DISCOURSE MARKERS IN MICHELLE OBAMA'S INTERVIEW DURING OPRAH'S 2020 VISION TOUR VISIONARIES

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

[1] inastsuroyya17@gmailcom
[1], [2] UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
Malang, Indonesia

Abstract: The objective of this study revolves around a meticulous analysis of a 2020 interview session featuring Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey. It seeks to delineate the prevalent discourse marker types and their nuanced functions in this conversation. Employing a qualitative approach, the researchers scrutinized the interview data to extract valuable insights. The outcomes of this analysis unearthed a remarkable total of 957 instances of discourse markers, spanning across all ten types and fulfilling each of the six designated functions. To provide a more detailed breakdown, the instances consisted of 21 interjections, while no instances of greetings and farewell expressions were identified. Moreover, 454 instances of linking adverbials, 108 instances of stance adverbials, one instance of vocatives, 13 instances of response elicitors, 350 instances of response forms, five instances of hesitators, two instances of various polite speech-act formulations, and three instances of expletives were observed. Remarkably, it became evident that Oprah Winfrey consistently refrains from employing greeting and farewell expressions in her video interviews, indicating a deliberate stylistic choice on her part. Despite this unique pattern, the discourse markers, in alignment with their diverse types and functions, wield considerable influence in enhancing the audience's comprehension of the interview's content. Skillful deployment of these markers facilitates seamless information flow, reinforces connections, establishes causal relationships, and offers temporal context, enriching the viewer experience.

Keywords: discourse markers, interview, Oprah's 2020 vision tour visionaries

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, audio-visual communication platforms have gained significant popularity, providing a new medium for discourse analysis. Interviews, in particular, serve as a rich source of data for understanding communication dynamics and discourse markers' role within it. This research aims to delve deeper into the use of discourse markers in interviews, specifically focusing on Michelle Obama's interview in Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries. Discourse markers serve as linguistic devices contributing to communication's coherence, structure, and overall effectiveness (Zahra et al., 2021). They play a crucial role in guiding the flow of conversation, signaling transitions between ideas, expressing emotions, and managing interaction between speakers. While previous studies have examined discourse markers in various contexts, such as spoken discourse, academic writing, and monologues, analyzing discourse markers in audio-visual interviews offers unique insights into the dynamics of real-life communication. By analyzing Michelle Obama's interview, the researchers aim to uncover the types and functions of discourse markers used within the specific context of the communication. This analysis can shed light on how the interviewer and interviewee strategically employ discourse markers to convey meaning, establish connections, and create a rapport with the audience. Additionally, it can provide insights into the role of discourse markers in expressing the speaker's emotions, managing turn-taking, and structuring the conversation.

Previous studies in discourse markers (DMs) have provided valuable insights for researchers in their analysis. Utami (2020) focused on DMs in interviews, specifically examining the functions and types used by Tavi Gevinson and Maggies Rogers in an interview on the 92nd Street Y Channel on

YouTube. The findings highlighted the significance of DM usage, as both speakers employed them to share knowledge, connect statements, and facilitate the flow of conversation. Dumlao and Wilang (2019) took a functional approach and studied specific DMs in academic writing essays used by L1 and L2 English speakers. Their research revealed the differences in DM usage between the two groups, with L1 speakers employing elaborative markers more frequently while L2 users struggled with appropriate usage, leading to incoherent writing. These studies emphasize the importance of understanding the varied usage of DMs and the need for pedagogical interventions to improve language learners' skills.

Arya (2022) conducted research on DM usage and functions in English conversations between Thai university students and non-Thai English speakers. The study identified 34 different DMs used, with participants primarily employing them to refer to topics and facilitate turn-taking in the conversation. The limited use of DMs by Thai EFL students highlighted the necessity for interventions to enhance their awareness of the impact of DMs on conversation quality and speaker relationships. Additionally, Cahyanti (2021) examined the use of DMs in informal contexts to enhance speaking fluency. The study analyzed a vlog video by BNay Channel and identified ten types of DMs, emphasizing their role in expressing responses, reactions, and back-channel signals. Finally, Santi (2019) analyzed DMs in English YouTube channels, finding that Discourse Activity markers were frequently used for clarification, while Message Relationship markers were employed for presenting parallels and elaboration.

