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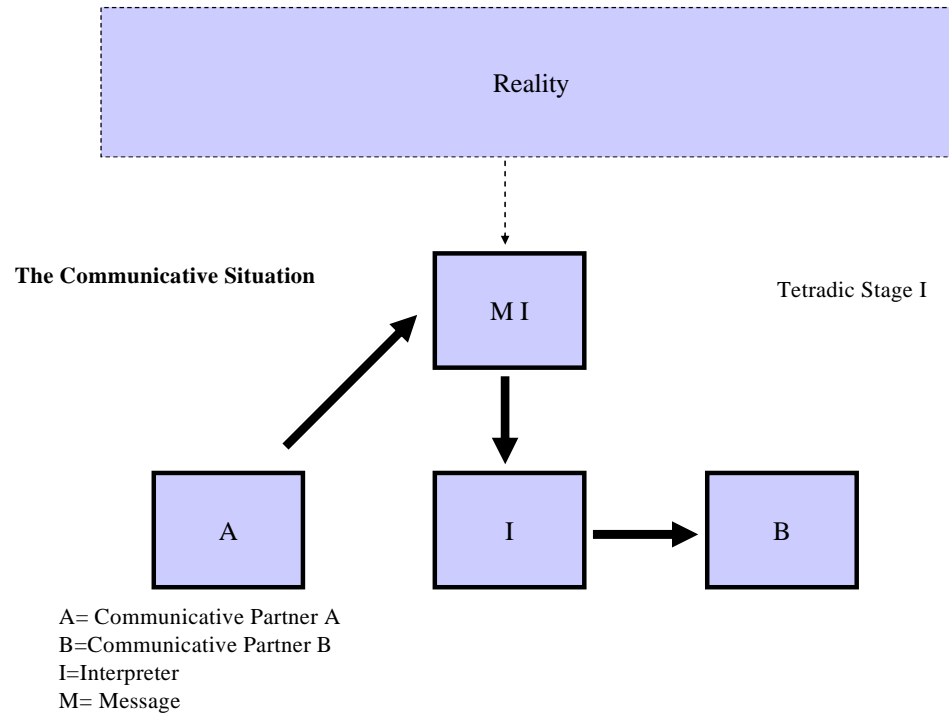
Discourse Interpreting

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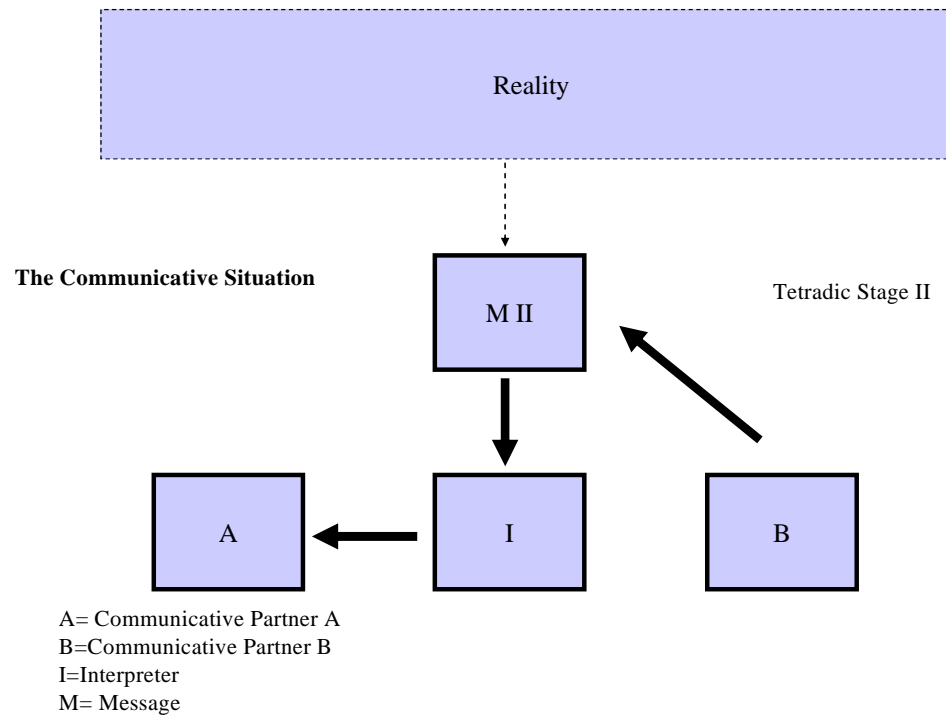
5. Dynamic Processes

