

The Discourse Marker (Well) in Selected Talk Shows: A Discourse Analysis Study¹

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ABSTRACT

The study analyses the discourse marker (well) in talks shows and how this kind of discourse marker plays a key role in shaping the forms of interactions. The method of analysis is a qualitative one that interprets the meanings of (well) in media discourse. The model that the study adopts is Liddicoat (2007) and, the use of discourse marker (well) will be classified in accordance with Svartvik (1980) and Schiffrin (1987). The study attempts to answer the following questions: what are the functions of discourse marker "well" in media discourse? and where does it appear in the adjacency pairs? The study has reached at a number of results. One of these results is that the discourse marker "well" is used in media discourse to make or shift the topics of the conversation or to prepare for the second turn of the adjacency pairs.

Keywords: *Discourse Analysis; Discourse Marker; Well; adjacency pairs; media discourse*

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of this research is to investigate how and why people employ the discourse marker successfully in conversation. The study aims at :

1. Finding out the functions of the 'well' used by interlocutors in communication.
2. Pinpointing out whether the uses of ' well' by interviewers or interviewees.

It is hypothesized that:

1. All the functions of well are used.
2. Well is used by interviewees more than interviewers.

The approach of the study is to investigate the data qualitatively on how the maxims are used in the summary leads with speech acts. This research examines information from three U.S. government departments. The talk shows are selected from the websites which refer to the transcripts of the talk shows. These talk shows are three about different topics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Media Talk

The language used in the media is very simplistic one. Shows, communications, and all kind of media engagements are carried out via chat. Confrontational TV talk shows, open-line radio talk shows, advice-giving

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broadcasts, news interviews, and political panel discussions are all examples of restricted speech (Hutchby, 2006:1). Of course, there are also various styles of conversation heard on the radio and the television. According to Ellis (1982:50), the primary difference between watching a movie in a theater and watching TV is that in the former, we get to look at the action, whereas in the latter, we get information spoon-fed to us. Thus, the sound of conversation attracts listeners' attention. According to Clayman and Heritage (2002: 12), a broadcast interview is carried out through a special type of conversation in which the interviewer and interviewee closely follow the exchange of questions and responses. The media broadcast industry makes extensive use of interviews, a specific type of interaction. More generally, the prevalence of the interview format in broadcast media, not just the news but also variety shows. In addition, the number of interviews we are exposed to on a daily basis is growing (Atkinson and Silverman, 1997:304-25), and these interviews have become the focal point of our culture's understanding of global events and the lives of celebrities.

The characteristics of media discourse forms are outlined by Hutchby (2006:1-2). In addition to carefully written monologues, other media formats feature "unscripted" or "fresh" types of discourse. The second common denominator is the use of actual human conversation. In addition, unlike traditional broadcasts, these often contain guests who are not themselves broadcasters, such as media professionals serving as interviewers and other speakers.

The primary ideas discussed in the media.

The media lexicon includes a number of crucial concepts. The meaning of these words is defined by the operation of the dialogue. What follows is an explanation of each:

1. Interactivity

The term "interaction" describes the dynamic between the participants in any talk show. Madej (2016:5) describes interactivity as a two-way process that maintains conversation and cooperation with an inanimate object or living being. Therefore, discussion shows feature a form of interaction that evolves over time and between the show's participants. Tolson (2006:9) states plainly that many shows, whether on television or radio, begin with a greeting such as "good evening", "hello", or "welcome to the show". This sort of approach to the audience is not heard on more serious shows like the news.

2. Performativity

Tolson(2006:10 -11) argues that performativity is a technical issue for broadcasters who are not accustomed to communicating with an audience they cannot see by altering their voice tone for a more personal medium. Furthermore, anyone who has ever given a speech or lecture in front of an audience knows that doing so is like to performing. However, in these cases, the speaker is given an opportunity to alter their delivery based on how the audience is responding. Without these responses, performativity becomes problematic, self-aware, or reflexive. The interview is a staple of any media outlet since it is a mediated performance. In the next parts, we'll go deeper into this concept.

3. Definition of Interview

Interviews are a medium in which conversation can take several forms, as was described earlier. In 1514, when travel was difficult and diplomatic communication was limited to letters, the word "**interview**" originated from the French *entre voire* (meaning to be in sight of), which refers to a face-to-face meeting between people of high rank. On the other hand, the rise of modern journalism at the end of the nineteenth century gave the phrase a new meaning. The term "interview" refers to a conversation between at least two people in which information is gathered for publication. In 1884, the term "interviewee" appeared, which supported the emerging definition of journalism and radically altered the older definition (Clayman and Heritage, 2002:26). So, on talk programs, an interview is a casual chat with a celebrity or other interesting person. News, documentaries, features, business and instructional programming, and of course entertainment interview shows like talk shows all make use of interviews, as Hilliard (2015: 266) notes. What's more, the fundamental strategy of each of these types is the same.