Different from those previous studies, this study focuses on analyzing interviews, particularly examining the speech delivery of Michelle Obama as a role model and former First Lady of the United States. Michelle Obama's interview is chosen due to its informal nature, as observed through the casual language and conversational style employed by both speakers. Throughout the interview, DMs were frequently used to organize statements and facilitate communication. Michelle Obama, the guest speaker in the WeightWachers YouTube channel interview, holds great influence as an American attorney, author, and former First Lady of the United States. Her book "Becoming" has achieved tremendous success, selling 3.4 million copies worldwide. As for Oprah Winfrey, she is a renowned American media executive, actress, talk show host, television producer, and philanthropist who conducted the interview. The WeightWachers channel offers diverse content, including Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour, featuring Michelle Obama as a guest speaker. In this channel, various talk shows cover topics such as life after the White House, aging with confidence, and maintaining grace in challenging situations. Both Oprah and Michelle Obama engaged in an informal interview setting, discussing the importance of confidence in the face of aging. They conversed casually and enjoyed the interview, resembling everyday conversations. The informal nature of their discussion was reflected in the neutral and straightforward language structure, disregarding strict grammar rules.

In informal conversations, DMs are utilized to express personal opinions and facilitate interpersonal aspects, distinguishing them from formal conversations characterized by stiffness and formal language. However, DMs still serve important functions in formal settings. They are instrumental in generating coherent conversations and providing insights into the speaker's intentions. Their usage often differs between languages, and the lack of direct correspondence poses challenges in translation. Discourse markers, such as "oh," "well," "y'know," and "I mean," carry unique pragmatic meanings and contribute to effective communication (Chaume, 2004). Despite their significance, DMs are not explicitly taught in language learning classrooms but instead implicitly introduced through dialogue inclusion to enhance naturalness and mutual understanding among interlocutors (Sada et al., 2015). In daily social interactions, Schiffrin highlights the importance of DMs as markers of information management, responses, discourse connectives (e.g., "and," "but," "or"), cause and result indicators (e.g., "so," "because"), temporal adverbs (e.g., "now," "then"), and markers of information and participation (e.g., "you know," "I mean"). These words and phrases play a crucial role in establishing coherence and textual unity within discourse (Horn & Ward, 2006). In a conversation, the use of proper DMs can produce good communication. It refers to the way speakers can understand the meaning of what is being said to one another. The use of DMs can also show a natural impression in conveying the idea in discourse. The proper use of discourse markers (DMs) plays a crucial role in facilitating effective communication. When used appropriately, DMs help responders understand the intended meaning conveyed by the speaker.

Building upon this understanding, the researchers aim to investigate the usage of DMs in Michelle Obama's interview during Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour. Compared to previous studies, this research

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

diverges in terms of its focus on analyzing DMs in an informal interview context featuring Michelle Obama. Previous studies have examined DMs using different theories, such as Fraser's (1996) and Fox and Schrock's (2002) theories, while exploring various settings, including newspapers, classroom settings, talk shows, and podcasts. The analysis will delve into various types and functions of DMs, including interjections, greetings, linking adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitators, polite speech-act formulations, and expletives, to interpret the contextual nuances of the speech based on textual transcriptions. The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of DM usage in interviews and its impact on communication.

To further explore the usage of DMs, this research analyzes an informal interview Michelle Obama conducted on Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour on the WeightWachers YouTube channel. The presence of DMs in this linguistic context provides a unique opportunity for analysis, aligning with Fox and Shrock's (1999) view that the usage of DMs is evident in the spontaneous delivery of ideas and can be observed through the functions they serve. Specifically, this study analyzes DMs within the context of an informal interview, employing Biber et al. and Schiffrin's (1987) theories for analysis.

METHOD

The research was conducted employing a descriptive qualitative methodology, a framework chosen to provide a detailed and insightful exploration of the subject matter. As highlighted by Rahardjo (2010), qualitative research functions as a tool to delve into the nuances of phenomena under investigation while aligning with the underlying theoretical framework. By employing this method, the study sought to achieve comprehensive outcomes and align with the nuanced complexities of DM usage, in line with the analytical framework proposed by Schiffrin (1987). To gather the essential data for analysis, the researchers watched the interview and transcribed its content. The interview video was sourced from the "WeightWatchers" YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvFaaO5b4hE&list=WL). The interview served as the primary object of analysis, and it was sourced from the YouTube channel "WeightWatchers," specifically from a video titled "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries: Michelle Obama Interview," conducted on February 13, 2020. The total duration of the interview was approximately 53 minutes and 20 seconds. This study's dataset subjected to analysis comprised words and phrases containing diverse types of DMs that emerged during the conversation.

