



## ARABIC DISCOURSE MARKERS IN AL-JAZEERA.NET NEWS ARTICLE

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### Abstract

This study investigates discourse markers (DMs) development and diversity in accordance with the Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) approach employed in online news articles. 867 football news articles were downloaded from Al-Jazeera.net to analyse the use of discourse markers (DMs) based on previous studies along with Modern Standard Arabic grammar books as well as the theories of Fraser (2005) and Al-Khawaldeh (2014). Both data coding and analysis were completed manually. The results showed that in linking textual fragments, discourse markers under the Elaborative category are the most frequently used within all the articles. In fact, the study also found that DM *wa* was most frequently used in articles compared to other discourse markers. For each category, the researcher discovered a set of new discourse markers that were not considered in previous works. The manual coding process has also led to the discovery of a new category – Affirmative, with a comprehensive list of discourse markers. It is hoped that this study can function as an important reference for researchers who are interested to delve deeper into the area.

**Keywords:** *discourse markers, Arabic language, Al-Jazeera.net*

### Introduction

The development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) brought a revolution to the world of printed media that are made available online or better known by the term online media. The existence of the internet makes information transmission and delivery faster and more effective to users.<sup>1</sup> In fact, online newspapers are gaining ground among consumers and their development is also increasingly accepted by society today.

Meanwhile, in the world of Arab media, Abdul Razak sees that “the role of the Arab press as a medium of information dissemination is very important in

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<sup>1</sup> Abdul Nassir Said, “Penerbitan Elektronik dan Penerbitan Konvensional: Perbandingan Antara Akhbar dalam Talian dengan Akhbar Cetak”, *Disertasi*, Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Pengajian Media, Fakulti Sastera dan Sains Sosial, Universiti Malaya, 2003.

disseminating the use of Arabic words and modern phrases that emerged after the communication revolution which broke out around the 1950s”.<sup>2</sup> He also found that in some cases the Arab press played a role in creating and promoting these modern words and phrases. The words used in the Arabic press are usually acceptable to the public as they are always supported by the language councils in the Arab countries. In fact, the language used in the Arabic press has a more structured writing style, continuous ideas and structure.<sup>3</sup>

Since the development of technology and revolution, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) has been used in all Arab mass media<sup>4</sup> and has been widely used in Arabic newspapers as a medium of disseminating information to the public.<sup>5</sup> Plus, it is widely used in the entire Arabic World as a formal language.<sup>6</sup> According to Abdul Razak again, “MSA is a revolution to Classical Arabic that undergoes changes in almost all aspects of Arabic linguistics such as the formation of words and phrases, semantics and others”.<sup>7</sup>

In the context of Arabic discourse markers (DMs), changes in terms of diversity of forms and variations have occurred as a result of the revolution that broke out. In classical Arabic, DMs belong to a group of conjunctions known as the *Hurûf al-‘Atf*. The *Hurûf al-‘Atf* is a conjunction that is limited to only a few types such as *wa* (and), *fa* (then/so) and so on. Due to the dominance of sentence-grammar, which the notion of discourse has not given a great attention in the Arabic linguistic research.<sup>8</sup> In fact, the set of words that make up a phrase is not mentioned as a DM in classical Arabic.

On the other hand, the Arabic DMs in MSA are very impressed with the views of Western linguistics.<sup>9</sup> For example, Fraser<sup>10</sup> views on DMs have divided the types of

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<sup>2</sup> Zainur Rijal Abdul Razak, “Media Akhbar dan Penggunaan Bahasa Arab Standard Moden”, *Malaysian Journal of Communication*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2013, 107-124.

<sup>3</sup> Zainur Rijal Abdul Razak, “Media Akhbar dan Penggunaan Bahasa Arab Standard Moden”, 111.

<sup>4</sup> Asem Ayed al-Khawaldeh, Norsimah Mat Awal, and Intan Safinaz Zainuddin, “A Corpus-Based Description of Discourse Markers in Arabic Sport Journalistics Text”, *Journal of Islamic and Human Advanced Research*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 2014, 200-215.

<sup>5</sup> Asem Ayed al-Khawaldeh, Norsimah Mat Awal, and Intan Safinaz Zainuddin, “A Corpus-Based Description of Discourse Markers in Arabic Sport Journalistics Text”, 111.

<sup>6</sup> Abdulkhaleq al-Rawafi, Tri Pujiati, and Dadang Sudana, “On The Typology of The Negation Marker Ma in Modern Arabic Dialects: Kuwaiti; Jordanian, Sudanese, and Yemeni”, *Arabiyat: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab dan Kebahasaaraban*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2020, 13-31.

<sup>7</sup> Zainur Rijal Abdul Razak, “Media Akhbar dan Penggunaan Bahasa Arab Standard Moden”, *Malaysian Journal of Communication*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2013, 107-124.