The broadcast interview is a crucial method of information collection for radio, television, and cable, as described by Stephenson et al. (2013:129). To demonstrate this point, think of the times you've heard radio hosts interview famous people live on the air. Traditionally, talk shows occupy the bulk of the airtime on television.

4. Types of Interviews

Depending on the objectives of the various shows, different types of interviews are conducted. There are two main types that Stephenson et al. (2013) will demonstrate in their research. Those of the following kinds:

i. News Interviews

These kinds of interviews are used to gain insight into a certain news item or profile a person may have heard of. Such interviews usually last less time than others. For instance, some programs could take an hour to complete (Stephenson et al., 2013: 266). Talk programs don't need to resort to this method of interviewing guests, then.

ii. Feature Interviews

An important distinction between feature interviews and news interviews is the length. The primary goal of works of this type is to amuse or educate the audience on a topic of interest. Feature interviews typically focus on one particular aspect of a person's life, such as their fame, employment, or a notable achievement (such as a ninety-year-old guy who jumps out of a perfectly good airplane to celebrate his birthday). Both types can take place either in a studio or at the actual site (Ibid). As a result, interviews for talk shows fall under this category.

5. Talk shows in Media

Broadly speaking, talk shows are community-focused programs that focus on social issues. Talk shows, as defined by Timberg (2002: 1-3), are, "It wasn't until the 20th century that broadcasting gave birth to the TV talk show. Since its inception, it has been viewed as a throwaway type of media, much like the daily newspaper, due to its focus on the immediate events of the day "The guidelines and standards are followed by the talk programs". Another point made by Gregori-Signes (2000:193) is that a talk show is a genre that takes place at a particular social gathering whose norms of interaction become recognized to a community that shares or knows those rules. She sees discussion shows as being somewhere between formal and informal.

You may also hear the term "chat show" used to refer to talk shows. While they have some similarities, they also have their own distinct characteristics. There is a clear distinction between two phrases that Carbaugh (1988:2) makes. Interviews on chat shows tend to center on the host, whereas those on talk shows tend to revolve around a certain topic. Talk programs don't care about deep stuff, and they certainly aren't looking to find answers or conduct research. According to O'keefe (2006:44-5), chat programs are distinct from talk shows since they feature conversations with public figures like celebrities rather than private figures like those featured on television tabloid talk shows.

According to Price (2003:53), the following are the most distinguishing feature of discussion shows :

1. It's hosted, meaning that someone is in charge.
2. Two, the host's name is frequently used as the show's title.
3. Third, people are invited to participate from the studio audience.
4. The fourth characteristic is that there is a central question or concern that needs answering.
5. Five, people from the general public get their issues addressed.
6. Sixth, sometimes specialists are consulted for their input.
7. Seventh, it is a studio-based program.
8. Daytime television is when most talk shows air.
9. Nine. They have a strong pull on the female demographic.

6. Conversation Analysis and Conversation

It is one of the important approaches that studies the structure of language in daily interactions. According to Liddicoat (2007:2), the field of conversation analysis emerged from the ethnomethodology school in sociology pioneered by Harold Garfinkel and focuses on the study of speaking in interaction. Psathas (1995:1-2) defines conversation analysis as "the study of discourse -in- interaction", which is a methodological approach to stating ordinary activity that has been performed to transmit a variety of purposes by individuals. This technique has built rigorous and systematic ways for analyzing social actions that also produce reproducible results. Additionally, conversation analysis investigates the order, structure, and organization of social action as it manifests in the speech and writing of common people.

Hutchby and Woofitt (2008:12 -14) touch on conversation analysis as the systematic analysis of the talk that is produced by people in daily interaction and the term interaction is better than using the term conversation in the sense of this communication, and the main function of CA is to know how the interaction is ordered and achieved by speakers. According to Paltridge (2012: 90), conversation analysis involves the study of aspects of spoken discourse such as turn-taking, feedback,

repair, conversational closings and opening, discourse markers, and response tokens. According to Liddicoat (2007: 1), talking to others is how people build and maintain relationships. Every time two people start talking to one another, they are using language to exchange information. As a result, discourse markers and adjacency pairs are the main parts of talk that occurs in everyday interaction or in any kind of communication like talk shows between two speakers or more in a program about social issue.

