Discourse Grammar for English Reading and Writing

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I. Theory Introduction

A. Definition of Discourse Grammar
   1. It explains the relationship between language and context.
   2. It represents a set of principles that language users follow to produce appropriate coherent discourse.
B. The Role of Discourse Grammar in Language Learning

1. Communicative Competence

2. Correctness vs. Appropriateness
   a. There is a flower bed in the middle of the lawn.
   b. A flower bed is in the middle of the lawn.
   c. In the middle of the lawn is a flower bed.
Dear John, I am sitting at my desk writing to you. Outside my window is a big lawn, and ______. It was full of daffodils and tulips in the spring…. You’d love it here. You must come and stay sometime….”

(McCarthy, 2000, p. 53)
II. Application and Practice

A. Grounding

1. Foreground Information
   Major central material
   Skeletal structure

2. Background Information
   Supportive material
   Elaboration of details
B. Textual Relationships

- General-examples
- General-specifics
- Problem-solution
- Question-answer
- Cause-effect
- Group-members
- Claim-counterclaim
- Time sequence
III. Conclusion

A. Discourse-functional approach
B. Systematic research on grammatical topics
C. Integration of reading and writing skills