

Academic Writing

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U Bielefeld

2010-10-27, RobotDoc Workshop Bielefeld

<http://www.homes.uni-bielefeld.de/gibbon/2010-10-27-Academic-Writing-Gibbon.pdf>

Problem

- I want to publish a paper in English.
- Situation:
 - I think my English is brilliant!
 - Problem: It's probably only your spoken English, but you don't realise this...
 - I think my English is hopeless!
 - No problem: ask someone to help you :)
 - I have a deadline in 3 days
 - Use intelligent formatting!

Motto

First, say what you want to say.

Second, say it.

Third, say what you said.

Quote: My old English teacher, “Bingo” Davies.

Course outline

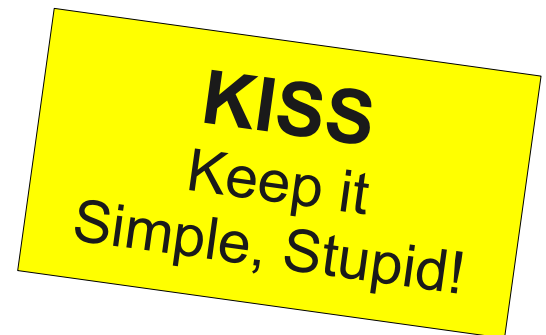
- English
 - Varieties: regional, social, functional
 - Components
 - character – word – sentence – paragraph – text
 - grammar for each of these components
- Text: designing a paper
 - styles = text grammars: main text objects: character, paragraph
 - additional text objects: table, figure, ...
- Project:
 - design paper (not poster, slides)
 - content, structure and format
 - implement in OpenOffice
- Report and follow-up

Requirements
Design
Implementation
Dissemination

English

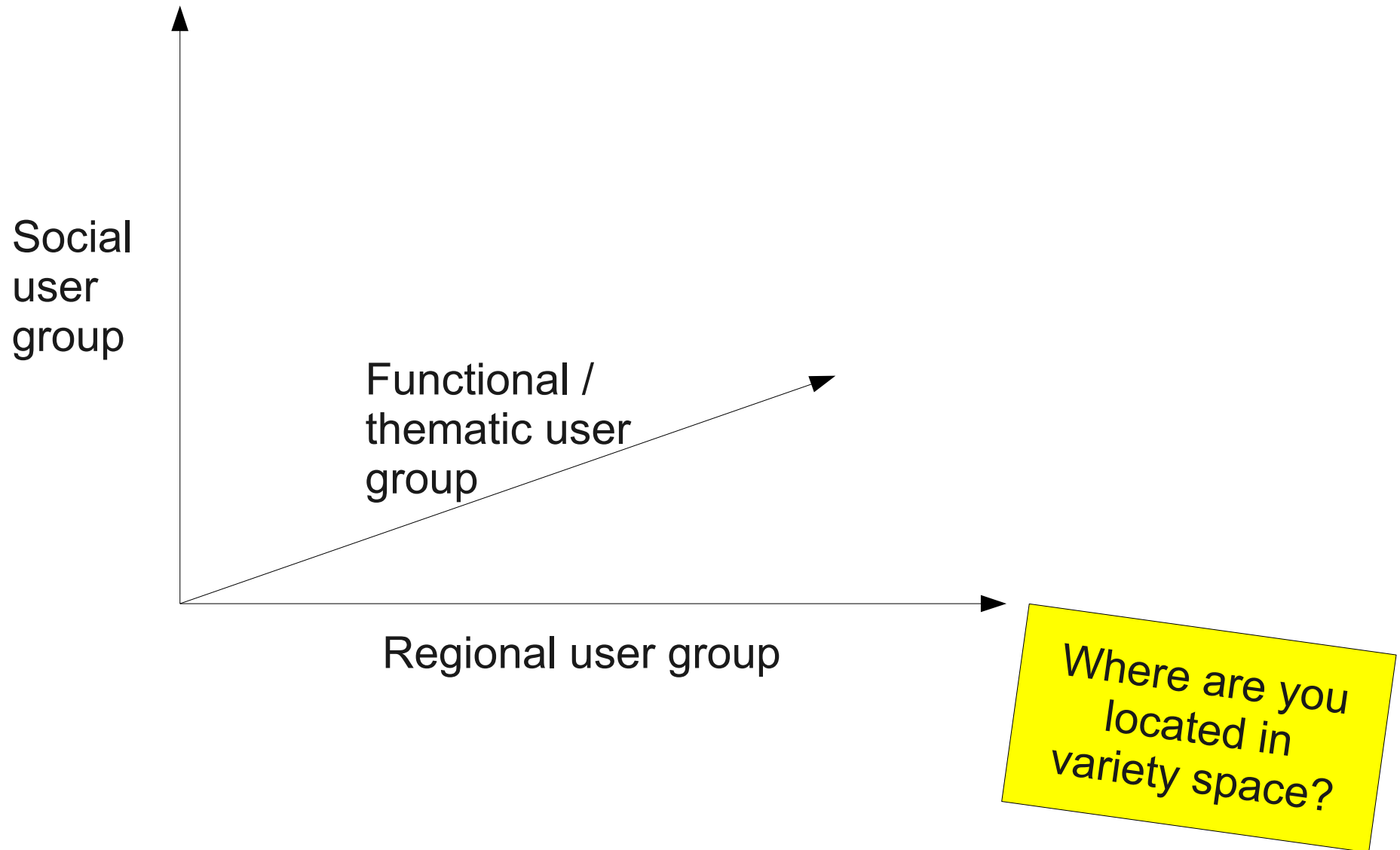
English

- Why English?
- What is English?
- Which English
- How many Englishes are there?
- Alternatives to English?
- Where are the problems in English?
 - Grammar?
 - Vocabulary?
 - Pronunciation?
 - ...