7. Adjacency Pairs

Talk does not occur randomly, rather it takes the form of turns. According to Liddicoat (2007:106), the turns in discussions typically occur in pairs, such as when a greeting is followed by another greeting, when a farewell is followed by another farewell, when a question is followed by an answer. They are referred to as "adjacency pairs" by Schegloff and Sacks (1973:289-327) and serve as the fundamental building block around which dialogue progressions are constructed.

Schegloff (2007:15) refers to the relation of adjacency pairs with concept of nextness as follows :

Adjacency, or "nextness", between turns is fundamental to the structuring and interpretation of communication in interaction. Co-participants take the next turn to demonstrate the speaker's comprehension of the turn before it and to embody an action in response to the turn before it (unless the turn is marked as addressing anything other than the turn before it).

As Liddicoat (2007:106-107) explains, there are a few universal characteristics shared by all adjacency pairs: they always include two turns, separate speakers, a physical proximity to one another, a specific order, and a distinct classification system based on the nature of the turns. So, whereas certain forms of communication set the stage for subsequent activities, others carry them out. First pair parts (FPP) are the speech acts that set-in motion subsequent speech acts, and second pair parts (SPP) are the speech acts that follow on from FPP (SPP). Thus, the nature of the FPP formed determines the nature of the SPP formed. Because of this, the second SPP in a sequence that was started by an FPP must be of a specific type in order to complete the original action. So, in order for a question to be understood as part of a complete sequence, it must be followed by an answer; a greeting or farewell, which are also possible SPPs in other contexts, would be misunderstood. This second connection keeps sequences true to their definition as cohesive actions developed through a series of turns and recognized as such due to their adherence to an FPP's action program. Adjacency pairings include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) question-answer

John: "What time's it?"

Betty: "Three uh clock".

(2) greeting-greeting

Amy: "Hello".

Jean: "Hi".

(3) summons-answer

Terry: "hey Paul",

Paul: "uh yeah".

(4) telling-accept

John: "I've jus' finished my las' exam".

Betty: "that's great".

Liddicoat(2007:106- 107)

8. Discourse Markers

There are some markers called pragmatic markers or particles. Others consider discourse markers as a subtype of pragmatic markers. Archer et al (2012 :76) hold that pragmatic markers are just like a cover to contain all the parts related to the pragmatic phenomena with an insert function, whereas the discourse markers refer to the relation between utterances like elaboration, contrast or inference. One of the most significant purposes of discourse markers, however, is to communicate the kinds of relations a speaker perceives between various parts of the discourse (Lenk 1997:2). The pragmatic meaning of common utterances is largely shaped by discourse markers, as Crystal explains: "I tend to think of [pragmatic phrases like you know] as the oil which enables us accomplish the difficult task of spontaneous speech generation and interaction smoothly and efficiently" (Crystal 1988: 48). Thus, Schiffrin

(1987:326) expands on this idea by noting that discourse markers' primary function is to maintain contextual coordination for utterances, in the sense that they serve to link the utterance to the social contexts in which it was created and is perceived. Discourse markers are cues that speakers employ to tailor their message to the listener's needs and context (Lenk,1995:341).

According to the syntactic and grammatical position of discourse marker, Schiffrin (1987: 31) says that discourse markers are free-position, though markers often come in initial position, in other words are independent of sentential structure. Removing discourse markers from initial position of the sentence will make no problems in meaning. "The lack of the discourse marker does not render a sentence ungrammatical and/or incoherent", as Fraser (1988:22) puts it (better expressed, the discourse marker is not a part of the sentence, but rather remains outside of it; see Erman 2001:1339). Therefore, various markers such as y'know, I mean, oh, and like can occur relatively freely within a sentence at locations that are extremely ambiguous syntactically. Discourse markers, however, according to Biber et al. (1999: 1086), are most frequently used at the start of a speaker's turn or speech.

Discourse markers undergo more phonological reduction than their source forms, as shown by Sankoff et al. (1997: 197). Because of this, the discourse marker (you know) can be utilized to create a new tone unit (Eramn 1992: 219). Discourse markers include several characteristics, including syntactic and phonological ones, but lack semantic substance, as Jucker and Ziv(1998:4) point out. Lack is used here not to refer to the complete absence of meaning. Schiffrin (1987:328) uses other term as, "no meaning [or] a vague meaning". Finally, Schourup (1999:234) states that many of the studies concerning discourse markers are taken from spoken data and this enhances that discourse markers mainly functioned in speech.

