

Layers of Meaning for Textual Analysis

Metafunctions (M.A.K. Halliday; Frank Serafini)*	What it involves	Questions it poses	FLLITE Categories of Literary Play + Example Forms that can foreground meaning within a Metafunction (play types can also work on multiple levels)
Textual / Compositional	The channels and design choices through which communication is carried out and which together constitute a "text" (a unit and unity of thought/expression)	What kind of text is it? What design choices hold the text together?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Syntax play (sentential to textual levels: organization, cohesion, parallelism, oppositions, digression) ● Visual play (formatting, capitalization, punctuation, fonts, spacing, non-standard spelling) ● Sound play (rhyming, homophones, alliteration)
Interpersonal	The interactants, their relationships to one another and their purposes	How does the text make you feel? Do you feel addressed? By whom? What relationships are expressed in the text? Is there evaluative language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pragmatic play (register, politeness, forms of address) ● Perspective play (characterization, mood, evaluation, irony)
Ideational / Representational	The topics and actions which language and imagery are used to express	What experiences, ideas, or activities are expressed? Whose points of view, interests, or beliefs are expressed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grammar play (non-standard grammar, creative uses of grammatical metaphor) ● Word play (puns, polysemy) ● Symbolic play (metaphors, metonymy, figures of speech, allegory, visual symbolism) ● Narrative play (non-standard or subversive use of familiar storylines, textworlds, narrative tropes, counter-narratives) ● Culture Play (foregrounded schemes for cultural products/practices, code-switching and code-play)
	Subversion of the conventions and social purposes associated with particular genres/text types and/or sociolinguistic situations.	What genres/text types/ sociolinguistic situations are in play? How and why are these mediums being transposed/transmuted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Genre play (modern fairy tales, theatrical performances of tweets)

*Resources: Halliday, M.A.K. and Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. 2004. An Introduction to Functional Grammar. London: Arnold;
Serafini, F. (2014). Reading the Visual: An Introduction to Teaching Multimodal Literacy. New York/London: Teachers College Press.