

Discourse Markers in English and Vietnamese Communication

Pham Ngoc Diem^{1*}

¹Ph.D student - University of Social Science and Humanities, Vietnam

*Corresponding Author

Pham Ngoc Diem

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Abstract: The discourse makers (DMs) appear with a high frequency in English communication. In terms of influence, DMs play a very important role in language, especially in dialogues. In addition to linking function, DMs also convey many different implications in the different context in which it is used. Within the scope of this article, we present an overview of the discourse markers and focus on analyzing the effect of discourse markers in communication. Since then, this article will present the forms and functions of discourse markers used in the conversation between English and Vietnamese.

Keywords: discourse makers, function, context, conversation, communication English, Vietnamese.

INTRODUCTION

"Discourse makers" (DMs) is an element that is studied under different aspects such as functional grammar, pragmatics and perspective social field because of its high frequency of occurrence and shows its essential role in language. Discourse makers are often used before a conversation or at the end of a conversation, or even in the middle of a conversation to increase fluency in your conversation. We often use discourse markers to connect ideas together, manage and organize what we say, express opinions.

However, most research on discourse makers focuses on the language of English users such as native speakers, or bilingual users, so the use of discourse makers is appropriate in interactive communication. On the contrary, for foreigners who use English, this is very difficult. Basing on the above problem, in the field of pragmatics and language analysis, we will propose a suitable translation into Vietnamese on the basis of analysis of words used as a "discourse marker" containing functional meaning, a kind of semantics that most researchers today agree that it determines the meaning of the communication, not the information content of the statement that immediately follows it. There are also other discourse markers that co-occure with words at the beginning of a statement and that is an interesting but equally complicated problem that needs separate discussion, not within the scope of this article.

Discourse markers in semantic and pragmatic

For semantics, the discourse markers are independent lexical units of the grammar of the proposition, belonging to aspect of discourse and have interactive function "[3; p. 604]. These factors are studied under different fields such as functional grammar, pragmatics and society because of its high frequency of occurrence and its essential role in language.

This multifunctionality integrates the processes of making the sentences meaningful and creating discourse as well as to combine discourse markers into one complete notification unit "[3; p. 192].

For pragmatics, generic term for words or phrases used to structure discourse, such as nonsentences (e.g. interjections, signalling devices), syntactic constructions (e.g. left dislocation) or syntactically dependent elements (e.g. conjunctions, modal particles). They perform a variety of functions.' (Bußmann 1990: 190) Baumann (1992: 86) regards as a signalling device any linguistic and extralinguistic marker contributing to textual comprehension and

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progression and distinguishes between the social, functional-communicative, communicative-pragmatic and semantic dimensions of signalling devices. He shows that the kind of communicative strategy the author adopts determines linguistic choices, and these in turn determine the use of particular communicative-pragmatic signalling devices. Visible at the text surface are at least eight types of signalling device:

1. Metacommunicative text segments of some length (e.g. 'for this purpose I shall look closely at ...')
2. Rhetorical figures such as anaphora
3. Sentence adverbs (e.g. similarly)
4. Sentence openers (e.g. to begin, note that)
5. Sequence signals (e.g. in the first place)
6. 'Signalling devices proper' (e.g. either ... or)
7. Sentence closers (e.g. finally, after all)
8. (Sub) headings (Baumann 1992: 93-95)

THE CONCEPT OF DISCOURSE MARKERS

For example

A: **So**, I'm decided I'm going to go to the bank and ask for a car loan.

B: That sounds like a good idea.

C: **Well**, you need a car.

B: Right.

A: **Anyway**, I was wondering if either of you would teach me how to drive.

A: **So** I decided I would go to the bank and ask for a car loan.

B: Seems to be a good idea.

C: Yes, you need a car.

