The Use of Discourse Markers: in Iraqi Arabic:
A Pragmatic Perspective

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Abstract

Discourse markers are words or phrases that play a part in dealing with the sequence and structure of discourse.This study investigates the employment of discourse markersin Iraqi Arabic.

This study tackles the two discourse markers (dhile'e, kabadi) in social media.

It presents different use of these two particle depending on the contexts in which they are used.

It is hypothesized that discourse markers have different expressions which varied according to the context and there are many discourse markers that are used recently by young people.

The current study aims at: showing the concept of discourse markers, shedding light upon using discourse markers in Iraqi Arabic and showing the functions and properties of discourse markers.

Finally, results, discussion and conclusions are presented.

1. Introduction

This paper investigates the use of discourse markers (dhile'e, kabadi)in Iraqi Arabic. Discourse markers are words or phrases that play a part in dealing with discourse sequence and structure. Their key task is lies on (sequences

of utterances level) of discourse instead of the utterances or sentences level, discourse markers are comparatively syntactically independent and regularly do not alter the sentence truth conditional meaning.

This study tackles the two discourse markers (dhile'e, kabadi) in social media.

It presents different use of these two particle depending on the contexts in which they are used.

The current study aims at: showing the concept of discourse markers, shedding light on using discourse markers in Iraqi Arabic and showing the functions and properties of discourse markers.

The present study is limited to studying the discourse markers (dhile'e, kabadi) in Iraqi Arabic.

The study is expected to be of value to every student who studies English as a foreign language. It is of a crucial value for those who are interested in pragmatics and discourse analysis.

It is concluded that, discourse markers have different expressions which varied according to context and that clarify the relationship between discourse markers and pragmatics, (dhile'e, kabaddi) are two parts of human body and they are used linguistically to express solidarity between participants and to enrich the interaction and (dhile'e) is used 62.5% of the selected data, whereas (kabadi) is used 37.5% of the selected data.

2. Discourse Markers

Discourse markers 'discourse connectives' and 'discourse particles' are expressions that operate as indicators at the discourselevel. Discourse markers include adverbials (*frankly*, *reportedly and unfortunately*) interjections (*yuk* and *oh)* and expletives (*damn* and *good grief*) (Blakemore ,2002: 2)

Discourse markers are words or phrases that play a part in dealing with the discoursal sequence and structure. Their key task lies at the (sequences of utterances) level rather than at the level of utterances or sentences, discourse markers are comparatively syntactically independent and more often do not alter the sentence truth conditional meaning.(Carol and Moder,2004).

Brinton (1996: 6) describes discourse markers as lexical items with some properties: " are optional, difficult to translate, marginal in respect to word class, syntactically quite free, empty of lexical meanings and they do not have propositional meanings or grammatical functions".
Based on Brinton's thought, discourse markers are distinguished by:
 Orally discoursed using, initial position of the clause which is predominantly (not exclusively), in addition to occurring at high frequency and using them optionally.

As a matter of fact, there is a common consensus which claims that discourse markers affect utterances through pragmatic meaning. Therefore, they perform a key task in the pragmatic competence of related to speaker. Crystal (2008:118) shows in daily language, "I think that a pragmatic expression like "you know" is the oil that assists us to performing the arbitrary speech production in addition to interacting in a smooth and efficient way.

There is a great importance of discourse markers in pragmatics. The words (so, however and well) have a great role in achieving a relationship between linguistic meaning and context. In other words, they perform a part in the way discourse is understoodBlakemore (ibid).

Lenk (1997:2) calls them **pragmatic markers**, he shows that they often concentrate highly on the aspects of interaction amongst the partakers are noticed through using particles. "signaling the kinds of relationships where the speaker notices amongst various parts of discourse is the most noticeable function of discourse markers.

2.1 Properties of discourse markers
Blakemore mentions some features of discourse markers as follows:
1.*No single word class*, within a traditional word class, there is a tough use in assigning discourse markers.
2.*Phonological features*, they "include a wide range of prosodic contours, like stress tone tailed by a pause, and phonological reduction"
Erman (1992:219) cited in Muller(2005:5) says that the marker "*you know"* attempts to formulate a distinct tone unit".

