

Attitude Markers in English and Persian

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Abstract:

This study made analysis of attitude markers in English and Persian corpuses. Two books were selected: "gofteman va tarjome" "Discourse and Translation": Ali Solhju and "Discourse and practice": Theo Van Leeuwen". Sentence adverbials and verb modifying adverbs in Persian and English corpus were analyzed and frequency of the data were presented in a table and based on the table the conclusion were made. The results suggested that attitude markers generally and sentence adverbials and verb modifying adverbs specially are used in Persian and English differently. The results also showed that the frequency of attitude markers in Persian and English is different.

KEY WORDS: attitude markers, sentence adverbial, verb modifying adverb, discourse markers.

Introduction:

Previous studies have looked into the functions of discourse markers. One study for instance, classifies discourse markers as belonging to the coherence group. The main researchers who support this group like Schiffrin (1987), Fraser (1988, 1990), Redeker (1990, 1991), Zwichy (1985), and Giora (1997, 1998) believe that discourse markers play a major role in the interpretation of the text by signaling coherence relations. On the other hand, another group of researchers known as the relevance group argues that discourse markers are indicators or procedures that determine how the reader will interpret the written text or utterance. According to the advocates of the relevance group, discourse markers give cues to allow the reader to get the writer's meaning of a written text with minimum cognitive processing (Blakemore, 2000). Researchers of the relevance group include Blakemore (1987, 1992, 2002), Blass (1990), Iten (1998), and Wilson and Sperber (1993). In another study, Eslami - Rasekh (2007) investigated the use of discourse markers in three academic lectures. His study strengthens the idea that discourse markers are important because they help the receivers (readers and listeners) understand the text better.

Other studies have investigated different linguistic units to determine how their employment in written texts helps achieve cohesion. In fact, Halliday and Hasan (1976) conducted a study on lexical cohesive devices that was supported by other researchers. For instance, Castro (2004) found out in her study that students use lexical cohesive devices to connect ideas together. Duterte-Angeles' (2005) study revealed similar findings. Another researcher, Jonz (1987) concluded that the comprehension level of readers is greatly reduced once cohesive ties are removed from the text.

Although previous studies have focused on the use of lexical ties like repetition, synonyms or antonyms as important cohesive devices, there is limited study on what the use of specific discourse marker types helps to cohesion and reader's understanding of the text. The present study contributes to evaluate how sentence adverbial help in this respect and they are compared in two languages: English and Persian.

Research questions:

- 1) Are attitude markers used in Persian and English similarly?
- 2) Do attitude markers have the same frequency in English and Persian texts?

Research hypotheses:

- 1) Attitude markers are used in Persian and English similarly.
- 2) Attitude markers have the same frequency in English and Persian texts.

Methodology

In order to investigate sentence adverbial and verb modifying adverbs the book ' gofteman va tarjome' "Discourse and Translation: Ali Solhjul" and the book "Discourse and practice": Theo Van Leeuwen" were chosen and some pages were selected randomly and Comparative study was done. The purpose of this study was to know the answer to these questions. Do attitude markers are used in Persian and English similarly?

Do attitude markers have the same frequency in English and Persian texts?
Firstly the data will be presented and then the data will be analyzed.

Attitude (discourse) markers:

Phrases such as so, now, firstly, moreover, and anyways can be used as discourse markers (Schiffrin, 1987). Discourse markers are employed to give the hearer information about the discourse structure, and so aid the hearer in understanding how the new speech or text relates to what was previously said and for resolving anaphoric references (Hirschberg and Litman, 1993). Although discourse markers, such as firstly, and moreover, are not commonly used in spoken dialogue (Brown and Yule, 1983), a lot of other markers are employed. These markers are used to achieve a variety of effects: such as signal an acknowledgment or acceptance, hold a turn, stall for time, and signal a speech repair, or signal an interruption in the discourse structure or the return from one. Although Schiffrin defines discourse markers as bracketing units of speech, she explicitly avoids defining what the unit is. We feel that utterance units are the building blocks of spoken dialogue and that discourse markers operate at this level to relate the current utterance to the discourse context or to signal a repair in an utterance. (Heeman, Allen)