9. Functions of Well as Discourse Marker

Svartvik recently discussed "well in its function of sharing device" in an article he named "Well in Conversation" (1980: 168). While agreeing with Lakoff's (1973) study of well in answers (Svartvik 1980:172, 174), he also finds evidence for various other functions, which he classifies as "two major uses of well: as a qualifier and as a frame" (1980: 173). In this research, we will look at the results of his research:

Well serves as a qualifier, indicating or marking... - "Agreement, favorable reaction or attitude".

The word "reinforcement"

"a qualified or indirect response"; "an indirect or qualified response to the wh-question" (1980:173f.)

As a typical non-initial context, well...

" -redirects attention to one of the previously discussed issues"

brings forth "clarifications, explanations, etc".

is used to denote "the start of direct speech."

uses a "editing marker for self-correction" (1980:174f.)

To "anchor a speaker within a dialogue as a reply", as the authors put it, is the primary function of a well within the participation framework (1987: 316). However, it also operates in the following four dimensions: Both the ideational structure, which sees it as an indication of self-repair, and the exchange structure, which sees it as a marker of turn transitions, find it useful. Because "individuals can respond to anything in speech that temporarily disrupts their expectations for subsequent coherence" (from new information to a request that can't be granted), "well" "also functions in information states [...] and action structures" (1987: 316).

METHODOLOGY

Method of Analysis

The study is about the discourse analysis of the discourse marker well in talk shows and to interpret the meanings of well in the interaction. Accordingly, the study adopts a qualitative method of analysis.

The Model of Analysis

The analysis of the data is based on knowing the organizational structure of the talk show discourse in Opera's show through adjacency pairs. Then, analyzing the discourse marker you know in the interaction of talk show to find the role of this discourse marker and how it is functioned through adjacency pairs by Liddicoat (2007). Furthermore, and, the use of discourse marker (well) will be according to Svartvik 1980 and Schiffrin (1987).

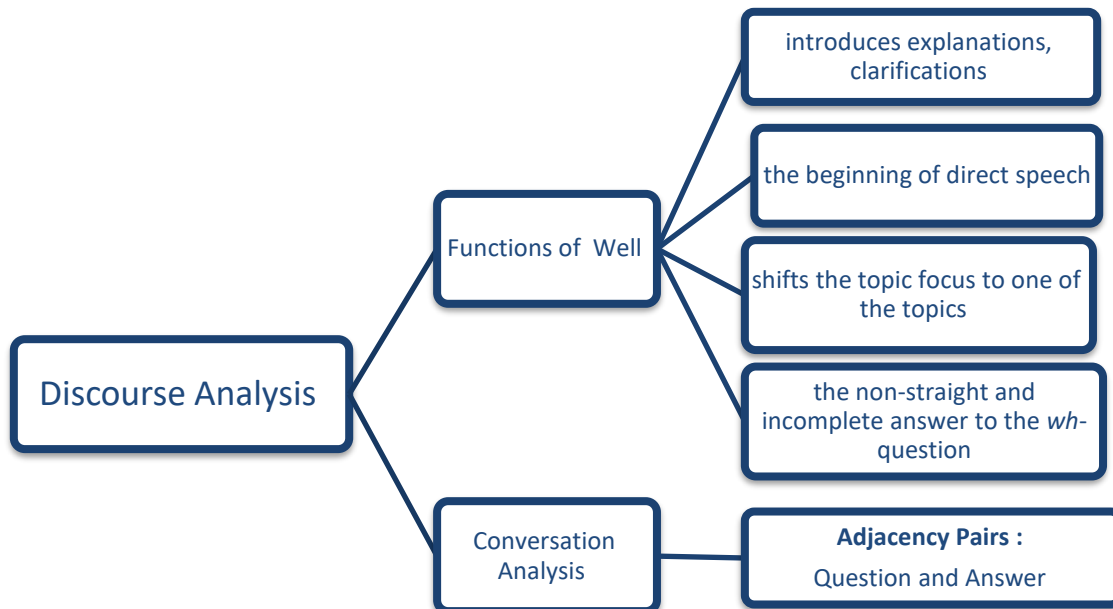


Figure (1): The Model of the Analysis

The Data of Study

The data are collected from the YouTube channel about different issues in talks shows. These talk shows are brief and short.

DATA ANALYSIS

The following are the episodes of the talk shows which show how the discourse marker well is functioned among the speakers.

First Talk Show

The first conversation on the talk show is between two celebrities: Oprah and Ellen. Oprah spoke with Ellen about her life and work as an interviewer on this episode of her show. How Ellen manages her professional and personal life is explored on this show.