5.1. Interpreted Message Flow (Tetradic Stage I)



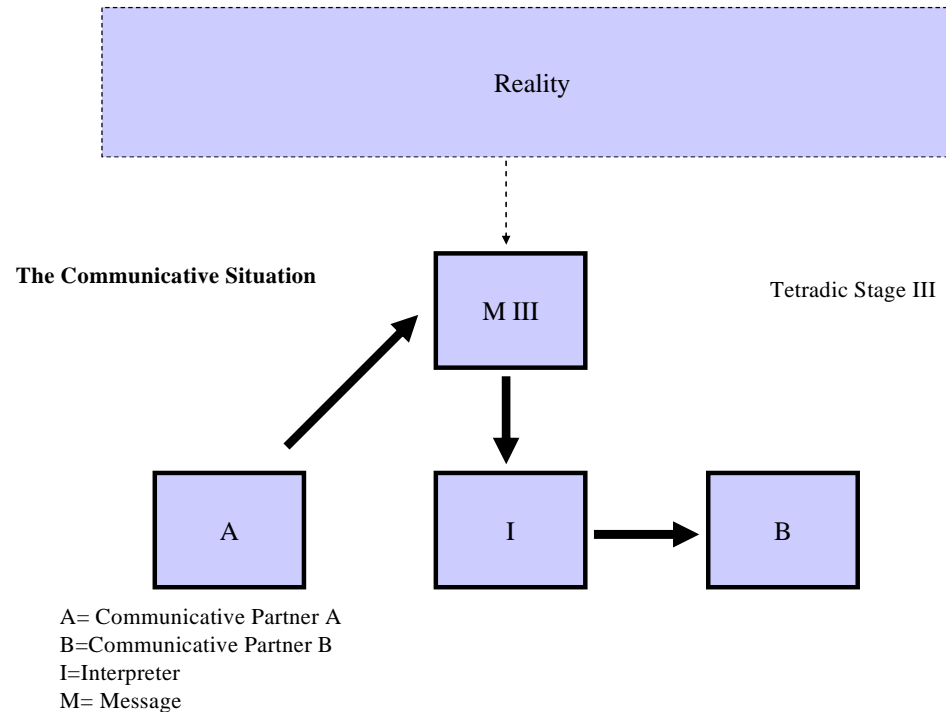
5. Dynamic Processes

5.1. Interpreted Message Flow (Tetradic Stage II)



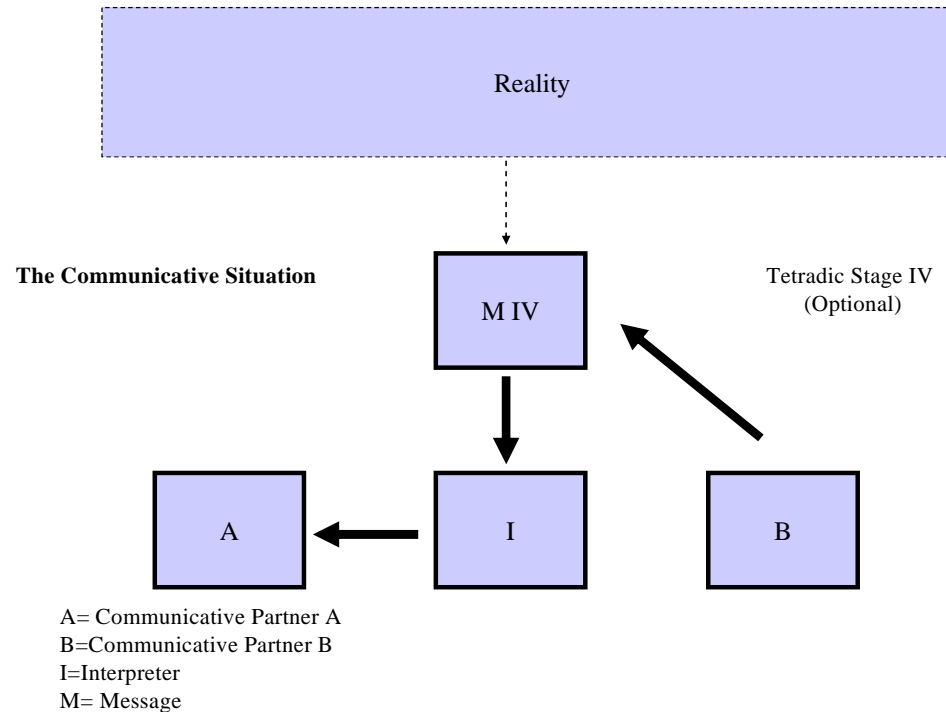
5. Dynamic Processes

5.1. Interpreted Message Flow (Tetradic Stage III)



5. Dynamic Processes

5.1. Interpreted Message Flow (Tetradic Stage IV: Optional)



5. Dynamic Processes

5.2. Message Modulation

5.2.1. From M to M': Message Modulation

- When passing through an interpreter-mediated exchange, a message's original meaning (M) is 'modulated' by the interpreter into a target message M' and culture on the basis of the interpreter's knowledge profile and in consideration of situational factors, particularly the purpose of the actual discourse.
- This potential modification of a message in the interpreting process is here called an interpreter's modulation of a message. It potentially modifies the source message by being checked with a number of interpreting factors which operate on the original message (M) to result in the interpreted message (M').

Definition of Modulation

Message Modulation in discourse interpreting is the process a message M undergoes from its original state (source message M) to its interpreted message (target message M') involving a number of interpreting factors applied by the discourse interpreter.

5. Dynamic Processes

5.2. Message Modulation

5.2.2. Modulated Messages (M')

As a result of Modulation, the interpreted message is – when compared to the original – classifiable as being either invariant ('close' or 'verbatim'), partially invariant ('restructured'), variant ('mediation', 'clarification') or not existing at all, i.e. zero.

- Invariant target message ('close', 'verbatim' renderings)
- Partially invariant target message ('restructured')
- Variant target message ('mediated')
- Zero target message (non-rendition)

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

- The Discourse Purpose
- The Meaning
- The Coherence
- The Knowledge
- The Interest

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

- The Discourse Purpose

The discourse purpose checks whether a message is compatible with the agreed-upon purpose of the actual discourse. It presupposes the cooperation of all discourse partners and their observing the Grice's maxims (1975).

