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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS**

**THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TRANSLATION OF DISCOURSE  
MARKERS IN ADULTS' AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

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*This Thesis Is Dedicated To My Dear Family.  
For Their Endless Love, Supports And Encouragements*

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## **Abstract**

This research is a comparative study of translations of Discourse Markers in children's and adults' literature and also it will have a comparative point of view regarding the translations of Discourse Markers in Classical and Contemporary Literature (in both Adults' and children's literature). Four samples of classic and contemporary era were considered for this goal: two Classic and two Contemporary. Classic samples were: "The Prince and the Pauper" (children's Literature) and "The Sound and the Fury" (Adults' literature) and Contemporary Samples were: "Artemis Fowl and the Time Paradox" (children's Literature) and "The Lost Symbol" (Adults' literature). This comparative study was done considering models and classes of Discourse Markers proposed by Schiffrin. Two hundred Discourse Markers in all four samples were randomly selected to find out the frequently used model for translating Discourse Markers, considering Nida's Formal and Dynamic equivalences.

Aiming to find the most frequently used models in translating Discourse Markers from English into Persian used by Iranian translators; researcher come to this conclusion that the frequently used model used in translating Discourse Markers in all of four selected sample were Nida's Formal Equivalences/Correspondances.

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## List of Abbreviations

**DM**: Discourse Marker

**SL**: Source Language

**ST**: Target Language

**TL**: Target Language

**TT**: Target text

# **CHAPTER I**

## **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSES**

## 1.1 Introduction

Theoretically, Discourse Markers(DMs) are a functional class of verbal and non-verbal devices which provide contextual coordination for ongoing talk (Schiffrin, 1987). Brown and Yule (1989), states that DMs are “metalingual comments” in which the speaker specifically comments on how what he is saying is to be taken. It is clear that the thematized metalingual comments are not integrated with the representation of content which the recipients are constructing. They merely give them directions about the type and structure of mental representation they should be constructing.

Lexical phrases constitute a somewhat heterogeneous epistemological field that has traditionally been object of study of philology and has represented a methodological challenge for applied linguistics and lexicology. In theory, in the past study of lexical phrases had been considered essentially anomalous for transformational generative grammar, but it is now recovering prestige both from systemic perspective and from discourse viewpoints (Salvador, 1995). Chaum (2004) states that it has also raised a new interest in one of the language industries that has attained its climax at the end of last century: Translation studies. Within the vast field of lexical phrases and idioms, the present study had its focus on certain units function as Discourse Markers and the translation models used for translating of Discourse Markers in adults’ and children’s in classic and contemporary selected novels.

Four samples were selected, two from classic novels and two from contemporary novels. One novel represents written classic novels written for children and the other represents written classic novels for adults. And also, one representing

contemporary novels written for adults and the other represents contemporary novels written for children.

These samples were selected, because researcher hoped to find out any probable differences in frequently used translation model used for translating DMs in each representative sample, i.e to compare the frequently used translations model in translating DMs in classic and contemporary era in novels written for adults and children to find out any probable differences and to be able to provide correct and usefull translation norms and guidlines to be used by Iranian translators for translating DMs in classic and contemporary novels written for adult and children.

Also, all randomly selected DMs in each sample were compared to find out frequently used translation model used for translating each class of DMs as proposed by Schiffrin, considering Nida's translation model.

## **1.2 Significance of the Study**

Cook (1970) believes that understanding DMs will allow to better understandings of the languages men work with. According to Redeker (1990) DMs are linguistic expressions used to signal the relation of an utterance to its immediate context, with the primary function of bringing to the audience's attention a particular kind of linkage of the upcoming utterances with the immediate discourse context. DMs are defined as linguistic items, with no syntactic function at the sentence level, which serve, according to their morphosyntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties, as a guide for the interpretation of utterances. The speaker adds these markers to reduce

the cognitive effort required from the hearer to interpret the utterance, by signalling which inference reflects more accurately the speaker's meaning.

Above stated quotations shows the significance of having DMs. According Aijmer (2008), DMs are known for being difficult to translate. As could be found in Review of the Related Literature (R.O.R.L) presented in chapter II, DMs are one of the important subject matters in translation theories.

This study aimed its focus on translations of DMs from English into Persian to find out the model which is used by Iranian translators considering Nida's model of translation. In all, present study aimed conducting a descriptive research and study to find translation norms used by Iranian translators for translating DMs in classic and contemporary era, in novels written for adults and children.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

According to what could be found in R.O.R.L, in 20<sup>th</sup> century, DMs have been one of the important subject matters in linguistics and also in translation studies. Although there are many different worthy projects and studies done about DMs in other languages, for example as Schiffrin's and Fraser's, Wilson's and Speber's, Schurup's and so many other to mention studies especially in English, very little, or almost it could be said no relevant and similar literature are found about DMs in Persian, their usages and also , the proper translation models used for their translations from other languages into Persian.