The discourse marker well is used **Oprah**: “Did you notice a difference when you became vegan?”

Ellen: “Well I felt better about myself, and I felt healthier living in a cruelty-free way”. “I haven't been sick since, I am not as tired, and I've lost weight”.

The discourse marker “Well” is always used in response and at the same time in a way of starting a new idea and introduces explanations, clarifications.

Oprah: “You know, you can make yourself nuts doing that, though”. “But it's also the way to live, I think. “How long have you been living this way?”

Ellen: “Well, I think I've always been a searcher”. “But right before I decided to come out, I went on a spiritual retreat called "Changing the Inner Dialogue of Your Subconscious Mind." “I'd never been to anything like it before, and all my friends were”

Here, “Well” is used here in the primary to anchor a speaker into an interaction as a respondent . It has been used 11 out of 57 as shown in Table (1) below.

Table (1): The Distribution of Discourse Markers in The First Speech Talk Show.

Discourse Marker	Frequency	%
oh	6	10.3
well	11	18.10
right	3	5.1
wow	1	1.7
so	20	34.4
then	6	10.3
You know	4	6.8
I think	7	12.6
Total	58	100.00

The Second Speech Talk Show

The topic of the discussion program is an interview between two people who are discussing a subject related to Apple.

GRUBER: “Also this week, you guys announced that you'd be partnering with the World Wildlife Fund, an organization whose acronym, WWF, always reminds me of the movie The Lion King”.

the pro wrestling—

JACKSON: [Laughs.] “Well, they would not like to hear that”

Here “Well” is used to declare that a news topic will be mentioned. It always appears in initial position and to anchor a speaker into an interaction as a respondent.

Table (2): The Distribution of Discourse Markers in the Second Speech Talk Show

Discourse Marker	Frequency	%
oh	3	1.6
well	17	9.2
right	5	2.7
Like	8	4.3
so	10	5.4
then	9	9.2
You know	19	10.3
I think	8	4.3
I mean	6	6.0
Or something	1	0.5
You see	3	1.6
Sort of	2	1.0
Total	183	

The Third Talk Show

Dr. Phil, a popular interviewer, tackles social and mental health concerns in the United States in his second talk program. The next table reaffirms that one-word pragmatic indicators are more common than those made up of two words.

DR. PHIL: “**Well**, you’ve said it today”.

Well is used to indicate the new turn by the interviewer or interviewee . It also shows the beginning of a new topic. Well always comes in initial position as it appears in the data.

DR. PHIL: “Well, I’m just telling you what I read”.

TONI: “**Oh**, no, no. I know. I understand”.

DR. PHIL: “**Well, then** how would you not have someone going in and out that window the night she” –

TONI: “They didn’t go in the window”.

The same position is used to show the function of establishing a new topic.

ONI: “It was a parent’s worst nightmare”

HOSPITAL DOCTOR PHIL: “Toni and Steve, it seems, are quite enraged by the probe. They claim to have identified the person or persons responsible for Morgan's alleged stalking and murder but are at a loss for words because no one has been apprehended and the police don't see any evidence of criminal activity”.

Well is used in the second example to introduce explanations, clarifications and to indicates the beginning of direct speech or the topic of the interview.

TONI: “You need not read it on the blog. Everything I've written in that blog is entirely accurate”. “Every day, it proves to be correct”. “We are not yet at the point where I can sit on that blog and say, OK, now this is the night Morgan got murdered." In due time, I'll get there. I haven't even implied that Brooke and Keenan sneaked in and killed Morgan”. “That's right, I haven't mentioned that yet.”

HOSPITAL DOCTOR PHIL: “You've finally stated it today”.

The same function that the discourse marker well does in this example of showing the reinforcement of the topic they are talking about.

Table (3): The Distribution of The Discourse Markers in The Third Talk Show

Discourse Marker	Frequency	%
so	50	39.3
well	22	17.3
right	12	9.4
I think	11	8.6
I mean	10	7.8
then	10	7.8
You know	8	6.2
oh	5	3.9
wow	1	0.7
Or something	1	0.7
Total	127	

CONCLUSION

According to the findings, well is preferred to other pragmatic markers such as those made up of two words or phrasal speech. By highlighting the key aspects of a subject, they are essential for revitalizing a stale presentation. In most cases, the speakers on discussion shows use them unconsciously and appropriately. The findings show that

well is superior to other sorts because of the many ways in which it may be used to improve a speaker's delivery. Therefore, Well is extremely important in how the interviewers respond to the interview's adjacency pairs.

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