In filtering the original message M at this stage, the interpreter is guided by answering the following question:

- Is the source message compatible with achieving the overall goal of the communication and the specific purpose of the discourse?

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

- ## The Meaning

The meaning applies Schultz-von-Thun's assumption that any message contains at least four dimensions: a factual, an appellative, a relationship and a self-indicative dimension, which are equally applicable to a hearer ('four ears') and a speaker ('four tongues').

Discourse interpreting involves both dimensions, the perception ('four ears') and (re)production ('four tongues') dimension. The meaning, therefore, can be said to operate on the original (source message) and on the (re)produced message (target message) in its four dimensions, i.e. factual, appellative, relationship and self-indicative dimension.

In making these decisions, the interpreter is guided by answering the following question

- Can the factual, appellative, relationship and self-indicative dimensions of a message be reproduced in a target message?

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

- The Coherence

The coherence puts an individual message exchange into perspective, i.e. links an individual message in its factual, appellative, relationship and self-indicative dimensions to previous and following tetradic exchanges. It thereby provides for the overall continuity of discourse. It influences the modulation of a message in the interpreting process in that it requires judgments relative to whether a message in its many dimensions is in the shared focus area ('in focus') and thus relevant in the light of the entire interpreted event.

The questions the interpreter needs to answer here are:

- Are the factual, appellative, relationship and self-indicative dimensions of the source message compatible with the overall focus (shared area of attention) of the discourse?
- Are there signs that indicate whether one of these dimensions is isolated to a particular message (and thus may be neglectable and result in zero rendition) or whether is it a continuously (coherently) developed dimension (i.e. linked to/coherent with previous and/or anticipated discourse exchanges) in the sense of an isotopic level which needs to be interpreted?

