



## DISCOURSE MARKERS USED BY NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS IN THE GOOD MORNING AMERICA TALK SHOW

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### ABSTRACT

Discourse markers have been studied extensively in linguistics and communication studies. Its use is very helpful in understanding the message conveyed, both in formal and informal situations. This study examines the discourse markers used by non-native speakers in Good Morning America Talk Show. Unveil the types and their functions, this study uses a qualitative descriptive method in identifying the use of discourse markers. The data were taken from conversations of non-native speakers using Biber et al (1999) theory to determine the types and functions of discourse markers. The results of this study showed that there are ten types of discourse markers interjection, greetings and farewells, linking adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitators, various polite speech-act formulas and expletives. Those markers have variations functions as marker of information management, marker of response, marker of connectives, marker of cause and effect, marker of temporal adverb and marker of information participation. This study has shown that the use of discourse markers varies across languages and cultures. Moreover, the use of discourse markers can also vary depending on the context of the communication.

**Keywords:** *Discourse markers; non-native speakers; talk shows*

### ABSTRAK

*Penanda wacana telah dipelajari secara luas dalam studi bidang linguistik dan komunikasi. Penggunaannya sangat membantu dalam memahami pesan yang disampaikan, baik disituasi formal ataupun informal. Penelitian ini mengacu pada penggunaan penanda wacana yang digunakan oleh non -penutur asli di acara gelar wicara Good Morning America. Untuk mengetahui tipe-tipe dan fungsinya, penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dalam mengidentifikasi penggunaan penanda wacana dalam konteks percakapan. Data penelitian diperoleh dari percakapan non-penutur asli dengan menggunakan teori Biber et al (1999) dalam menentukan setiap jenis dan fungsinya. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan terdapat sepuluh penanda wacana yaitu interjection, greetings and farewells, linking adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, respon forms, hesitators, various-polite speech act, dan expletives. Penanda-penanda tersebut memiliki fungsi yang bervariasi, diantaranya sebagai marker of information management, marker of response, marker of connectives, marker of cause and effect, marker of temporal adverb, dan marker of information-participation. Penelitian ini telah menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan penanda wacana bervariasi antar bahasa dan budaya. Selain itu, penggunaan penanda wacana juga dapat bervariasi tergantung pada konteks komunikasi.*

**kata kunci:** *Penanda wacana; non-penutur asli; gelar wicara*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In communication, analyzing utterances that beyond the lexicon either in form of words, phrases, or sentences often happens in a particular situation. Communication can define as culture in many different ways. It is defined by terms such as “imparting”, “sending”, “transmitting”, or providing information to other people (Carey, 2008). The defining characteristic of communication is meaning. However, obviously, communication depends on not only recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance, but it also recognizing what speakers mean by their utterances, which belongs to pragmatics (Yule, 2022). Language complexity affects the way a person communicates with others, therefore, it is necessary to know linguistic features, one of which is the use of discourse markers (Crible & Cuenca, 2017). (Levinson, 1983) mentioned discourse markers as the subject of study in his pragmatic book, which is worthy to study.

Many researchers have discussed about discourse markers. Several researchers have tried to define and describe the function of discourse markers. Some researchers focused on writing and some of them focused on speaking, in either types or their function, etc. For instance, (Rofiq & Priyono, 2021) found there are several types of discourse markers used in comedy such as *ah, and, like, well, yes/no, alright, then, oh, I know/knew*. (Sibagariang, Ginting, & Sibarani, 2019) focused on writing specifically about types of DMs in high school students, they are *reason, elaborative, inferential, exemplifier*, etc. (Diskin, 2017) found in his journal that the frequency of “like” among the non-native speakers reaches the levels of the native speakers after approximately three years of residence in Ireland. However, in spite of that, this study not only focus on types, but also focus on the function of discourse markers in the way speaking.

