**Multiple viewpoints in discourse**

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This paper considers how viewpoint is managed intersubjectively in discourse, from low-level constructions which include viewpoint (as in *one person’s X is another person’s Y*, Dancygier 2009), through broader constructional clusters representing characters’ speech or thought (such as free indirect speech, Vandelanotte 2009, 2012) all the way to mechanisms of viewpoint compression in novels (Dancygier 2012). Collectively our examples support the view that in language, everything is viewpointed (Sweetser 2012), but they add to this in suggesting ways in which multiple viewpoints are hierarchically ordered in a network, such that at any one point a given viewpoint is selected for ‘local’ purposes while global coherence is maintained.

This idea of a network helps to explain why one and the same low-level construction can come to perform rather different functions. Consider, for instance, how the first person pronoun in (1), an angry mother’s reply to a demand made by her son who is the I-narrator, designates an original *addressee*, or how the deictic adverb *now* in (2) signals resumption of the current narrative space rather than a ‘deictic’ present:

1. Demand, did I? – I, who had gone off and abandoned my widowed mother, who had skipped off to America and married without even informing her… (John Banville, *The Book of Evidence*)
2. Still they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive. (…) Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home. (James Joyce, *Dubliners*, “Eveline”)

This network approach affords a better understanding of why multiple viewpoints, often present in abundance, tend not to lead to fundamental confusion. It also proposes a model of discourse in which grammatical forms and discourse genre are largely governed by manipulation, maintenance, and shift of conceptual viewpoint.

**References**

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**Fifty-word summary**

Using examples across a broad range of texts, this paper proposes a model of discourse in which grammatical forms and discourse genre are largely governed by manipulation, maintenance, and shift of conceptual viewpoint, with locally ‘multiple’ viewpoints being hierarchically ordered to contribute to the overall coherence of the text.