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The Functionality of Pragmatic Markers in Piers Morgan's Interview with Bassim Yousif on The Aqsa Flood
Marwa Naji Abood, Juma'a Qadir Hussein

The Functionality of Pragmatic Markers in Piers Morgan's Interview with Bassim Yousif on *The Aqsa Flood*

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ABSTRACT:

Pragmatic markers are essential for structuring speech, regulating interaction, and affecting audience perception in political interviews. That is, misunderstanding pragmatic markers would cause difficulty for the audience in understanding the speaker's intended meaning. To this end, this qualitative study investigates the functionality of pragmatic markers in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on the Israel-Gaza War, *the Aqsa Flood*. This study aimed to explore the types and functions of pragmatic markers used in the selected interview. The classification of the types of pragmatic markers was based on Fraser's (2009) classification, while their pragmatic functions were analyzed using Brinton's (1996) classification. The study thoroughly explains how these markers contribute to effective communication by examining both aspects. The research examines pragmatic markers, such as discourse and position markers, to tackle sensitive topics, maintain credibility, and strengthen relationships used by the interviewer and interviewees. The selected political interview utilized more pragmatic markers at the discourse level than others at the sentence level. These markers would contribute to our understanding of how pragmatic markers connect their speeches and organize their talks to maintain coherence. This indicates that pragmatic markers of the discourse performed more functions than other types of pragmatic markers. The study's findings would enhance a comprehensive understanding of media discourse and political communication strategies.

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1. Introduction:

As linguistic cues, pragmatic markers (henceforth PMs) facilitate conversational organization, reflect the speaker's thoughts, and improve the ability to form pragmatic inferences. In interaction, PMs represent the manifestation of metalinguistic reflexivity. Reflexivity is demonstrated by the speaker's knowledge of the language selections regarding content and expression (Verschueren, 1999). PMs may include words, sentences, propositions, speech acts, and tone units (Schiffrin, 1987), as cognitive tools can be manifested in various forms, such as emoticons and punctuation.

In speech, PMs are often characterized as contextualization signals that define segments within the discourse, helping the listener comprehend the organization of the conversation. In most instances, they do not influence the truth-conditional meaning of a speech; However, depending on the context, they can serve various goals and produce diverse consequences. Although the speaker's cognitive processes are not directly observable, pauses and fillers can be in the speaker's head (Aijmer, 2013).

Numerous studies (Khasanuddin, 2021; Fei et al., 2023; Berot, 2023; Al-Azzawi et al., 2024; Alminaw, 2024; and Fu, 2024) investigate PMs across various data sets, namely political context. These interviews often contain markers that serve different functions in spoken conversation or reinforce the textual and interpersonal functions forming spoken discourse that influences the listener's understanding. For instance, Khasanuddin's (2021) study examined Donald Trump's use of PMs in the Town Hall Forum. It aids in determining the potential message that a speaker is conveying through a sentence. Additionally, it examines the impact of a speaker's performance and the context that shapes their utterance during sentence interpretation. The research reveals that Trump uses all significant types of PMs, including 44 with details, with the word *but* being the dominant use. Trump does not utilise all minor groupings or functions of PMs, and many new markers are absent from Fraser's categorisation.

Similarly, Fei et al. (2023) examined the role of discourse markers in the television talk show genre and identified their possible significance within a certain discourse. The study reveals that discourse markers in television discussions enhance question-answer interactions, highlighting their multifunctionality and the importance of shared culture in their use despite their limited variety. Berot (2023) adopted Berot (2023) utilized Brinton's (1996) binary categorization for analysis framework to define the functions of wellah and wellahi in spoken Kurdish at both textual and interpersonal levels. The study suggests that grammaticalization

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principles like phonetic reduction and layering may explain the interchangeability of discourse markers in Kurdish speakers despite differences in the use of wellahi across different languages.

Al-Azzawi et al. (2024) presented the analysis of PMs, including selected pieces of Trudea's speech on different occasions. The research illustrates that critical discourse analysis may uncover patterns of co-occurrence and sequentiality in political messages, facilitating a more profound comprehension of their function in discourse manipulation, such as suppression, polarisation, and intentional ambiguity. Similarly, Fu (2024) examined the discourse marker 'but' in BBC's HARDtalk, exploring its frequency and roles across ethnic, linguistic, and gender demographics.The research revealed no substantial disparities in general frequency across Eastern and Western cultures, native and non-native English speakers, or male and female respondents. The study revealed that the discourse marker *but* was used similarly across all demographic groups, with the contrast function being the most common. Western and native English speakers used the *but* function more frequently than their Eastern counterparts, and female interviewees used the topic function more frequently than male interviewees.

