9 Study Guide

Discourse: Language Beyond the Sentence

Terminology
You should be able to simply define or explain the following terms and concepts.

Climax	Intonation unit
Coda	Narrative schema
Complicating action	New, accessible, and given activation states
Discourse	Regulatory intonation unit
Fragmentary intonation unit	Substantive intonation unit
Genre	Terminal pitch contour
Identifiability	Topic of conversation
Intonation	

Skills
On completion of this chapter, you should be able to perform the following tasks:

- Explain why spoken conversations have a special status in discourse studies.
- Read transcription of conversational discourse that indicates prosodic categories.
- Identify intonation units and discuss how each relates to the topic.
- Discuss the relationship between prosody and intonation units.
- Distinguish between substantive, regulatory, and fragmentary intonation units and give examples of them.
- Identify the functions that intonation units have in navigating a topic of conversation.
- Identify structural elements of a narrative.
- Determine whether the activation state of an idea is given, new, or accessible.
- Determine whether the referent of a noun phrase is identifiable or non-identifiable.
- Discuss why studying discourse contributes to a broader understanding of languages and linguistic structure.