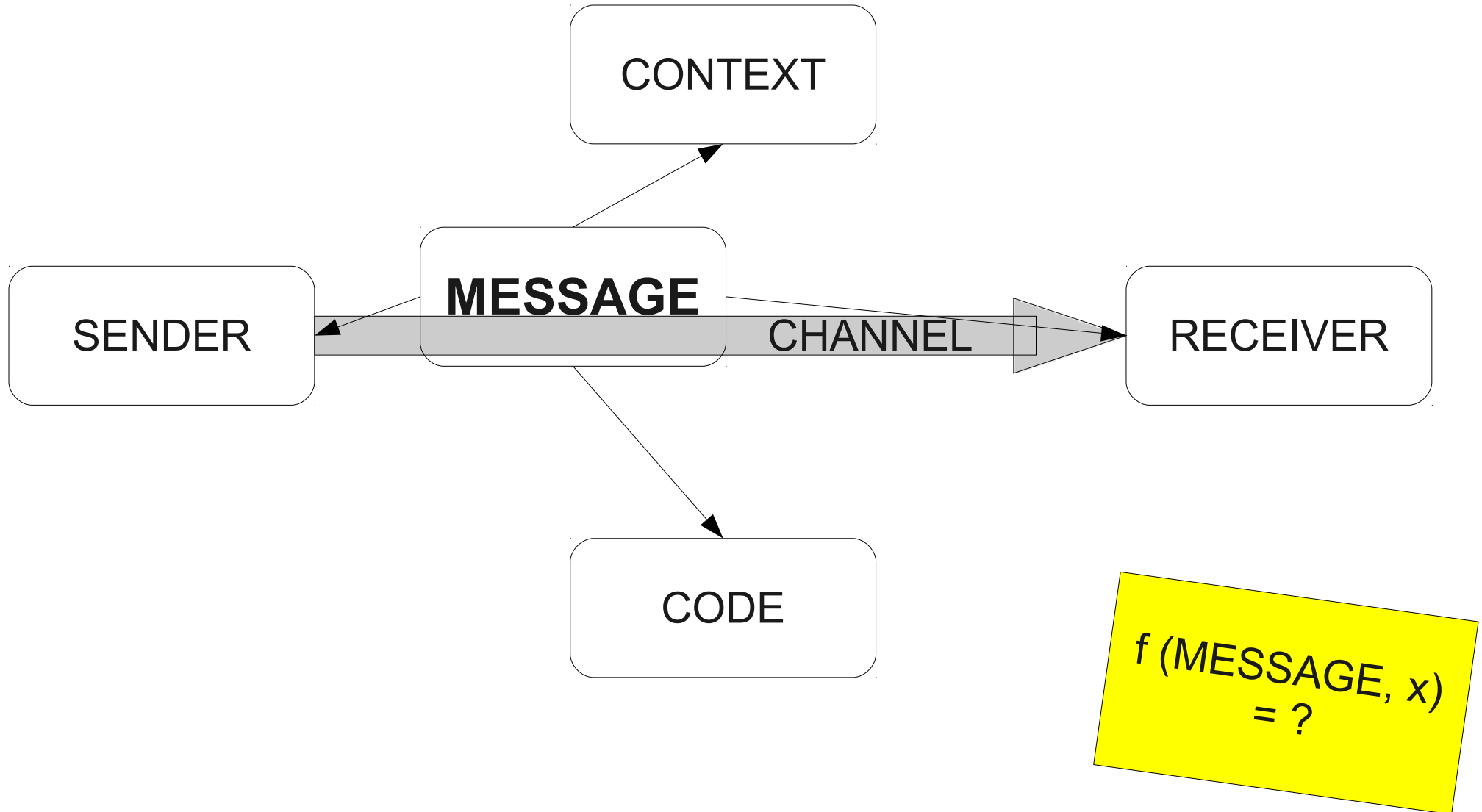
English variety space

English variety space

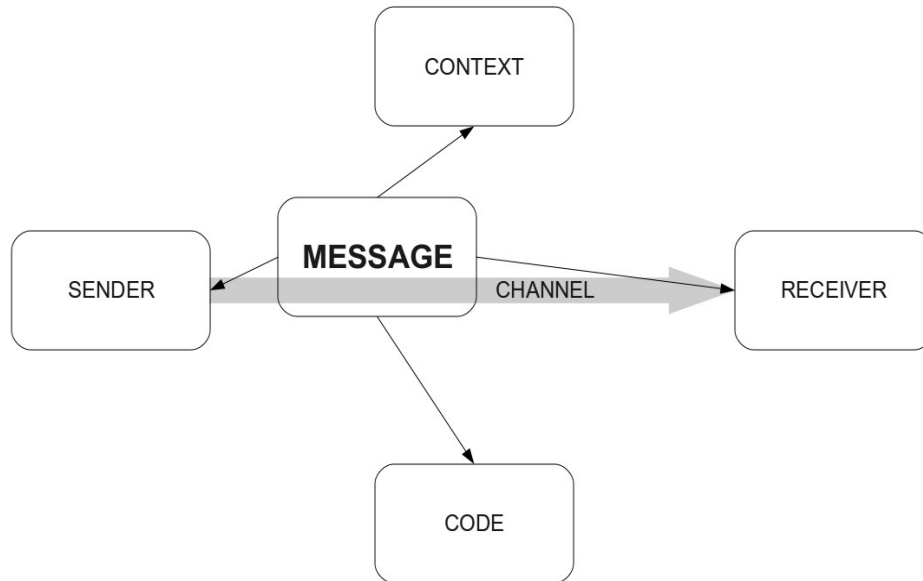


Functions of language

Functions of language



Functions of academic English



MESSAGE relates to...

SENDER: expressive

RECEIVER: appellative/conative

CONTEXT: descriptive

CODE: metalingual

CHANNEL: phatic

MESSAGE: poetic/stylistic

Functions of academic English

MESSAGE relates to...

SENDER: expressive, i.e. you want to demonstrate competence and innovativity (not primarily to entertain)

RECEIVER: appellative/conative, i.e. you want to convince the reader (a) to continue reading, (b) believe you, (c) accept your conclusions.

CONTEXT: descriptive, i.e. you want to present problem, data, method, results, discussion accurately (truthfully) and clearly.

CODE: metalingual, i.e. you don't want to distract the reader with obscure formulations, poor grammar and vocabulary, typos, inconsistent formatting

CHANNEL: phatic, i.e. you want to keep to expected conventions.

MESSAGE: poetic/stylistic, i.e. you want to keep to a conventionally formal, 3rd person style.

Components of language

Components of language

Components of language

Character / Phoneme

Components of language

Word:
Inflected
Compound
Derived
Simple (morpheme)

Character / Phoneme

Components of language

Sentence:
Coordinate
Subordinate
Simple

Word:
Inflected
Compound
Derived
Simple (morpheme)

Character / Phoneme

Components of language

Text:

- very many types
- ...