On *the Aqsa flood* issue, Alminaw (2024) examines the influence of Abu Obaida's discourses on Palestinian people and Arabic culture using van Dijk's critical discourse analysis technique and the conceptual metaphor theory by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson. The study found that Hama's addresses highlighted warfare topics, rhetorical assertions, achievements, the glory of jihad, threats, justifications, and current activities. They articulated their ideology, emphasizing Israeli conflict and the occupation of their sacred territory. Critical discourse analysis and conceptual metaphor theory elucidated the potent language employed by Hamas speaker Abu-Obaidah.

Despite examining PMs across various genres, the media discourse within the political interview or talk show genre has received relatively little attention. In particular, limited research focuses on political interviews related to the Israel-Gaza War. Many channels produce a variety of interviews on the situation in the Israel-Gaza war, especially on the recent war, *the Aqsa Flood*. To fill this gap, this study sought to identify the types and functions of PMs used in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on the *Aqsa flood*, based on Fraser's (2009) classification of the types of PMs and Brinton's (1996) classification of pragmatic functions, respectively. Accordingly, the following are the attempts to answer the question: What are the types of PMs and their functions most frequently used in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on *the Aqsa Flood*?

2. Methodology

The study investigates the frequency of types of PMs and their functions used in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on *the Aqsa Flood*. The data were selected purposefully using a convenience sampling method from Piers Morgan's YouTube channel. The channel produced the program under the title *Piers Morgan Uncensored*. This interview showcases Baasim Yusuf as an interviewee and Piers Morgan as the broadcaster of the television program Piers Morgan Uncensored. This program is diverse, showcasing several individuals with distinct occupations. Although the interviewee is an Egyptian-American comedian, satirical humor television political interview host, and surgeon, this interview discusses the critical event of the Israel-Gaza War, *the Aqsa flood*. The tone is almost political,

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the atmosphere is relaxed, and the topics covered are diverse. Both participants are of the same gender, male. This interview, published on Nov 2, 2023, amassed 11,938,162 views on Morgan's YouTube channel until this study was written in Feb. 2025. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4idQbwsvtUo&t=0s.

The interview with Bassem Yousif, the present study's data, was collected qualitatively by downloading it from the YouTube channel. The data were transcribed using an online program (premium version), the Transkriptor program. The instrument for counting the occurrence of PMs in the interview was carried out via the AntConc software program, a free version. The data analysis was based on Fraser's (2009) classification of the types of PMs and Brinton's (1996) classification of PM functions.

3. The Model of Analysis

The study's main objective was to qualitatively investigate the types of PMs and their functions most frequently used in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on the Israel-Gaza War, The Aqsa Flood. Accordingly, the analysis was based on two models that address the frequency of different types of PMs and their functions used in the interview. The model includes Fraser's (2009) classification of PM types and Brinton's (1996) classification of PM functions. These classifications are explained in detail below.

3.1 Fraser's (2009) Classification of the Pragmatic Markers

Fraser (2009) categorises many signals that significantly influence spoken contact by combining their pragmatic and textual roles. This technique is primarily pragmatic; nonetheless, it examines the markers from both pragmatic and textual perspectives. Fraser (1993) asserts that sentence meaning is examined through content and pragmatic meaning, which can be facilitated by markers he designates as PMs within pragmatic meaning. He concentrates mainly on the pragmatic interpretation of a statement. He alludes to the explicit and literal meanings communicated by the speaker, placing diminished emphasis on the significance of the material. Fraser (2009) categorised PMs into four primary types: Basic, Commentary, Parallel, and Discourse Markers.

1. **Basic Markers:** They indicate the intensity of the primary message. Precisely, they extract information that accurately reflects the effect of the sentence's original message, such as "I promise to assist you." Basic structures are available in three distinct varieties: A: Basic structural markers, B: Basic lexical Markers, Executing expressions: practical expressions, C-hybrid Basic markers: declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences.