Writing a scientific text is not purely stating the scientific truth. Infact the writer leads the reader to know the writer's attitude towards his or her writing in a text. This is called metadiscourse, which "serves to direct readers in how to understand the author's perspective toward the content or structure of the primary discourse and the readers. It is considered as the interpersonal aspect of language and includes what Halliday(1985) calls modality.(Blagojević, S. 2007)

Words such as fortunately, unfortunately, that is interesting ... it is worth to know ... show the author's attitude towards what s(he) wrote. In fact, discourse markers show writer's insight and value of the content of the text not the truth value of the text. Sometimes writers show their insights in regard to style of the text or their attitude toward themselves as the writer. Attitude types are showing surprise, showing importance of something, agreement, disagreement,....in this respect we can add modal verb which show obligation and those verbs which show attitudes such as agree ,hope ,...sentence adverbials are enumerated discourse markers .Adverbs such as unfortunately ,importantly,... are of this category. Discourse markers are characterized by their structural (continuation or elaboration) and semantic (revision, cause, equality, context) meanings, and

they are also associated to a morphosyntactic class (part of speech), one of adverbial (A), phrasal (P) or conjunctive (C).

(Blagojević, S:2009).

Types of discourse (attitude) markers:

Attitude markers are linguistically realized by various formal categories, which can be classified into six groups:

1. Adverbs and adverbial phrases functioning as sentence adverbials - disjuncts
2. Verb-modifying adverbs functioning as subjuncts - intensifiers
3. Adjectives functioning as subjective complement in sentences with expletive 'it'
4. Adjectives functioning as pronominal modifiers
5. Modal verbs expressing obligation
6. Nouns of specific semantic content. (Blagojević, 2009)

sentence adverbials and verb modifying adverbs are chosen in this article to be analyzed. By sentence adverbials writer's attitude toward the whole sentence is expressing. Verb modifying adverbs show how the verb is done. Sometimes discourse markers show our attitude from special perspective such as: 'historically, theoretically'. Sometimes to express what we think is true but we doubt we use such words as "Apparently, Evidently", To express an idea or belief to certain extent we use: 'openly, clearly, certainly', To express a pleasant result: 'Fortunately, pleasantly ', To express dissatisfaction: "Unfortunately ", to express something unreasonable: "strangely, surprisingly". These discourse markers are located at the beginning, end or middle of the sentence in text.

Accepting authors' claims from readers in their writings depends on authors' reflection of attitudes by discourse markers in text. These discourse markers show what the writer believes or want the reader to believe in, which the most important of them are certainty discourse markers, such as 'clearly, obviously, and certainly'.

Discourse markers which show certainty impose attitude on reader and take control over their inferences and do not give them a chance for opposition and consider them as inactive and absent in context as they do not have any attitude toward text. For example by using the adverb 'clearly' the author believes that

not only this subject is obvious to himself or herself; it is obvious to reader too. So the readers can not be able to disagree. (Koutsantoni: 2004).

Attitudes are divided into three subgroups:

- 1) Affect: the characterization of phenomena by reference to emotion.
- 2) Judgment: the evaluation of human behavior with respect to social norms.
- 3) Appreciation: the evaluation of objects and products (rather than human behavior) by reference to aesthetic principles and other systems of social value. (Haiati, Jalilifar)

Sentence adverbials:

As mentioned previously, sentence adverbials are one of attitude markers which represents author's attitude toward the whole sentence. These attitude markers represent certainty, hesitation, satisfaction, dissatisfaction and etc. Firstly adverbials which were found in Persian corpus will be presented.

Sentence adverbials in Persian corpus:

به طور قطع می توان گفت در متن فوق اطلاعات داده نشده بسیار بیشتر از اطلاعات داده شده است. (ص12)

در حقیقت، از نظر آنها اصل اول فرضیه گرایس رعایت نشده است. (ص21)

متأسفانه برخی از نویسندگان و مترجمان و ویراستاران به نقش و اهمیت این عبارت واقف نیستند. (ص24)

نمایاندن ساختار واژگانی و نحوی یک زبان به طور قطع به قیمت نارسایی مفهومی و پیامی آن تمام خواهد شد. (ص48)

در واقع اعتقادی راسخ او را از این نگرانی دور میدارد. (ص64)

پیداست که چنین ترجمه ای قایل به اصلی است که بنابر آن صورت های واحد موقعیت ارتباطی یکسان در زبان های گوناگون دارند. (ص64)

