

Three Steps of Reflection

A four-levelled introduction to F.D.G.

Introduction

The method I am using was developed by the German philosopher of action Johannes Heinrichs (J.H.) under the name “Four Steps of Reflection”. I prefer the name “Three Steps of Reflection” because I disagree with him on some essential points. J.H. uses his method for analyzing actions. I use this method principally for analyzing concepts. I consider the method for analyzing actions efficient, for the simple reason that we have to represent actions by concepts in order to talk about them.

The first four steps of reflection in the theory of action of J. H., 4 Species of action:
1.objectrelated action 2.internal subjective action 3.social action 4.expressive action
material individual collective medial
Preconditions: 1.relation to objects 2.selfreflection 3.interpersonal relations 4.ideas

After analyzing actions J.H. expanded his method to the analysis of social sciences. His four steps of reflection:

1.economics 2.political sc.3.cultural sc.4.ethics.

He adds the criterion of desired control from top to bottom. J.H. published a number of books that I read enthusiastically. These books stimulated me to use his method for analyzing linguistic problems.

J.H. sets the result of his analysis of action equal to the role of chemical elements. This is according to my opinion untenable. The chemical elements are the result of empirical scientific research, which is a social activity, while the elements of J.H.’s theory of actions are the result of his individual activity as a philosopher.

I agree with J.H. when he extends the theory of action by the theory of linguistic utterances. He published the result of his research in five volumes on language (J.H. 2008-2010), where he brings many correct analyses. Unfortunately he was influenced by Generative Transformational Grammar and placed Syntax on the highest step. This does not agree with modern linguistic research. Linguistic expressions are uttered, when a speaker communicates with a hearer in a certain situation.

In order to reach a first step we have to start from some basis. I therefore call his first step “**Basis**” (**B**) and remain with 3 steps of reflection: **1. individual 2.social 3.comprehensive**

The first example of my analysis of concepts:

Reality: B. material 1.perception (individual) 2.science (social) 3.truth (ideal).

General Examples

Man: B. body 1.consciousness 2.common sense 3.rationality

Perception: B. touching 1.tasting, smelling 2.hearing, seeing 3.image of the world

Sciences (sc.): B. natural sc.1.psychological sc. 2.social sc. 3.formal sc.

Natural Sc.: B. physics 1.chemistry 2.biology 3.mathematics (medium)

Psycholog. Sc.: B. attitude 1.individual psych. 2.social psych. 3. psycholinguistics

Social Sc.: B. Persons 2.1.social psychology 2.2. cultural science 2.3. ethics

Formal Sc.: B. theory of signs 3.1.logics 3.2.mathematics 3.3.linguistics

Cognition I (thinking): B sense data 1.perception 2.science 3.truth

Cognition II (acting): B. reality 1.philosophy 2.discussion 3.consensus

Linguistic Examples

B. Utterance 1. literal i 2. understanding the speaker's meaning
3. acknowledgement

Reference: B. object 1.speaker 2.situation 3.definite description or proper name

Bühler: B. language 1.representation 2.appeal 3.expression

Chomsky: B. rewrite-rules 1.starting symbol 2.non-terminal vocab. 3.terminal voc

Dascal: B. sentence 1.sentence meaning 2.utterance meaning 3.speaker's meaning

Dik: SofA (dynam. & control) B. state (- -) 1.process (+ -) 2.position (- +) 3.action (+ +)

Searle: logical semantics: (direction of fit):gn

B. assertive (language > world)

1. expressive (none)

2. directive, commissive (world > language)

3. declaration (both)

speech acts: B. utterance

1. propositional act (naming, predicating)

2. illocutionary act (communicative function)

3. perlocutionary act (intended effect)

Functional Discourse Grammar (FIGURE 2 page 13: General layout for FDG)