   A- Structural Basic Markers comprise the components of a sentence's syntactic structure. Each kind communicates a potency for the fundamental message. They include three distinct types of grammatical structure: declarative, imperative, and interrogative. The declarative form indicates the speaker's claim that the propositional content of the sentence properly reflects the present condition of affairs: *John slides down the slope.*

   In the prior instance, the speaker commits to express or demonstrate belief, regardless of its form, which is an assertion, a claim, a confession, a misunderstanding, or an acknowledgment, which remains unspecified. Variations from the traditional declarative form do not alter the speaker's commitment to their argument, as they

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maintain the propositional essence of the phrase. Conversely, the second imperative structure conveys the speaker's desires concerning the world's condition for the addressee, as expressed in the propositional content.

For example, *tell me the answer*.
The speaker articulates a tangible intention.

The interrogative form constitutes the third major structural marker in English. It signifies the speaker's expressions of desire and resembles an urgent mood. In this context, replies to YES/NO questions from the addressee and their grammatical variations can be discerned as:

-*Did you see him? -*

-*You saw whom?*

The three fundamental grammatical structures in English (belief and wish) represent just two of the many propositional ideas and perspectives a speaker may possess towards the message's content. Specialised grammatical structures do not express the speaker's emotions of commitment, desire, gratitude, shame, or anger, save in a few exceptional cases outlined below. In cases of a claim and a request, no grammatical structure indicates the speaker's intent to convey a promise, an apology, or a critique.

B- Lexical Basic Markers: Performed statements and pragmatic idiomatic are the principal categories of basic PMs. Performative phrases are recognized as lexical devices that signify the essence of interpersonal interaction, including expressions like *I promise, I apologize*, or *I request*. As in, *I assure you that I will arrive punctually*. The speaker does not make a guarantee in the preceding line. Instead, it is a preliminary account of the speaker's current activity. Bach and Harnish (1979) contend that this assertion represents a commitment.

On the other hand, pragmatic idioms are expressions that allow for a valid inference from their literal meaning to the commonly accepted fundamental pragmatic interpretation. Pragmatic idioms are often classified into two categories: force idioms, which express the strength of the conceived message, and message idioms, which reveal the comprehensive underlying meaning. Strong idioms express both pleasure and uncertainty. The speaker aims to convey their message as a request for action by employing the term 'please' before an imperative structure:

-*Can you please help me? Perhaps take an aspirin. Let us (Let's) try it again.*

-*If only John were here now*.

To clarify the above statements, according to Fraser (1996), it is important to emphasize that the term *please* in the initial phrase primarily conveys a request rather than any other applicable connotation. The second phrase undermines its potency by converting it into a mere suggestion when placed before an imperative. The force word in the third sentence conveys the speaker's intention and implies a suggestion from the speaker.

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Moreover, supplementary force-related idioms express a core notion of force. These idioms do not conform to any particular category. Many idioms require a specific propositional structure, such as *I will be demanding* or *How about…Where does he get off, if I may say so myself? If you did not hear it, it is not. Please take note of what I have said*. Others possess only a noun phrase rather than a complete proposition. Message idioms effectively convey the entire essential message. Common phrases like *Get a horse*, *Where is the fire*, *I smell a rat*, and *Get lost!* fall into this category

C- Hybrid Basic Markers, sometimes called hybrid basic markers, incorporate a distinct structure alongside defined lexical requirements. The three primary categories are declarative, interrogative, and imperative.

1- *Declarative Sentences* Comprise a declarative tense succeeded by a sentence-final interrogative tag. A carrying element that demonstrates a polarity change follows the pronominal phrase, as in:

Thomas saw Mary, didn't he?
Thomas did not observe Mary, did he?

The first example illustrates a core affirmation of the speaker's perspective, indicating that Thomas perceives Mary. However, incorporating the tag fundamentally transforms the core message into a request for the addressee's confirmation (Thomas saw Mary). The subsequent example, the positive tag inquiry, consists of a declaration followed by a tag of the identical meaning. Interrogative forms involving the verbs *see, have, hold, look,* and *touch* pertain to future scenarios where the speaker indicates that the addressee has direct control. These hybrids convey permission requests. *May I* serve to communicate a courteous solicitation? *Could I examine that vase?*

2- *Interrogative Sentences* also suggest performing the contrary action as in:

Why take an aspirin now?

-I recommend against taking an aspirin at this moment.

