



The Prague Bulletin of Mathematical Linguistics

NUMBER 88 DECEMBER 2007 95-98

REVIEWS

Connectives as Discourse Landmarks

Agnès Celle, Ruth Huart (eds.)

Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2007, 212 pp.
ISBN 978-90-272-5404-7

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In the volume under review, papers by eleven authors are included which were presented at the international conference *Connectives as Discourse Landmarks* (University of Paris-Diderot, May 2005). The main point of interest of present studies are syntactic, semantic and pragmatic functions of several discourse connectives in English.

The term 'connective' is being used in a broad sense, without specific theoretical restrictions, herewith opening space for different treatments of discourse. In the book, this term covers not only traditional connective items like conjunctions (*and, but*) and relative pronouns (*which*), but also discourse adverbials (*rather, still, yet*), phrasal constructions (*after all*) as well as whole sentential frames (*the fact is that; it's not that; A because B so A'*) and means of contact (*well, you know*). As this set of connectives shows, the studies deal with two large aspects of discourse research: with questions of syntax, semantics and lexicology, understanding connectives as items expressing the relations between sentences (abstract objects, events), and with pragmatics where connectives are understood as units linking the speaker and the hearer.

The editors' introduction describes briefly the historical context of present-day discourse studies, making short references to Richard G. Warner, Deborah Schiffrin and Jan-Ola Östman. Further, it explains the development of the discourse terminology and touches upon some open questions of the discourse research, namely the level of grammaticalization of connectives, the issue, whether for the meaning of connectives, their core lexical sense is more important or rather pragmatic sense variance in different contexts and, finally, the relation between the form (conjunctive, subjunctive) and the meaning of connectives. After general remarks on discourse, the main points of the studies included are shortly summarized.

In the "Part I. Connectives and modality", Raphael Salkie ("Connectives, modals and proto-types: A study of *rather*") focuses on common features of different senses of *rather* (connective,

degree modifier, part of modal *would rather*) and proposes a prototype approach to connectives and modality to catch its shared basic pragmatic function of narrowing down the possible interpretations of an utterance. Karin Aijmer (“The interface between discourse and grammar: *The fact is that*”) explains the internal structure of ‘shell noun phrases’ such as *the fact / thing / trouble is (that)* and their development from matrix clause to a compound pragmatic marker. These pragmatic markers have several variants, some of them are – from the syntactic point of view – ungrammatical (*fact is*); as the author claims, they can serve as an argument for the statement that ‘shell noun phrases’ are collocational frameworks rather than full matrix clauses. What can be found as confusing is the position of this article within the part of book concerning modality.

Mark de Vos (“*And* as an aspectual connective in the event structure of pseudo-coordinative constructions”) in the “Part II. From syntax to pragmatics” deals with so called pseudo-coordinations of verbs including a verb such as *go / sit*, connective *and* and a lexical verb or including reduplicative coordination of the lexical verb (*Caesar went and read the parchment! Caesar sat and read the parchment. Caesar read and read in his tent all night.*) Describing carefully the meaning of these structures with regard to aktionsart and testing their syntactic properties in comparison with other coordinative constructions, the author points out that connective *and* can serve as means expressing the event structure on semantic and syntactic level. In Rudy Loock’s article (*Are you a good which or a bad which? The relative pronoun as a plane connective*), specific utterances of *which* are analyzed, which fulfil no anaphoric function. In the surveyed atypical appositive relative clauses, either a resumptive pronoun appears at the position of a standard gap and one position seems to be expressed twice (*which – it*), or no gap (antecedent for the relative pronoun) is available. Thus, *which* in such constructions develops into a pure connective item. Diana M. Lewis (“From temporal to contrastive and causal: The emergence of connective *after all*”) considers the historical evolution of the connective sense of the phrase *after all* arguing that it originates neither from a metaphorical use of an originally temporal *after*, nor from any ad hoc innovation of its justificative or counter-expectative sense, but rather from the metonymic expression of compressed information.

In the “Part III. Discourse strategies”, Barbara Le Lan (“Orchestrating conversation: The multifunctionality of *well* and *you know* in the joint construction of a verbal interaction”) emphasizes the pragmatic meaning of the term ‘connective’, describing the interpersonal role of these two items in the conversation, i.e. reference to the (supposed) point of view of the other speaker, as well as semantic components of cognitive control (‘being familiar with something’) and subjectivity. Frédérique Passot (“*A because B so A*: Circularity and discourse progression in conversational English”) focuses on a quasi-repetitive conversational sequence of three sentences *A because B so A* arguing that the structure of the sequence is not circular, but rather a dynamic spiral with a progression of information exchange and with the permanently updated confirmation of the shared knowledge between the speaker and the hearer. In Ruth Huart’s article (“*Not that... versus It’s not that...*”), the different features of the two complex connectives are described, concerning especially the relation to presuppositions, the scope of negation, collocability with adverbs and the syntactic structure.

Martine Sekali (“*He’s a cop but he isn’t a bastard: An enunciative approach to some pragmatic effects of the coordinator but*”) in “Part IV. In search of operations” suggests intralinguistic analysis for pragmatic aspects of different utterances of the connective *but* based on the Theory of Enunciative Operations. Working with the same theoretical frame, Graham Ranger (“Continuity and discontinuity in discourse: Notes on *yet* and *still*”) analyzes how single senses of aspect, degree and argumentation with connectives *yet* and *still* are linked. François Nemo (“Reconsidering the discourse marking hypothesis. *Even, even though, even if*, etc. as morpheme/construction pairs”) points out that the specific meaning of connectives in single utterances is influenced from two sides, by the on-going context and by the encoded meaning of morphemes and proposes a methodology for analysis of the meaning of discourse connectives.

As a whole, the book offers not only detailed descriptions of meanings and usage of single English connectives, but can be especially useful from the methodological point of view – as ‘a textbook’ of discourse studies, giving the reader variety of ways how to deal with discourse phenomena.