<sup>8</sup> Asem Ayed al-Khawaldeh, “Discourse Functions of Kama in Arabic Journalistic Discourse from the Perspective of Rhetorical Structure Theory”, *International Journal of Applied Linguistics & English Literature*, Vol. 7, No. 3, 2018, 206-213.

<sup>9</sup> Fatima A. Kohlani, “The Function of Discourse Markers in Arabic Newspaper Opinion Articles”, *Dissertation*, Washington: Faculty of the Graduate School Art and Sciences of Georgetown University, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Bruce Fraser, *Towards a Theory of Discourse Markers*, In *Approaches to Discourse Particles* edited by K. Fisher. (Elsevier Press, 2005).

discourse markers into four categories. These categories are formed based on the meaning relationship which consists of elaboration relationship, contrast relationship, inference relationship and temporality relationship. This Western linguistic view is adopted and used in the study of Arabic DMs such as the study conducted by Al-Khawaldeh (2014) and Alsager, Afzal & Aldawood (2020). In addition, the views of Halliday and Hasan<sup>11</sup> were used by Kohlani (2010) and Mohd Yusof (2010) to study the Arabic DMs.

Ryding's writing on MSA grammar "divides Arabic DMs into the *Hurûf al-'Atf*, Contrastive Conjunction, Explanatory Conjunction, Resultative Conjunction, Adverbial Conjunction, Disjunctives and Sentence-Starting Connective".<sup>12</sup> The DMs listed in her study are the result of different groups of words such as conjunctions, particles, adverbs and phrases.

Meanwhile, in the context of learning and education, the development of the structure and variety of forms of DMs has an impact and importance on students and Arabic language teachers, especially in writing skills. Writing skill is an important skill as students need to write to answer the exam.<sup>13</sup> In the process of writing, the existence of DMs as a tool of cohesion plays a role in producing an essay with clarity, quality link and continuity of thought. Mat Hassan also stressed that "cohesion is a skill that needs to be mastered in writing to create a combination of sentences and paragraphs with the aim of improving the reader's understanding of the ideas presented".<sup>14</sup> The more knowledge learners have about DMs, the more successful they can be in the writing process.<sup>15</sup>

However, the reality is that students have significant weaknesses in producing and forming discourse structures with cohesion and continuity in essay writing.<sup>16</sup> Samah also acknowledged the same opinion when she found that "writing skills among students were at a weak level".<sup>17</sup> This can be attributed to the findings of Mohd Yusof who found that "Arabic language learners in Malaysia are less aware of the existence of DMs in Arabic texts and less aware of the function of DMs. Such lack of knowledge leads to failure in producing good and quality writing, thus affecting

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<sup>11</sup> Halliday, Michael Alexander Kirkwood, and Ruqaiya Hasan, *Cohesion in English*, (London: Longman, 1976).

<sup>12</sup> Karin C. Ryding, *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*, (Washington: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

<sup>13</sup> Rosni Samah, "Pembinaan Ayat Bahasa Arab dalam Kalangan Lulusan Sekolah Menengah Agama", *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2012, 555-569.

<sup>14</sup> Nurmasitah Mat Hassan, and Jama'yah Zakaria, "Kohesi Gramatikal Penghubung dalam Karangan Berbahasa Melayu", *International Journal of Language Education and Applied Linguistics (IJLEAL)*, Vol. 3, 2015, 101-113.

<sup>15</sup> Nader Assadi Aidinlou, "The Effect of Discourse Markers Instruction on EFL Learners' Writing", *World Journal of Education*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2012, 10-16.

<sup>16</sup> Siti Nurhajariah Md Isa and Hairun Najuwah Jamali, "Kohesi Penghubungan dalam Karangan Arab Pelajar: Suatu Analisis Wacana", *E-Journal of Arabic Studies & Islamic Civilization*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2014, 1-5.

<sup>17</sup> Rosni Samah, "Pembinaan Ayat Bahasa Arab dalam Kalangan Lulusan Sekolah Menengah Agama", *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2012, 555-569.

their learning reputation for Arabic subjects. He added that the discussion on Arabic DMs is somewhat less stressed upon and there is not a single topic that discusses discourse markers specifically in any national Arabic grammar book”.<sup>18</sup>

Those findings gave the impression that the Arabic textbooks produced in Malaysia are not capable to function as a source of knowledge acquisition for formal education in Arabic in schools. This is acknowledged by Abd Ghani’s study which found that “the readability of Arabic textbooks in Malaysia is at a disappointing level. He stressed that textbooks should play an important role in developing students’ Arabic language proficiency especially in vocabulary, comprehension and writing”.<sup>19</sup> When the textbook did not meet the quality standard of a good textbook, it will lead to a negative impact on students.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, the lack of textbook capabilities as well as the difficulty of obtaining specific references to understand and master the Arabic DMs affects students’ knowledge and mastery in producing good and high quality writing.