The first structure illustrates the rationale for the recommendation to refrain from consuming aspirin, while the secondary structure cautions against using aspirin.

3- *Imperative sentences* consist of two types: The first kind may be seen as a suggestion accompanied by a declarative statement that enumerates the potential repercussions of disregarding the command. Declarative statements are perceived as menacing when the speaker is the sentence's subject. For example, If the speaker says, *Do not smile, or I'll clobber you,* he is forcing the addressee to smile, and if he does not comply, he will clobber him. The second imperative-based pragmatic structure does not indicate speaker intent but necessitates a conditional interpretation, as in *If you clean, I will dry*. The example demonstrates that a conditional interpretation is required.

2. Commentary Pragmatic Marker: It conveys an ancillary message elaborating on the principal statement. In other words, commentary pragmatic markers function as procedural signals, indicating that subsequent commentary markers remark on specific aspects of the primary message, and representational signals delineate the whole message

as: *Frankly, we are lost.* The following are several types of commentary markers. The following are examples of PMs:

A) Assessment Markers are those indicators that express the speaker's evaluation of the situation, as explained in the proposition. Adverbs *like fortunately, sadly, amazingly, artfully, conveniently,* and *ideally* are commonly employed as evaluative indicators.

- *Remarkably, Derrick* completed *the examination.*

- *Unfortunately, he possesses medical insurance coverage.*

B) Manner-of-speaking markers are indications that enable the speaker to make a statement about how the primary message is being conveyed, such as *briefly, honestly, bluntly, ironically, seriously, off the record*, etc., as in "*Frankly, you need to stop now*." In the aforementioned instance, the speaker conveys to the listener that the message is given truly, with its essential directive to cease actions.

C) Evidential Markers: This may include adverbs that indicate the individual's level of self-assurance in the truthfulness of the main message, irrespective of its positive or negative connotation or strength, as shown by:

Indeed, I promise to be on time.

Undeniably, I blame you for all my problems. Particular evidentiary markers, such as unequivocally, conceivably, indeed, unquestionably, no way, undoubtedly, and clearly, are linked to certain performatives and express a significant level of confidence, whether positive or negative. Conversely, fewer confidence indicators, including probably, potentially, clearly, and reportedly, do not accompany performatives. Evidential markers comprise, indeed, conceivably, unquestionably, unequivocally, and definitely.

D) Hearsay Markers indicate the origin of the speaker's knowledge, whereas evidentiary markers convey the individual's self-confidence in the veracity of the main message. Hearsay indicators encompass expressions such as *It appears, It is claimed, It is reported, It is rumoured, It is stated, and I have heard*. Allegedly, they assert, they inform me, seemingly, and reportedly, as seen in the following example:

Apparently, the justice system in the United States has improved over time. The speaker communicates two messages: a primary assertion on the judicial system in the United States and a remark suggesting that the information is based on an allegation.

E) Mitigation Markers are pragmatic signals employed to attenuate the force of communication and minimize possible face loss for the recipient (Brown & Levinson, 1988; Fraser, 1991). Two principal kinds are highlighted: pseudo-conditionals. Expressions like "If I may interrupt" seem conditional, yet they serve as mitigating statements that precede the main message that follows directly. Furthermore, the second category of mitigation signals includes phrases concluding with *but*, which are often detrimental to the recipient. These Markers encompass expressions such as:

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That may be true, but you must clean up your room before leaving. The fundamental message associated with these mitigation markers is frequently harmful to the recipient and susceptible to mitigation.

F) Emphasis Markers serve as signals of commentary that highlight a primary remark. Examples include phrases such as *by no means I insist that,* and *mark my words*. Expressions like these employ these markers, as in: ***I insist*** that you stop it this instant

Though several markers appear to function as performative utterances (e.g., *I insist*), they are not used as authentic performatives, as they fail to convey the speaker's intent explicitly and instead emphasize the principal message. Moreover, specific focus markers establish constraints on the structure of the subsequent communication, e.g.

- *By no means do not take the A train.*

The above example does not require an affirmative directive, which *really* calls for suggestions rather than orders.

3. Parallel Marker: This marker simultaneously communicates a distinct message alongside the primary message. The parallel pragmatic markers fall into the following subcategories:

A) Vocative Markers refer to markers encompass

   1- Standard titles include *Mr., John, Mom, Your Honour, Father Bob, e*tc.

   2- Occupational titles *include doctor, waiter, nurse, driver*, etc.

   3- General nouns include *ladies, brother, gentlemen, man, young woman, guys, etc.*

   4- Pronominal Forms: *someone, you, anybody, everyone,* as in :

Waiter, please bring me another fork.

B) Speaker Displeasure Markers are the subsequent group of Parallel Markers. Their expression reflects the individual's dissatisfaction. *The Parallel Marker* denotes the speaker's wrath; nonetheless, it remains uncertain whether the speaker is dissatisfied with the addressee or the specific situation. This assortment of markers include expressions such as damned, down well, for the last time, in blue blazes, in God's name, right now, the hell, etc.

C) Solidarity Markers refer to the third *Parallel Markers* category that indicates solidarity. Examples of Solidarity Markers are*, my companion, one man to another, my dear,.. etc*. For instance, *Oh, my sweetie got dread*.

D) Focussing Markers constitute the ultimate subtype of parallel signals, concentrating or re-concentrating on the relevant topic. They comprise expressions such as all right, here, listen, see (here), now, so, well, etc. As in, He cannot go. Y'see, he is not feeling well.

4. Discourse Markers are linguistic components that improve coherence in dialogue by signaling relationships between speech segments. Fraser (2009) argued that markers like *so, but*, and *however* enhance local coherence by linking individual segments to their immediate

context while also promoting global coherence by connecting overarching themes across the discourse. He recognizes four core semantic relationships among the more than 100 discourse markers in English, which clarify the links between statements and enhance listeners' comprehension

A) Topic-change Markers indicate that the subsequent statement deviates from the current topic, such *as "by the way"* and "*before I forget*."

B) Contrastive Markers: They indicate that the subsequent statement contradicts or opposes a concept from the preceding sentence. Fraser (2009) identifies three sorts of connections formed by these contrastive discourse markers:

1. A conjunction such as *but* signifies a direct contrast between the previous and subsequent assertions.

2. Utilizing *instead of*, this category underscores an alternative to the previously mentioned concept.

3. This entails a transition in which the subsequent assertion is accepted as true while the prior one is regarded as false. These signals elucidate linkages and facilitate comprehension in conversation.

C)Elaborative markers function as enhancements to preceding language, such as *and, above all, furthermore, in other words, in reality, moreover, etc.* (Fraser, 2009)

D) Inferential markers indicate that the utterance's power is derived from the previous speech, such as *so, after all, so, thus, etc*.

3.2 Brinton's (1996) Classification of Functions of Pragmatic Markers

Brinton (1996) asserts that a fundamental set of functions may be derived from comprehensive research of PMs.

A) To open the discourse, secure the listener's attention, and complete the topic.

B) Facilitate the speaker's acquisition or relinquishment of the floor.

C) To function as a filler or deferment tactic to continue dialogue and preserve speaking privileges.

D) To delineate a border in discourse, signifying the commencement of a new subject, a partial topic change like correction, elaboration, specification, expansion, or the reestablishment of a previously interrupted topic.

E) To denote either new data or previously known knowledge.

F) To signify sequential dependence, thereby restricting the relevance of one clause to the preceding clause by clarifying the conversational implicatures linking the two clauses, or to illustrate through conventional implicatures how an utterance conforms to the cooperative principles of conversation. (Levinson,1983)

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G) To modify one's own or others' speech.

H) To respond to the previous discussion or attitude towards the next discourse, including nonverbal cues of understanding and continued engagement. Simultaneously, another speaker is involved, and hedges indicate the speaker's uncertainty.

I) The purpose is to foster collaboration, sharing, or closeness between the speaker and the audience. This entails validating common assumptions, confirming or expressing comprehension, seeking affirmation, exhibiting respect, or preserving a courteous demeanour.

The functions mentioned above appear diverse, as indicated by Brinton in 1996. The items are categorized into two groups: the first group (a-g) pertains to the textual function of speech, while the second group (h-i) refers to the interpersonal function, reflecting two of the three functions of language outlined by Halliday (1970, 1979). Halliday's third function, the ideational function—the propositional function by Brinton (1996) following Traugott (1982)—concerns content expression, including an individual's perceptions of external and internal realities, covering events, participants, and contexts.

Brinton (1996) established a methodology for assessing PMs. Brinton's dual methods, influenced by Halliday's (1994) triadic metafunctions, categorize the textual and interpersonal functions of PMs. At the textual function, Discourse markers indicate a sequential connection between the current primary message and the preceding discourse (Fraser, 1990). Brinton (1996) contends that the textual functions of PMs include initiating and concluding discourse, delineating subject shifts, differentiating new and previous information, and limiting the relevance of adjacent statements.

Moreover, from an interpersonal standpoint, direct messages may respond or react to the prior statement. People view direct messages as tools that help establish and maintain contact between the speaker and the listener. The speaker articulates their attitudes, expectations, assessments, and demands, the nature of the social interaction, their position, and the role they assign to the hearer (Brinton, 1996). Yilmaz (2004) asserted that discourse markers function as hedges to convey uncertainty and as solicitations for confirmation from the listener.

Finally, the functions outlined below arose from the dataset; the researcher does not claim that they represent a complete list of conceivable functions nor that every distinct speaker would utilize them. This study aims to contribute positively to future research, particularly about various types of pragmatic indicators or different contexts.

4. Findings and Discussion

As for the frequencies of the PMs in the data, the findings revealed that the selected political interview employed 2914 PMs under four major categories in their conversations. Among the four types of PMs, the Discourse Markers were used more frequently than other types of PMs- Basic, Commentary, Parallel, and Discourse Markers. Under the main categories, some subcategories were expressed, including *the structural basic marker* and *the lexical basic markers* under the *Basic Markers*, which came to 431 PMs for a rating of 15 %. *The Assessment, Manner of speaking, Evidential, Mitigation,* and *Emphasis Markers* are included under the *Commentary Markers* employed by 184 PMs in the interview, which were

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rated 6%. Furthermore, *Parallel Markers* employed 335 PMs. Under the *Parallel Markers*, one can find *vocative, speaker displeasure, solidarity, and focus markers*, rated 12 %. *Discourse Markers* employed 1964 PMs at a rate of 67%. *Discourse Markers* are used more frequently under subcategories such as *topic change, contrastive, elaborative, and inferential markers*.

The predominant PMs include *and* (565 occurrences, 3034.37%), *but* (168 occurrences, 902.26%), *so* (177 occurrences, 950.59%) *because/cause* (148 occurrences, 794.84%), and *just* (98 occurrences, 499.75%). These markers serve various functions in organizing speech, symbolizing causation, and expanding ideas. The most common interpersonal markers, on the other hand, are no (78 occurrences, 1818.18%), yeah (52 occurrences, 1212.12%), and yes (49 occurrences, 1142.19%), which indicate agreement or disagreement. Using I think/I thought (57 occurrences, 1322.51%) acts as a hedging strategy or facilitates thought processes. Discourse Management and Sequential Dependence: Logical structure and conditional statements utilize the phrases if (68 occurrences, 3192.49%) and then/and then (65 occurrences, 349.09%). The following figure illustrates these findings.

**Figure 1: Types of Pragmatic Markers**
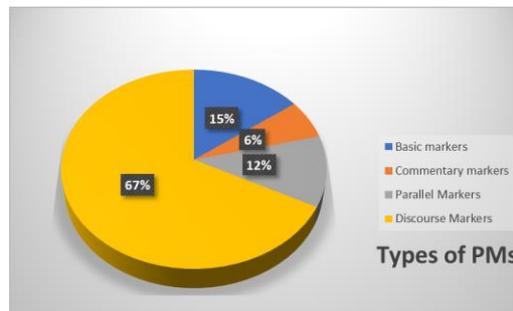
Based on the above-mentioned frequency data, the following observations are made. Discourse markers primarily establish coherence in sentences through elaboration and facilitate conclusions, or contrast with elaborative markers, the most frequently used markers. Some new markers have been discovered that are not yet included in Fraser's classification. Secondly, some markers have more than one function. Thirdly, despite the variety of PMs proposed by Fraser (2009) in his taxonomy of PMs, different parallel markers are employed in the selected political interviews. This may reflect the language repertoire of these individuals when using the PMs, owing to their cognisance of employing these markers. These markers express specific relationships between S1 and S2, including vocative, alternation, speaker displeasure markers, solidarity, and focusing markers.