Sentence:

Coordinate
Subordinate
Simple

Word:

Inflected
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Character / Phoneme

Components of language

Structure

Text:

- very many types
- ...

Sentence:

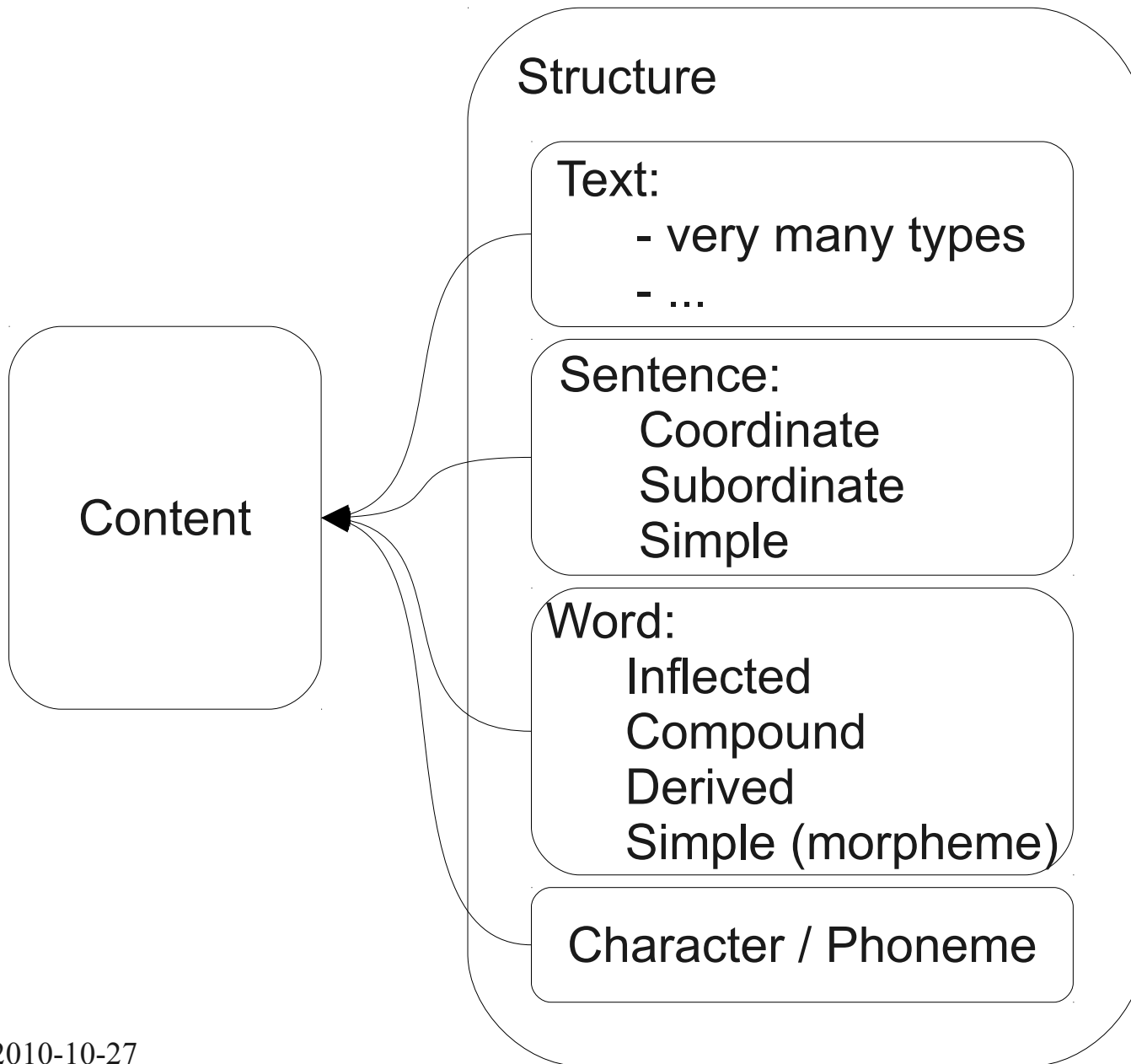
Coordinate
Subordinate
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Word:

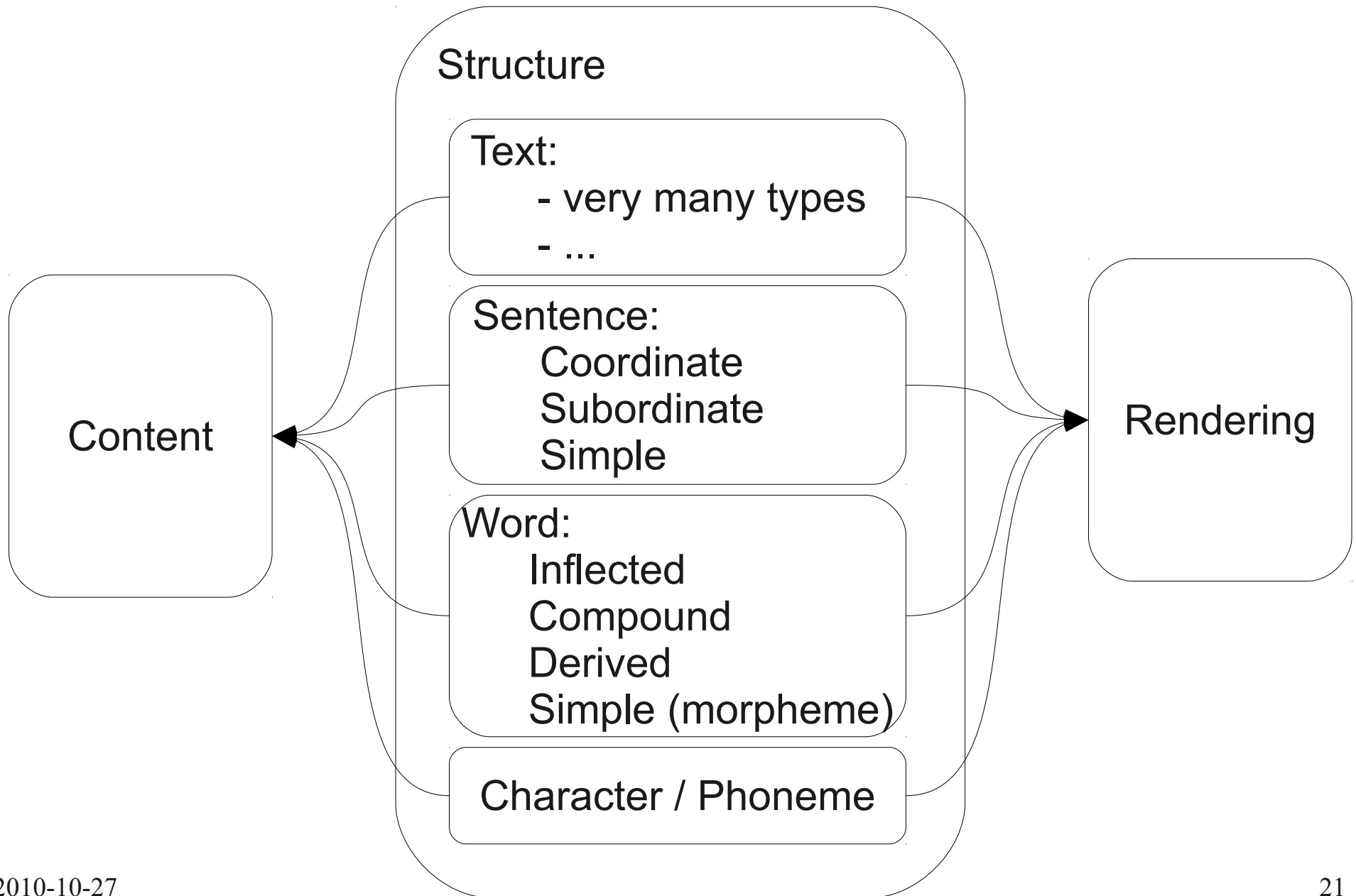
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Character / Phoneme