The process of data collecting occurred in a series of stages, beginning with the initial step of accessing the interview video on the "WeightWatchers" YouTube channel. This was followed by the subsequent action of downloading the video and ultimately acquiring a written transcript. The succeeding procedures entailed engaging in active and attentive observation of the interview, enabling the researchers to identify and categorize words and phrases that effectively exemplified different types and functions of discourse markers.

The data analysis strategy followed a sequential pathway. Initially, the researchers identified various DM types as classified by Biber et al. (1999) and Schiffrin (1987). This encompassed interjections, greetings, and farewell expressions, linking adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitators, diverse polite speech-act formulations, and expletives. Subsequently, the researchers delved into the function of these DMs, aligning their analysis with the frameworks proposed by Biber et al. and Schiffrin. Lastly, a comprehensive discussion unfolded, spotlighting the specific DM instances utilized by the speakers and the interviewer. These discussions drew insightful conclusions, lending depth and meaning to the study's findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

To facilitate the findings and subsequent discussion, the researchers classified the data based on the types and functions of discourse markers as proposed by Biber et al. (1999) and Schiffrin (1987). The analysis of the data was divided into two main parts: the examination of ten types of discourse markers and the exploration of six functions associated with these markers. By categorizing the data according to these criteria, the researchers aimed to gain insights into the usage and significance of discourse markers within the interview context.

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

Interjection

The first type of discourse markers is interjections, which are used to express emotions. There are three specific interjections identified in the data: "whoo," "wow," and "oh." Upon analyzing the data, the researchers classified instances of interjections, and the following data was obtained:

Datum 1
Michelle : Hey, wow.
Oprah   : It's fun, hey.
Michelle : It's fun.
Oprah   : Look at this. Look at this, Brooklyn.
Michelle : **Whoo.**

Examining Datum 1, the conversation between Michelle and Oprah reveals instances of interjections. Michelle initiates the interaction with the interjection "Hey, wow," expressing enthusiasm or surprise. This interjection sets a positive and energetic tone for the conversation. Both Michelle and Oprah continue the exchange, affirming that the situation they are discussing is enjoyable with phrases like "It's fun, hey" and "It's fun." These interjections reinforce the shared sentiment of enjoyment and contribute to the conversational flow.

Further into the conversation, Oprah draws Michelle's attention by saying, "Look at this. Look at this, Brooklyn." In response, Michelle exclaims, "Whoo." This interjection signals a heightened emotional reaction, suggesting that Michelle is greatly impressed or excited by what she sees. The use of "whoo" adds emphasis and indicates a positive and enthusiastic response. It showcases the speaker's engagement and excitement within the context of the conversation.

The analysis of these interjections demonstrates how discourse markers like "whoo" contribute to the expression of emotions and engagement in conversation. These interjections convey the speaker's personal response and add a dynamic and lively element to the interaction. By understanding the function and impact of interjections, we gain valuable insights into the emotional involvement and communicative dynamics within the interview.

Linking Adverbial

The second type of discourse marker is the linking adverbial, which indicates the relationship between an utterance and the preceding context. Four specific linking adverbials have been identified: "but," "and," "because," and "well." The researchers have classified instances of linking adverbials in the data, resulting in the following findings:

Datum 2
Oprah   : I know. And all of the people in this room paid money to come out to give up a Saturday. And we know all that Saturday means.
Michelle : Like I said, ain't nobody twerking on this stage. You know? People are talking–people are talking and having conversations.
Oprah   : Yes.
Michelle : **But** the current climate speaks down to people. You know? We think that people don't want to talk about books and talk about deep things and to, you know, really be self-reflective.

In Datum 2, a significant example of a linking adverbial is observed. Oprah remarks, "I know. And all of the people in this room paid money to come out to give up a Saturday. Moreover, we know all that Saturday means." Michelle responds, "Like I said, ain't nobody twerking on this stage. You know? People are talking–people are talking and having conversations." Oprah agrees, saying "Yes," and Michelle continues, "But the current climate speaks down to people. You know? We think that people don't want to talk about books and talk about deep things and to, you know, really be self-reflective."