In conclusion, as a result of the communication revolution, DMs in MSA show the development of language in line with the passage of time. The DMs also have different uses and varied functions at different levels of discourses.<sup>21</sup> The existence of such DMs can be seen in its use in the writing of the Arab mass media, especially the press media. In fact, these developments have an impact and give importance to Arabic language education in Malaysia.

Therefore, this matter needs to be taken into account as the Arabic language is constantly changing and evolving according to current needs especially after the communication revolution that took place around the 1950s. Although there are corpus studies that have been conducted like al-Khawaldeh (2014), the study is not enough and requires a new study. Therefore, this study was conducted to obtain a more up-to-date collection of DMs based on authentic sources.

Researcher refers to Fraser’s theory (2005) which was later adapted by al-Khawaldeh (2014) as a basis for research in analyzing and categorizing the types of Arabic DMs according to the relationship of meaning intended in a sentence and the development of Arabic DMs forms. The theory proposed is a well-defined framework

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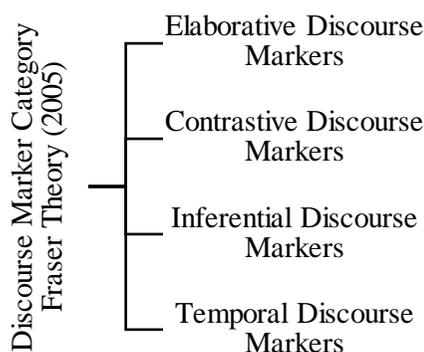
<sup>18</sup> Mohd Islah Mohd Yusof, “Penggunaan Penanda Wacana Bahasa Arab dalam Teks Karangan Pelajar STAM”, *Disertasi*, Kuala Lumpur: Fakulti Bahasa dan Linguistik, Universiti Malaya, 2011.

<sup>19</sup> Kamarulzaman Abd Ghani, “Kebolehbacaan Buku Teks Bahasa Arab Tinggi Berasaskan Ujian Kloz”, *GEMA Online™ Journal of Language Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2011, 53-66.

<sup>20</sup> Mohammad Ahsanuddin, Moh. Ainin and Imam Asrori, “The Mapping of Arabic Language Learning in Senior High Schools and Vocational Schools in Malang Regency”, *Arabiyat: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab dan Kebahasaaraban*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2019, 18-35.

<sup>21</sup> Haroon N. Alsager, Naeem Afzal Awan and Arwa A. Aldawood, “Discourse Markers in Arabic and English Newspaper Articles: The Case of the Arabic Lakin and its English equivalent But”, *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ)*, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2020, 154-165.

for studying DMs in written form.<sup>22</sup> The following is a breakdown of the categories of DMs proposed by Fraser:<sup>23</sup>



**Figure 1: Category of Discourse Markers Based on Fraser (2005)**

In addition, among other factors of choosing this theory was because of its classification of tasks and the role of DMs highlighted that are structured and easy to understand. Dalili and Dastjerdi also agreed “that such classification is considered the most understandable especially to study DMs in written discourse”.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, the theory is considered relevant to study DMs in writing.

Fraser defined “DMs as word expressions that serve to show the relationship of meaning between one sentence and another. He also emphasized on the study of his DMs into four classifications based on the type of DMs according to the relationship of meaning within the sentences which make up a discourse marker. The DMs are classified into Elaborative DMs, Contrastive DMs, Inferential DMs and Temporal DMs”.<sup>25</sup>

In fact, al-Khawaldeh<sup>26</sup> also agreed with the view of Fraser in the division of DMs into four categories. Somehow, the theory put forward by Fraser focuses on DMs in English. Therefore, he adapted the theory in his study as his study was geared towards Arabic DMs. Therefore, this study acknowledges both theories for conducting this study.

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<sup>22</sup> Asem Ayed al-Khawaldeh, Norsimah Mat Awal, and Intan Safinaz Zainuddin, “A Corpus-Based Description of Discourse Markers in Arabic Sport Journalistics Text”, 200-215.

<sup>23</sup> Bruce Fraser, *Towards a Theory of Discourse Markers*, In *Approaches to Discourse Particles* edited by K. Fisher. (Elsevier Press, 2005).

<sup>24</sup> Mehdi Vaez Dalili and Hossein Vahid Dastjerdi, “A Contrastive Corpus-Based Analysis of The Frequency of Discourse Markers in NE and NNE Media Discourse: Implications For A Universe Discourse Competence”, *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2013, 39-69.

<sup>25</sup> Bruce Fraser, *Towards a Theory of Discourse Markers*, In *Approaches to Discourse Particles* edited by K. Fisher. (Elsevier Press, 2005).

<sup>26</sup> Asem Ayed Al-Khawaldeh, Norsimah Mat Awal, and Intan Safinaz Zainuddin, “A Corpus-Based Description of Discourse Markers in Arabic Sport Journalistics Text”, 200-215.