According to [2; p. 938] and [4; p. 25], the term has different meanings for different groups of researchers, and we find work on DMs under a variety of labels including, but not limited to cue phrases (Knott and Dae 1994), discourse connectives (Blakemore, 1987, 1992), discourse operators (Redeker, 1990, 1991), discourse particles (Schorup, 1985), discourse signalling devices (Polanyi and Scha, 1983), pragmatic connectives (van Dijk, 1979; Stubbs, 1983), pragmatic expressions (Erman, 1992), pragmatic formatives (Fraser, 1987), pragmatic markers (Fraser, 1988, 1990; Schiffrin, 1987), pragmatic operators (Ariel, 1994), pragmatic particles (Ostman, 1995), semantic conjuncts (Quirk et al., 1985), sentence connectives (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). "Discourse markers" (Fraser 1990, 1999, Carter and Mc Carthy 2006). This term is the most commonly used and is also the pharmaceutical term Schourup (1999) used in his recent study as the discourse marker.

According to Macmillan Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2002), "Discourse markers is a defining word or phrase in a discourse that is a characteristic part of dialogue. Discourse markers is often the signal to change the topic, re-establish the discourse, set up discourse, emphasize, ignore in words, or establish ideas.

Besides, according to Bruce Fraser (1999), discourse markers are words or phrases used to connect ideas together. Using discourse markers will help us to communicate more fluently and naturally like a native speaker. Sometimes the discourse makers are also the salvation for us to put in the confused places, temporarily having not thought of good ideas or words to express. Labove and Fanshel (1977) argued that the discourse marker is the signal used in the communication by which the listener expects the speaker's intentions. Usually, they are used in conversation. These elements do not form a separation in a syntactic structure but they are freely inserted in the discourse and marked with intonation pause and punctuation. They often have multiple functions in discourse, semantics and pragmatics.

The discourse markers was also studied in bilingual contexts (Goss & Salmons 2000, Maschler 2000, Matras 2000) and analyzed as a coherent group for expressing individual views. Therefore, when giving his opinion on everyday language, Crystal (1988) thinks that discourse makers, under the name "pragmatic expression", such as the word *well* is considered as a lubricant. The oil helps us to translate in situations where ideas are difficult to present, and makes communication smooth, fluid and effective.

Functions of discourse markers

The discourse markers is used to organize what we say

A: Right, let's get started. We need to get the suitcases into the car.

B: Okay. I'm doing that. Katie, will you help me?

Discourse markers used to end a conversation

A: **So** we'll see you Sunday, Liz.

B: **Right**, okay Mum.

A: **Okay**, see you then, love.

B: **Bye**, Mum. Thanks for calling.

A: **Bye**, Liz.

Discourse markers used to change or manage a topic A.

For example:

A: **So**, I'm decided I'm going to go to the bank and ask for a car loan.

B: That sounds like a good idea.

C: **Well**, you need a car.

B: **Right**.

A: **Anyway**, I was wondering if either of you would teach me how to drive.

A: So I decided I would go to the bank and ask for a car loan.

B: Seems to be a good idea.

C: Yes, you need a car.

"Prototypical discourse is a form of speech with its own characteristics in both meaning and structure. Semantically, this kind of expression must have a method of expression which is consistent with the context. In terms of structure, it must be in the original position of the application intonation language "[2; tr. 930], that is, they are usually at the beginning of the sentence.

When studying the function of using discourse markers in communication, [1; page. 384] asserts that this type of element plays a very important role in expressing the speaker's feelings. That is:

- Make speech more natural,
- Increases fluency,
- Additional information,
- Change the subject,
- Start conversation,
- End the story,
- Share knowledge,
- Make information clearer.

The discourse markers is used to connect ideas together, what to manage and organize we say, express opinions. However, most studies on discourse markers are currently focusing only on the language of English users as their mother tongue. For example, native speakers or bilingual users, so the use of discourse markers is appropriate in their relatively easy communication; but on the contrary, for foreigners, this is very difficult to use. According to the preliminary survey in the research process, Vietnamese people have little habit of using discourse markers in communication.

Many studies have been done to classify the discourse markers, however, the different categories are possible because each researcher focuses on certain aspects of these factors. According to [1; p. 392], the types of discourse markers show: the interaction between greeting and farewells expressions, linking adverbials, attitude toward reception information stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitators.

In the scope of the article, we focus on observing frequency of use discourse markers which have the function of combining in English and Vietnamese. In the same conversation from the novel *Gone with the Wind* of Margaret Mitchell and the translation of the author Dương Tường.