The discourse marker "but" is a linking adverbial within this context. It plays a crucial role in connecting the preceding sentence with the subsequent one. By using "but," the speakers introduce a contrast or opposition between different ideas. In this case, Michelle emphasizes the contrast between the current climate's attitude towards intellectual discussions and the audience's genuine desire to engage in meaningful conversations. The use of "but" helps highlight the contrast between these two perspectives.

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

The researchers identified the repeated usage of "but" as a linking adverbial throughout the interview. This observation suggests that the speakers employed "but" to signify transitions between contrasting thoughts, adding depth and complexity to the conversation. The consistent use of this linking adverbial demonstrates the speakers' ability to navigate between different viewpoints and introduce contrasting ideas effectively. Overall, "but" serves as a valuable discourse marker in maintaining the flow and coherence of the dialogue while emphasizing contrasting elements within the conversation.

Stance Adverbial

The third type of discourse marker is the stance adverbial, also known as a sentence adverbial. Stance adverbials are lexical items that operate on the entire sentence, expressing modality, illocutionary force, and evaluation (Trask, 1993). In the analyzed data, four specific stance adverbials have been identified: "you know," "absolutely," "honestly," and "exactly." The researchers have classified instances of stance adverbials in the data, leading to the following findings:

Datum 3

Oprah   : What does that mean over the years that was a running theme in   your house that you said over and over?

Michelle   : You know, I try to–it's–you know, what I tell them is what I continue to tell themselves is that they have to walk their own walk. You know, they cannot define themselves by looking at each other or looking at me or their dad. They have to take the time to get to know themselves. Give themselves a moment to figure out who they want to be in the world. Not who they think I want them to be. Not what the rest of the world says about them. But to really think about how they want to shape their lives and how they want to move in this world. So I don't want them measuring themselves by external influences. And for young girls, that is hard to do.

In Datum 3, an important example of a stance adverbial is observed. Oprah asks Michelle about a recurring theme in her household, to which Michelle responds, "You know, I try to–it's–you know, what I tell them is what I continue to tell themselves is that they have to walk their own walk. You know, they cannot define themselves by looking at each other or looking at me or their dad. They have to take the time to get to know themselves. Give themselves a moment to figure out who they want to be in the world. Not who they think I want them to be. Not what the rest of the world says about them. But to really think about how they want to shape their lives and how they want to move in this world. So I don't want them measuring themselves by external influences. And for young girls, that is hard to do."

In this context, the discourse marker "you know" functions as a stance adverbial. It is used by Michelle to convey a sense of familiarity and shared understanding with the listener, Oprah. By using "you know," Michelle seeks to establish a connection and create a conversational tone. This discourse marker serves as a signal of attentiveness and empathy, indicating that Michelle actively engages with the topic and wants Oprah to grasp the importance of her message.

Throughout the interview, the researchers noted the frequent usage of "you know" as a stance adverbial. This observation suggests that Michelle employed "you know" to foster a sense of connection and rapport with Oprah. It serves as a marker of information and participation, allowing the speaker to convey empathy, establish shared understanding, and engage the listener more conversationally. The consistent use of this stance adverbial demonstrates Michelle's intention to establish a connection and enhance the communication dynamics within the interview.

Vocatives

The fourth type of discourse marker is the vocative, which refers to noun phrases used to address the addressee. Vocatives can be categorized into two types: calls or summons and addresses. In the analyzed data, the researchers have identified only one instance of a vocative: "Hey, wow." Vocatives serve the function of directly addressing the addressee and are not syntactically or semantically incorporated as arguments. In this specific context, the vocative "Hey, wow" is used to capture the attention or express surprise. Although there is only one instance of a vocative in the data, its presence indicates a direct interaction between the speakers and highlights a moment of engagement or emphasis in the conversation.

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

Datum 4
Michelle : **Hey, wow.**
Oprah   : It's fun, hey.
Michelle : It's fun.
Oprah   : Look at this. Look at this, Brooklyn.
Michelle : Whoo.

In Datum 4, the researchers have identified the discourse marker "hey" as a vocative in the conversation between Michelle and Oprah. The use of "hey" in this context serves the function of calling or summoning someone's attention. It is an example of a vocative, which is a noun phrase used to directly address the addressee.

Michelle's use of "hey" in this exchange indicates her desire to capture Oprah's attention or engage her in the conversation. It is a way of signaling her emotional involvement and establishing a personal connection with her partner in the dialogue. The vocative "hey" adds a sense of familiarity and informality to the conversation, enhancing the rapport between the speakers.

