therefore, discourse analysis is emerging as an important methodological approach in modern linguistics and pedagogy as an important methodological approach to assessing written work [6]. Discourse analysis considers the text not only as a grammatical unit, but also in its social and communicative context, which allows for a more in-depth and comprehensive evaluation of written discourse.

One of the main advantages of discourse analysis is that it helps to identify the elements of cohesion and coherence in the text. This plays an important role in assessing the sequence of ideas, logical connections and the quality of argumentation in written assignments [4]. In international examinations, it is these aspects that directly affect the high or low assessment of students' written work. Discourse analysis also helps teachers to identify typical errors in students' written speech and develop strategies to eliminate them. This improves not only the assessment process, but also the teaching process. Modern research emphasizes that a discourse-based assessment approach more accurately reflects the real communicative competence of students [10].

In today's globalization environment, English is becoming increasingly important as a means of international communication. Therefore, international language exams such as IELTS, TOEFL, and Cambridge are becoming one of the main tools for assessing students' language competence. In these exams, the writing



skill component is particularly important, as it requires students not only to have grammatical knowledge, but also to be able to express their thoughts logically and coherently [10]. However, traditional assessment approaches often focus only on grammar and vocabulary, and do not fully take into account the overall content structure and communicative quality of the text. Therefore, discourse analysis is emerging as an effective and in-depth approach to assessing written work in modern linguistics and pedagogy.

Discourse analysis studies language not only as a collection of utterances, but as a holistic system that occurs in a social and communicative context. It analyzes how a text is structured, how ideas are developed, and how the author's purpose is expressed [9]. This approach is particularly important in evaluating written discourse because it reveals not only the superficial form of a text, but also its deep structure. Cohesion and coherence, which are central concepts of discourse analysis, play a key role in determining the quality of a text. Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical connections within a text, while coherence refers to the logical consistency between ideas [4]. When these two elements are harmonious in a text, it is understandable and logically complete for the reader. Writing tasks in international exams usually require students to think in an academic style, present arguments and justify them with examples. For example, in IELTS Writing Task 2, students are required to express their opinion on a specific issue and develop it logically. In this process, not only grammatical accuracy is not enough, but also the connection between ideas and the overall coherence of the text. It is at this point that discourse analysis brings a deeper approach to the assessment process.

In traditional assessment systems, written work is often assessed based on grammatical errors, vocabulary, and syntactic structure. However, this approach does not fully reveal the communicative value of the text. For example, a text that is grammatically correct but logically confusing may not deserve a high score. Conversely, a text with minor grammatical errors but very well-structured and coherently thought-out may have a high communicative value. For this reason, a



discourse-based assessment approach is considered an important alternative in modern linguistics [6].

Discourse analysis is not only of theoretical but also practical importance in the assessment of written work. The criterion of “coherence and cohesion” used in international exams is a practical form of discourse analysis. This criterion assesses the ideological coherence of the text, the structure of paragraphs, and the logical connection between ideas. For example, in a well-written academic text, each paragraph expresses one main idea and is logically connected to the next paragraph. Connecting words (“however”, “therefore”, “in addition”) provide grammatical coherence within the text and make it easier for the reader to understand the flow of thought.

Discourse analysis is also important in the teaching process. It allows teachers to analyze in more depth the problems in students' writing. For example, even if a student writes grammatically correct sentences, his text may not be logically coherent. In such cases, discourse analysis can identify the problem and improve the student's skills in developing ideas, constructing paragraphs, and arguing. This helps students develop real academic writing competence [1]. In general, discourse analysis makes the process of assessing written assignments in international language exams more thorough, fair, and comprehensive. It takes into account not only the formal aspects of language, but also its communicative and substantive aspects. As a result, students' written speech is ensured to be not only grammatically correct, but also logically coherent, rich in content, and in line with academic requirements. Therefore, discourse analysis is considered an integral part of modern language assessment systems.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the process of assessing written assignments in international language exams is one of the most important areas of modern linguistics and pedagogy. In exams such as IELTS, TOEFL and Cambridge, written speech determines not only grammatical knowledge, but also the student's ability to logically express thoughts, justify arguments and coherently structure the text. From this point



of view, discourse analysis appears as an important linguistic tool that provides a more in-depth and comprehensive approach to assessing written work.

According to the results of the study, discourse analysis allows you to analyze the text not only as a superficial grammatical structure, but also on the basis of its internal content and communicative connections. In particular, the concepts of cohesion and coherence play a decisive role in determining the quality of written speech. If ideas are logically connected and consistently developed within the text, it is easily understood by the reader and has high communicative value.

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