OBJECT AND RESEARCH METHOD

For the purpose of supporting teaching - learning foreign languages and translation, the writing task is to clarify the linking function to supplement information (addition) of discourse markers and, but, now in *Gone with the Wind* and similar Vietnamese discourse markers in the work *Gone With the Wind*.

Data on discourse markers surveyed in the relationship between linking of additional information to the previous message (content) and the linguistic expression expressions) in English (convention is L1) and Vietnamese (convention is L2) according to Figure 1.

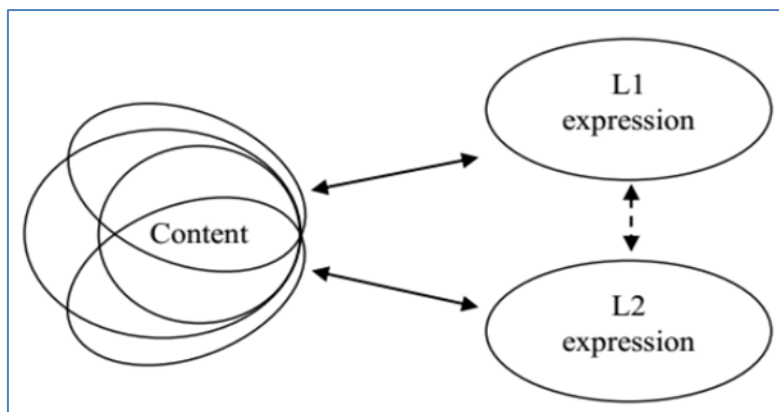


Fig-1

We consider linking functionality to supplement informational content in *Gone with the Wind* and the Vietnamese translation “*Cuốn Theo chiều gió*” are equivalent of the content expressed. This content is a common basis, is a criterion to compare discourse markers in two languages. The task is to define: (i) the function of linking and supplementing information for the previous announcement of the discourse markers and, but and now and their equivalents in Vietnamese, and (ii) linguistic expressions are equivalent of discourse markers and, but and now in Vietnamese with the same context.

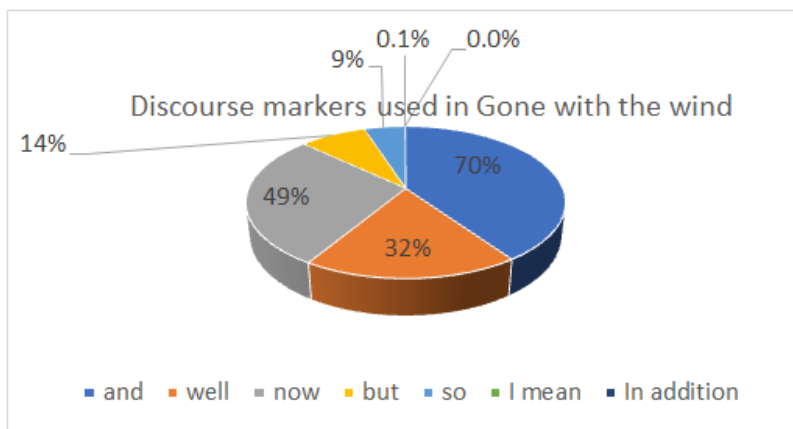
Many studies have been put in place to classify discourse markers, however, different classifications are possible because each researcher focuses on certain aspects of these discourse markers. To clarify the theories related to discourse markers, the author has conducted the observation in the work “*Gone with the wind*” and gives some conclusion about them.

Discourse markers with the function of linking words in the work “gone with the wind” Margaret Mitchell and the vietnamse translation" cuốn theo chiều gió” của tác giả dương tường

Our survey data shows discourse markers with the linking function to complement information in *Gone with the Wind* is popular and varied such as and, but, well, now, so, in addition, I mean... The statistical results of these discourse markers are described in Table 1.