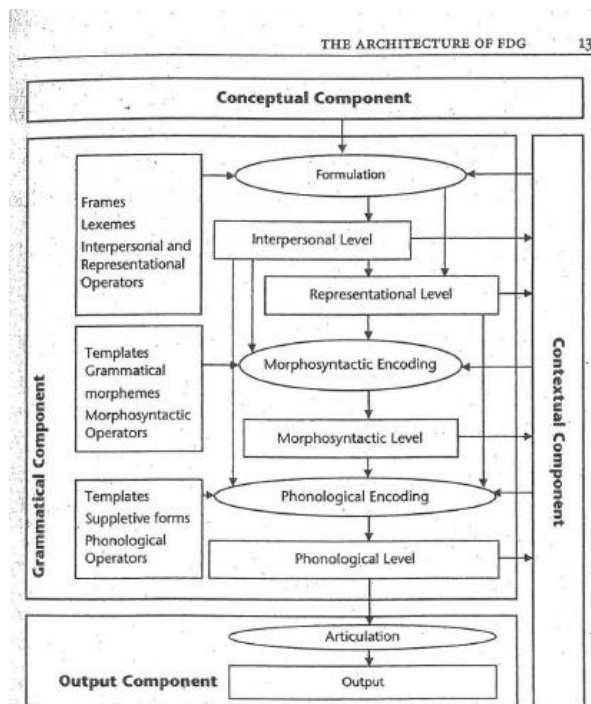
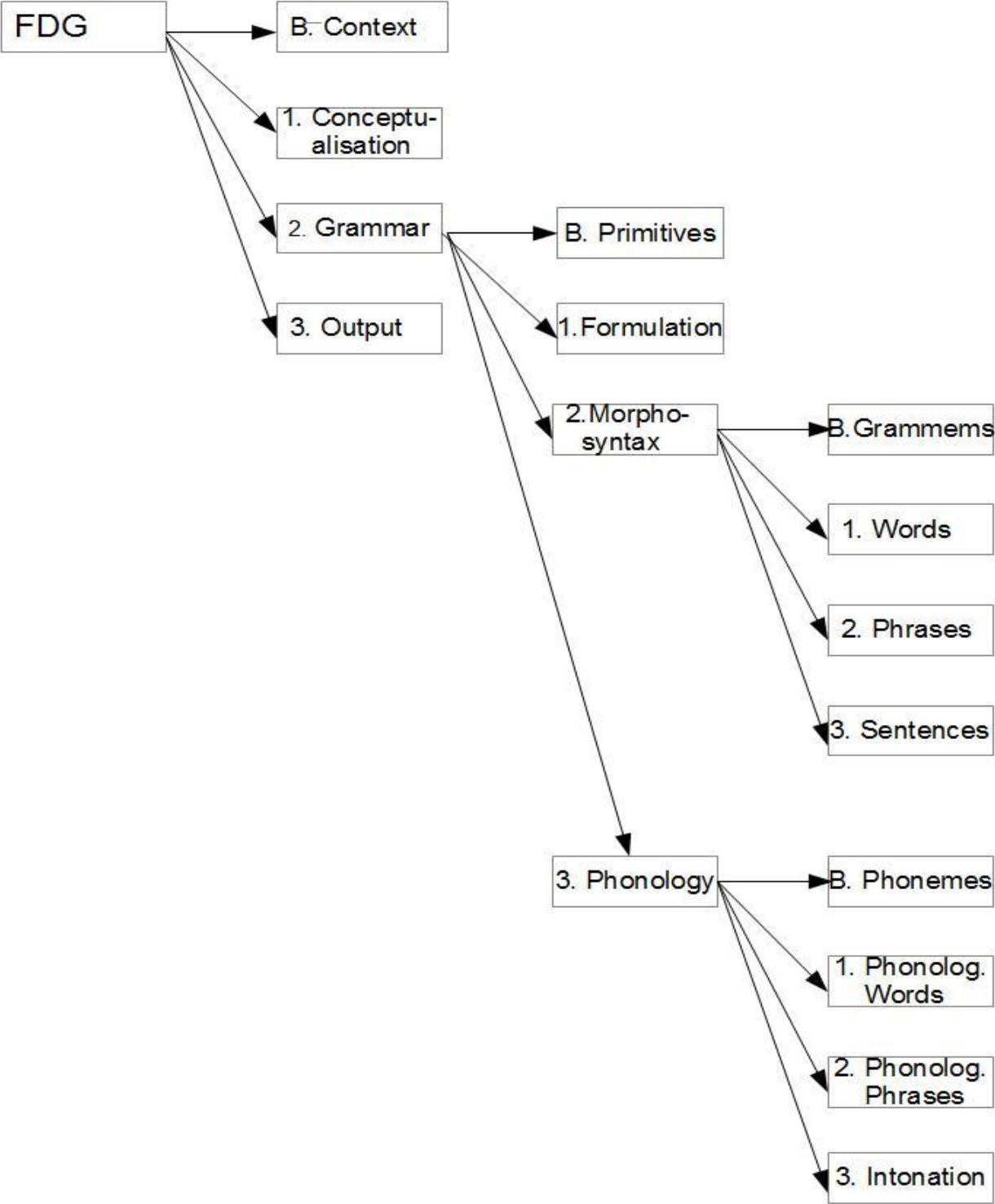


FIGURE 2. General layout of FDG



B. Context 1.conceptualization 2.grammar 3.output

Grammar: Lexicon + Hierarchical Levels (B. IL 1.RL 2.ML 3. PL)

Grammar:

B. primitives 1.formulation 2.morphosynt.encoding 3.phonological encoding

1.B. primitives 1.1.pragmatic encoding 1.2.semantic encoding 1.3.output

1.B.B. head 1.B.1.modifier 1.B.2.operator 1.B.3.frames

Morphosyntax: B. grammemes 1.words 2.phrases 3 sentences

Morphosyntactic Enc.: **2.B.** output of RL 2.1.grammemes 2.2.operators 2.3.templates

Phonology: B. phonemes 1.phonological words 2.phonological phrases 3.intonation

Phonological Enc.: **3.B.** output of ML 3.1.suppletive forms 3.2.operators 3.3.templates

The hierarchical order of the levels and the ways in which their basic units (together with the units inherited from higher levels) may be combined to form a characteristic unit on each level:

B. IL: lexemes: **Discourse Act** (Subacts: 1.reference, 2.ascription)

1. RL: lexemes: **Proposition** (naming, modifying)

2. ML: grammemes: **Clause**

3. PL: phonemes: **Intonational Phrase**

Grammars: B. languages 1.idiolects 2.written grammars 3.generative functional grammars

Literature

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Band 1 2008 *Die Zeichendimension*

Band 2 2008 *Die Bedeutungsdimension*

Band 3 2009 *Die Handlungsdimension*

Band 4 2009 *Die Satzbauformel*

Band 5 2009 *Stilistik*

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