Discourse Community of Mathematics by Abhirup Choudhury

Discourse Community:

The term 'discourse community' refers to the concept that collectively describes all form of communication (like reading, writing, and speaking) that follow a similar pattern. A community of discourse if comprised of people bound together by common belief and way of thinking. In the words of Miles Little, Christopher Jordens, and Emma Sayers:

Discourse communities are groups of people who share common ideologies, and common ways of speaking about things. They can be sharply or loosely defined. We are each members of multiple discourse communities. Discourse can colonize the members of discourse communities, taking over domains of thought by means of ideology (73).

Mathematics:

Discourse communities can be certain fields of study, and everyone who study in that field belong to that community of discourse. Mathematics is a discourse community, and I am a member of this community of discourse. Mathematicians are like a typical discourse community. They share a common belief based on logical thinking, and believe in hard facts, evidence, calculations, and accurate analysis of scenarios, ability to estimate solutions to any problem, etc. Being so closely associated with the subject I can get the sense of belonging to a discourse community. The most important reason I love Mathematics is that everything in this field of study is organised under patters that I can analyze using logical thought process. Such a belief make me part of the discourse community of Mathematics. Being part of such a community I am freely able to communicate my thoughts and engage with other member (in my case, other students and professors).
Common belief and ideology is also what triggers communication which is a crucial characteristic of a discourse community. People get together and form a community based on similar thoughts that allow a free flow communication between its members.

Various people, people belonging to different discourse communities can choose to define a community of discourse in their way. People can belong to many discourse communities at the same time. For example, Mathematicians write Mathematics books, journals, articles, etc. In such a context, Mathematicians are also writers, thus belonging to the discourse community of writers at the same time.

**Convention in the Mathematics Discourse Community:**

Mathematicians are also writers. They too have too write to produce their work. Even though Mathematicians might think in a completely different way from that of fiction author, they too are competent writers as per the language is concerned, at least to the level of writing proficiency required in the field. A math writer deals with hard facts and concrete evidences, but at the end of the day he is still trying to write a book. Even a mathematician has to adhere to certain guidelines of the writing world. Nevertheless, logical thinking is the only friend a mathematician will truly have in this field. True members of the math community share a very common trait - they believe everything can be calculated or estimated or even an educated guestimation can be done on any scenario. Here in lies the beauty of the wonderful world of Mathematics. The human brain is the playground, I am the player the judge and grounds-keeper at the same time. To gain membership to such an intellectual community, one must be willing to use one's brain to the full potential, and the rest of the requirements of membership will fall into place on its own.
Conclusion: For my conclusion I would like to make clear that everyone is part of a discourse community some way or the other. Anyone can choose be part of any discourse community they want depending on their way of thinking. The membership requirements are not written in stone. We are mere communities tied together by strings of common belief and ideology.

Works Cited: