

Pragmatic Markers in a Selected English Podcast A Pragmatic Study

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العلامات التداولية في ملف صوتي إنكليزي مختار دراسة تداولية

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Abstract:

In this research , the author has given a detailed account to Pragmatic Markers, which are simply defined as small words having a vital role in making our speaking process coherent and maintain the relation between the addressors and their addresses. The author has selected a certain podcast which includes three topics of conversation. The author has taken the three topics as data to his study . He has used a qualitative method of analysis to arrive at the desired results. The author has set some hypotheses for the current research , to name a few (i) Pragmatic markers are repeatedly employed in daily interactions particularly in interviews . (ii) Communicators , via using pragmatic markers , can change their roles and topics . Carter and Mccarthy's , 2006, taxonomy of Pragmatic Markers is followed as a model to analyze the topics chosen . This research has been concluded by saying , single words of pragmatic markers are used more frequently than those of clausal elements , communicators are able to use both single words and clausal elements in podcast interviews .

Key Words: Language , Pragmatics , podcast , communication , utterance .

الخلاصة :

في هذا البحث , أعطى الباحث العلامات التداولية أهمية مفصلة , التي يمكن تعريفها على أنها كلمات صغيرة ولها دورا فعالا في جعل كلامنا متماسك و تحافظ على العلاقة بين المتكلمين و مستمعيهم . اختار الباحث ملف صوتي معين والذي يتضمن ثلاثة مواضيع حوارية . أتخذ الباحث المواضيع الثلاثة كعينات لبحثه . أستخدم الباحث طريقة البحث النوعي للوصول للنتائج المرغوبة . وقد قدم الباحث بعض الفرضيات ومنها (١) توظف العلامات البراغمية في التواصل اليومي وخصوصا في المقابلات . (٢) يستطيع المتحدثون بواسطة العلامات البراغمية تغيير ادوارهم و المواضيع . أتبع الباحث تقسيم كارتر و مكارثي ٢٠٠٦ كنموذج لتحليل المواضيع المختارة . ختم البحث بالقول أن الكلمات المفردة تم تكرارها أكثر من العبارات . يستطيع المتحدثون استخدام الكلمات المفردة و العبارات في الحوارات خصوصا في المقابلات الصوتية .

الكلمات المفتاحية : اللغة , التداولية , ملف صوتي , التواصل , القول (كلام) .

Introduction

Language , the means that ideal communicators use to exchange information , send and receive messages in their daily occasions , has been defined variously via different linguists and/ or scholars. Individuals use language to interact and communicate on diverse social occasions and events. In fact , language is a system of subsystems . It is used, for its significant role in drawing a distinction between humans and animals, to define us (Nunn: 2013) . Cited in (Abdullah and Hussein: 2015) language is a system or a tool of communication which is utilized in every days' events to send and/or receive messages. Cited in (Abdullah and Hussein : 2013) language is a process via which people acquire or learn every day speech of foreign language or their mother tongue.As the title tells , the current research falls in the scope of Pragmatics. Pragmatics, to give it a brief account, is defined as a linguistic level that enables language users to understand the invisible meaning of the utterance(s) . Thus , it helps to arrive at satisfactory interpretation of the meaning expressed indirectly via the addressors (Cited in Hashim et al : 2023) . Pragmatics is a linguistic field that investigates the relation between

the structure and meaning used in a certain interaction. It highlights the linguistic cues on the phrases level. It has been seen that Pragmatics studies meaning transmitted in an interaction. Moreover, it looks at how the forms of a language are utilized and linked to other forms of linguistics (Cited in Hameed : 2025) .