## Method

This study was a qualitative study involving content analysis of news discourse. The theory of Fraser (2005) was employed to identify the types of DMs used in sports articles in the Al-Jazeera.net. In addition researcher used the Classical Arabic approach to identify the division of words for each DMs found in the sports article of the Al-Jazeera.net newspaper.

The researcher chose to apply the theory of Fraser (2005) and al-Khawaldeh (2014) as the main framework of the study and used the Classical Arabic approach as a reference for the data analysis process to meet the needs of the study. At the final stage of the study, the researcher analysed the findings of the study to obtain a comprehensive study of the analysis of syntactic form of Arabic DMs in the planning of football news of the Arab newspaper Al-Jazeera.net.

This study collected the data from football sports news from the Arab newspapers Al-Jazeera.net as the sample of the study. The newspaper was chosen due to its high readership rate compared to other Arab newspapers and is an international news website that has a great influence in the world of broadcasting. The study data was collected in the form of a corpus containing 856 news articles (31,550 words). The corpus was collected within a period of 3 months (May-July 2018). Corpus data were analysed qualitatively to identify the development and diversity of MSA discourse markers. This study merely focuses on the category of DMs proposed by Fraser (2005) theory which was adapted by al-Khawaldeh (2014).

To carry out the analysis process of the news articles, library research was conducted on Arabic grammar books and past studies to obtain a collection of MSA discourse markers. Then, the study data were analysed to identify the DMs used in football sports news articles. The criteria were taken into account as Arabic discourse markers within this study to establish meaning of the sentence with other sentences. Referring to Fraser's theory (2005) and al-Khawaldeh's (2014) approach, they rejected the DMs which are verb-like and link paragraphs with other paragraphs in a text. Nevertheless, this study takes into account these features in identifying Arabic DMs used in news articles.

Then, the DMs are categorised into four types according to the relationship of sentence meanings based on the theory of Fraser (2005) and al-Khawaldeh (2014). Next, the DMs are processed to give an idea of the frequency of their use in news articles. Although the data analysis is conducted based on the theory of Fraser (2005) and al-Khawaldeh (2014), this study is open to any suggestions or changes based on the context of news articles, if any, following the main objective of the study which is to show the development of forms and diversity of Arabic DMs.

## Result and Discussion

The main goal of this study was to obtain a collection of Arabic DMs based on the interpretation of MSA and analyse the development and diversity of these DMs. The results of the analysis are then presented in the form of tables along with

discussions to show the findings of the study. The following is Table 1 which shows the category of DMs consisting of Elaborative, Contrastive, Inferential, Temporal and Affirmative along with its frequency of use. These categories represent the types of sentence meaning relationships detected in football sports news articles.

*Table 1. Arab Discourse Marker Category in Football Sports News Al-Jazeera.Net*

Discourse Markers Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Elaborative</b>	4645	85.4
<b>Contrastive</b>	443	7.8
<b>Inferential</b>	202	3.6
<b>Temporal</b>	182	3.2
<b>Affirmative</b>	189	3.3
<b>Total</b>	5661	100

Based on Table 1, the results of the study found that the four categories proposed in Fraser theory (2004) are used in the writing of football news articles Al-Jazeera.net. However, based on the findings of the manual analysis conducted, the study found a new category called the Affirmative. In terms of frequency percentage, the Elaborative category has the highest frequency compared to other categories. The findings of the study showed that the percentage of the Elaborative category was 85.4% followed by the Contrastive category (7.8%), the Inferential category (3.6%), the Affirmative category (3.3%) and the Temporal category (3.2%).

Next, the findings of the study will further discuss the list of DMs detected based on the corpus data constructed in this study. The list of DMs is scheduled by category along with the percentage of usage frequency arranged in descending order. The DMs listed are also the top ten DMs based on frequency percentage. The following is a discussion of the categories of DMs along with a table of DM lists.

#### *Elaborative DM Category*

Elaborative DMs are used in connecting sentences which aim to describe or explain the previous sentence. The DMs can be traced in sentences which show additional information on the issues discussed. The DMs include *كما*, *و*, and so on. In some cases, DMs for the category of Elaborative are also able to function in connecting sentences that carry the meaning of contrastive, inferential, affirmative and causal. Therefore, in this study such DMs are categorized according to the meaning which dominates the context of the sentence.

There were a total of 42 types of DMs for this category identified based on the corpus data that has been collected. Table 2 shows the top ten for the category of Elaborative DMs found in the corpus data.

