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(Still) on Discourse Markers: Contrastive Perspectives with Portuguese

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In the last decades, discourse markers (DM) have been the object of many research works and frequently revisited, either in the synchronic or in the diachronic domain, or even articulating these two areas. On the one hand, these investigations aim at identifying more precisely what is meant by this set of elements fundamental to linguistic communication, its defining features; on the other hand, research focuses on the origin of DM, explaining it mainly in light of the notion of grammaticalization, but also treating it more complexly and calling it into question. There are also specialists who seek to understand the prototypical positions of DMs within larger units and their respective values (Pons Bordería 2018). Another line of research confronts, within the framework of contrastive linguistics, DMs from different languages, trying to find common traits and moments in which they differ, both from the formal point of view and from the point of view of meaning. The conferences on discourse markers in Romance languages, as well as, following them, the collective volumes published (e.g. Loureda & Rudka 2020) constitute expressions of this line of research.

The research on DMs has filled a void on these elements, often considered peripheral and useless, alien to the structure of languages. As Heine, Kaltenböck, Kuteva and Long (2021, p. 1) state, "DMs play an important role in linguistic communication, especially but not only in spoken language use, belonging to the most frequently used linguistic expressions in many languages". For that very reason, they deserve to be the object of study, given that many of their uses, meanings, relations with sociocultural contexts, behaviour in situations of linguistic contact, origin, position, etc. seem to us to be not yet fully analysed.

In the specific case of the Portuguese language, from the perspective of the contrastive linguistics mentioned above, DMs, both in relation to other languages and, above all, in relation to European Portuguese in comparison with other varieties of Portuguese - namely, in the comparison between European Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese - were still scarcely described. Compared with what exists for other languages, the bibliography for Portuguese is still very limited. This is despite the remarkable initiatives of some research groups that, in Portugal, have dedicated themselves to this line of research, namely at CELGA-ILTEC (Centre for Studies in General and Applied Linguistics of the University of Coimbra), where regular meetings on Discourse Markers and Translation have taken place and led to later publications, and notwithstanding our own efforts,

within the scope of the *Centro de Linguística da Universidade do Porto*, in organizing the Jornadas sobre Marcadores Discursivos and the Colóquio Internacional Marcadores Discursivos: Portuguese as a Contrastive Reference, following which a proceedings volume was published (Duarte & Ponce de León 2020).

In this issue of the journal, motivated, above all, by the aforementioned scarcity, we would like to bring together studies dealing with DM in Portuguese, but also contrastive views between varieties of Portuguese, and between Portuguese and other languages. Such contrastive studies, besides bringing to light similarities and origins and common or parallel paths, often illuminating the particular description in each of the languages confronted, improve our understanding of the correspondences between DM, which are useful both for translation and for foreign language teaching.

The languages of the papers can be: Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian and English. Papers should be accompanied by an abstract of maximum 250 words in English and five keywords, as well as a brief bio-bibliographical presentation. Instructions for authors regarding formatting rules and style sheets can be found on the journal's website:

http://studia.ubbcluj.ro/serii/philologia/index_en.html

Bibliography:

- Duarte, I., & Ponce de León, R. (eds.) (2020). *Marcadores discursivos. O português como referência contrastiva*. Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Warszawa, Wien: Peter Lang.
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- Heine, B., Kaltenböck, G., Kuteva T. & Long, H. (eds.) (2021). *The rise of discourse markers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Pons Bordería, S., & Loureda, Ó. (eds.) (2018), *Beyond Grammaticalization and Discourse Markers*. Leiden & Boston: Brill.
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Timeline:

- 1st May 2023 – proposal submission deadline (200-word abstract, 7 keywords, 5 theoretical references, 150-word author's bio-note)
- 15th May 2023 – notification about acceptance
- 1st August 2023 – submission of full papers
- 15th December 2023 – publication of the special-themed issue

Please send your abstracts and papers to the following email addresses:

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