3.*Syntactic position*
Markers are often supposed to be at the starting point of a unit of discourse. Nonetheless, there is less agreement than unit of discourse is. Brinton indicates that "[i]t often noticed that markers of pragmatic ones are constrained to first position of a sentence, or may permanently be at the sentence initial position" (ibid)

4. *Grammatical optionality and Syntactic independence*
Various formulations describe independence syntactically. Fraser (1988:22) points out that the deficiency in discoursal marker isn't cause to make a sentence to be ungrammatically noticed and/or unintelligibly so. Soin case the marker takes part in a sentence, it isn't linked to the construction of the sentence,but then still 'out the syntacticalconstruction"
Another formulation produced by Fraser, is the marker grammatical optionality, scheduled by Brinton, Jucker and Ziv as distinct features. It is essential to highlight a fact which is optionality merely concerns well-formed structures of the related sentence, but doesnot do so to the pragmatic effect. Optionality is a widely conventional feature of English discourse markers. It is merely distinguished amongst other structures, for instance, amongst discoursal markers besides non-discoursal marker homonyms belonged to these markers. (i.e. adverbial *well*, *you know* in questions).
5.*Lack of semantic content*

Jucker & Ziv (1998: p4) see that the deficiencies of semantic content as diagnostic features of discoursal markers, in addition to syntactical and phonological characteristics. "Deficiency" in this sense does not meanindicating a full nonexistence of meaning. Frequently, we notice items like markers including "no meaning [or] a ambiguous meaning" (Muller,2005:6)

Orality

Jucker and Ziv (1998b) have rejected the difference between the oral and the written medium as a defining criterion. Since several studies related to discourse marker are dependent on speech data up to this date, and too much formations intended to be DMs takingplace basically in speech".

6. *Multifunctionality*

Being monofunctional or polyfunctional, a particular linguistic item, a criterion is not of use in having decisions whether a discoursal marker or not since the clear circularity it requires for analyzing. Several studies essentially set explicitly out arguing in favor of the mono-functionality or poly-functionality of particular markers therefore, invalidating this as an active standard. |(Muller,2005:8)

2.2 Functions of discourse markers

Discourse markers have many functions as follows:

1. Many researchers are in the same line using discoursal markers attempts to simplify the task of understanding for the speaker and his utterances.

2. "Discourse markers offer coordinates which are contextual for utterances: they guide an expression to the local contexts where they are made and interpreted. (Muller, 2005:8)

3. Based on to Lenk's ideas, discourse markers are employed once "the speaker has impressions of need to express verbally of how it 'fits together well'". Expressions like "*by the way* "could show the host utterance isn't proposed to cohere, or is at best proposed to cohere in a rather loose fashion with what preceded it" (1998:p197).

4. As Schiffrin (1987:p318) (cited in Muller,2005:8) proposes, the process of interpreting related to the hearer is indexed by using markers since markers choose a semantic tie out of any latent senses are into hands through the talk content, and displaying such tie".

5. According to Blakemore, these markers (or connectives) the addressee is guided by limiting the certain potential renderings in this task. Thus, they "encode instructions for processing propositional representations" (1992:150.), which Blakemore also defines "encoding procedural meaning".

6. Discourse markers mark "propositional attitude or illocutionary force" in addition to "interpersonal relations". (Muller,2005:9)

These are too commonly constructions of the discoursal markers functions. Now, one can conclude a more comprehensive points of functions builts on Brinton (1990:47).

Based on this list, discoursal markers are employed.

– starting up discourse,
– marking a discoursal limit (shift/partial shift in topic),
– forewording a reply or a reaction,
– serving as a filler or tactic delaying ,
– assisting the addressee to hold the floor,
– affecting an interacting or sharing among addressees and addressers.
– cataphorically or anaphoricallybracketizing the discourse.
– marking info which are foregrounded or backgrounded.

3.Data Analysis

The method that is followed in this research is taking some Iraqi Arabic discourses from different conversations on social media to be the data of analysis by identifying these discourses that convey discourse markers of and analyze them according to what mentioned in the theoretical background.

In this study, some Iraqi Arabic texts on social media are collected to be data of analysis. Many videos are watched and eight texts are selected. They consist of some discourse markers. These texts are noticed aurally and visually by the researcher.

This section will present some Iraqi Arabic texts from social media and analyze them pragmatically by concentrating on the discourse markers (dhile'e, kabadi). These two discourse markers can express different expressions depending on the contexts in which they are used.

1. ballah shufunishgadqawi

Kulak adhalat dhile'e

Translation:

A: Please, notice my strength.

B: All your body is muscles, my dear.

Analysis:

The discourse marker (dhile'e) is used in this context by the speaker B to reflect an agreement with the speaker A it is like the expression (of course) in English. Since the speaker A is confident with his strength so he shows his muscles to his friend asking for his opinion concerning them as a response the speaker B support his idea.

2. wallah 7ayer shlown a7il mushkilti wea Ali.

La tsheel ham kabaddi rah asaedak

Translation:

A: I am at wit's end how to solve my conflict with Ali.
B: Don't worry, my dear, I will help you.