Podcast and Pragmatic Markers

After presenting the concept of language, now it is necessary to turn our attention to the nature of what podcast is. Thus , podcast is a linguistic form that refers to individual episodes or audio show . In the podcast , there is a series of talks which are recorded before being presented . People can find the podcasts on Youtube for example or on any other platforms available online. They can listen to podcast via their mobile phones . Episodes , often in any podcast , are published regularly . In the podcast , there is one speaker or more talking about a specific topics or trying to deliver a message (<https://www.techtarget.com/searchunifiedcommunications/definition/podcasting>) Pragmatic markers (henceforth PMs) , in our daily use of language , are refereed to as the oil that plays a vital role in performing the complicated task of speech production and interactions efficiently and smoothly (Crystal : 1988) . They , PMs , are utilized for the sake of filling the gaps in the speaking process . Factually , they do more than filling the gaps . They play a role in holding diverse functions . It is stressed that one of the defining properties of pragmatic markers is their creativity . Thus , they are creative in altering the current context and form a social and/ or linguistic context . The recent social context counts, for instance , on the activity (the context generated via the PMs is various in an argument and in a school lesson). PMs are employed by the speaker to allude that they are about to change the topic in question (Aijmer : 2013) . This definition tells us that the topics in any interaction are structured by means of PMs . They are of a high importance to denote meaning in context(s) . They give the addressee that the addressor, in the interaction, is taking a new role soon . The topic moves to a next stage (ibid)Small words or pragmatic markers have a vital role in making our speaking process coherent and maintain the relation between the addressors and their addresses . Sometimes PMs are confused with certain speech act such as thanking which is employed to end a discourse. The words like ‘uh , um’ are used to tell that the addressor is hesitant . Thus , hesitation can function as PMs. They make it easy for the addressee to comprehend the utterance by showing how the uttered utterance fits the context in question (Archer et al :2012) . It is investigated that PMs are used as a functional class of words whose role is played out the scope of the clause reflecting the interpersonal meaning and intentions of the addressor. As a result , PMs are not involved in the linguistic areas of syntax and semantics rather they form the awareness within the context in which they occur (Carter and McCarthy : 2006).PMs do have certain properties on various linguistic levels and they are phonological , lexical , syntactic , semantic , functional , sociolinguistic and stylistic ones (Archer et al : 2012) . In terms of kinds and functions , it is stated that PMs do not have clear-cut kinds and/or functions. It has been stressed that there are two kinds of PMs that paly roles in informal interactions. On the one hand ‘single words’ like ‘ oh , great , like , anyway , cos , then , so , wow , well , now and right . On the second hand ‘ clausal or phrasal units’ which includes instances such as ‘ as I say , I mean , you know , for a start and mind you’ (Carter and Mccarthy : 2006) . It is observed that the word ‘well’ is used in contexts like question-answer event. ‘Well’ occurs in an evaluation that does not covertly confirm what was expected. As a matter of fact , ‘well’ possesses a central structuring role . Thus , its exact slot is either in the initial utterance or clause or between units (Gonzalez : 2004).It is said that ‘well’ can normally occur in the final place of a certain unit. Moreover , it is utilized to add information , state conclusion , give clarification , introducing an internal and/or external comment(s) , change a topic and direct speech introduction (ibid) . Now let us turn our attention to the functions of PMs . It is mentioned that ‘well’ indicates that the speaker’s turn is about to begin and the speaker is hesitant . The expression ‘ you know’ shows the close relation between the interlocutors . ‘Just , I mean , you know’ are synonyms and used interchangeably to form or establish rapport and solidarity among the members of a group. ‘Sort of the , like’ are expressions used to modify and soften what is being uttered . The function of ‘ or something , stuff like that’ is fillers or indicates politeness. ‘ I mean , you see , I think , you know’ are comment clauses whose functions are interpersonal or textual (Archer et al : 2012) .

Methodology

In this research , the researcher has used three topics that are aired in a podcast available on you tube platform .Each topic includes two participants. Through their conversation , divers PMs have been employed to show specific functions . The researcher has used a qualitative method of analysis to reach the hypotheses set above. The data are presented at the end of the current paper in form of a link from which they are taken. The model adopted to analyze the data divides PMs into two major types namely ‘single words’ and ‘clausal units’ and

each of them has its own subtypes mentioned above in details. The researcher has underlined the PMs in all the topics. Under each topic, the researcher has set a table of two columns, and discussed the functions of the underlined PMs used via either the first speaker (X) or the second one (Y).

Data Analysis and Results

The author, in this section, has presented his data (the three topics) and analyzed them in terms of the followed model.

Topic No. 1 'Do you like Village or City Life' ?

X: Hi, how are you doing today?

Y: I'm doing well. thank you, how about you?

X: I'm good, too. so, I was thinking about the differences between village life and City Life. What do you think about it?

Y: Oh, that's an interesting topic. I personally prefer Village life because it's more peaceful and closer to nature. What about you?

X: Well, I have lived in both village and city and I think both have their pros and cons.

Y: For example, in the Village People are more friendly and helpful, but the facilities are not as advanced as in the city.