*Table 2: List of Elaborative Discourse Markers Based on Corpus Data*

No	Discourse Markers	Meaning	Frequency
1	<i>و</i>	And	3691

2	أضاف	Add	258
3	كما	Like/ So	127
4	يذكر أن / وذكرت أن	It is mentioned that	110
5	وتابع	He continued	62
6	وأشارت إلى أن	It is showed that	62
7	بل	Even	42
8	حيث	Where	40
9	من جانب	For part	39
10	ووفقا ل	According to	35

Based on Table 2 which displays the top ten DMs, the most frequently used in Al-Jazeera.net football news articles was *wa/و* with a total of 3691 times, followed by *adhâfa/أضاف* which mount to 258 times. The third highest DM for this category was *kamâ/كما* with a total frequency of 127 times. In addition, the DM *أن / وذكرت أن* were also recorded with a total usage of 110 times compared to the DM *وتابع* where the frequency of use was recorded 62 times.

Looking at the usage frequency of DM *wa/و*, the findings show that DM *wa/و* was very often used in writing Arabic newspaper articles. This is due to the fact that the DM *wa/و* has a wide function in the beginning of a sentence. Hamza (2010) also stated similar findings when he found that the DM *wa/و* in Arabic have more functions than their use in English. Hamza (2010) also concludes that DM *wa/و* is one of the components in coherent Arabic discourse.

Even in Arabic writing, the use of DM *wa/و* is often used to connect sentences. DMs in particular are found to be used at the beginning of a paragraph or the beginning of a sentence. As Alazzawie (2014) also found that DM *wa/و* is very often used in Arabic writing especially at the beginning of the sentence which dictates that the position of DM *wa/و* is used to establish the relationship of the sentence between one text and another. Plus, he also supports DM *wa/و* as a cohesion tool that is widely used among writers to ensure that readers can detect the link and continuity of sentences in a discourse. In short, the use of DM *wa/و* is indeed considered as very important to create cohesion in the writing of Arabic discourse.

In conclusion, table 2 showed that both DMs *wa/و* and *adhâfa/أضاف* have higher percentage compared to others. In fact, in the study conducted by Al-Khawaldeh (2014), found that the dm *wa/و* is often used in sports news discourse. Apart from DM *wa/و*, DM *kamâ/كما* is also listed among the most frequently used DMs based on the research conducted. In this study, the DMs mentioned are also

listed among the top ten for the category of Elaborative DMs. Thus as a whole, past studies have also proven that DM *wa/و* is the most frequently used DMs in Arabic writing (al-Azzawie 2014; Kohlani 2010; Hamza, 2010; Ryding 2005).

However, the findings of this study further extends with more comprehensive results as per based on Table 2, the results of the study successfully found that there are some DMs which are not stated or discussed in the previous referral studies. This is a new finding in which they function as DMs as they adhere to the definition of the Elaborative category. The new DMs in question are the DMs *أن يذكر* / *وتابع* and *وذكرت أن* and *وأشارت إلى أن*. These findings resulted in a more recent list of Elaborative category.

It seems that the new DMs are also listed in the top ten. As the DM *أن يذكر* / *وأشارت إلى أن* recorded a frequency rate of 110 times and both DMs *وتابع* and *أن يذكر* recorded the same frequency rate of 62 times. This clearly shows that these three new DMs are often used and traced in the writing of Al-Jazeera.net football sports news articles. In fact, it shows that the use of DMs is integrated in the writing of news articles within the present era.

#### *Contrastive DM Category*

Contrastive DMs serve to mark or highlight the relationship of meaning of a sentence which oppose or contradict to the previous sentence. This relationship appears in situations which cause one clause or sentence to negate another clause or sentence. A total of 18 discourse markers were recorded for this category. Table 3 shows the list of ten Contrastive DMs for the most frequently found in corpus data.

*Table 3: List of Contrastive Discourse Markers Based on Corpus Data*

No	Discourse Markers	Meaning	Frequency
1	ولكن/ لكن	However	144
2	بينما	While	99
3	غير أن	Nevertheless	46
4	في المقابل	On the other hand/ In comparison	36
5	ورغم	Although/ Though	35
6	رغم أن	Although	23
7	من جانب آخر	On the other hand	14
8	فيما	While	13
9	بيد أن	However	10
10	ورغم ذلك	In spite of that	4

Table 3 explains the most frequently marked for Contrastive DMs category in football news articles is *lâkin/لكن* with a frequency of 144. The DM *bainamâ/بينما* recorded a frequency rate of 99 times and the frequency of DM *ghaira anna/غير أن* rates

at 46 times. DM *fil maqâbil*/ في المقابل and *waraghma*/ورغم, on the other hand, have almost the same frequency of 36 times and 35 times respectively.

