

Limits to the Logic of Temporal Coherence in Textual Sequences

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Abstract

There are limits of the logic of temporal coherence at the level of a textual sequence: the most obvious examples in French literature are the texts which combine both spatial and temporal *deixis* (*maintenant, aujourd'hui, hier, ici*) and tenses of the past (the French “imparfait” and “passé simple”) or texts which combine two different types of temporal organization (a French “imparfait” followed by a French “présent”). At the same time, the reverse order of events may ensure the coherence of a text and the French “imparfait” becomes the tense which induces many problems. There are examples which are opposed to the anaphoric thesis but also to the aspectual thesis (for which the tense progresses when referring to accomplishment and completion and does not progress when referring to statements and activities). Consequently, I adapted Asher’s theory (1993) in order to prove that the interpretation of a text depends on the nature of textual relations between its sentences. Sometimes, there are cognitive operations which must establish a textual relation between sentences. The receiver does not make useless efforts in order to understand, he mobilizes the contextual hypotheses which become accessible to him and which are active referentially speaking.

Keywords: *limit, logic, coherence, tense*

Limites dans la logique de la cohérence temporelle d’une séquence textuelle

Il y a des limites dans la logique de la cohérence temporelle au niveau de la séquences textuelle: les contre-exemples les plus saillants sont les récits qui combinent à la fois des marques temporelles ou spatiales déictiques (*maintenant, aujourd'hui, hier, ici*) et des temps du passé (imparfait, passé simple) ou les récits qui combinent deux types différents d’organisation temporelle (un imparfait suivi d’un présent). En même temps, l’ordre inverse des événements peut assurer la cohérence d’un texte et l’imparfait est le temps qui pose le plus de problèmes. Il y a des contre-exemples à la thèse anaphorique, mais aussi à la thèse aspectuelle - pour laquelle le temps avance avec les accomplissements et les achevements et n’avance pas avec les états et les activités.

Limite în logica coerenței temporale într-o secvență textuală

Există limite în logica coerenței temporale la nivelul secvenței textuale: contra-exemplele cele mai evidente sunt textele care combină deictici temporali sau spațiali (de tipul *acum, ieri, mâine, aici*) și timpuri ale trecutului (imperfect, perfect simplu) sau textele care combină două tipuri diferite de organizare temporală (un imperfect urmat de un prezent). În același timp, ordinea inversă a evenimentelor poate asigura coerența unui text și imperfectul este timpul care pune cele mai multe probleme. Există contra-exemple la teza anaforică, dar și la cea aspectuală.