Table-1: Discourse markers used in the work *Gone with the wind*

Number	Discourse markers	Used times	Percentage	Note
1.	and	16292	70%	
2.	well	737	3.15%	
3.	now	1156	4.94%	
4.	but	3139	13.4%	
5.	so	2012	8.6%	
6.	I mean	31	0.1%	
7.	In addition	4	0.01%	
Total	23371		100%	



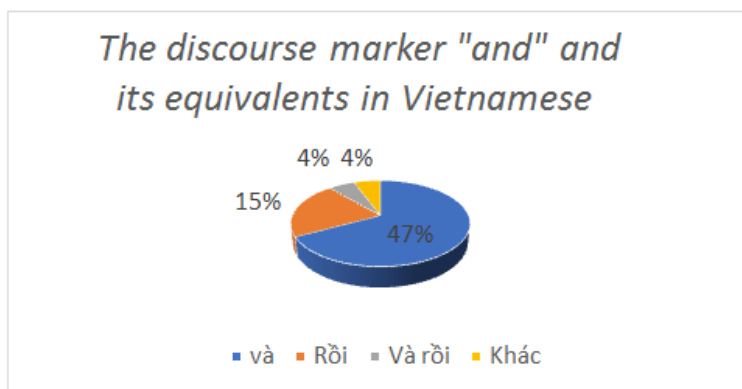
The data shows that “and, but, and now” have the highest frequency of usage. The first of all, we examine the equivalent representations of which they are represented in the work “Gone with the wind”.

The discourse marker "and" and its equivalents in Vietnamese

In the Gone with the Wind translation, “and” signifies the association addition to the information expressed by many different factors. As the result, the analysis of data on the use of Vietnamese discourse marker is equivalent to the the marker “and” described in Table 2.

Table-2: The discourse marker "and" and its equivalents in Vietnamese

Number	Vietnamese	Equivalents	Note
1.	và	10999	47%
2.	Rồi	3449	15%
3.	Và rồi	934	4%
4.	Khác	910	4%
Total		16292	



Figures show “and” considered equivalent to and subject to context. In which, the marker *and* has the highest rate (70%).

Example

“I’ll marry him,” she thought coolly. “And then I’ll never have to brother about money again.” [7; p. 751]

- Minh sẽ lấy hắn. Và mình sẽ không bao giờ lo nghĩ tới tiền bạc nữa. [1, p. 505]

The content in the first sentence (in both English and Vietnamese sentences) is added. Information (content) and is expressed in the second sentence through *and* in English *và* in Vietnamese).

- And to think, Pa that you said only last night I had disgraced the family!
- And you said that I... [7; p. 755].
- Ba nghĩ lại coi, tối qua ba mới bảo con là con làm hoen ố danh giá gia đình, rồi ngay sau đó ba lại làm như vậy.
- Rồi ba còn nói rằng... [1; p. 505]

The discourse marker *and* indicates and represents link functionality to add meaning to previous announcements. It not only is the meaning equivalent of the index and, but also the equivalent of re (combination with main verb) Vietnamese.

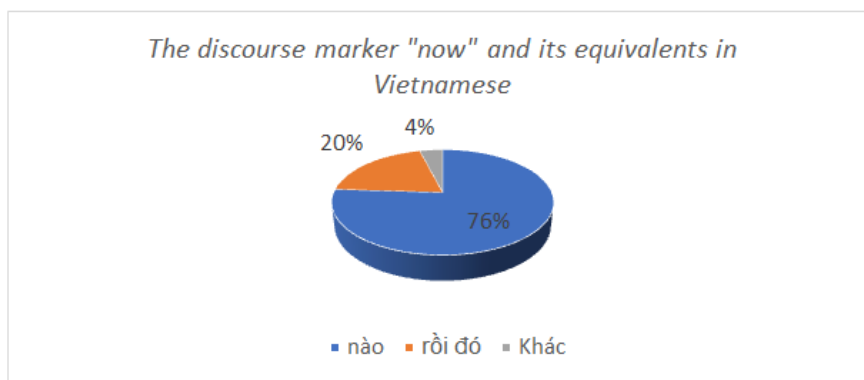
- Now, you wait right here till I come back, for I want to eat barbecue with you.
- And don’t you go off philandering with those other girls, because I’m mightly jealous.(8; p. 136)
- Nào, bây giờ anh hãy đợi tôi ngay chỗ này cho tới khi tôi trở lại, vì tôi muốn dự
- Dạ yên bên anh. À, anh, đừng có ve vãn cô nào đấy nghe, tôi hay ghen lắm đây. [1; p. 102]

Thus, the same content is linked to additional information for the previous speech (content) denoted by and (in English) is the equivalent of the indicators and, then, or another combination method in Vietnamese.

