

**Revisiting discourse markers and discourse relations in functional-cognitive space:
Models and applications across languages, registers and genres**

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Discourse relations, also known as 'coherence relations' or 'rhetorical relations' (Mann & Thompson, 1988; Taboada, 2006; Taboada & Mann, 2006), comprise many different relations between clauses or larger units that are essential for maintaining the cohesion and coherence of discourse (Halliday & Hassan, 1976; Shriffrin, 1988). Among others, relations such as cause, result, purpose, concession, or condition, to name but a few, have been studied from many different perspectives (Van der Auwera, 1998; Couper-Kuhlen & Kortmann, 2000; Dancygier & Sweetser, 2000, 2005; Gómez González & Taboada, 2005; Sanders & Sweetser, 2009; Taboada & Gómez González, 2012; Ruiz de Mendoza & Gómez González, 2014; Lastres López, 2015, 2016; Gómez González, in press; among others). Previous studies have shown that the markers of discourse relations are generally 'multifunctional' in the sense that they may not only express different rhetorical relations in different contexts but can also be interpreted differently in one and the same context, and consequently they are difficult to assign to one particular semantic category (Couper-Kuhlen & Kortmann, 2000; Andersen, 2001; Aijmer, 2002; Asher & Lascarides, 2003; González, 2005; Siegel, 2006; Izutsu, 2008; Romero-Trillo, 2012; Cuenca, 2013; Lastres López, 2015, 2016; Gómez González, in press). Likewise, the expression of discourse relations does not necessarily involve the obligatory presence of a discourse marker, and thus the relation may either be expressed differently (lexically, for example) or it may not have an explicit linguistic signal in discourse at all (Taboada, 2006; Taboada & Mann, 2006; Prasard *et al.*, 2008; Levy & Jaeger, 2010).

Following Schiffrin's (1988) distinction between 'particles' (*well, then, or you know*) and 'connectives' (*but, because, or if*), this workshop invites proposals that address the notions of discourse markers and discourse relations within the so-called 'functional-cognitive space' or "the topography of the theoretical space occupied by functional, cognitivist and/or constructionist accounts of language as seen against the background of formalist approaches" (Gómez González *et al.*, 2014: 11; cf. also Butler & González-García, 2014). Our aim is to create a forum in which participants can share ideas regarding the theoretical description of discourse relations and discourse markers from functional, cognitivist and/or constructionist perspectives, as well the usage-based application of such proposals across different languages, registers and genres. Although functional classifications of discourse markers and discourse relations

seem to prevail in the literature, as in the studies mentioned above, there is still some debate regarding such issues as their degree of syntactic integration, or the taxonomies and functional domains that are most amenable to the principles of exhaustivity (in the selection of observed phenomena) and flexibility in their application to different languages, registers, genres, technical formats and theoretical frameworks, to mention but a few (Briz Gómez & Pons Bordería, 2010; Bolly *et al.*, 2015, in press; Crible & Degand, 2015). Similarly, while a large body of research has primarily focused on English, contrastive investigations comparing the similarities and divergences among (varieties of) languages have proved very useful to explore the dynamics of discourse markers usage and their involvement in signalling coherence relations (Taboada, 2004; Aijmer & Simon-Vandenberg, 2006; Gómez González, in press). Nevertheless, the richness of these contrastive investigations does not detract from the fact that much ground has yet to be covered.

We therefore invite proposals that examine discourse markers and discourse relations from synchronic or diachronic perspectives and across varieties of the same language or cross-linguistically. In particular, this panel welcomes proposals dealing with the following research questions:

- What is the most effectual classification of discourse markers and/or discourse relations within functional-cognitive space and why? Can functionalist, cognitivist and constructionist accounts be integrated? Does such a model follow the principles of flexibility and exhaustivity?
- How is a given discourse marker and/or discourse relation best conceptualised within functional-cognitive space? Does such a model have empirical validity for several languages?
- How are discourse relations expressed and used across languages and genres?
- When, how frequently and why are discourse relations either made explicit or left implicit? Can a discourse relation be expressed by devices other than connectives and particles? Why does that happen?

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