X: Yeah, I agree with you in the city there are more opportunities for education Employment and entertainment, but it's also more crowded and polluted.

Y: Absolutely, I think it depends on the individuals priorities and Lifestyle. For example, if someone wants to have a quiet and simple life the village is a better option. And if someone wants to have a fast paced and dynamic life, the city is a better option.

X: Yes, that is true, But on the other hand, in the city people are more independent and they rely on themselves

Y: Yes that's true, but on the other hand in the city there is more diversity and exposure to different cultures which can broaden one's perspective.

X: I agree with you. So, overall I think both village and city life have their own merits and demerits. It's up to the person to decide what suits them best.

Y: Exactly, it's all about personal preferences and priorities but it's always good to have a balance between the two if possible.

X: Yes, that's a good idea it's always good to experience both ways of life and appreciate the differences.

PMs of Single Words	PMs of Clausal Elements
Hi	For example
Oh	I think
So	On the other hand
Well	I agree with you
Yeah	I think
Absolutely	
So	
Exactly	

Discussion :

The table drawn above shows the pragmatic markers being used via the speakers in their conversation. Let us begin with the single words and show their functions. 'Hi' is generally employed to greet someone and start a talk, but it is used informally. 'oh' is used to show emotional interaction, surprise, or a certain concern. In its current context, it is used to show emotional interaction. 'So' has certain functions like linking ideas, shifting from one idea to another, or summarizing. 'So', in its both slots, is utilized to link the ideas. 'Well' is used skilfully via the speaker to show his/her personal point of view. 'Yeah' has been employed to display agreement and approval. 'Absolutely' is a single word whose function is showing a strong emphasis and agreement to the speaker's utterance(s). 'Exactly' is used, in this context, to show emphasis on what is being said. In terms of clausal elements, 'for example' is universally used to introduce examples and make tough matters easier. 'I think' is used, in its both places, to express the speaker's view point regarding the topic at hands. 'On the other hand' is seen as phrase used via advanced speakers to show that the current topic is of two or more parts. The speaker has used it to show an idea that is parallel to another idea presented a few moments ago. 'I agree' is being used to show agreement, and here, it is used so.

Topic No.2 'Getting a Pet'

X: Hey, Anna how are you doing

Y: I'm good thanks for asking how about you

X: I'm doing well too .hey, I was thinking of getting a pet from my house what do you think?

Y: Honestly I'm not a big fan of keeping pets inside the house

X: Really why not?

Y: Well I think pets can be a lot of work and responsibility plus they can also cause allergies or other health issues for some people

X: I understand your concerns , but I think having a pet can be really rewarding too. They can be great companions and help reduce stress.

Y: I can see that, but I also worry about the mess and potential damage they can cause .

X: That's a valid concern , but I think with proper training and care pets can be well behaved and not caused too much trouble

X: Yeah I suppose that is true what kind of pet we thinking of getting

Y: I was thinking of getting a dog . I love how loyal and affectionate they can be X: Dogs are definitely cute and friendly but they also require a lot of attention and exercise do you have the time and energy to take care of one?

X: I do have a pretty flexible schedule so I think I can make it work plus I think it'll be good motivation for me to get more active too.

Y: That's a good point. Well, I guess it's ultimately up to you just make sure you do your research and consider all the factors before making a decision.

X: Thanks for your input Anna I appreciate your honesty and concern

Y: Of course anytime let me know !if you need any more advice or tips on Pet Care job you look really down did you have what you're doing any more advice or tips on Pet Care.

PMs Of Single Words	PMs of Clausal Elements
Hey	Thanks for asking
Too	I understand your concern
Honestly	I can see that
Really	That is a valid concern
Well	I suppose
But	I guess
Just	Of course
Anytime.	-

Discussion:

As shown in the table , the two types of pragmatic markers are used almost equally. The first speaker begins by saying 'hey' indicating he/she has something to talk about. As the function of ' hey' is to commence a conversation. 'Too' is used as a marker of adding something or showing agreement . Another single word is 'honestly' which has been employed to express the speaker's thoughts openly and clearly . 'Really' is , in general , used to express an astonishment or to raise a question. In the current context , it is used for expressing both uses . The word ' well' is also used in the podcast as a sign of thinking and to express a personal point of view. 'But' , universally is used to show a contrast between two ideas , is used via the speaker to show his/her opposed point of view and to express another idea contrary to the preceding ones. 'Just' is another single word and its major function , in the context at hands, is to recommend the listener to ensure and avoid being in rush . 'Anytime' is used by the speaker to show that he/she is always ready to offer continuous support. In terms of clausal elements , let us begin with the first one which is ' thanks for asking' . This expression or clause is used to show that the speaker is polite and cares about others' feelings. ' I understand your concern' has come into use to indicate that its user listens and understands what his partner is talking about . ' I can see' , refers not to the ability of seeing or having a good sight rather it is used non- liter and refers that the speaker is fully understanding what is going on . ' That is a valid concern' , is considered as an advanced clause and refers to the idea on the discussion carpet is a valid one and can be taken into mind. ' I suppose' is another clausal element used to express the speaker's suggestion(s) and ideas regarding a certain situation or topic . ' I guess' is employed to show that the speaker is of two minds and confused to pick which one , so he/ she uses ' I guess' as a mark of not being one hundred percent sure. ' Of course' is the last clausal element being used here, it expresses a total agreement and that the speaker is highly comfort .

Topic No. 3 'Breakup support'

X: Hey, Patrick how are you doing ?

Y: Oh, hey Anna not so good actually.

X: Oh no what happened you look really down did you have a fight with your girlfriend again?

Y: Well me and my girlfriend broke up last night.

X: Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that. what happened?

Y: She was cheating on me, Anna. I can't believe it.

X: Oh Patrick that's terrible .I can't imagine how you must be feeling right now.

Y: I don't even know what to do I thought she was the one .

X: I know it's tough, but you'll get through this you deserve someone who treats you right and doesn't cheat on you.

Y: I just feel so lost right now .she admitted to cheating and I couldn't wrap my head around it.

X: I know it's hard, but try to take some time for yourself. Do things that make you happy. Focus on your hobbies and spend time with friends and family.

Y: Thanks, Anna. I appreciate your support.

X: Of course. I'm always here for you and remember time heals all wounds. You will find someone who loves and respects you.

PMs of Single Words	PMs of Clausal Elements
Oh	Cannot believe
Actually	Cannot imagine
Oh, no	I know
Really	You deserve
Again	I appreciate
Just	And remember
But	-
Thanks	-
Always	-

Discussion :

It is too obvious that the dialogue given above shows both PMs of single words and of clausal elements . In terms of the former , 'oh' has been used to indicate amazement and feeling sorry for knowing such news. 'Actually' has been utilized via the speaker for delivering a message that he/she is telling the truth and he/she not good due to his/her current situation (breakup). 'Oh, no' is used to express shock or sympathy . 'Really' is used for showing emphasis regarding sad feelings that he/she got. 'Again' , the speaker has used it to show that his/her friendship with his/her listener is a deep and close one as they know the breakup has come again in the life of one of them . ' Just' is employed to mitigate the lose feeling . 'But' , actually is used in general to show a contrast between what is said earlier and what is said now . In the current context , it is used to support or give advice and keep the friendship as it is a face-saving item. 'Thanks' is utilized to express that its user is polite and he/she is expressing his/ her grateful and respect via saying thanks . 'Always' is used , in the current context , for expressing continuous support and strengthen their friendship. In terms of the latter which are put in the second column of the table , the first PM is 'cannot believe' is used to show that the its narrator is in an amazement and wonder conditions and he/she cannot believe that he/she was deceived by his/her boy/girlfriend. 'Cannot imagine' has come into usage for expressing sympathy and attempt for understanding the other side's feelings appropriately . ' I know' is used that its narrator is fully aware of what is going on with his/her friend . 'You deserve' is used to show that he/she is always there to support and give positive feelings. 'I appreciate' is used by the speaker to indicate that he/ she is grateful for supporting him/her. 'And remember' is used as a general instance for expressing comfort and recuperation .

Conclusions

Based on the tables , analysis and discussions above-presented , we can conclude the current study by saying that pragmatic markers of single words are used more repeatedly and frequently by the communicators than that of clausal elements . Communicators , in podcast interviews , are highly capable of using both single words and clausal elements of PMs. Pragmatic Markers, depending on the communicators' vocabularies and

their linguistic skills , have distinct roles and/ or functions to show particularly in podcasts. Podcasts, as we have seen and regardless the topics being discussed , are genres full of Pragmatic markers .

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