Fourth, Fraser (2009) proposed an extensive list of PMs in his taxonomy. However, analyzing the PMs reveals two key facts about using these markers. First, the selected political interview displayed a higher frequency of Discourse Markers than other types. This indicates that the personalities utilize Discourse Markers to emphasize coherence in sentence frequency over coherence in discourse. Second, while Fraser (2009) suggested various PMs, the personalities chose the least frequently used commentary markers. They used markers like concerning, let's, let us, let me, and I/we start with/from to enhance or advance the current topic, refocus the discussion, and manage the discourse.

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The findings reinforce the conclusions drawn in the selected political interview regarding the functions accomplished using PMs. The findings showed that PMs predominantly fulfilled diverse coherence roles at the sentence level, including elaboration, inference, and contrast, and at the discourse level, such as emphasising the topic, orienting the discussion, and regulating the discourse. The Textual function scored 1539, equivalent to 53%, and the Interpersonal function scored 1368, rated 47%. The following figure illustrates these findings:

Figure 2: The Function of Pragmatic Markers
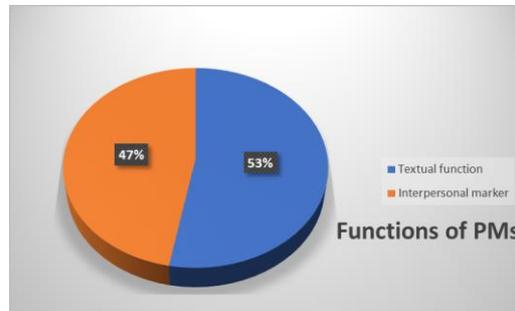
Brinton (1996) posited a dichotomy of PM functions, proposing that PMs are phonologically short elements with minimal or absent referential significance while fulfilling a pragmatic or procedural function. This encompasses single-word components such as *so* and phrases like *you see.* Although PMs are general terms, they imply that the items in question operate at a higher level than the syntax of a single phrase. Brinton (1996) does not assign a specific function like *connective or initiator* or a non-function like *filler* to these things. Nonetheless, PMs more precisely embody the varied functions that these objects provide.

The PMs function at the sentence level, linking two successive signals in succeeding sentences (S1 and S2) to convey coherence through textual and interpersonal interactions. The results indicated that the markers Brinton (1996) presented fulfilled these functions. The study revealed that throughout the political interview, they employed these markers in their speech to link their message at both the sentence level and throughout the entire discourse, fulfilling two purposes as per Brinton's (1996) classification.

In addition to the PMs proposed by Brinton (1996), the analysis revealed that the selected political interview achieved discursive coherence through new markers. Personalities use these terms to regulate their conversation at the discourse and sentence levels. Furthermore, the study demonstrated the subjective use of interpersonal functions to respond to previous discourse, demonstrate understanding, and maintain attention while others spoke. Interpersonally, these functions facilitate cooperation or sharing, encompassing the confirmation of shared assumptions, verification, and expression of understanding. Furthermore, it is crucial to convey the speaker's mindset or confidence. To conduct compelling interviews, the personalities employed various PMs. This may assist in preserving coherence, structuring the discourse, and illustrating the characters' positions regarding their statements and audience. This study reveals that Basic markers provide textual and interactional functions, including presenting direct or indirect signals. Commentary markers indicate the speaker's perspective about the statement, such as*, really, and obviously*. Parallel

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markers emphasize, clarify, or indicate individuals as in, *right, and you see*. Discourse markers connect ideas, shift topics, and formulate arguments as in, *but,* and *so.*

PMs in political speech are strategic and impactful, resembling covert chess moves. They shape audience perception and comprehension of political messaging (Al-Azzawi et al.,2024). The investigation of the functions performed using PMs utilised by the interviewer (Piers Morgan) and the interviewee (Bassim Yusif) during the episode of the Piers Morgan Uncensored political interview reveals that the figures are more inclined to achieve discourse coherence and coherence.

This study showed two main functions of PMs employed during the interview, which utilized 2907 PMs. Using PMs is a compelling aspect of language, especially in political discourse. As linguistic cues, PMs facilitate the structure and arrangement of communication, reflect the speaker's attitude, and improve the ability to form realistic conclusions. Generally, they do not affect the truth-conditional content of a statement, yet, depending on the situation at hand, they may fulfil distinct objectives and provide different outcomes. An investigation of the functions performed by PMs utilised in the political interview demonstrates that they signify several elements of the discussion and improve the overall coherence of the discourse.

