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Contrastive perspectives
on Discourse Markers

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Articles

- 9-30 **Bazzanella, Carla** (Università di Torino); **Bosco, Cristina** (Università di Torino); **Garcea, Alessandro** (University of Toulouse 2); **Gili Fivela, Barbara** (Università del Salento-Lecce); **Miecznikowski, Johanna** (Università di Torino); **Tini Brunozzi, Francesca** (Loquendo, S.p.A)
Italian *allora*, French *allors*: Functions, convergences and divergences.
Catalan Journal of Linguistics, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 9-30.

The functions, convergences, and divergences of Italian *allora* and French *alors* are analyzed in two Italian texts (the *Novellino*, in Old Italian, and *Paso Doble*, in Modern Italian) and their French translations. The discourse marker is used differently in the two languages, and the contrastive analysis allows us to better assess those differences, by explicitly quantifying the degree of correspondence, omissions, and non-literal translations. Furthermore, our work confirms the existence of functions which may be identified as more central or more peripheral within a certain configuration, and emphasizes the existence of cross-language preferences for a more/less rich set of forms for expressing a particular function. The polyfunctionality and context-boundness which characterize discourse markers in general are held responsible for differences in translation, thus motivating the several shades of meaning which distinguish Italian *allora* (with regard both to Old and Modern Italian) from French *alors*.

Key words: discourse markers, translation, polyfunctionality, context, *allora*, *alors*, Italian, French.

- 31-59 **Aijmer, Karin** (Göteborg University)
The meaning and functions of the Swedish discourse marker *alltså*—Evidence from translation corpora. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 31-59.

The topic of this paper is to study to what extent a contrastive analysis can contribute to the analysis of discourse markers. Another issue which is explored is whether the contrastive analysis can be enriched by considering the gram-

maticalization and pragmaticalization of discourse markers. I have chosen to study the Swedish discourse marker *alltså* and its German cognate *also* with inferential meaning. It is shown that *alltså* (and German *also*) develops either into a question marker or a reformulation marker. By distinguishing two types of reformulation markers we can explain that the consecutive adverb develops meanings such as *that is* or *in other words*. It is also shown that there are differences between Swedish and German which can be explained by grammaticalization.

Key words: discourse markers, translation, parallel corpus, grammaticalization, pragmaticalization, *alltså*, *also*, Swedish, German, English.

61-80 **Waltereit, Richard** (Newcastle University); **Detges, Ulrich** (University of Munich)

Different functions, different histories. Modal particles and discourse markers from a diachronic point of view. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 61-80.

One of the main concerns of recent research in discourse markers, modal particles and related elements has been the problem of a neat categorical delimitation between the major classes involved. Comparing the Spanish discourse particle *bien* and its French cognate modal particle *bien*, we show that the functional difference between discourse markers and modal particles can be accounted for in diachronic terms. In other words, discourse markers and modal particles arise in different diachronic pathways, and ultimately from different pragmatic strategies. Strategies which eventually yield discourse markers are related to the joint coordination of human interaction. In contrast, strategies which give rise to modal particles make reference to the status of a given proposition for the ensuing discourse. Our results suggest that there are levels of generalization on semantic change below the overarching tendencies of subjectification (Traugott and Dasher 2002). More importantly, we provide specific motivations for these levels of generalization, and ultimately for subjectification itself.

Key words: discourse markers, modal particles, grammaticalization, subjectification, *bien*, Spanish, French.

81-94 **Romero-Trillo, Jesús** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Adaptive Management in Discourse: The case of involvement discourse markers in English and Spanish conversations. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 81-94.

This article describes the process of adaptive management in discourse as the main tool used by speakers to reformulate ideas in speech, mainly *via* discourse markers. Discourse markers, therefore, present themselves as elements that by their operative or involvement specificity serve to reshape the cognitive stance of the speaker-listener in a given context. This capacity is especially important to be understood and fostered in the case of non-native learners of a language, as they need to master the pragmatic aspects of a new language and not only its syntactic and semantic components. The article will delve into the comparison

of involvement markers in English and Spanish to determine the functional differences in both languages. The results show the pragmatic asymmetry in the use of discourse markers in English and Spanish, a fact that indicates the importance of invigorating this research for the benefit of contrastive and pedagogic studies.

Key words: discourse markers, contrastive pragmatics, involvement markers, adaptive management, English, Spanish.

- 95-115 **Fernández-Villanueva, Marta** (Universitat de Barcelona)
Uses of *also* in oral semi-informal German. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 95-115.

In recent grammars and dictionaries *also* ('therefore, so, well') continues to be preferably presented as an adverb with a conclusive-consecutive connective function that essentially corresponds to its use in formal written German. Its function as a modal particle is documented, however, since the beginnings of what is known as *Partikelforschung*, though not all its uses have been systematically investigated contrasting oral and written German, either in mode or concept. In this article we analyse the uses of *also* in semi-informal oral interactions on the basis of empirical data (from a sub-sample of the VARCOM corpus). Specifically, we will analyse the presence and frequency of *also* at the beginning of a sentence or sequence, the functions it serves as a logical-semantic connector or discourse and interaction marker and the interrelations between these functions, in order to contrast these results with the description of *also* provided by current reference works.

Key words: discourse markers, modal particles, *also*, oral German.

- 117-136 **Matamala, Anna** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
The translation of *oh* in a corpus of dubbed sitcoms. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 117-136.

This article aims to study the functions of the interjection *oh* in a corpus of English sitcoms and their translation in the Catalan dubbed version. After defining the functions and patterns of this unit in the original English corpus and attempting a classification, the translation strategies used are analysed taking into account different factors such as frequency and specific constraints inherent to this type of audiovisual translation (i.e. lip synchronisation). This article will explore whether *oh* is translated by interjections, omitted or translated by non-interjective structures. Attention is also paid to combinations in which this unit appears.

Key-words: interjections, audiovisual translation, orality, *oh*, Catalan, English.

Discussion articles

139-157 **Traugott, Elizabeth Closs** (Stanford University)

Discussion article: Discourse markers, modal particles, and contrastive analysis, synchronic and diachronic. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 139-157.

I discuss three issues common to papers in the present issue of *CatJL* by Aijmer, Bazzanella et al., and Waltereit and Detges. One is modal uses of discourse markers and distinctions between discourse markers and modal particles. The second is evidence provided by the papers for diachronic changes that individual markers underwent; the distinction between grammaticalization and pragmaticalization is considered and challenged. Finally, I raise some issues regarding the methodology of data-selection in contrastive studies.

Key words: modality, grammaticalization, pragmaticalization, subjectification, zero-correspondence in translation, writing.

159-168 **Norrick, Neal R.** (Universität Saarland)

Discussion article: Pragmatic markers, interjections and discourse. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2007, vol. 6, pp. 159-168.

This article addresses a range of issues centering on pragmatic markers, interjections and the analysis of discourse in relation to three contributions in this volume of the journal. After an initial clarification of terminology in the area of pragmatic markers in general and discourse markers more specifically, I introduce an interactional sociolinguistic perspective on pragmatic markers by contrast with the Adaptive Management in Discourse approach of Romero. Then I take up the matter of written versus spoken data with relation to the articles by Fernández-Villanueva and Matamala. I go on to focus on interjections and their distribution, in particular the discourse marker functions of *oh* in English with relation to the article by Matamala. Finally, I broaden the discussion to a general consideration of interjections as pragmatic markers.

Key words: pragmatic markers, discourse markers, interjections, *oh*.

169-172 Resums