Sentence adverbials in English corpus:

Clearly, the project of this book is not yet complete. (p. 22)

Paradoxically, they are represented as “small,” “little,” and timid. (p. 51)

Clearly, the ability to “transact” requires a certain power. (p. 60)

Critically, it is important to distinguish between actions which affect people and actions which affect other kinds of “things.”(p. 60)

It is this kind of timing which, predictably, attracts most comment in the literature. (p. 79)

Predictably, mechanical synchronization is the most frequent category in my data, (p. 79)

Clearly, if space is functionalized and hierarchized for the purposes of an institutional... (p. 97)

Clearly, it is true. (p. 123)

Clearly, family identity plays an important role in preschool playmobil. (p. 155)

Verb modifying adverbs in Persian corpus:

می خواهیم تقاضای خود را مؤدبانه مطرح کنیم. (ص 21)

ما ترجمه طرف خانه ستوان را به ضرب و زور می خوانیم. (ص 28)

... نمی توان به راحتی به زبان فارسی ترجمه کرد. (ص 28)

... نا آگاهانه زبان ترجمه ای مقصد را با نحو زبان مبدأ پردازش می کنند. (ص 48)

وقتی می خواستیم مطلبی را برجسته تر نشان دهیم.... (ص 55)

خواننده فارسی زبان نمی توانست آن ها را خوب بفهمد.

We want to pose our request politely. (P. 21)

we read 'around lieutenant house' translation forcefully. (P. 28)

...we cannot translate into Farsi easily. (P. 28)

... they proceed target language translation by the source language syntax unknowingly. (P. 48)

when we want to show something more prominently.... (p. 55)

Persian-language reader could not understand it well.

Other verb modifying adverbs in Persian corpus:

به وضوح، راحت تر ، به راحتی، بد، به درستی، به راحتی، به طور کامل، مرتب، بدون در نظر گرفتن این عامل، بدون هیچ تردید، به خطا، عیناً، به راحتی، عیناً.

Clearly, more convenient, easily, bad, correctly, easily, completely, sort, regardless of the cause, without any doubt, mistakenly, exactly, easily, and exactly.

Verb modifying adverbs in English corpus:

He described how knowledge is actively produced in “the upper reaches of the education system (p. 6)

Actions 1 and 2, for instance, must have clearly occurred....(p. 9)

... timing is clearly a key aspect of the organization of social life.(p. 22)

... as they are naturally inclined to racism...(p. 31)

... all categories of social factor are equally often generalized. (p. 36)

... the lines between the parties are sharply drawn.(p. 39)

Other verb modifying adverbs in English corpus:

calmly , fully, partly, separately, individually , collectively, specifically, slightly, relatively, strongly, separately, directly, primarily, essentially, discursive statically, dynamically, clearly, obliquely, actually, punctually, grammatically, violently, nonviolently, metonymically, precisely, dynamically, statically, fully, literally, metaphorically ,congruently, critically, critically, grammatically, linguistically, directly, clearly ,symbolically ,typically ,uniquely

,selectively,miserably,technically highly ,probably ,contextually, socially, strongly, generically, normally, entirely, necessarily,

Data analysis:

| Attitude markers frequency | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Sentence adverbials | Verb modifying adverbs |
| Persian corpus | 25 | 21 |
| English corpus | 9 | 58 |

According to table above the number of sentence adverbials in Persian corpus is more than the number of them in English corpus. In Persian it is 25 in English 9. Verb modifying adverbs are 21 in Persian corpus and 58 in English corpus, so their frequency is more in English.

Conclusion:

Based on the revealed data we can conclude that attitude markers do not have the same frequency in Persian and English. The frequency of sentence adverbials in Persian is more than English. The frequency of verb modifying adverbs in English is more than Persian. Attitude markers are not used in Persian and English similarly, their distribution is different. Null hypotheses are not true in this case, because first hypothesis which is

'Attitude markers are used in Persian and English similarly' is not true. they are used differently in Persian and English. Second hypothesis is not true too, because second hypothesis which is 'Attitude markers have the same frequency in English and Persian texts' is not true. They do not have the same frequency.

The answer to first question of article which is ' Are attitude markers used in Persian and English similarly?' is negative. The answer to the second question which is 'Do attitude markers have the same frequency in English and Persian texts?' is negative too.

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