A discourse analysis of representational spaces: Writings of women independent traveller


Izvorni znanstveni članak
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Sažetak
Since 1987 there has been a substantial growth in women travelling independently, with the mature welltravelled woman seeking more than a holiday lying on the beach. In response to this demand, there has been a plethora of travel guides which specifically target women by providing advice for and/or stories of independent female travellers. Women are noted to travel for different motivations than men. It is argued that independent women tourists travel for self-discovery, enlightenment, and/or educational purposes. They also view travel as an opportunity for respite from the confines and responsibilities of their domestic environment. Critical questions regarding how their travel is constructed and the meanings of women's travel experiences have not been addressed in the published literature to date. To advance our understanding of gender and tourism, and in particular, to examine gendered experiences of independent travelling, we used critical discourse analysis to investigate a selected travel guide. The Rough Guide to Women Travel: First Hand Accounts from More than 60 Countries, is examined to understand the role that discourse plays in the positioning of, and providing meaning for, independent women travellers. Findings indicate that, rather than escaping traditional notions of female dependence and associated values, these are actually reinstated in the construction of women as independent travellers. Themes that emerged from the research include: caring for others and being cared for, danger and security, connecting and networking and redefined identities.

Ključne riječi
women; travel stories; independent travel; identity

Hrčak ID: 161424
URI
https://hrcak.srce.hr/161424

In discourse analysis, the context of a conversation is taken into account as well as what's being said. This context may encompass a social and cultural framework, including the location of a speaker at the time of the discourse, as well as nonverbal cues such as body language, and, in the case of textual communication, it may also include images and symbols. "[It's] the study of real language use, by real speakers in real situations," explains Teun A. van Dijk, a noted author and scholar in the field. Another important distinction is that while grammarians typically construct the examples they analyze, the analysis of discourse relies on actual writings and speech of the group being studied to determine popular usage. Discourse analysis is used to study language in social context. It focuses on the purposes and effects of written and spoken communication. How is discourse analysis different from other methods? Unlike linguistic approaches that focus only on the rules of language use, discourse analysis emphasizes the contextual meaning of language. It focuses on the social aspects of communication and the ways people use language to achieve specific effects (e.g. to build trust, to create doubt, to evoke emotions, or to manage conflict). Instead of focusing on smaller units of language, such as sounds, words or phrases, discourse analysis is used to study larger chunks of language, such as entire conversations, texts, or collections of texts. Discourse analysis (DA), or discourse studies, is an approach to the analysis of written, vocal, or sign language use, or any significant semiotic event. The objects of discourse analysis (discourse, writing, conversation, communicative event) are variously defined in terms of coherent sequences of sentences, propositions,
speech, or turns-at-talk. Contrary to much of traditional linguistics, discourse analysts not only study language use 'beyond the sentence boundary' but also prefer to analyze While new rhetoric genre analyses focus on the interrelation between text and context and SFL genre studies stress the linguistic analysis of text, ESP approaches to genre take an approach that is some way between these two. This chapter extends the discussion of genre into other domains of discourse analysis. If we have no independent evidence for what we claim, but infer beliefs from language use, then the theory is circular. Although there are criticisms of CDA, these do not distract from the value of work in the area of CDA. This is the analysis of 'discourse representation', generic analysis of discourse types, and an analysis of discourses in texts (Fairclough, 1995b).