

## Discourse Marker use: from production to comprehension

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In any kind of human communication, be it written, spoken or signed, formal or informal, computer-mediated or not, Discourse Markers (henceforth DMs) are part of the game. This ubiquitousness informs us of a crucial inherent aspect of human language. Yet, despite an impressive quantity of work starting in the early 1980s, the linguistic description of DMs remains scattered, first and foremost because it is a very heterogeneous linguistic category, fulfilling many different functions in discourse (for a recent overview, see Blühdorn, Foolen & Loureda 2017, Maschler & Schiffrin 2015). To gain deeper insight into this complex linguistic category, we believe more systematic (cross-linguistic) work is needed on the production and especially on the interpretation of DMs in a variety of situational settings, resorting to different methodological approaches (see, e.g., Crible 2017, Fischer 2014). Thus, looking at **how** we use DMs is a crucial step in finding out **why** we use them in certain situations and under certain conditions, but also when we do not, i.e. when DMs are left implicit (cf. Asr & Demberg 2012, Taboada 2009, Zufferey 2016). Thus, while the categorization of DMs is certainly not a novel topic (see e.g. Degand, Cornillie & Pietrandrea 2013), we believe more attention should be drawn to the double face of DMs, namely as traces of the speaker's production difficulties accounting for their "Potentially Disfluent Functions" (Crible 2018: 51), on the one hand, and as signals intentionally used by the speaker to facilitate the addressee's interpretation of the discourse, on the other hand. To make progress on these questions, we believe there is need to combine more systematically the production perspective with the comprehension perspective, i.e. taking into account how the presence of DMs affects the addressee's discourse comprehension, thus getting better insight into underlying cognitive and functional principles of human communication. The aim of this panel is to bring together researchers interested in getting a firmer grip on Discourse Markers as a linguistic category by investigating the role that they play in language production and comprehension from an experimental or corpus based perspective. We especially welcome contributions making use of innovative methods to tackle DMs from one of the following research questions:

- Are DMs a trace of the speaker's production difficulties and/or a signal to facilitate the addressee's comprehension?
- How does the presence of DMs affect the addressee's discourse comprehension?
- Under what contextual circumstances do DMs affect language comprehension?
- What is the impact of genre and register on DM production?
- How do DMs spread through sociolinguistic variation?
- How do second language learners understand and use DMs?

- How can translation help uncover cross-linguistic differences in DM use?

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