Full Title: Discourse marker combinations

Date: 09-Jun-2019 - 14-Jun-2019
Location: Hong Kong, China
Contact Person: Arne Lohmann, Christian Koops

Linguistic Field(s): Discourse Analysis; Pragmatics; Functional syntax

Call Deadline: 15-Oct-2018

Meeting Description:

Discourse marker combinations

Panel organized by Arne Lohmann (HHU Düsseldorf, Germany) and Christian Koops (University of New Mexico, USA)

Extended abstract:

This panel is concerned with the combinatory behavior of pragmatic markers, in particular discourse markers (DMs), as seen in sequences such as English *but actually* or *you know I mean*. Speakers' propensity to combine DMs provides a source of insight into classic questions in DM research, as well as questions that have more recently come into focus in pragmatics research (see Lohmann & Koops, 2016 for a recent overview).

DM combinations have long been used as a tool in circumscribing an individual marker's meaning or function. For instance, Murray (1979) discusses the combination *oh by the way* relative to the dispreferred *well by the way* to argue that *oh*, but not *well*, has a topic introducing function. Similarly, Aijmer (2002) argues that the frequent use of *sort of* in the sequence *sort of you know* demonstrates *sort of*'s interpersonal or affective meaning.

Another theoretically relevant aspect of DM combinations is their varying degree of fixedness. While some combinations can be considered loose, *ad hoc*-formations, others show evidence of developing into fixed expressions, e.g. English *oh well* (Schourup 2001) and French *bon ben* (Waltereit 2007). Both of these combinations have been discussed as possible instances of univerbation, reflected in a non-compositional function of the sequence as a whole. For *oh well*, Schourup (2001: 1031) finds that the sequence "has become conventionalized as a combined form to indicate resignation."

A third perspective on DM combinations asks why some markers tend to co-occur while others do not. For instance, it has been argued that speakers preferentially combine markers that are more general in meaning with more specific ones (Oates 2001; Fraser 2015), as seen in preferred combinations of English contrastive DMs such as *but conversely* (Fraser 2013). A different motivation has been observed by Maschler (1994). She finds that modern Hebrew DMs, when used in sequence, combine discursive moves at specific, distinct levels of discourse, e.g. when the referential marker *axshav* 'now' is combined with the interpersonal marker *tagídi li* 'tell me'.

Finally, a growing number of studies use DM sequencing as a window on the discourse-functional structure of the left clause periphery. Given that most DMs show strong ordering restrictions relative to each other, DM combinations can be seen as revealing a larger system of paradigmatic slots. Models of DM sequencing slots for French (Vicher & Sankoff 1989) and English (Koops & Lohmann 2015, Tagliamonte 2016) show that the ordering of DMs is surprisingly systematic and may indicate an "emergent syntax" of DMs (Vicher & Sankoff

1989). Moreover, Lohmann & Koops (2016) argue that the placement of a DM in alternative slots, e.g. *so* in *and so* versus *so and*, brings out the marker's capacity to function at different levels of discourse organization.

Overall, the exciting and growing work on DM combinations shows that the phenomenon holds great potential for informing a variety of theoretical questions in pragmatics. For the proposed panel we invite papers addressing any aspect within this wide range of questions, including both empirical (methodological) or theoretical contributions.

Submission details:

Abstracts of 20-minute presentations (+10 minutes Q&A) should be 250 - 500 words in length (not including references and data) and should be submitted via the conference website (https://pragmatics.international/general/custom.asp?page=CfP) and sent via email to Arne Lohmann (arne.lohmann@hhu.de) and Chris Koops (ckoops@unm.edu) by October 15, 2018.

References

Aijmer, Karin. 2002. *English discourse particles: evidence from a corpus*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Fraser, Bruce. 2013. Combinations of Contrastive Discourse Markers in English. *International Review of Pragmatics* 5, 318–340.

Fraser, Bruce. 2015. The combining of Discourse Markers: A beginning. *Journal of Pragmatics* 86, 48-53.

Koops, Christian & Lohmann, Arne. 2015. A quantitative approach to the grammaticalization of discourse markers: evidence from their sequencing behavior. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 20(2), 232-259.

Lohmann, Arne & Christian Koops. 2016. Aspects of Discourse Marker sequencing. In Keizer, Evelien; Kaltenböck, Gunther & Arne Lohmann (eds.) Outside the Clause: Form and Function of Extra-Clausal Constituents. [Studies in Language Companion Series]. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Maschler, Yael. 1994. Metalanguaging and Discourse Markers in Bilingual Conversation. *Language in Society* 23 (3), 325–366.

Oates, Sarah Louise. 2001. *Multiple discourse marker occurrence: creating hierarchies for Natural Language Generation*. MA Thesis, University of Brighton.

Schourup, Lawrence. 2001. Rethinking *well. Journal of Pragmatics* 33, 1025-1060.

Tagliamonte, Sali A. 2016. *Teen Talk: The Language of Adolescents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Vicher, Anne & Sankoff, David. 1989. The Emergent Syntax of Pre-Sentential Turn Openings. *Journal of Pragmatics* 13, 81–97.

Waltereit, Richard. 2007. À propos de la genèse diachronique des combinaisons de marqueurs. L'exemple de *bon ben* et *enfin bref. Langue Francaise* 154, 94–109.