Since it is used in both writing and speaking, discourse markers determine the purpose of the utterance that we refer to, (Chrismore in Sun, 2013). The word or phrase that include in discourse markers is necessary to know in order to facilitate the speaker or writer in making an idea whether in formal or informal situation such as talks show. This study concerned with conversations where Jackie Chan and BTS become a guest star in *Good Morning America* talk show. As a popular Hong Kong martial artist, filmmaker, action choreographer, stuntman, and singer, Jackie Chan used to speak English. Meanwhile, BTS as known as Bangtan Boys is a South Korean boy group who have been attracted internationally with its various achievements through music, one of which is speaking at the United Nations. In 2018, BTS speech at the United Nations for the launch of ‘Generation Unlimited’ campaign in order to ensure every young person is in education, training or employment by 2030. As a popular Boy Group, BTS is the first Korean who has been guest in popular morning show *Good Morning America*.

Considering that English is not their first language, the use of discourse markers that they use is interesting to study how they communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, by using (Biber et al., 1999) theory along with (Schiffrin, 1987), this study based on

indicators that serve as references in determining types and its functions of discourse markers used by non-native speakers in *Good Morning America* talk show.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Discourse Analysis**

In Linguistics fields, discourse analysis focuses on understanding of language beyond word, clause, phrase, and sentence. Discourse analysis is a method of describing and comprehending how language is used by people (McCarthy in Nuri, 2015). It concerns about the relationship between language and its context where it is used. (Paltridge in Alshafi, 2020) argued that discourse analysis examines lingual units in paragraph structure, text organization, and conversational interaction patterns as well as how the speaker opens the conversation, closes the conversation and shares turns in the conversation.

### **Discourse Markers**

Discourse markers have been the subject of numerous studies in the field of linguistics. It is necessary to know because discourse markers are used to connect ideas, organize discourse, and indicate speaker's attitude (Fung & Carter, 2007). Previous studies have shown that discourse markers play an important role in communication, specifically in spoken language. Those studies had different focus as well. (Rini, 2019) found there are six types and ten functions of discourse markers in Donald Trump's Speech. Marker of information management oh (with 1 appearance), marker of response well (with 1 appearance), discourse connectives and (with 2 appearance), but with 4 appearance, marker of cause and results so with 1 appearance) because (with 2 appearance), marker with temporal adverb now (with 3 appearance) and then (with 3 appearance), marker of information and participation I mean (with 2 appearance).

In (Zuhal & ÖZER, 2018) found that Turkish teachers used 29 different discourse markers *alright, right, okidoki, I believe etc.* and native teachers used 37 different discourse markers *cos, really, in fact, to begin with, though, anyway etc.* in their classroom discourse. However, in complexity of language in spoken, this study explores how the non-native speakers; Jackie Chan and seven members of BTS use discourse markers.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Methodologically, regarding to a qualitative study, which requires in-depth analysis of how the data were collected. The data was acquired from the official YouTube channel of *Good Morning America Talk Show*, where the non-native speakers as guest star; Jackie Chan and the seven members of BTS. The researcher downloaded the transcript using website [www.downsub.com](http://www.downsub.com). The researcher analyzed the data using a content analysis technique based on types of discourse markers by (Biber, 1999) and their functions using (Schiffrin, 1987) theory. Further, the researcher also using additional studies as a guidance which is equivalent to this study. Finally, the researcher made a conclusion that has been demonstrated in finding and discussion.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This study found 44 types Discourse Markers that have different functions used by non-native speakers as presented down below:

Tabel I. Types of Discourse Markers

No.	Types	Words	
		Jackie Chan	BTS
1.	Interjection	a. Ahh! b. Wow!	a. Wow!
2.	Greetings and Farewells	a. Hey!	a. Okay, hi! b. Hi! c. Hi guys! d. Hi you guys! e. You know worldwide handsome? It's me. f. Good morning! g. Good morning America!
3.	Linking Adverbials	a. Then b. How do you say c. But d. So e. Because	a. But b. And c. So
4.	Stance Adverbials	a. finally b. actually c. you know	a. you know b. actually c. especially
5.	Vocatives	a. you	a. armies
6.	Response Elicitors	a. after the show, okay? b. Lifeguard, guard?	a. It's like one of us, or?
7.	Response form	a. Yeah b. Yes c. No	a. Yeah b. Of course
8.	Hesitators	a. Uhh b. the	a. Umm b. Uh
9.	Various polite speech-act formula	a. You have it! b. Bow(thanking)	a. We love you too, thank you!(bow)
10.	Expletives	a. Oh my God!	a. Oh my God!

