

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter presents the review of related literature which includes the concepts of discourse. There are definitions of discourse analysis, definitions of discourse markers, and functions of *well* as discourse marker from Jucker's theory; and functions of *oh* as discourse marker from Aijmer's theory.

A. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis concerns about the study of the relationship between language and the contexts in which it is used. It can be in the form of written text and spoken data whether formal or informal.

A discourse analysis is based on the details of speech (and gaze and gesture and action) and writing that are arguably deemed relevant in the context and that are relevant in the arguments analysis which is attempting to make.¹¹

According to Michael McCarthy, discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the contexts in which it is used.¹² Discourse analysis can also be defined as the understanding and comprehension of language and its use within

¹¹ James Paul Gee. *An Introduction of Discourse Analysis*. (New York: Madison Ave, 2011)page 9

¹² Michael McCarthy. *Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 2000) page 5

conversation. Those theories are important since the analysis of discourse markers are parts of the analysis of discourse, and those theories many give a rounded picture to the readers before they go further to recognize what discourse markers are.

Fairclough looks at discourse beyond analysis of sentences. He sees discourse as social practice, and discourse analysis as the analysis of how texts work within socio-cultural practice, such as analysis requires attention to textual form, structure, and organization at all levels, phonological, grammatical, lexical (vocabulary) and higher levels of textual organizations in terms of exchange system (the distribution of speaking turns), structures of organization, and generic (activity type) structure.¹³

B. Discourse Marker

This study is concerned with discourse markers. Discourse marker is a word or phrase that marks a boundary in a discourse, typically as part of a dialogue.¹⁴

According to Schiffrin, that discourse markers as sequentially dependent elements that group units of talk. Discourse markers have

¹³ Emmanuel C. Sharndama Mr. Samaila Yakubu, *An Analysis Of Discourse Markers In Academic Report Writing: Pedagogical Implications*, *European Journal of English Language, Linguistics and Literature* Vol. 1, No. 1, 2014nd .

¹⁴ [www. Discourse marker-wikipedia](http://www.discourse-marker-wikipedia), the free encyclopedia.mht 31032009.

function in relation to enduring talk and text.¹⁵ In other word, that discourse markers could be considered as a set of linguistic expressions comprised of members of word classes as varied as conjunctions such as “and”, “but”, or interjections such as “oh”, adverbs “now”, and “then”, and lexicalized phrases as like “you know” and “I mean”.

Furthermore, the fundamental point of view concerning with the discourse markers is that, discourse markers such as “well, but, “oh” and “you know” are sets of linguistic items that function in cognitive, communicative, social, and textual domains.

Further, Schiffrin explains that, the important thing of the analysis on discourse markers is to know how speakers and hearers jointly integrate forms, meaning, and actions to make overall sense out of what is said. Then, Schiffrin also states that discourse marker is a linguistic device in which speakers use it to indicate how the approaching unit of speech or text relates to the current discourse situation.

According to Fraser Discourse markers are practical markers. Which provide a remark to show the way of an utterance indicates how the speaker intends basic message to relate to the previous discourse.

¹⁵ Schiffrin D. *Discovering the context of an utterance*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University press. 11, 1987)

Therefore, discourse markers are used as pointer of chronological discourse in social interaction.¹⁶

Discourse markers are words or phrases that function within the linguistic system to establish relationships between topics or grammatical units in discourse (as with the use of words like because, so, then). They also serve pragmatic functions, used by a speaker to comment on the state of understanding of information about to be expressed (with phrases such as like, you know); they may also be used to express a change of state or for subtle commentary by the speaker suggesting that “what seems to be the most relevant context is not appropriate”. These lexical items used in this manner are devoid of semantic content in and of themselves and are dependent on the local context and sequence of talk for their interpretation.

C. Pragmatic Functions Of “*Well*” Based On Previous Research

Well as a discourse marker is frequently used in conversation. Reference believes the use of *well* in conversation is not based on any semantic meaning or grammatical statues. Previous studies propose the following six functions as the major pragmatic functions of *well* as a discourse marker.¹⁷

¹⁶ Bruce Frazer. *An Approach to Discourse Marker*. Journal of pragmatics. No. 31, 1999. Page 383.