These findings showed that the DM *lâkin*/ لكن recorded the highest frequency compared to other DMs for this category due to its function in connecting the meaning of a sentence which contradicts another sentence. This finding is reinforced by Hussein's statement, namely:

*Lâkin is a DM which is used in an initial position in discourse. It is used to introduce a clause which communicates a proposition that relates to a previous proposition in discourse in the sense that the proposition in the lâkin-clause cancels the importance of the proposition in the previous discourse.*<sup>27</sup>

As a result, the findings of the study also list *bainamâ*/بينما among the Contrastive DMs that are often used in news articles. In this regard, Hussein (2008) also clarifies the position of *bainamâ*/بينما as DM which shows contradictory meaning in two sentences. He insisted:

*The contribution made by bainama does not affect the truth-conditional content of the utterance. The contribution made by bainama is operative on the implicit level by guiding the bearer to see that the proposition communicated by bainama-clause achieves relevance as a contrast of the proposition communicated in the first clause.*<sup>28</sup>

The statement explains the position of *bainamâ*/بينما as a DM which serves to create a relationship of contradict meanings. Although its function in terms of meaning differs from the DM *lâkin*/ لكن, both are used in sentences for the purpose of creating a relationship of meaning which is contradictory in the sentence.<sup>29</sup>

In addition, the results show another new finding in this category. In the list of DMs which are frequently detected in articles, the DM *ذلك* ورغم is newly discovered for this category. This DM has a function as a Contrastive DM but has never been discussed in any previous studies. Based on Table 3, DM *ذلك* ورغم is marked 4 times in the article. This shows that the author of the article used this DM at the beginning of the sentence to connect the sentence which explains the meaning of comparison or contradiction.

Overall, the authors of Al-Jazeera.net football news articles usually used DM *لكن* / لكن and *بينما* more often to explain the relationship of sentences which are contradictory and comparative. However, the authors still used other DMs such as *في*

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<sup>27</sup> Miri Hussein, "The Discourse Marker 'but' In English and Standard Arabic One Procedure and Different Implementation", *Semantic Scholar Proceeding*, 2008, 1-16.

<sup>28</sup> Miri Hussein, "The Discourse Marker 'but' In English and Standard Arabic One Procedure and Different Implementation", 12.

<sup>29</sup> Miri Hussein, "The Discourse Marker 'but' In English and Standard Arabic One Procedure and Different Implementation", 1-16.

من جانب آخر, المقابل and ورغم ذلك to show the contradictions, comparisons and differences in their writing.

*Inferential DM Category*

DMs for this category are DMs which serve to indicate the relationship of sentences that describe the cause in the previous sentence and the consequences in the next sentence. In other words, sentences or paragraphs before and after are related to explain the cause of a certain matter and the effect of it.

For this category, there are 12 DMs that have been discovered to function as Inferential DMs. Here are the top ten DMs frequently marked in Al-Jazeera.net football news articles:

*Table 4: List of Inferential Discourse Markers Based on Corpus Data*

No	Discourse Markers	Meaning	Frequency
1	ف	As for/ Since	99
2	وكذلك	Likewise/ Moreover	18
3	وبذلك	Thus/Therefore	16
4	وبهذا/ وبهذه	With this	16
5	وذلك	And that	12
6	وذلك بسبب	This is because	7
7	ولذلك	Thus	4
8	لذلك	Therefore/ So	4
9	ولهذا	Therefore/ So	4
10	بناء على ذلك	Thus/ And so	3

Table 4 shows that DM *fa/ف* is the most frequently used in news articles for the Inferential category. The frequency of its usage is 99 times and is followed by the DM *wakadẓālika/وكذلك* with a total frequency of 18 times. While for both DMs *wabidẓālika/وبذلك* and *wabihādẓa/وبهذا*, each recorded the same number of frequencies of 16 times.

In a study conducted by Amer (2014), he also mentioned that the DM *fa/ف* is the most frequently Inferential DMs used in Arabic. According to Amer (2014), DM *fa/ف* has many meanings and functions. However in this study, the DM *fa/ف* marked functions in connecting the meaning of causal. In other words, DM *fa/ف* carries the meaning of ‘then’. The DM *fa/ف* is used at two levels of discourse namely sentences and paragraphs (Amer 2014). Amer (2014) also added, the use of this DM at the beginning of a sentence aims to explain the effect of the previous sentence.

Next, the DM *wazaalika bisababi/ وذلك بسبب* is marked 7 times in the news article which is then followed by DMs *walidzâlika/ ولذلك*, *lidzâlika/ لذلك* and *walihadzâ/ ولهذا* where these three DMs are used in news articles at the beginning of sentences and the beginning of paragraphs with a total frequency of 4 times. DM *binaaan ‘alâ dzâlik/ بناء على ذلك* with a total frequency of 3 times is also listed among the top ten which are frequently marked for the Inferential category.

Similar to both Elaborative and Contrastive categories, the research found some new DMs based on its new findings. In reference to Table 4, all the DMs listed have been discussed in previous studies except for DMs *wabihâdzâ/ وبهذا* and *wabihâdzîhi/ وبهذه*. DM *وبهذا/ وبهذه* are new findings for this category. These findings indicate a new achievement for this study as this DM is found at the beginning of the sentence to connect the sentence with aims of explaining the meaning of the linked sentence. This DM is used by the author 16 times in article writing.