## 1. Interjection

### Extract 1

Jackie: I go **Ahh** I pretend. I pretend my pain but it did hurt. I'm more hurt, then he just come "Oh Jackie". I said I'm okay, it's okay.

The researcher found it in extract 1 (ahh), extract 2 and extract 3 (wow). In extract 1, the speaker used **ahh** to show pain expression following with body movements. This proves that body movements can lead utterance well delivered because body movement brings information that completes speech. As (Kendon, 2013) stated that utterance could be seen in two aspects simultaneously by speech and visible bodily action. In extract 2 and 3, the interjection **wow** used to show surprised expression. The researcher concluded those markers have the function as **marker of information management** because it contains emotional statement as (Schiffrin, 1987) stated that if it is not followed by syntax, it can indicate an emotional state such as fear, surprise, or pain.

## 2. Greetings and farewells

### Extract 4

Amy: Hi!

Jackie: **Hey!**

Michael: Hi! hey man, how you doing Jackie, good day, Man.

Jackie: Hey! Thank you.

The second type of discourse markers is greetings and farewells. The researcher found some variations of greetings when they greet and introduce their selves to the audience. It appeared in extract 4 (hey), extract 5 (okay, hi! hi!), extract 6 (hi!), extract 7 (hi guys!), extract 8 (hi you guys!), extract 9 (you know worldwide handsome), extract 10 (good morning!), and extract 11 (good morning, America!). The non-native speaker has their own way to greet, as illustrated 'light hug' in extract 4 **hey** used by Jackie Chan as a warm welcome. (Forsell & Åström, 2012) stated 'light hug' as the first introductory greeting behavior, often combined with kisses on the checks and without a handshake. 'Light hug' is certainly not a culture of Asian people, but in this context, light hug is illustrated as an image of how we can adjust ourselves giving warm response as welcome to native speakers. Those markers functioned as an **expressive function** that covers politeness as (Jakobson in Holmes, 2013) stated expressive function is conveying the feeling or expression to the addresser; a speaker addresses a message.

## 3. Linking adverbials

### Extract 17

RM: Umm, actually you know I... I train for like thousand times, like I imagine it and I think I did it okay, **but** (chuckle) **but** yeah I was holding the paper you know there with comments one and I was like my hands were like... like shaking like thousands of times like for a second.

The third type is linking adverbials, which is shown in extract 12 (then), extract 13 (how do you say), extract 14 (but), extract 15 (so), extract 16 (because), extract 17 (but), extract 18 (and) and extract 19 (so). In extract 12 **then**, the researcher concluded as type of linking adverbials

because the speaker used it to arrange his speech stay connected, following with hand gestures accompanying his speech. (McNeill & Duncan, 2000) argued that gesture and speech help to constitute thought of speaker. This marker has the function as **marker of temporal adverb** because it involves the deictic element of time. This is reinforced by (Schiffrin's, 1987) argument that element of time associates a speech with the correlation of people, space, and time. Besides, in this type, the researcher found discourse marker that functioned as **marker of connectives** that showed in extract 17 *but* used by RM to connect his utterance. In addition, it also found marker that has the function as **marker of cause and effect** as shown in extract 15 *so* which used by Jackie to show the results of something as (Schiffrin, 1987) uttered that it can be marks unit of idea.