¹⁷ G Esfandiari Baiat., et. al., *Multimodal Analysis of “well” as a Discourse Marker in Conversation: A Pilot Study*. IEEE International Conference on Cognitive Infocommunications. December 2–5, 2013 , Budapest, Hungary. 284.

1. *Well* as a Response Marker or as an Initiation Marker

According to Schiffrin, *well* is considered primarily a response marker "which anchors its user in an interaction when an upcoming contribution is not fully consonant with prior coherence options." She also states when it is used outside of question-answer sequence, *well* locates a speaker as a respondent to one level of discourse. Additionally, *well* as a turn initiator, often beginning a turn or initiating a new utterance.¹⁸

2. *Well* as a Pre-Closing Device

On the other hand, at more global levels of conversational organization, *well* can also be used as a preclosing device, offering its recipient a chance to reinstate an earlier or unexpanded topic, or to open another round of talk before conversational closure.¹⁹

3. *Well* as a Delay Marker

Sometimes, in conversations we observe situations in which the speaker(s) are not immediately ready to give responses to another utterance, or are to some degree reluctant to tell the truth, or need some more time to organize what they want to say, they are not too sure about how to state what they want to say. In these situations, a short silence might occur. However, more frequently, speakers may use

¹⁸ Ibid, Schiffrin, 1987

¹⁹ E. A. Schegloff, H. Sacks. "Opening up closings" *Semiotica*, vol.8(4). pp. 289-327. 1973.

some linguistic signals to hold the floor and to make the seemingly incoherent units of utterances into a coherent one; *well* is among such linguistic signals. The use of *well* in such context, is said to function as a delay marker.²⁰

4. *Well* as a Repair Marker

There are instances when speakers need to repair, correct or edit their utterance in the process of having a conversation. In these situations, the speaker usually gives the addressee(s) some hints that he/she is going to repair his/her own words. These hints reflect the speakers' endeavor to make the seemingly semantic separated units of talk into coherent ones. *Well* is one of these hints. *Well* of this kind functions as a repair marker.²¹

5. *Well* as a Frame Marker

In some other cases the speaker may change or shift the present topic of talk to another one for various reasons. In order to keep the coherence, he/she may use some signals to indicate that he/she is to change the current topic, and such signals can bring the two separated topics into a more coherent one to avoid an abrupt topic change. *Well* can be such a signal, and function as a frame marker.

²⁰ A. H. Jucker, "The discourse marker *well*: a relevant theoretical account," *Journal of Pragmatics*, vol.19, pp. 435-452, 1993.

²¹ M. Li, Y. Xiao, "A comparative study on the use of the discourse marker *well* by Chinese learners of English and native English speakers," *International Journal of English Linguistics*, vol. 2 (5), pp.65-71, 2012.

6. *Well* as a Mitigation Marker

Sometimes *well* is used as a linguistic indicator of politeness (to save face), and thus can be regarded as a mitigation marker, which generally occurs at the beginning of a sentence. The use of *well* in this situation normally indicates denials, refusals, and objections to a given utterance.

D. Functions of *Well* as Discourse Marker by Jucker

According Jucker, *well* had distinct functions, but they could all be related to one core meaning, which was that *well* was a signpost. It directed "the way in which the following utterance should be processed by the addressee". Jucker believed that *well* had four main functions.

1. *Well* as a marker of insufficiency

The discourse marker *well* servers as a marker of insufficiency especially in the context of questions and answers. In these contexts *well* prefaces answers to questions which cannot be answered directly or the speaker chooses not to give a straight answer. We can sense "some sort of insufficiency" in such answers, which suggests that the background assumptions based on the preceding conversation need to be renegotiated.²²

²² H. Jucker, A. *The discourse marker well: a relevance-theoretical account*. Journal of Pragmatics: 1993.19, 440

In other words, it was used with answers that did not supply the information required by the question, or questions that made inaccurate assumption.

For example:

Zelda: "Are you from Philadelphia?"