The discourse marker "now" and its equivalents in Vietnamese

Table-3: The discourse marker "now" and its equivalents in Vietnamese

Number	Vietnamese	Equivalents	Note
	nào	876	76%
	rồi đó	231	20%
	Khác	49	4%
Total		1156	100%



In each context, the now element denotes the connective meaning and adds the available information. How can there be different equivalent companies in Vietnamese. Data about discourse marker in Vietnamese (Cuốn Theo chiều gió) is shown in Table 3.

Example

First of all, the now index has how positivity is expressed.

- You like „em red-headed, don’t you, honey? Now come on, promise us all the waltzes and the supper. [7; tr. 11]
- Như vậy là cung ưa mấy thằng tóc đỏ, phải không? Nào, hứa với tụi này đi, hai bản luân vũ và buổi tối. [1; tr. 13]

There are many issues to discuss in the overall translation of this dialogue, but the article is only interested in the issue of now and noticed that the character’s words makes Vietnamese feel like an encouragement while the spirit of now in. This context has no such function as this is a sign of internal courtesy communication.

Example

- Now, you wait right here till I come back, for I want to eat barbecue with you [7; tr. 136]
- Nào, bây giờ anh hãy đợi tôi ngay chỗ này cho tới khi tôi trở lại, vì tôi muốn dự dạ yên bên anh, [1; tr. 102]
- The connective meaning and additional information are expressed by the now index in the language
- You are also represented by the index already in Vietnamese.

Example

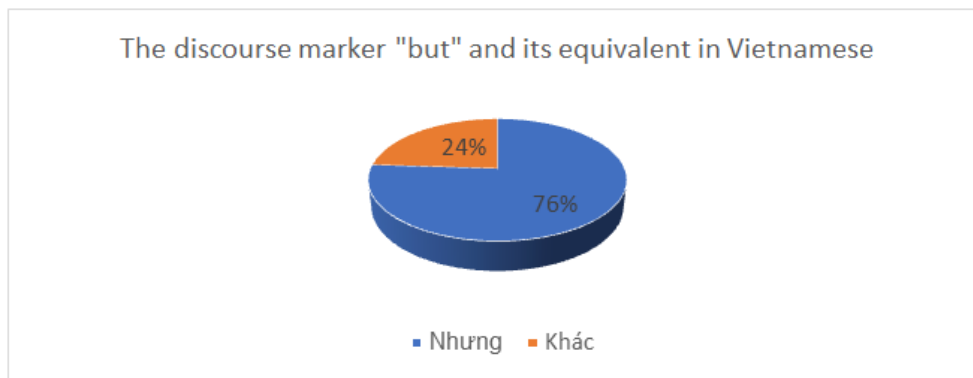
- Now, Scarlett, we’ve told you the secret, so you’ve got to promise to eat supper with us.
- Of course I will - Scarlett said automatically [7; p. 12]
- Rồi đó, Scarlett, tụi này đã tiết lộ hết rồi, bây giờ cô phải hứa cùng ngồi ăn với bọn này đi. [1; p. 13]

Thus, the now indicator is a sign of hedging essential to make a statement. The softer, the weaker the language, absolutely cannot have an equivalent ability to create more respectful meanings. With these pragmatic arguments, they are noticed that now in this case stands for my opinion (Follow me). And so, the translation of the above dialogue should be corrected with the original English spirit of communication and, moreover, for pure Vietnamese in pragmatics.

The discourse marker "but" and its equivalent in Vietnamese

Table-4: The discourse marker "but" and its equivalents in Vietnamese

Number	Vietnamese	Equivalents	Note
1.	Nhưng	2376	76%
2.	Khác	763	24%
Total		3139	



The linking function to supplement information is also represented by *but* in English and *nhưng* in Vietnamese. Table 4 shows equivalence translation *but* in Vietnamese. Discourse markers *but* in English is considered the equivalent *but* in English and *nhưng* in Vietnamese very high (up to 76%). Sometimes the link function of this metric is also considered is equivalent and expressed through grammatical elements of the sentence.