#### 4. Stance Adverbials

##### Extract 20

Jackie: *I look down am I hurt my leg or broke my head or something. I just keep thinking then suddelny my big brother, Sammo come in "let's do it!" **finally**, somebody push me to do it.*

The fourth type is stance adverbials. The researcher found this type in extract 20 (finally), extract 21 and 24 (actually), extract 22 and 23 (you know) and extract 25 (especially). The researcher concluded into type stance adverbials because it illustrated in extract 22 and 23 **you know** used by Jackie and RM to indicate that the listeners understand coherent information and can make sense of what is being communicated. It supported by (Erman, 2001) that this marker primarily uses to build up a text, and creates coherence. This marker has the function as **marker of information and participation** as (Schiffrin, 1987) stated that "you know" is used when they understand what speakers refer to.

#### 5. Vocatives

##### a. Calls or summons

Jackie: ***You** know the funny thing; my father was there every single day.*

##### b. Addresses

##### Extract 27

Michael: *did you think get this much love online?*

RM: *I don't know it's like it's all because of you know, **Armies** like here.*

Armies: *\*Applaud\* (screaming)*

The fifth type is vocatives; the researcher found two types of marker vocatives. It is showed in extract 26 "you" as calls or summons and "armies" in extract 27 as addresses. "You" indicate as type of call or summons because it is used by Jackie to call Robin and Amy, showing manner instead of calling his or her name in their first meeting because Chinese people have a strong sense of showing respect, especially to the people having higher position, (Feng, 2011). The researcher concluded the marker **you** have the function as **temporal adverb** because it has deictic, as (Schiffrin, 1987) remarked that the meaning of what is conveyed depends on the parameters of the situation while speaking.

#### 6. Response Elicitors

##### Extract 28

Jackie: *After the show, **okay**?*

Michael: *perfect! I can fit that.*

### Extract 29

Jackie: *The life guy, guard?*

Michael: *Lifeguard, yeah.*

Another type that found is response elicitors in extract 28 (okay?), extract 29 (guard?), and extract 30 (or?). This marker role as an invitation agreement or validation from the hearer, speaker-center rolled – to seek a signal that has been comprehended and accepted. The researcher argued this as response elicitors because it is showed question tags that used by the speaker to get agreement from the hearer, which has the function as **marker of information and participation** because as represented in extract 28 (okay?) represent Jackie’s desire which directly attacking the listener’s attention (Schiffrin, 1987).

## 7. Response forms

### Extract 31

#### Response to assertions

Amy: *So, it was well-worth it.*

Jackie: *Yeah, it was so, so nice to hit by Bruce Lee.*

#### Response to questions

Michael: *But the insane thing was you created the stunt?*

Jackie: *Yes*

Michael: *You decided to do all your own stunts.*

#### Response to directives

### Extract 35

Michael: *Can you guys show us a little move something good?*

RM: *\*speaks Korean to the members\**

J-hope: *Of course.*

The next type is the response form, found in extract 31 and 32 (yeah) as a response to assertions, extract 33 (yes) and 34 (no) as a response to questions, and extract 35 “of course” as response to directives. This type is used to brief or give responses to previous statement by a different speaker, as seen in extract 31 and 32 “yeah” as backchannels or assertions – signaling response to the speaker that the message is being understood or accepted). Besides, response to questions in extract 33 (yes) and 34 (no) showed as response to a statement about the current speaker has said. In addition, response to directives in extract 35 “of course” showed offer relating to future action. The researcher concluded all of them have functioned as **marker of response** because those show a response to the previous speaker’s statement or question. It supported by (Hamilton, Tannen, & Schiffrin, 2015) that the marker of response is not based on semantic meaning and grammatical status, which means depends on the situations or context.