Fraser (1988) believes that the absence of the DMs does not render a sentence ungrammatical and/or unintelligible. It does, however, remove a powerful clue about



what commitment the speaker makes regarding the relationship between the current utterance and the prior discourse. So, Fraser's statement, once more shows the significance of having DMs. Now, to be able to provide better translations and, as one of the main purposes of translation, to provide the same or nearest effects of SL/ST on TL/TT audiences, DMs should not be disregarded in translations by Iranian translators especially while translating novels and written literature.

Having very limited literature about DMs in Persian and about translation norms and guides for translating DMs from English into Persian, researcher aimed to conduct this research to find translation norms and guides for translating DMs and hoped that the results and conclusions of present study could be used to explain and explore some of translation norms used by Iranian translators in translating DMs from English into Persian and also as a brief and simple guide to help Iranian translators for translating DMs into Persian.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

Aiming to find translation norms and used translation model in translating DMs from English into Persian used by Iranian translators, considering Schiffrin's definition and classification of DMs and Nida's translation model of Formal and Dynamic equivalences, this study had considered the following questions to reach its goal, considering four selected sample:

1. What are the frequently used models for translating each class of DMs, as proposed by Schiffrin, in translating DMs from English into Persian in each of four selected samples?

2. What are different used models by Iranian translators for translating different classes of DMs comparing “The Prince and the Pauper” (classic for children) with “Artemis Fowl and the Time Paradox” (contemporary for children) and “The Sound and the Fury” (classic for adults) comparing with “The Lost Symbol” (contemporary for adults)? Also what are different used models by Iranian translators for translating different classes of DMs comparing “The Prince and the Pauper” (classic for children) with “The Sound and the Fury” (classic for adults) and “Artemis Fowl and the Time Paradox” (contemporary for children) with The Lost Symbol (contemporary for adults)?

3. What is the frequently and dominant translation model for translating DMs from English into Persian considering all classes of DMs in all of four samples?

## **1.5 Definition of the Key Terms**

**Classic novels:** classic novels have certain universal appeal. Great works of literature touch human to very core beings-partly because they integrate themes that are understood by readers from a wide range of backgrounds and levels of experience. Themes of love, hate, death, life, and faith touch upon some of our most basic emotional responses. For the aim of this study, “*The Sound and the Fury*” and “*The Prince and the Pauper*” are selected as representative of classic novels written for adults and children (Averril, 2001).

**Contemporary novels:** contemporary literature is that which engages with current or very recent history and ideas that challenges the present and could not be said to have elegant and alive the test of time. For the aim of this study, “*The Lost*

*Symbol*” and “*Artemis Fowl and the Time Paradox*” are selected as representative of contemporary novels written for adults and children (Averril, 2001).

**Discourse Markers:**DMs are linguistic expressions used to signal the relation of an utterance to its immediate context, with the primary function of bringing to the listener’s attention a particular kind of linkage of the upcoming utterance with the immediate discourse context (Fraser, 1999).

**Translation Norms:** translational norms govern the decision-making process in translating, and hence they determine the type of equivalence that obtains between original and translation (Toury, 1995).

**Translation Model:**To the extent that translating involves a process of decision making which takes place in a communicative context; the activity is governed by norms. Norms may be regarded as social regulation mechanism which makes certain choices and decisions by the translator more likely than others (Routledge Encyclopedia, 1998).

## **1.6 Limitations and Delimitations of the Study**

Conducting this research, the most important problem and the most important limitation was finding proper samples with their original text available in the market. Very few contemporary translated works could be found with its original text. But about classic samples, it was, to some extent, easier to find both original and translated text. Having difficulties in finding proper contemporary works with their original text, researcher had to change the selected classic sample for children. The first selected classic sample for children was “*Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland*”, but

finding no proper contemporary novel with its original text which could be considered as written almost for the same age level, although “*Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland*” has been thoroughly checked and for all classes of DMs some examples were chosen, researcher had to change it to another novel. Fortunately another masterpiece was replaced “*The Prince and The Pauper*” written by Mark Twain (1882).

Another limitation faced with while conducting this reseach was proper references in Persian. Although there were many proper, useful and relevant literature found in English about DMs, their definition, their usage and their meanings, almost no relevant and proper source explaining and discussing DMs in Persian, their definitions, their meanings and their usages were found. Researcher just managed to find a brief article named “*Discourse Markers in Today’s Persian Language*<sup>1</sup>” written by Yullia Panova (Russia University), translated by Mohsen Shojaei, published in *Motarjem quarterly*, 1385(2006). Also, there were some other articles written by university students in English about very few DMs in Persian.

This study followed comparative point of view in conducting a descriptive research to find translations model used for translation of DMs from English into Persian, as stated before. But its achieved results and conclusion, due to its limited scope, could hardly be generalized to all other genres in classic and contemporary novels, e.g comedy or tragedy classic and contemporary novels. To be able to provide more generalized norms, there need to be more same researches conducted on different samples with different genres.

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