Components of language



Components of language



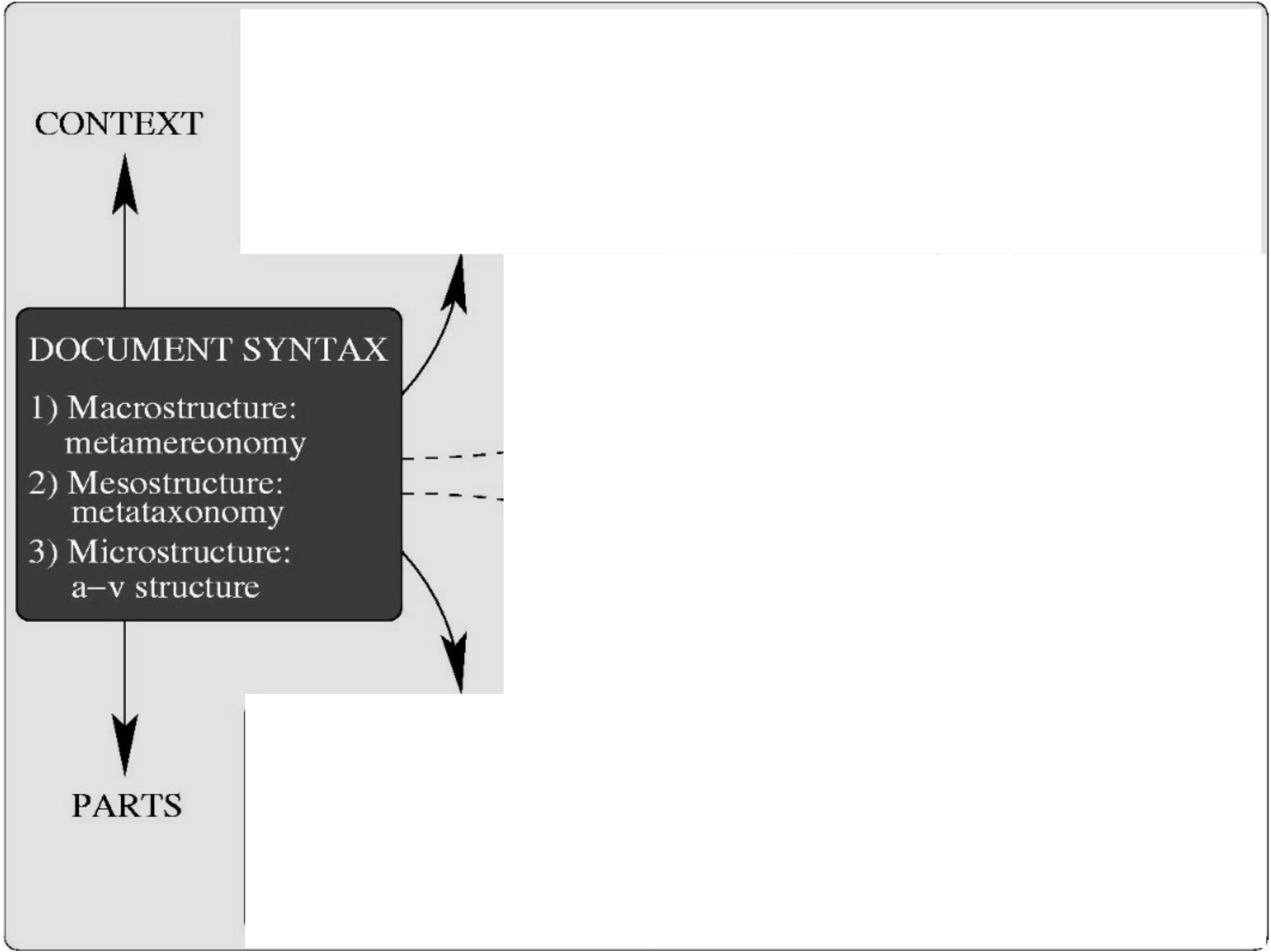
Semiotics of text

CONTEXT

DOCUMENT SYNTAX

- 1) Macrostructure:
metamereonomy
- 2) Mesostructure:
metataxonomy
- 3) Microstructure:
a-v structure