Example

...Formerly, it had been Rhett who asked for her favors and she who helped the power. Now she was the beggar and a beggar in now position to dictate terms.

But I won't think of that now. [1; tr. 755]

Rhett had had to pray beside her before, because she was powerful enough. Now she just a beggar, a beggar has no conditional authority.

But I won't find Rhett as a beggar. [7; tr. 508]

The lines take place the characters behind another discourse markers *but* are translated as *but* followed by an offer discourse markers *but* first of all aims to refute the idea other people's ants; then the speaker changes his mind to make another suggestion; as So discourse markers *but* not only plays a role of association in terms of form but also association in terms of meaning with the sentence behind it, intended to give the idea of I just want to refute or express my conflicting thoughts about the opinion of *but* does not want to think of him as imposing (polite).

Thus, discourse markers and, but, now are factors that play a very important role in acting language. They have a very clear informational function: linking and supplementing information for broadcast previous language; at the same time show courtesy in communication. Through the comparison of vocational training programs in the English - Vietnamese translation in different contexts, we can see out of office link function, discursive index also conveys many different implications in context different in which it is used. Compare the vocational training program with equivalent translated in the version Translation; we see the similarities and differences when translating this business program from the language English to Vietnamese.

First of all, in terms of similarity, discourse markers in English when translated into Vietnamese. This element can be used to fill spaces in the conversation; the speaker uses the discourse markers in conversation text. Besides adding adverbs in the target language to fully convey the semantics and implications of the speaker, in some cases, converting corporate discourse markers to another type, or eliminating this factor in the translation from the source language - English to the target language - in Vietnamese. The above analytical contexts show that we need in-depth research and investigation more in terms of comparison and comparison discourse markers syntax, but they are freely inserted in demonstration language and marked with intonation pause and punctuation.

They usually have multiple functions in discourse, semantics and pragmatics. In general, statistics show that English vocational institutions with inter-function. Links to additional information in the work Gone with the wind often has many discourse markers the equivalent in the Vietnamese translation Gone with the Wind. That means calculation. The equivalent translation of discourse markers in languages (ie: discourse markers in L1 is equivalent to only one discourse markers in L2) cause of the difference. This distinction, in our opinion, is due to the cultural and social characteristics of communal perception co-using language.

CONCLUSION

In the framework of researching the basics of discourse markers, articles gave an overview of the role of discourse markers in conversation, and gave a brief overview. So the function of discourse markers is the linking word in

English sentences compared to expressions equivalent in Vietnamese. We hope this is a start to research more in-depth for discourse markers, when comparing and comparing discourse markers translated from language English to Vietnamese language and vice versa.

From there, the more in-depth research on the transformation of discourse markers is very necessary and will hopefully contribute to making the solutions. The translation method is suitable and can be applied to teach English to students to practice translation of business programs in text conversations. Therefore, research on discourse markers is the content necessary for teaching and learning languages (foreign languages and native languages), in cultural studies in language and translation. When teaching discourse markers in English (language source), the teacher needs to explain to the learners clearly the equivalent meaning, the histories used together with nuances, psychology, emotional attitudes and cultural features of them in Vietnamese.

Research data shows that it is true as Tannen *et al.* affirms: discourse markers not only provides information on linguistic attributes (such as semantics and meanings pragmatics, origin, function) of a set of commonly used expressions, about structure social and contextual interactions, but also provide information about receptivity consciousness, expressions, social and verbal capacities of their users [8; p. 205]. Position functions of various discourse markers. Each one analyzes and compares with this type of factor we can all discover a new feature of the role and function of them in discourse. And we recognize the need for teaching - learning to use discourse markers in speech, recognizes the role of culture and society in language communication.

Although it has met some of the requirements stated in research purposes, this article still has some limitations. The biggest limitation is that the data are only investigated based on effect of the work "Gone with the wind" and a translation. When the survey data based on many different discourse (in both the target language and the source language) creates the results of research on discourse markers which equivalent in two languages will be more accurate. In future studies, we will combine multiple resources to obtain data on this type of discourse markers in English and Vietnamese, and at the same time using more diverse research methods for higher and more practical results for practice teaching - learning foreign languages and translation.

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