

# Cognitive Discourse Analysis of spatiotemporal reference frames in natural discourse

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## Abstract

Cognitive Discourse Analysis (CODA; Tenbrink, in press) is a methodology used for accessing conceptual patterns and thought processes. It is based on a systematic analysis of discourse elicited in controlled settings, focussing on linguistic features that reflect cognition in traceable ways.

Across many types of discourse settings, references to space and time are pervasive; these terms are particularly revealing with respect to underlying concepts. Although language reflects intricate concepts of relationships between objects and events systematically (Tenbrink, 2007), there is no simple one-to-one mapping between concepts and linguistic expressions. Instead, language offers various concepts for interpreting terms such as *left* and *right* (Retz-Schmidt, 1988), it incorporates a range of transferred concepts between the domains of space and time (Radden, 1997), and it frequently leaves central aspects of a spatiotemporal situation underspecified in natural discourse (Krause, Reyle, & Schiehlen, 2001; Reyle & Rossdeutscher, 2001). Crucially, spatiotemporal language reflects complex conceptualisations including various types of reference frames (Evans, 2013; Levinson, 2003; Tenbrink, 2011; Zinken, 2009). The analysis of spatiotemporal reference frames is therefore a central case study for the use of CODA.

In this talk, I will outline the general methodology of CODA and exemplify its use for the investigation of spatiotemporal language. Starting from existing models of reference frames I will demonstrate how systematic patterns arise in discourse to describe spatial and temporal relationships in static scenes and dynamic events, gesture usage, and concepts of orientation. Analysis principles will be illustrated by examples taken from natural language data elicited in controlled contexts in various projects, allowing for the systematic identification of concepts underlying linguistic choices in light of the spatiotemporal situation at hand.

## References

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