## 8. Hesitators

Michael: *What happened?*

Jackie: *I was **uhh** I was accident always... easy things. I was doing jet ski, there behind me I’m save the girl.*

The eighth type is hesitators. The researcher found 4 discourse markers in extract 36 (uhh), extract 37 (the), extract 38 (umm), and extract 39 (uh). Those indicated as type of hesitators

because as illustrated in extract 36 *uhh* used by Jackie to fill hesitation pauses in the central of a message and signaling of what he thinks to continue speaking or what he wanted to say next. The researcher concluded that this has the function as **marker of response** due to the way it is used – to fill the intermission and to begin turns based on the context (Schiffrin, 1987).

## 9. Various polite speech-act formula

### Extract 41

Michael: *We got to say, you're one of my favorites.*

Amy: *Yeah*

Michael: *I love you for it.*

Jackie: *\*Bow\* [thanking].*

The ninth type is various polite speech-act formulas that are found in extract 40 (you have it), extract 41 (bow as thanking), and extract 42 (we love you too, thank you). Some markers found non-verbally. As illustrated in extract 41 and 42, Jackie and BTS used a bow that indicated as type of various polite speech-acts formula, which covers thanking. When Jackie and BTS used these markers, it contained characteristic of Asian people – bowing, which cores respect and thanking in respectful way. Bowing is regard as a tradition of Asian culture, showing gratitude, respect, and the like (Takahashi, 2010). In addition, it is also illustrated in extract 40 “you have it!” as an expression of giving that used by Jackie to thanked Michael for his praise words. In Chinese culture, there is a term ‘keqi’ which means behavior of guest, modest, humble, understanding, considerate, and well-mannered, that embodied the values of modesty and humbleness when speaking or communicate, (Yao in Fang & Faure, 2011). Therefore, it is possible that non-native speakers apply the culture every time they talking to people from different cultural background. The researcher concluded those markers have the function as **expressive functions** that cover as politeness.

## 10. Expletives

Robin: *It is the moment we've been waiting for BTS making their first morning TV appearance ever in the US, give a big round of applause for BTS.*

Audience: *\*Screaming\* \*Applauding\**

V: *Oh my God!*

The last type is expletives that are found in extract 43 and 44 (oh my God). Both markers are used by non-native speakers as expletives specifically moderated expletives. This marker is socially acceptable in many situations as a matter of emphasis which generalized reaction of surprise or emotional evolvment as seen in extract 43 and extract 44 “oh my God” used by Jackie and V or Kim Taehyung to express their surprise and amazement. The researcher concluded that, it has the function as **marker of information management** because it contains emotions such as surprise from the speakers, (Schiffrin, 1987).

This study is concerned about how discourse markers work in communication. As non-native speaker, this study is essential to know by virtue of a second language because there is a dicipline how people use it. Discourse marker is one of the disciplines that play an important role in how people convey their message well delivered. This study has shown that the use of discourse



markers varies across languages and cultures. It can be seen from Jackie Chan and member of BTS doing bowing several times as respect. In addition, they also were showing how they should behave to people from different cultural background in order to show gratitude and respect – how to treat people pleasantly.

## CONCLUSION

According to the analysis, the researcher found ten types of discourse markers used by non-native speakers in *Good Morning America* talk show - *interjection, greeting and farewells, linking adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitators, various polite speech-acts formula, and expletives*, which has different functions. The researcher found discourse markers that functioned as *marker of information management, marker of response, marker of connectives, marker of cause and effect, marker of temporal adverb and marker of information and participation*.

This study also found types of discourse markers that functioned as expressive functions; they are in greetings and farewells - *hey, okay hi! hi!, hi you guys!, you know worldwide handsome?, good morning, good morning America!*, Vocatives – *you, armies*, Various polite speech acts – *you have it!, \*bow\** and *we love you too, thank you*. Additionally, the use of discourse markers can vary depending on the context of the communication. This influenced by culture where the non-native speakers' come from as illustrated in type of various polite speech-acts formula – bowing, which functioned as expressive markers that signal politeness. Its use can affect the tone and perceive of the communication. Therefore, it can be elaborated that non-verbal language also role as a discourse marker in communication whether formal or informal.

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