The researchers conclude that in this particular instance, the discourse marker "hey" functions as a vocative, expressing an emotional state and serving as a means of calling or summoning attention. This analysis highlights the role of vocatives in interpersonal communication, where they contribute to creating a connection and conveying the speaker's emotional involvement in the conversation.

Response Elicitors

The fifth type of discourse marker is the response elicitor. Response elicitors are characterized by generalized tags that prompt a response or seek confirmation. In the analyzed data, the researchers have identified two specific response elicitors: "right?" and "okay?".

Datum 5
Michelle   : Yeah, Barack is, like, where are those boots He's, like, what did you do with those boots? I was, like, they're put away, honey, just settle down.
Oprah   : To think when you wear a pair of boots like that, like they go to the Michelle museum. **Right?**
Michelle   : That's right. You don't walk around in the street with that. You know, you don't do anything with those boots.
Oprah   : Yeah.

In Datum 5, the researchers have identified the discourse marker "right" as a response elicitor in the conversation between Michelle and Oprah. The use of "right" in this context serves the function of seeking agreement or confirmation from the interlocutor. It prompts the listener to respond and indicates a desire for validation or alignment of perspectives.

Oprah's use of "right" in this exchange demonstrates her intention to engage Michelle in a conversation by seeking agreement or acknowledgment. By using "right," Oprah encourages Michelle to affirm or confirm the statements being made. This discourse marker enhances the interactive nature of the conversation and invites a participatory response from the listener.

The researchers conclude that in this particular instance, the discourse marker "right" functions as a response elicitor, prompting agreement or confirmation from the interlocutor. It serves to foster engagement and collaboration in the dialogue. This analysis highlights the role of response elicitors in facilitating effective communication and encouraging active participation from the interlocutors.

Response Form

The sixth type of discourse marker is known as response forms, which are used to provide a response to a previous remark. Response forms can be categorized into three parts: responses to questions, responses to directives, and responses to assertions. In the analyzed data, the researchers have identified four specific response forms: "yes," "no," "okay," and "yeah."

Datum 6
Oprah   : Yeah. I was saying earlier that everybody just wants to know that you hear me—
Michelle : **Yes.**
Oprah   : And that you see me.
Michelle : **Yes.**

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

Oprah   : What's the best advice do you think that you've given your daughters?

In Datum 6, the researchers have identified the discourse marker "yes" as a response form in the conversation between Oprah and Michelle. The use of "yes" in this context provides a direct response to a question or statement. It indicates agreement or affirmation of what has been asked or said. Michelle's use of "yes" in this exchange demonstrates her acknowledgment and agreement with Oprah's statements and questions. By responding with "yes," Michelle confirms her understanding and alignment with the conversation. This discourse marker serves as a concise and straightforward way of indicating agreement or approval.

The researchers conclude that in this particular instance, the discourse marker "yes" functions as a response form, indicating agreement or affirmation in response to the interviewer's remarks and questions. It contributes to the smooth flow and understanding in the conversation. This analysis highlights the role of response forms in providing concise and direct responses to maintain the coherence and engagement in a dialogue.

Hesitator

The seventh type of discourse marker is known as hesitators, which are used to fill hesitation pauses in conversation. Hesitators are often misunderstood or condemned by those who do not fully understand their purpose, but they play an important role in communication. In the analyzed data, the researchers have identified two specific hesitators: "mm-hmm" and "uh-huh."

Datum 7

Oprah : I was talking to Tina Fey recently, and she said that she–she's at a stage now where she appreciates that she has moved through life in a few different body shapes.

Michelle : **Uh-huh.** Yeah. Yeah.

In Datum 7, the researchers have identified the discourse markers "uh-huh" and "yeah" as hesitators. These markers are used to fill hesitation pauses in the conversation and indicate the speaker's agreement or acknowledgment. In the given context, when Oprah mentions her conversation with Tina Fey, Michelle responds with "uh-huh" and "yeah." These hesitators serve the purpose of filling the pauses in speech as the speakers gather their thoughts or formulate their response. They indicate that Michelle is actively listening and engaged in the conversation.

The researchers conclude that hesitators play an important role in maintaining the flow and rhythm of conversation. They act as markers of response, allowing for smooth transitions and ensuring that the dialogue remains coherent. By using hesitators like "uh-huh" and "yeah," the speakers demonstrate their understanding, agreement, and active participation in the discussion.