#### *Temporal DM Category*

DMs in this category indicate that the relationship of sentences is related to the sequence between one sentence and another. Typically, Temporal DMs are used in sentence order which explains sentence descriptions in the form of sequences; either sequences which explain the past or the future. Some of the DMs are *then/ ثم*, *after/ بعد*, *when/ حين* and etc. Based on the data collected, a total of 29 DMs are listed in this category. Table 5 below lists the top ten DMs for the Temporal category:

*Table 5: List of Temporal Discourse Markers Based on Corpus Data*

No	Discourse Markers	Meaning	Frequency
1	في حين	When/While/In due	73
2	ثم	Then	23
3	بعد/ وبعد	After	15
4	عندما	At the same time as/ At the time when	12
5	وبعدما	And after	7
6	وفي نفس الوقت	At the same time	6
7	وفي الوقت	At that time	6
8	والآن	And now	6
9	الآن	Now	5
10	وفي الوقت نفسه	At the same time	3

Based on Table 5, DM *fî hîna/ في حين* is the most commonly used in Al-Jazeera.net football sports news articles for this category. The DM is frequently used with a total of 73 times. The second most common DM is *thumma/ ثم* which is used 23

times in the article. This is followed by the DM *waba'da*/بعد with a total frequency of 15 times and the DM *'indamâ*/عندما with a total of 12 times.

Next, the DM *waba'damâ*/ويعدما is marked for 7 times. While the DMs *wa fî nafsil waqti*/وفي نفس الوقت, *wa fil waqti*/وفي الوقت and *wal ân* /والآن are recorded with the same total frequency of 6 times (3.3%) respectively. Based on Table 5, the DM *al-ân*/الآن and the DM *wa fil waqti nafsihi*/وفي الوقت نفسه are also listed in the top ten most frequently marked DM for this category. DM الآن is marked 5 times and DM وفي الوقت نفسه is marked for 3 times.

In addition, the results of the analysis also managed to discover new findings similar to other previous categories. Based on the list of top ten DMs for this category, the researcher had successfully identified four new DMs that have been used by the author to link sentences to explain time sequence. The new DMs are *ويعدما*, *عندما* and *وفي نفس الوقت*. The DM *عندما* is detected for 12 times, *ويعدما* for 7 times and *وفي نفس الوقت* for 6 times. The DM *وفي الوقت* is also listed in the new DMs with a total frequency of 3 times. These new findings confided the researcher that MSA discourse markers evolve over time.

#### *Affirmative DM Category*

Based on the result of the analysis, the researcher found a new category based on the collected study data. The category is named as Affirmative DM. DMs listed under this category have the function of strengthening and emphasizing meanings of a sentence in connecting a sentence with a sentence in a discourse. Table 6 below lists the overall Affirmative DMs based on this study:

*Table 6: List of Affirmative Discourse Markers Based on Corpus Data*

No	Discourse Markers	Meaning	Frequency
1	وأوضح أن	It is clear that	80
2	وأكدت أن	Surely/ Definitely	67
3	خاصة	Especially	35
4	بالطبع/طبعاً	Of course/ Obviously	3
5	مؤكداً أن	It is confirmed that	2
6	ومن المؤكد أن	Surely/ Definitely	1
7	موضحة أن	It is clear that	1
8	مما لا شك فيه	Undoubtedly	-
9	من الواضح أن	It is clear that/ It is evident that	-
10	قال مؤكداً أن	Surely/ Definitely	-
11	بالتأكيد	Surely/ Definitely	-
12	ليس هناك ادنى شك في	There is no doubt that	-

Based on the theory of Fraser (2005) and al-Khawaldeh (2014), DMs are divided into four categories, namely Elaborative category, Contrastive category, Inferential category and Temporal category. These theories became the main foundation of the study as this study is conducted based on written discourse. This is due to the fact that Fraser (2005) theory is considered a relevant theory and easy to understand in studying DMs in written form.<sup>30</sup>

However, the results of the analysis have successfully found a new finding which is significant to the main goal of this study. The findings have enabled the researcher to develop a new category for Arabic DMs known as the Affirmative category. As stated in Table 6, the researcher had successfully collected and listed a total of 12 DMs in this category.

Originally, the DMs listed in this category were categorized as Elaborative DMs as the markers function in connecting a discourse or a sentence with aims of describing or explaining the meaning of the previous sentence. Therefore, at the first place these DMs can be traced within sentences which explain something by adding new information to something being discussed and were categorized as Elaborative DMs.