PARTS



OBJECT SEMANTICS

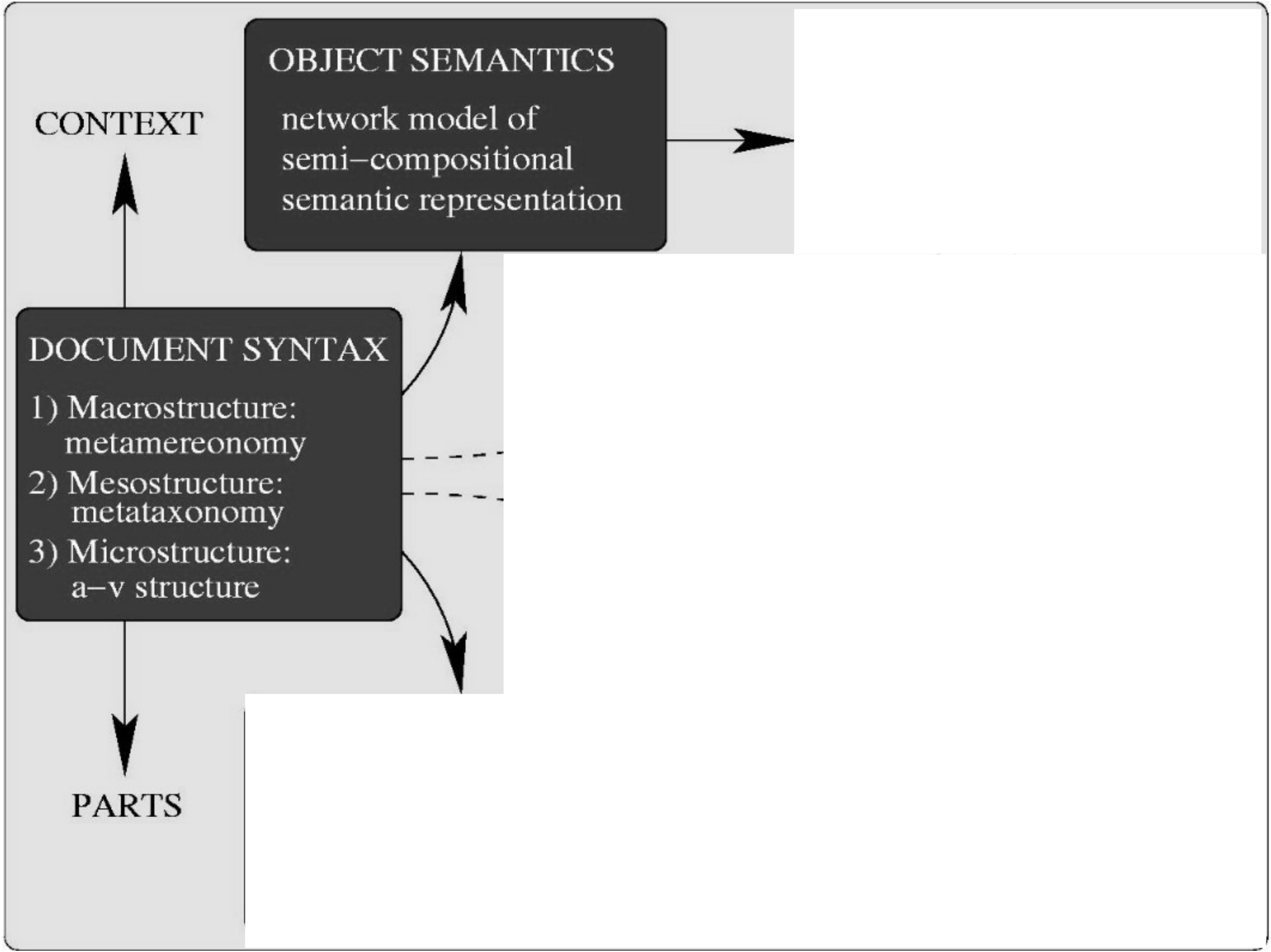
network model of
semi-compositional
semantic representation

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CONTEXT

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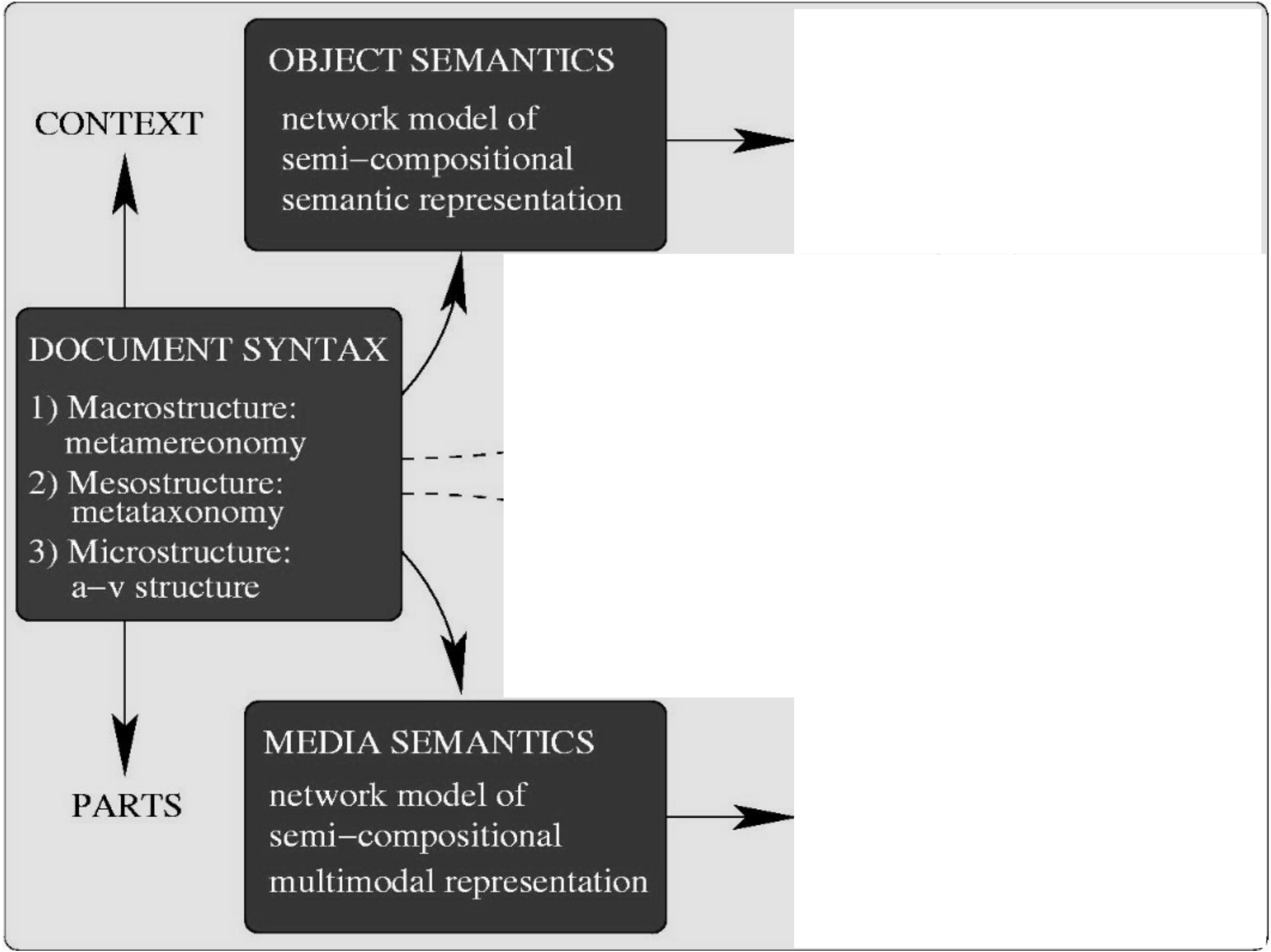
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PARTS