Sally: "*Well*, I grew up uh in the suburbs. And I lived for about seven years up in upstate New York. And then I came back here to go to college".

2. *Well* as a face-threat mitigator

Well as a face-threat mitigator appears in situations where there is "some sort of confrontation" between the participants in conversation. That is when the background assumptions of one of the participants prove to be wrong and the following reaction of the other participant is not agreeable, compliant, acceptable etc. In such situations, *well* serves as a signal as well as a mitigator of the confrontation, in other words as a face saving device.²³

For example:

A: "they must worry about you though Eddie, don't they, your Mum and Dad, when you're doing all these jumps?"

B: "*well* they always come to all the shows"

Or:

²³ Ibid, Jucker. 1993. 444

A: "can I just see them?"

B: "um well I'm not allowed to do that"

3. *Well* as a frame

In the frame function, *well* separates units of discourse in two ways: *well* functions as a "focusing element" signaling a shift of topic ("a shift in the topic focuses" or the discourse marker functions as a device preceding/introducing direct speech).²⁴ In both cases *well* serves as a signal to the addressee to renegotiate the relevant background assumptions as the speaker either makes a shift of topic or reports direct speech.

In these contexts, *well* typically does not occupy the initial position in a turn as evident from the examples below.

An example of *well* as a frame for a shift of topic:

A: "but if they wanted people around to talk to, then I would be very happy to say, and got a letter back saying we have arranged for you to stay – well let's take the interview first".

4. *Well* as a delay device

In this function, the discourse marker *well* can be used for different reasons in order to gain time without losing the floor. The

²⁴ Ibid, 446

use of delaying or floor-holding devices indicates to the hearer that his partner in conversation is not yet ready to yield the floor.²⁵

E. Function of *Oh* as Discourse Marker by Aijmer

Aijmer states the functions of *oh* that can be described not only in terms of how it serves to regulate discourse and information flow but in terms of affect and emotionality.

She states *oh* is often used in context which the core meaning of 'surprise' is backgrounded: to arrive at a realization as it is also mentioned by Heritage. Pure surprise could also express clarification after correction, to denote emphasis or intensification, or to register objection or reaction.

Another function of *oh* is, it may function as a topicalizer or newsmark, to promote topic development. *Oh* can be used as backchannel device to register reception and recognition as a sign of assessment such as: *oh that's good*, or *oh* can be used as a signal of endorsement as: *oh yes* and *oh no*.²⁶ When embedded in a turn, *oh* may also demarcate the transition to a clearer formulation or to an aside. Especially *oh*, have a variety of politeness functions in thanking, inviting, apologizing, and expressing appreciation.

²⁵ Ibid, 447.

²⁶ Karin Aijmer. *English discourse particles: Evidence from a corpus*. Studies in Corpus Linguistics 10. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2002. xv + 298 pp. ISBN 90-272-2280-0 (Eur.)/ 1-58811-284-5 (US). Reviewed by Laurel J. Brinton, University of British Columbia.

From the explanation above, the researcher decide and conclude to analyze the function of *oh* from Aijmer.

1. *Oh* as surprise

In this function, *Oh* is often used in contexts in which the core meaning of “surprise” is backgrounded: to arrive at a realization, to express clarification after correction, to denote emphasis or intensification, or to register objection or reaction. It has special uses after statements and in elicitational contexts.²⁷

2. Topicalizer or news mark

Oh as topicalizer means that this marker is used to promote topic development. It also can be used as signal of the change of topic that will be told.

3. *Oh* as backchannel device

The discourse marker *Oh* has a function as backchannel device. It is because discourse marker *Oh* devices to register reception and recognition, as a sign of assessment.

4. *Oh* as a signal of endorsement

Oh is one of discourse marker. It has function as signal of endorsement. It is used to clarify endorsement or agreement or rejection of statement that uttered.

²⁷ Ibid, Aijmer. 2002.

5. *Oh* as politeness functions

The discourse marker *oh* has function as politeness function. It is because discourse marker conveys functions in thanking, inviting, apologizing, and expressing appreciation.