COGNITIVE METHODS: THE LEVEL ANALYSIS OF DISCOURSE MARKERS

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Annotation

Discourse markers frequently develop over time and have their origins in earlier linguistic forms. Many markers begin as complete lexical items, such as conjunctions, adverbs, or verbs, and then pick up extra pragmatic functions. They gradually become increasingly semantically "bleached" and serve as discourse markers, losing some of their initial meaning.

Key words

pragmatic, functions, discourse, marker, linguistic, component, cooperative, principle, sociolinguist, multimodal, relevance, coherence, utterance.

Introduction: The linguistic history of "discourse markers" is strongly linked to pragmatics, conversation analysis, and the ways in which language is used for goals other than the simple transfer of information. Discourse markers have always existed in natural language, but they weren't officially acknowledged and investigated as distinct linguistic phenomena until the second part of the 20th century.

Despite being employed in languages for centuries, discourse markers were not officially acknowledged as separate linguistic components. Early grammarians paid little attention to conversational dynamics or how speakers control speech, instead concentrating on syntax and semantics (sentence form and meaning). The Pragmatics Foundational Work:with the growth of pragmatics—the area of linguistics that examines language in use, emphasising meaning in context and how speakers communicate beyond literal word meanings—the study of discourse markers gained significance.

John Austin (1962): Austin developed the concept of "speech acts" in his book "How to Do Things with Words," highlighting the ways in which utterances fulfil

purposes (such as making requests, offering an apology, or asserting) that go beyond their syntactic and semantic structure. Austin's theories cleared the path for a more thorough comprehension of language use in interaction, even though they were not specifically related to discourse markers. H.P. Grice (1975): Grice's essay "Logic and Conversation" emphasised the importance of cooperative principles and maxims in communication through his theory of "conversational implicature." Studying the little, frequently disregarded words (later referred to as discourse markers) that aid in managing these inferences became possible when he demonstrated that humans infer meanings beyond literal language.

Methodology: Spoken language, conversation, and interaction became more and more important in linguistic research during the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, linguists and sociologists started methodically examining the structure of conversations, leading to the development of "discourse analysis" and "conversation analysis."

Schiffrin (1987): Deborah Schiffrin, an American sociolinguist, revolutionised the field with her seminal research "Discourse Markers" (1987). In his analysis of discourse markers in conversation, Schiffrin argued that "well, so, and, but, because," and "oh" help regulate speech coherence. Schiffrin was among the first to consider discourse markers as a distinct category of words with organisational functions in communication. Because of Schiffrin's study, many linguists have studied the pragmatic and interactional roles of these markers in many languages.

Extension of Research. Since the 1990s, linguistics has conducted a great deal of study on discourse markers, which has influenced fields like pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. Research has increased in the following areas:

Cross-linguistic Studies: When researchers started examining discourse markers in a variety of languages, they found that while the specific markers differ, their roles in discourse management are universal. For example, the Japanese conversation markers "ne" and "ano" have the same function as the English ones "well" and "you know."

- Formal vs. Informal Contexts: Linguists investigated how the formality of the context affects speech signals. Discourse markers like hence and anyway are frequently used in formal writing, whereas like, you know, and well are frequently used in informal spoken circumstances.
-Multimodal Interaction As technology has developed, researchers have also examined how discourse markers are used in digital and multimodal communication (e.g., video calls, text messages, etc.). They nevertheless have a

significant impact on the formation of discussions, even in virtual encounters. The function of discourse markers has been attempted to be explained by a number of theories:

Relevance Theory (Sperber and Wilson, 1986): According to this theory, discourse markers control relevance in conversation, which aids the listener in understanding what is being said. For instance, good lets the listener know when the speaker is hesitant or about to make a change, which helps them modify their expectations. -

Research: Discourse Coherence Theory: Coherence, or the logical or thematic connections between various elements of a text or conversation, is frequently examined in connection with discourse markers. Thus, markers like denote causal relationships, whereas but denotes contrasts.

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Analyse: Discourse Indicators: Conversation markers are now widely recognised as crucial tools for managing conversations. They are fundamental to conversation, text organisation, and even rhetorical or persuasive approaches. Research on discourse markers is continually evolving, with a focus on: New Trends in Digital Communication Markers: There is constant interest in how discourse markers change in digital contexts, such as social media and instant messaging (e.g., lol, btw, or anyway). -Cognitive Approaches: In order to improve fluency and comprehension in the learning of both first and second languages, researchers are also investigating the cognitive processing of discourse markers.

Conclusion: Discourse markers are words or phrases that help organise spoken or written language. They assist the reader or listener in following the discourse by regulating the flow of the conversation, highlighting linkages between ideas, or demonstrating transitions. When it comes to maintaining coherence, clarifying the communication structure, and helping the speaker signal shifts in topic, attitude, or focus, these indicators can be particularly useful.

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