MEDIA SEMANTICS

network model of
semi-compositional
multimodal representation



CONTEXT

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DOMAIN MODEL

- abstract entities
- analog/digital quantitative
modality specific concrete
objects & events

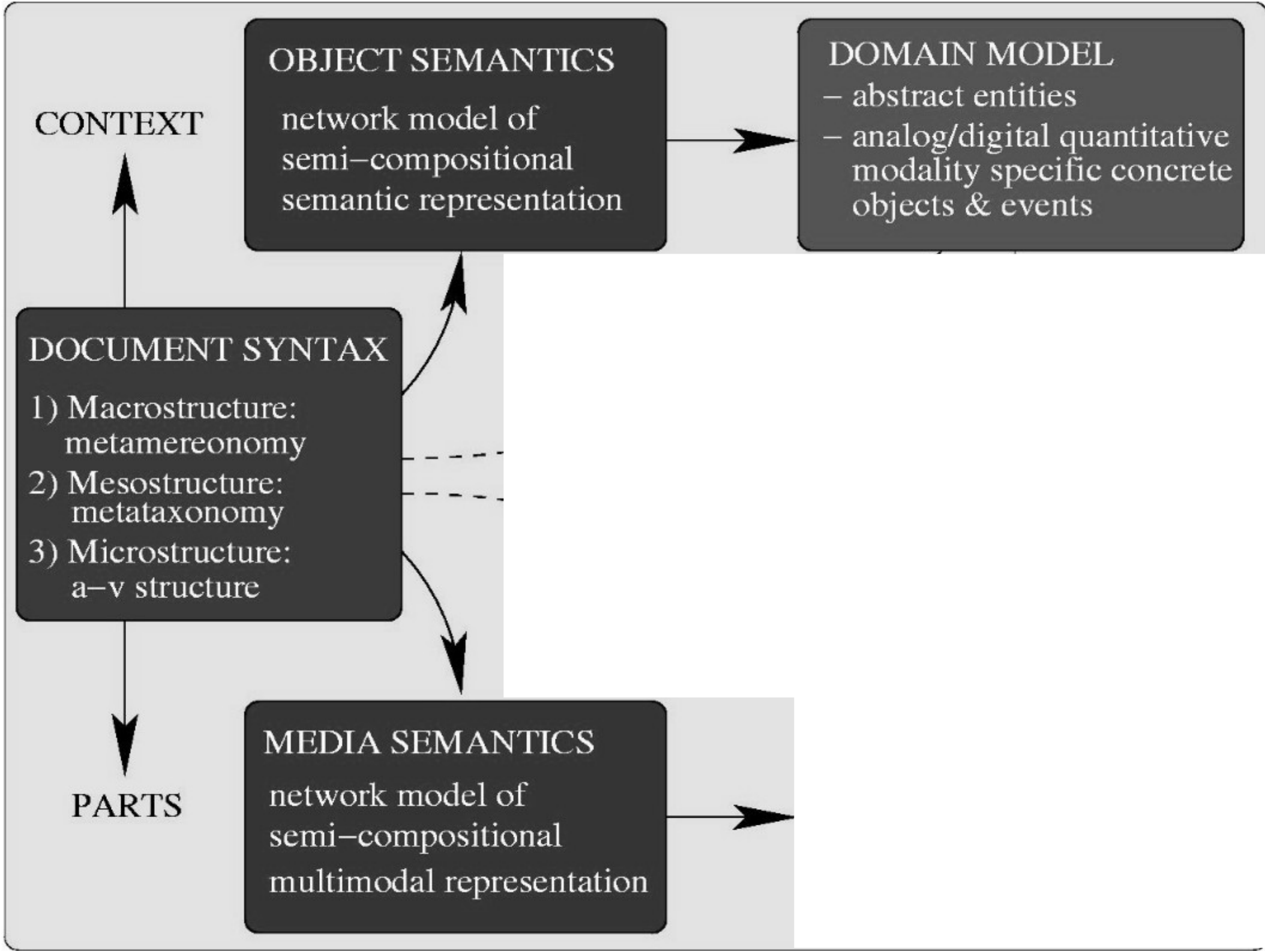
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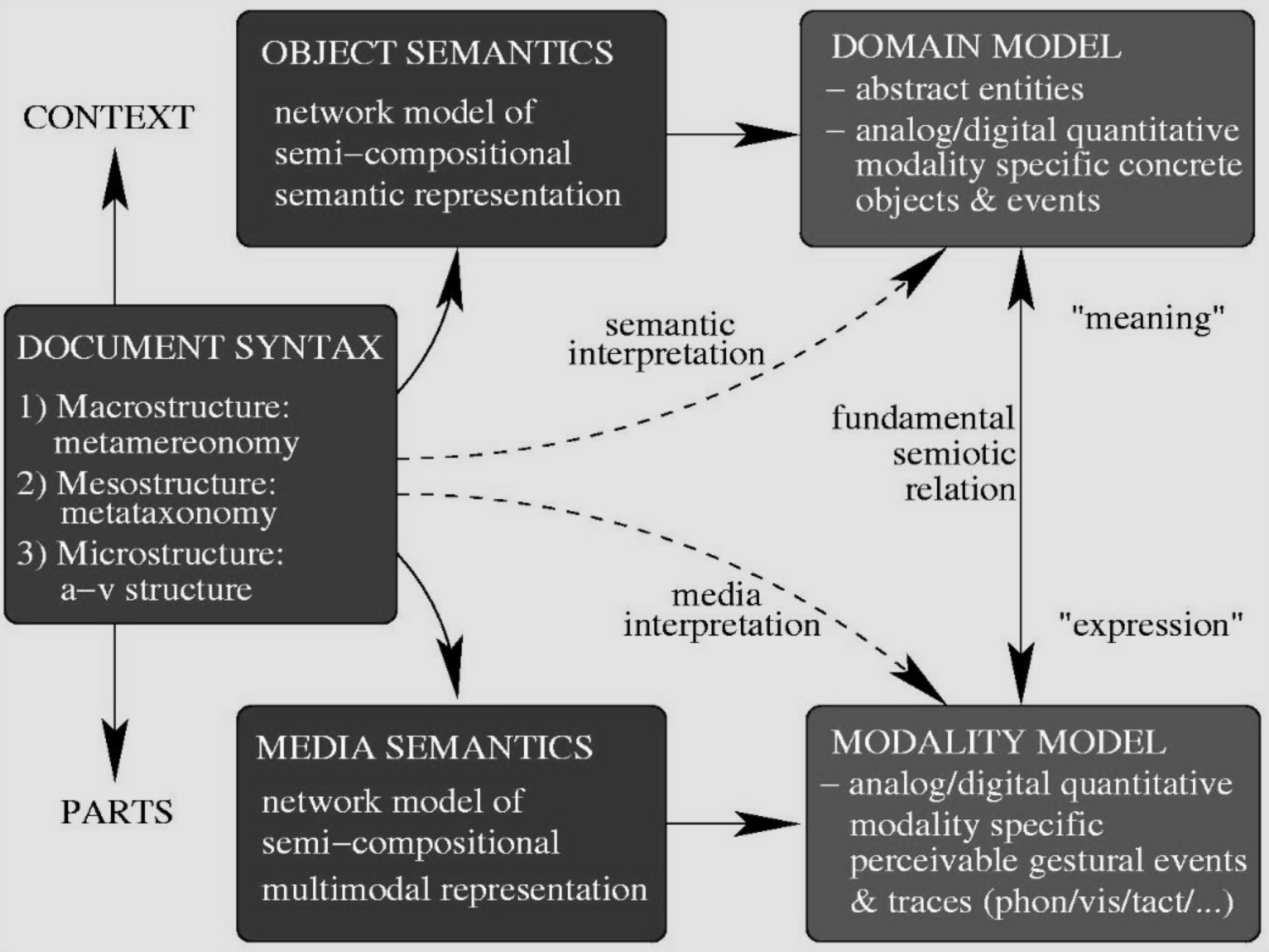
PARTS