Compared to previous studies, this finding agrees with Khasanuddin (2021), who found that Trump frequently used all main types of PMs and DMs. Trump employs various discourse management markers in his speech. Trump does not utilize all the subgroups or functions of PMs; many markers have more than one function. The primary function of Basic markers is to organise or manage discourse to establish coherence. This consistency was attained by structural and lexical basic markers, with performative expression markers being the most commonly utilised PMs. Fei, L., & Leilei, Z. O. U. (2023) revealed that using discourse markers in television discussion shows facilitates question-answer interactions. This discourse employs a limited variety of discourse markers, but their repeated use highlights their multifunctionality and underscores the importance of shared culture in these markers.

5. Conclusion

The study investigates the frequency of PMs and their functions used in Piers Morgan's political interview with Bassim Yousif on the Israel-Gaza War, The Aqsa Flood. This study showed that employing Elaborative PMs in TV talk shows achieves the goal of a question-answer conversation. The PMs used during this discussion are limited; however, every marker is utilized repeatedly, illustrating its multi-functionality. Simultaneously, PMs have been analyzed at both the textual and interpersonal levels, suggesting their primary objective is to create their textual and interpersonal function domains according to the theory framework. The significance of genre in using PMs necessitates that writers or speakers recognize the linguistic patterns distinctive to particular genres. In this research, the most commonly utilized terms indicate a conversational strategy. The frequent employment of *and, but*, and *so* indicates a cognitive approach focused on clarification and explication. The frequent use of terms like *no*, *never*, and *disagreement* suggests conflicting perspectives in the text. The employment of *like* and *actually* indicates a dependence on contrast and explanation in discourse.

The current study's findings enhance comprehension of how PMs link their speeches and structure their discourse to ensure coherence. Moreover, the results indicated that the

chosen political interviews employed elevated frequencies of pragmatic markers, enhancing their discourse's coherence. Overall, the selected political interview utilized more PMs at the discourse level than others at the sentence level. These markers would contribute to our understanding of how PMs connect their speeches and organize their talks to maintain coherence. This indicates that PMs of the DM type performed more functions than other types of PMs. This may be related to the linguistic repertoire of PMs utilised to fulfil these responsibilities, highlighting the imperative in the political environment to engage at the discourse level to cultivate complete competency at both the sentence and discourse levels for extensive language analysis. with this context, political discourse must utilise PMs that can aid with maintaining coherence and structuring the conversation.

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توظيف العلامات التداولية في مقابلة بيرس مورغان مع سم يوسف حول طوفان الأقصى

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المستخلص:

العلامات التداولية ضرورية لبناء الخطاب وتنظيم التفاعل والتأثير على تصور الجمهور في المقابلات السياسية. وهذا يعني أن سوء فهم العلامات التداولية من شأنه أن يسبب صعوبة للجمهور في فهم المعنى المقصود للمتحدث. ولذلك تبحث هذه الدراسة النوعية في وظيفة العلامات التداولية في المقابلة السياسية التي أجراها بيرس مورغان مع سم يوسف حول طوفان الأقصى. وهدفت هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف أنواع ووظائف العلامات التداولية المستخدمة في المقابلة المختارة. واستند تصنيف أنواع العلامات البراغماتية إلى تصنيف فريزر (٢٠٠٩)، بينما تم تحليل وظائفها التداولية ستخدام تصنيف برينتون (١٩٩٦). وتشرح الدراسة بدقة كيف تساهم هذه العلامات في التواصل الفعال من خلال فحص كلا الجانبين. ويدرس البحث العلامات التداولية، مثل علامات الخطاب والموقف، لمعالجة الموضوعات الحساسة والحفاظ على المصداقية وتعزيز العلاقات التي يستخدمها القائم لمقابلة والمُقابلون. استخدمت المقابلة السياسية المختارة مؤشرات تداولية على مستوى الخطاب أكثر من غيرها على مستوى الجملة. ستساهم هذه المؤشرات في فهمنا لكيفية ربط المؤشرات التداولية لخطا وتنظيمها للحفاظ على تماسكها. يشير هذا إلى أن المؤشرات التداولية للخطاب أدت وظائف أكثر من غيرها من المؤشرات التداولية. ستعزز نتائج الدراسة فهمًا شاملًا للخطاب الإعلامي واستراتيجيات التواصل السياسي.