Somehow, the researcher found that the DMs listed in Table 6 override the function of DMs for the Elaborative category. It is undeniable that these discourse markers function as Elaborative DMs. However, based on the context of the discourse within the Al-Jazeera.net football news articles, these DMs play a clearer function in establishing relationship and continuity of sentences for the purpose of strengthening and emphasizing the meaning of the previous sentence.

As in Kohlani's (2010) study, she had also found few DMs which function to strengthen the meaning of sentences. She listed the DMs as 'Discourse Markers that express certainty'. Based on the list of DMs proposed by Kohlani (2010) for 'Discourse Markers that express certainty', a comparison was made within the study in order to distinguish several DMs which resulted in finding clear similarities to strengthen the position of discourse markers for Affirmative DMs. The following are the DMs which match Kohlani's (2010) proposal:

*Table 7: Comparison of Affirmative Discourse Markers Proposed and Discourse Markers by Al-Kohlani (2010)*

No	Affirmative DMs Proposed	Meaning	'DMs That Express Certainty' by Kohlani (2010)	Meaning
1	وأوضح أن	It is clear that	من الواضح أن/واضح أن	It is evident that, it is clear that
2	وأكدت أن	Surely/	الأكيد أن/بالتأكيد/ من المؤكد أن	Surely,

<sup>30</sup> Mehdi Vaez Dalili and Hossein Vahid Dastjerdi, "A Contrastive Corpus-Based Analysis of The Frequency of Discourse Markers in NE and NNE Media Discourse: Implications for a Universe Discourse Competence", 39-69.

3	مؤكداً أن	Definitely It is confirmed that	الأكيد أن/بالتأكيد/ من المؤكد أن	definitely Surely, definitely
4	موضحة أن	It is clear that	من الواضح أن/واضح أن	It is evident that, it is clear that

In other words, the DMs in Table 6 function as the Elaborative DMs in parsing a sentence in addition to strengthening and emphasizing on the previous sentence by adding content or information in the following sentence. However, the function, meaning and structure of these DMs tend to meet the characteristics stated by Kohlani (2010). Therefore, researcher sees a need to create a new category and these DMs are more appropriately categorized as Affirmative DMs. Thus, the formation of this new category is a significant achievement for this study.

Based on Table 6, the DM *wa awdhaha anna*/وأوضح أن is the most frequently used marker with a total frequency of 80 times in this category. Followed by DM *wa akkadat anna*/وأكدت أن with a total frequency of 67 times and DM *khossotan*/خاصة which is marked for 35 times. Meanwhile, the DM *thab'an*/طبعاً and the DM *muakkadan anna*/مؤكداً أن were both marked 3 times and 2 times respectively. However, there are some DMs listed in this category which cannot be traced in the study data. For example, the DMs *minal wâdih anna*/من الواضح أن and *bitta'kîd*/بالتأكيد.

In addition, Kohlani found in her study that “DM الأکید أن occur 38 times in her data”.<sup>31</sup> The finding indicate two things that are relevant to this study. First, it supports the result of this study on the DMs that signal certainty and affirmative in generating cohesion and coherent in discourse. Second, it shows that these DMs has been widely used in modern Arabic writing. Thus, this study believes this category should be addressed.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this study was conducted to analyse the DMs used in football news articles of Al-Jazeera.net as well as the collection list of Arabic DMs according to the MSA. The items discussed and explained in this study consisted of the analysis of discourse markers, the category of discourse markers, the frequency of usage based on the function of each discourse marker in connecting and linking sentence meaning.

Overall, a total of 115 DMs were traced in the news articles which exceeds the number of DMs proposed by Al-Khawaldeh (2014). This indicates that discourse markers have evolved and resulting in a variety of DMs that are not limited to the

<sup>31</sup> Fatima A. Al Kohlani, "Discourse Markers at the Global Level in Arabic Newspaper Opinion Articles", Scientific Journal of KFU (Humanities and Management Sciences) Vol. 18, No. 1 (2017): 193-214.

definition of the Classical Arabic DMs. Plus, the analysis have successfully formed a new category named as Affirmative DM. Discourse markers for this category have a function in connecting a discourse and emphasizing the content of the discourse.

Next, the Elaborative DMs were most widely used in the writing of Al-Jazeera.net football news articles especially with the usage of DM *wa/و*. Besides, new discourse markers for each category are found. These new findings are very valuable for this study as they have proven that formation and diversity of Arabic DMs are evolving over time.

Therefore, the findings of this study are believed to be a reference source for teachers and students in overcoming the lack of knowledge of Arabic DMs. The researchers hope that there will be significant contribution and efforts in emphasizing the knowledge of Arabic DMs among students by re-analysing the contents of Arabic textbooks. Finally, it is hoped that this study can attract the attention of researchers to further study the Arabic DMs to a greater extent which not only in the field of education or journalism but also in other fields. The study is also expected to be used as a reference by researchers and educators as well as students in providing additional information on the existence of newly developed and varied Arabic DMs. []

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