MEDIA SEMANTICS

network model of
semi-compositional
multimodal representation

MODALITY MODEL

- analog/digital quantitative
modality specific
perceivable gestural events
& traces (phon/vis/tact/...)



Project

Text grammar: designing a paper

	<i>CONTENT</i>	<i>STRUCTURE</i>	<i>RENDERING</i>
Requirements:			
Design:			
Implementation:			
Dissemination:			

Task:

- Make a table as above, and enter your brainstorming notes into the cells.

Structure & rendering

- Structure objects:
 - character, paragraph
 - table, table of contents
 - figure
 - footnote
 - footer
- Rendering properties:
 - font, size, colour, ...
 - indents, vertical & horizontal spaces
- Rendering entities:
 - page
 - line
- Note the difference between
 - paragraph and page
 - paragraph and line

Structure: stylesheet = text grammar

BOOK → FrontMatter Body BackMatter

FrontMatter → Title Metadata

Body → Chapter Chapter*

BackMatter → Bibliography Index

None of this is relevant from the word processor perspective:

- paragraphs (of many kinds, with different properties)
- character (of many kinds, with different properties)

Some of you may be familiar with stylesheets as LaTeX macro sets or HTML/XML stylesheets.

Sample stylesheets

A publisher's stylesheet is

- a text grammar which defines text objects
- with assignment of rendering properties to the text objects

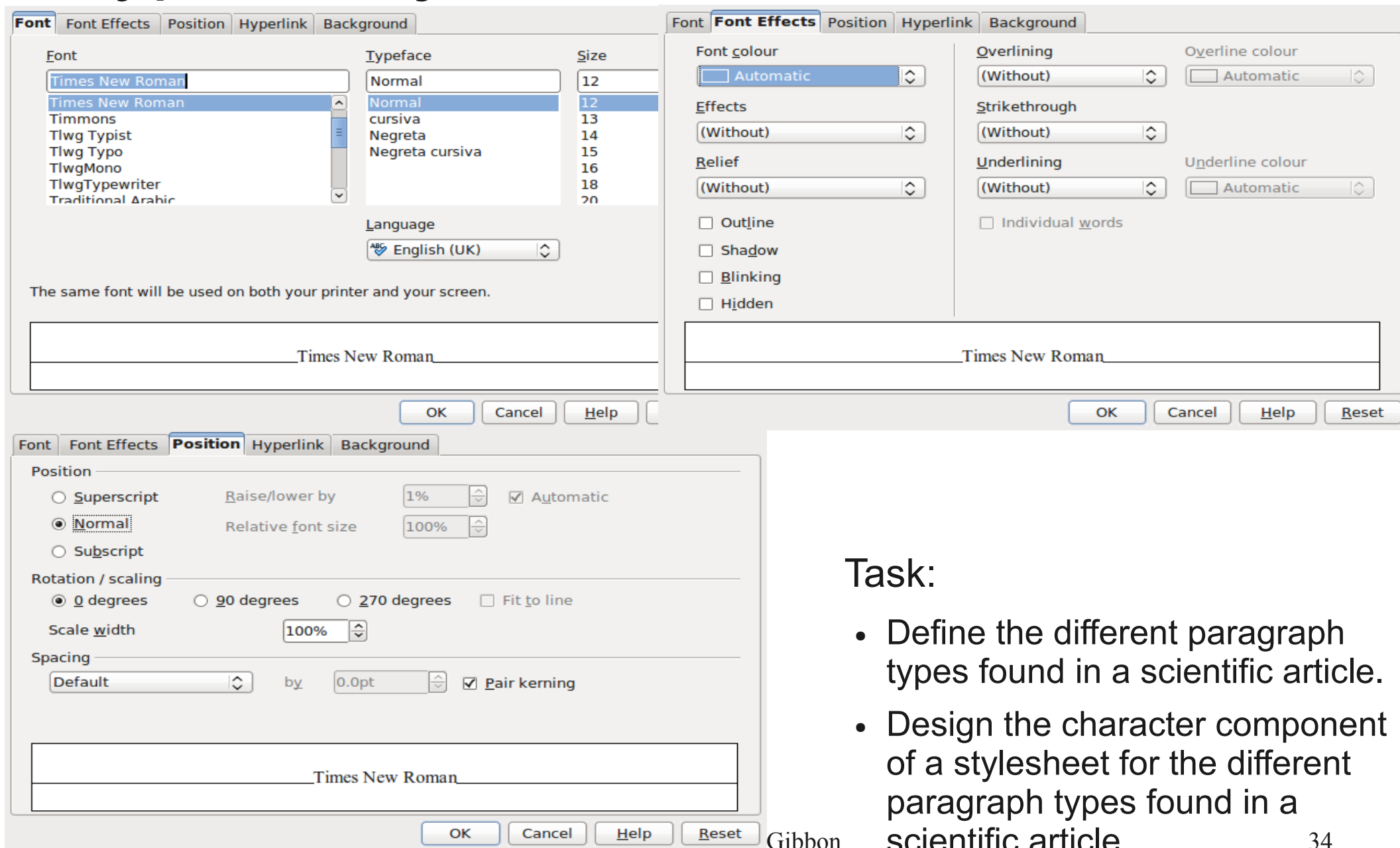
Conference stylesheet:

