

# *Discourse and Society*



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Feb 28, 2013. UIN  
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# ***Discourse Communities (DC) and Speech Communities (SC)***

- DC is a group of people who share some kind of activity e.g. a club, association who have regular meetings, or a group of students who go to classes at the same university. e.g. of DC is a telephone call centre, the operators were trained to answer the phone “with a smile in their voice”.

# *Communities of Practice (CoP)*

- CoP is when DC interact with wider speech community. e.g. academic discourse community of students and academics also interact with wider SC of the town or city in which the academic institution is located (Swales, 1993).

# *Three types of language user*

## *(Devit, 2004)*

- Communities: group of people who share substantial amounts of their time together in common endeavor. e.g. people in the same office
- Collectives: groups of people forming around a single repeated interest, without frequency or intensity of contact of a community e.g. a bee keeping group, telephone advice service

# Conts...

- Networks: groups of people participating in a common discourse, they may never have (or never will) met each other. Email messages connection.

# ***Speech Communities (SC) and spoken and written discourse***

- SC= any group of people speak the same language
- SC= people who not only use the same language, repertoire or varieties of a language, but who also have the opportunity to interact with each other (Spolsky, 1998).

e.g. Call centres offshore, employing fluent L2 speakers of (Chinese, Japanese, American) etc

## Reference

Paltridge, B. (2006). *Discourse Analysis*. London: Continuum.

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