

## ILDIKÓ VASKÓ

Péter B. Furkó: *Discourse Markers and Beyond – Descriptive and Critical Perspectives on Discourse-Pragmatic Devices Across Genres and Languages*, Cham, Switzerland, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, 285 pp.

The volume under review aims to provide a new perspective on the intricate research field of discourse markers, linguistic items that reveal pragmatic issues in discourse. The monograph manages to bridge qualitative and quantitative approaches. The author argues that the integration of automatized annotation methods and critical discourse analysis offers a more profound understanding of these discourse-pragmatic devices. The author draws attention to the importance of contextualization clues and the interplay between propositional and non-propositional lexical items. One of the major merits of the work is that it accounts for identifying discourse markers in a variety of genres (from parliamentary speeches to classroom discourse) and examples (from the Bible to *The Hobbit*). The volume includes nine chapters, and is divided into two parts.

Chapter one explores the term discourse markers, the functional class of linguistic items which mark the speaker's attitudes to the proposition expressed. Furkó discusses criterial features such as multifunctionality, non-propositionality, and raises further theoretical as well as empirical implications. After such preliminary considerations, the outline of the volume is presented.

Chapter two demonstrates that the analysis of discourse markers, with special reference to their co-occurrence with indirect and direct reports, can serve as a heuristic tool for revealing differences across a variety of genres and text types. A secondary aim is to demonstrate the benefits of the cross-fertilization between discourse marker research and research on direct and indirect reports. Only few papers have explored the interaction between the two types of meta-communicative devices and no previous study evaluated the possible benefits of considering the results of both manual and automated annotation with a view to finding cross-genre differences in this respect.

Chapter three argues that research on discourse markers has been characterised by descriptive approaches: even case studies that take their data from political discourse tend to focus on linguistic patterns of co-occurrence and sequentiality rather than social-institutional norms or broader societal concerns. Therefore, the novelty of the study presented in this chapter is in linking discourse marker research, a primarily discourse analytical, language-oriented field, to the broader area of Discourse Studies with a focus on manipulative social practices and their manifestations in discursive strategies. The author convincingly argues that we can gain new insights into distributional patterns that were previously unnoticed.

Discourse marker research has the potential to reinforce observations made on the basis of other lexical and morpho-syntactic choices, or reveal new discursive strategies of control and dominance through quantitative analyses of functional distributions.

Chapter four takes a closer look at manipulative discursive strategies through the empirical study of the manipulative potential of propositional and non-propositional lexical items in general, and populist discursive strategies in particular. The main purpose is to identify populist discursive strategies used by government and opposition parties in the course of parliamentary debates and to validate the findings of Furkó (2019), whose research focused on parliamentary speeches for and against immigration, and the immigration quota referendum of 2016. The hot research topic of populism has been discussed from a variety of critical points, but it is seldom examined with a mixed methodology of quantitative and qualitative approaches and never before with a methodology that combined the toolboxes of corpus linguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis and discourse marker research.

Chapter five focuses on cross-linguistic issues and approaches the current research of discourse markers/foreign language learning interface from the perspective of ESL learners' input. The data for analysis is taken from widely-used Business English textbooks. After the discussion of the major issues related to the concept of communicative competence and the role of discourse markers in shaping ESL speakers' communicative competence, some remarks are made about the possible sources of the difficulties that may hinder the acquisition and learning of discourse markers. In addition, results of a case study are also presented, which aims to map the functional spectrum of discourse markers in selected Business English textbooks.

Chapter six aims to explore some of the theoretical and practical questions pertaining to the translation of discourse markers in general, and reformulation markers in particular. In the first part of the chapter, categorial features of discourse markers are revisited as sources of difficulty for translation. Further on, as part of the discourse marker/translation studies interface, some of the genre-specific features pertaining to the translation of scripted discourse and subtitles are considered. It is followed by the analysis of the translation of the English reformulation markers *I mean* and *actually* into Hungarian. The chapter concludes that the findings are in line with the universal translation strategy of explication, but a wider repertoire of translation strategies is needed in order to achieve dynamic equivalence in the target text.

Chapter seven has two major intentions: first, it examines cinematographic representations of Irish English pragmalinguistic features with special reference to the use of Irish English discourse markers in scripted (stylized) dialogues; while the second aim is to contrast the stereotypes that can be observed in cinematographic representations with the actual pragmalinguistic features of Irish English based on recent findings of variational pragmatics.

Chapter eight explores the field of literary pragmatics, taking a fresh look at Tolkien's style through a discourse-pragmatic analysis of some of the authentication

strategies in *The Hobbit*, and reconsiders Tolkien's linguistic beliefs about language and communication (either explicitly stated or implicit in his authorial strategies) from a pragmatic perspective. Furkó argues that the inappropriate translation of source text discourse markers can result in the loss of stylizing effects in scripted discourse and literary discourse, authenticating effects in literary discourse.

Chapter nine takes a discourse-pragmatic approach to the use of *καί*, *δέ*, *γάρ*, and *ἀλλά* in the Textus Receptus of the New Testament, as well as to their translation equivalents (or to the motivation behind the lack of a translation equivalent), in a variety of Bible translations. The chapter concludes that discourse markers make an important contribution to the interpretation of various discourse segments in New Testament narratives as well as expository texts, and that a primarily discourse-pragmatic, corpus driven perspective on the functional spectrum of individual discourse markers is a more fruitful approach than either semantic-taxonomic or systemic-functional methods, traditionally adopted in the pertinent New Testament literature.

The research presented in this volume illustrates that the methodology used in the narrower field of discourse marker research and the broader fields of (variational) pragmatics and (critical) discourse analysis can make a fruitful contribution to genre studies, SLA, literary analysis, contemporary cinematography, Tolkien scholarship and Bible studies.

The author is offering an original contribution in a variety of ways. First, his integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches to discourse markers, as well as to descriptive and critical perspectives, is a much-needed bridge in Discourse Studies, where the traditional either/or approach (e.g. either a critical qualitative approach or descriptive quantitative approach) can often be observed. Particularly as automatized annotation develops, such studies allow us to cross-check findings with manual annotation while increasing confidence in our understanding of those findings. This allows for a cross-fertilization of inductive and deductive questioning and refinement of questions.

Second, the volume offers another bridge between our understandings of discourse markers and other discourse-pragmatic devices they co-occur with, such as contextualization clues, modal particles, quotation devices, etc. This flows directly into wrestling with the work exchange between non-propositional items and propositional ones within related semantic fields. The breadth of the analysis is quite impressive as the arguments are thrashed out in such diverse content areas and media (e.g. natural conversations, scripted conversations, textbooks, political discourse, popular literature and film, as well as the Bible). This breadth allows for researchers to take a step back to consider generalizations and patterns at work across genres and languages.

The book has the potential to become a standard reference in research on discourse markers with special reference to their relevance to Critical Discourse Analysis. The volume is thorough in its analytical grasp and is broad in its thematic scope.