- [Conference Stylesheet](#)
- <http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2010/?Author-s-Kit-and-Templates>

Journal stylesheet:

- [Journal Stylesheet](#)
- http://ifa.amu.edu.pl/psicl/Guidelines_for_authors

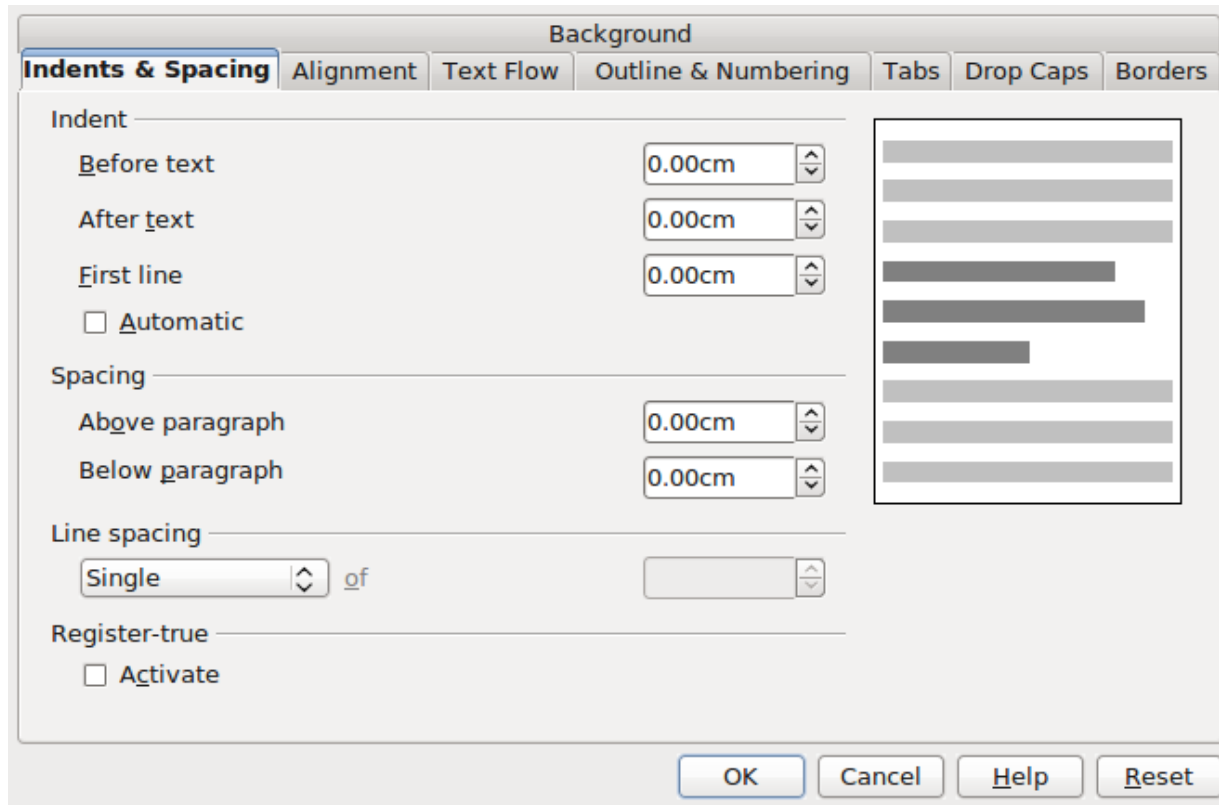
Typical objects & attribute-value sets



Task:

- Define the different paragraph types found in a scientific article.
- Design the character component of a stylesheet for the different paragraph types found in a scientific article.

Typical objects and properties



Task:

- Define the different paragraph types found in a scientific article.
- Design the character component of a stylesheet for the different paragraph types found in a scientific article.

Text grammar: designing a stylesheet

	<i>Property 1</i>	<i>Property 2</i>	<i>Property 3</i>
Paragraph type 1:			
Paragraph type 2:			
Paragraph type 3:			
...			

Task:

- Make a table as above, and enter your attribute values into the cells.

Now write your abstract
discussing details
in cooperation with
your neighbour.

Next steps...

- Pick a scientific topic – real or imaginary
- Planning criteria:
 - Specifications: who, what is the abstract for?
 - Design: Content, Structure, Rendering
 - Implementation: OpenOffice
 - Dissemination: report.
- Follow-up:
 - send me your abstract for checking
 - OpenOffice only