

Discourse Markers in the Outer and Expanding Circles: A Corpus-linguistic Perspective

Workshop convenors

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Workshop summary

Discourse markers, generally defined as “sequentially dependent elements which bracket units of talk” (Schiffrin 1987: 31), have been studied extensively with regard to their diachronic development (Traugott 2016), their function(s) in spoken discourse (Pichler 2013), and as features resulting from language contact (e.g. *lah* in Singapore English, cf. Kwan-Terry 1992; Wong 2004). Discourse markers may express epistemic and interpersonal stance (Tan 2010), but they can also be reflections of social rank (Fischer 1998; Lutzky 2012). While some research has been carried out on the use and origins of discourse markers in L2 varieties (e.g. Valentine 1991; De Klerk 2005; Lange 2012; Amador-Moreno, McCafferty & Vaughan 2015; Gilquin 2016), much work needs to be done in order to fully understand the functions and origins of discourse markers in the Outer and Expanding Circles. This concerns not only the syntactic and discourse-pragmatic constraints which affect discourse markers, but also the potential social implications of discourse marker usage. In the wake of more and more spoken (learner) corpora being available for research, corpus-linguistic perspectives may shed new light on the study of discourse markers. For this reason, the workshop addresses the following questions:

- which roles do discourse markers play in the Outer and Expanding Circles and what can they tell us about (a) proficiency, (b) cultural and social aspects, (c) the impact of language contact, and (d) variety status (Schneider 2007; Buschfeld 2013);
- how can we systematically assess and statistically evaluate the forms and functions of discourse markers (in particular in learner corpora);
- how does register affect the usage of discourse markers in the Outer and Expanding Circles and do speakers in these circles only employ discourse markers in spoken interaction or also in computer-mediated communication and other forms of mediated language;
- in which ways do sociolinguistic variables such as age, gender, and ethnicity affect the use of discourse markers by L2 and L3 speakers?

Call for papers

We invite the submission of abstracts for full papers. Proposed topics include, but are not limited to, the various issues mentioned in the workshop description. Abstracts of 400-500 words, excluding references, should be submitted in pdf-format by email to sven.leuckert@tu-dresden.de **and** to sofia.ruediger@uni-bayreuth.de. The deadline for abstract submission is **15 December 2017**.

Notification of acceptance will be sent out by the end of December.

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