Analysis:

The discourse marker (kabadi) is used in this context by the speaker B to express an offer to the speaker A. Since the speaker A is complaining about his situation that he has a problem with someone and he is unaware how to persuade him to refresh their relation. So the speaker B offers him for help to find a solution for his state.

3. I7na naween nroo7 lil-mubarat
7ilo dhile'e any weakum.

Translation:

A: We are going to the match.
B: Nice, my dear, I am going with you.

Analysis:

The discourse marker (dhile'e) is used in this context by the speaker B to express a request. The speaker A shows that they are going to match so the speaker B makes use of the discourse marker (dhile'e) to shorten the distance and to express solidarity so he doesn't say (please can I go with you?) rather he says (I am going with you) and that reflects the function of the discourse marker here as it can be used to shorten the distance between participants.

4. shlonkum shabab

Hala kabaddi 7ayak

Translation:

A: How do you do, guys?
B: Hello my dear, you are welcome.

Analysis
In this text (kabadi) is used to express greeting. The speaker A greets his friends saying (How do you do, guys?). The expected answer for this sentence may be (nice, and you?), but instead of that the speaker uses another expression mentioning the discourse marker (kabadi) to express his eager feeling to meet his friend.

5. shael ham madyoon milionen labu- Ahmed.
Sudug chidhib dhile'e any hader asaedak w latihtam.

Translation:

A: I am at wit's end, since I indebted 2 million dinars for Abo-Ahmed.
B: Really, my dear I am ready to help you, so don't be worry.

Analysis:
The discourse marker (dhile'e) is employed here to indicate an offer to the speaker A. Since speaker A complains about his situation that he is too worry for his indebtedness to someone, as a response the speaker be shows

his interest with him by using the word (dhile'e) in order to offer him a help and to make him feel the solidarity between them.

6. Any A'azemkum elyom, bia mata'am titghadoon?
Walah witeash mamnoneen kabadi

Translation:

A: I invite you for lunch, so what restaurant do you prefer?
B: That's very kind of you, we are indebted for you, dear.

Analysis

In this text (kabadi) is used to express thanking. The speaker invites his friends for a lunch. Then they express their thanking to him.

7. shabab areedkum tsa'aduni indy shugul bil-bait.
Lak dhile' mu tidalal

Translation:

A: Guys, I need your help in some domestic duties.

B: Oh dear, you are welcome.

Analysis:

The discourse marker (dhile') is used here to express an agreement.

The speaker A asks his friends for a help in domestic duties and one of them answers him by using the discourse marker (dhile') to express his agreement and happiness in helping him.

8. shloni b-hada el-qat, zain?

Wallah tkhabul dhile'e

Translation:

A: Tell me your opinion in this suit. Is it suitable for me?

B: Of course, you look very attractive, my dear.

Analysis:

The discourse marker (dhile'e) is used to express a compliment. The speaker A asks whether his suit is suitable or not and the speaker B answers him by using (dhile'e) saying that you are so attractive.

3.4 Results and Discussion

This study has provided many results concerning the use of the two discourse markers (dhile'e,kabadi).

These two discourse markers are used by young men more than others. These two particles have different expressions according to the contexts in which they are used.

Through the research in finding data, the researcher notices that (dhile'e) is used nowadays more than (kabadi).

(dhile'e) is used 62.5% of the selected data, whereas (kabadi) is used 37.5% of the selected data.
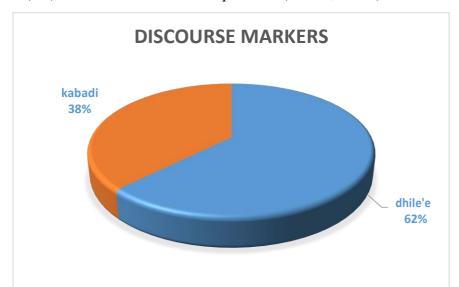
Chart (3.1) Discourse markers in Iraqi Arabic (dhile'e,kabadi)

DISCOURSE MARKERS

kabadi 38%

dhile'e 62%

Conclusions

The study has reached the following conclusions:

1.Discourse markers are a words or phrases that play a part in maintaining the discoursesequence and discoursestructure. Their key task is at the level (sequences of utterances discourses) instead of at the level of utterances or sentences.

2.Discourse markers have different expressions which varied according to context and that clarify the relationship between discourse markers and pragmatics.

3. (dhile'e, kabadi) are two parts of human body and they are used linguistically to express solidarity between participants and to enrich the interaction.

4. (dhile'e) is used 62.5% of the selected data, whereas (kabadi) is used 37.5% of the selected data.

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