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

- The Knowledge

The knowledge proceeds from the concept of knowledge systems and their holistic description (Mudersbach 1991). Elements of relevant knowledge systems become manifest (are 'concretized') in the message exchanges as e.g. linguistic and cultural knowledge manifestations (for a detailed description of their constitution cf. Floros 2003) or domain knowledge systems (for a detailed description cf. Will 2008).

The questions the interpreter needs to ask are:

- Is the message compatible with the target language and cultural system and norms and conventions?
- Does B have sufficient (cultural, domain-specific, norm-related, communicative) knowledge (from the perspective of the interpreter) to understand the message without clarifications or expanding explanations?

5. Dynamic Processes

5.3. Discourse Interpreting

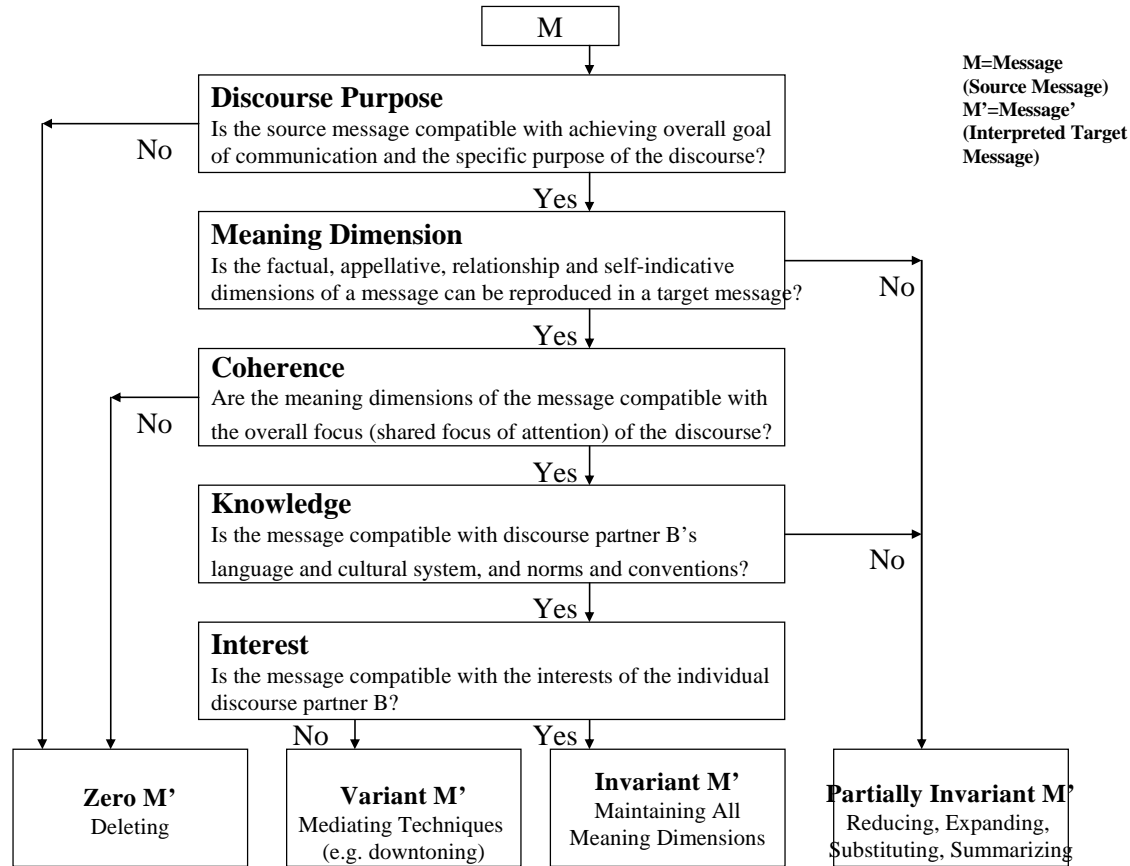
- The Interest

The interest factor is of paramount influence on the interpreter's actual modulation of the original message. It provides an answer to the following question:

- Is the source message compatible with the interests of the individual discourse partner A or B?

5. Dynamic Processes

5.4. Mapping the Interpreter's Action Latitude



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Thank you very much for your
attention and your comments are
highly appreciated!