Various Polite Speech Act Formulate

The eighth type of discourse marker, known as various polite speech-act formulations, encompasses markers used to convey politeness, respect, and perform speech acts associated with thinking, apologizing, and expressing gratitude. In the analyzed data, two specific markers within this category were identified: "please" and "thank you."

Datum 8

Oprah   : Okay. We're ready. Whoo. Oh, oh. No, when I started thinking about who has had some of the greatest impact on the global vision of what health and wellness and empowerment looks like, this person's name came to mind first. Brooklyn, **please** welcome our WW 2020 visionary conversation, the former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama.

In the given context, Oprah, as the interviewer, begins by expressing readiness and excitement with interjections like "Whoo" and "Oh, oh." Then, Oprah goes on to mention her consideration of individuals who have had a significant impact on the global vision of health, wellness, and empowerment. She specifically introduces the former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, to the audience, using the word "please" as a polite and respectful request to welcome her. By using "please," Oprah demonstrates her courteous and gracious manner in inviting the audience to greet and acknowledge Michelle Obama as the guest star of the WW 2020 visionary conversation. Furthermore, Oprah expresses her gratitude and appreciation for Michelle Obama's presence and influence by using the word "thank." This serves as a polite gesture to acknowledge Michelle Obama's contribution and motivate the audience to warmly receive her.

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

Based on this analysis, the researchers conclude that "please" and "thank" in this context fall under the category of various polite speech-act formulations. These discourse markers serve an expressive function by conveying politeness and respect. Oprah's careful choice of language reflects her intent to create a positive and respectful atmosphere during the interview, emphasizing the significance of Michelle Obama's role as the guest star.

Expletives

The ninth type of discourse marker is expletives. Expletives are words or phrases that do not contribute any meaning to the text. Expletives are divided into two types: taboo expletives and moderated expletives. In the interview, the researchers found only one type of expletives, which is taboo expletives. Based on the data, the researchers conducted an analysis of taboo expletives.

Datum 9

Michelle : I have to tell myself, appreciate what God gave you and take care of that.

Oprah : Yeah.

Michelle : And be balanced about it.

Oprah : I like that you so freely speak the number 56.

Michelle : Yeah for me. Yeah.

Oprah : I love that. You have been around women–we all have–and men, too, like I'm not gonna say the number. And oh, my gosh, I'm turning 40. **Oh, my gosh**, I'm turning 50. You never had any of that?

In the given context, the researchers have identified the presence of taboo expletives in Michelle Obama and Oprah's interview. Specifically, the expletive "oh gosh" is used by both speakers to express their emotions or reactions. Taboo expletives are considered to be words or phrases that are not considered polite or appropriate in formal language usage. The function of taboo expletives, such as "oh gosh," can vary depending on the context in which they are used. In the example above, it appears that the speakers use this expletive to convey emotions such as anger, surprise, or disbelief towards a certain situation. By using the taboo expletive, the speakers express their strong emotions and emphasize their reactions.

Overall, the presence of taboo expletives in the interview adds a sense of authenticity and reflects the speakers' genuine emotional responses. It is important to note that while taboo expletives can convey strong emotions, they should be used with caution in formal or polite contexts due to their potentially offensive nature.

The researchers have analyzed the data obtained from "Michelle Obama's interview" using Biber et al.'s theory on ten discourse markers: interjection, greeting and farewell expression, linking adverbial, stance adverbial, vocatives, response elicitors, response forms, hesitator, various polite speech-act, and expletives. They have also incorporated Deborah Schiffrin's theory on six functions of discourse markers: markers of information management, markers of response, markers of connectives, markers of cause and effect, markers of temporal adverb, and markers of information and participation. To facilitate the analysis of the data, the researchers have created a diagram as shown below:

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

TYPE OF DISCOURSE MARKERS
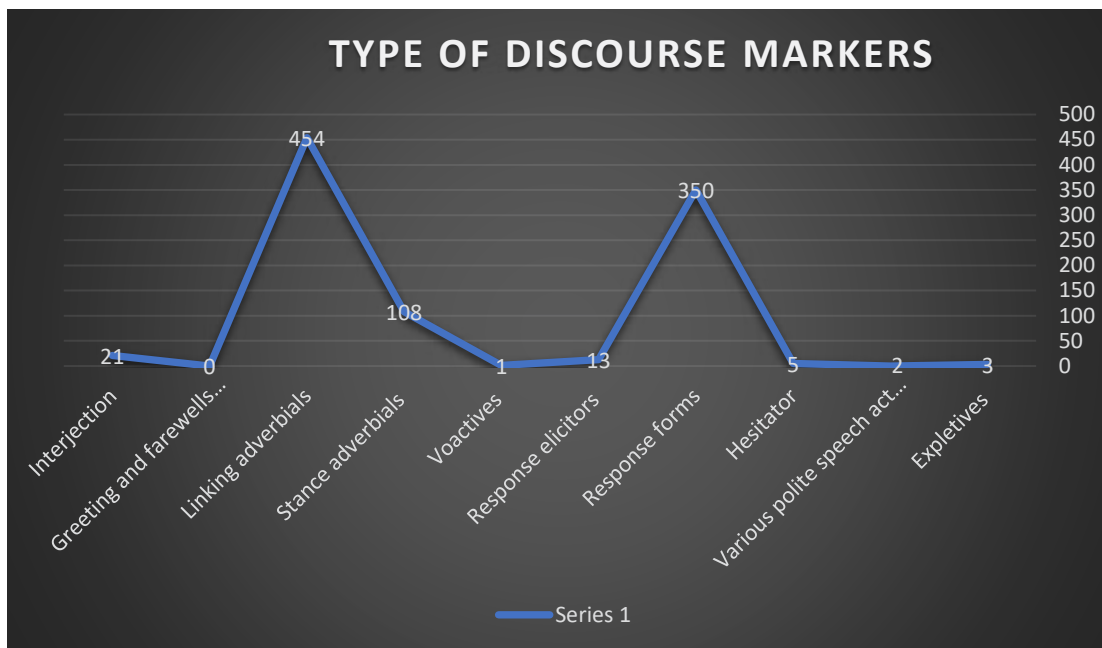
Based on the analysis conducted using the provided diagram, the researchers identified nine types of discourse markers: interjection, linking adverbial, stance adverbial, vocatives, response elicitors, hesitators, and expletives. Notably, the word "and" emerged as the most frequently used discourse marker throughout the interview between Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. The researchers observed a total of 328 instances of the word "and" being employed, which can be attributed to the informal nature of the event. In this spontaneous conversation, the speakers used "and" as a linking adverbial to connect their thoughts and ideas.

However, it is worth noting that the researchers did not encounter any instances of greeting and farewell expressions, as well as various polite speech-act formulae, during the interview. In her role as the interviewer, Oprah Winfrey did not initiate the talk show with traditional greetings such as "good morning" or "good evening" directed towards the speakers and the audience. Instead, she immediately delved into the discussion by introducing the guest stars and asking them questions. The absence of formalities in greetings and polite speech-act formulae can be attributed to the interview's casual and conversational tone. The researchers interpret the absence of these discourse markers as a reflection of the specific context and nature of the interview. Unlike formal settings where greetings and polite language are customary, this interview prioritized authenticity, connection, and a more relaxed atmosphere. Oprah Winfrey's approach of directly engaging the guest stars in meaningful discussions aimed to foster a genuine and natural exchange of thoughts and ideas. She also shows no gap between her and Michele Obama, so that she could elicit more information, as what is proved by Fuller (2003).

Similarly, the lack of various polite speech-act formulae can be understood within the context of the interview. Given the interview's focus on personal experiences, empowerment, and wellness, there was less emphasis on formalities and a greater emphasis on heartfelt exchanges, as said by Alami (2015). The speakers were able to communicate in a genuine and relatable manner, reducing the need for specific polite speech-act formulae. It is important to clarify that the absence of these discourse markers does not indicate a lack of respect or professionalism in the interview. On the contrary, it signifies a deliberate choice to prioritize authenticity and create a more informal and engaging conversation. The absence of formalities aligns with the intentions of the interview, which aimed to establish a connection with the audience and foster a meaningful dialogue.

CONCLUSION

The present analytical investigation resulted in the categorization of nine discrete types of discourse markers, including interjections, connecting adverbials, stance adverbials, vocatives, response elicitors, hesitators, and expletives. During this extensive study, a significant pattern was

Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

observed: the term "and" emerged as the most often utilized discourse marker in the interview. Serving as a linking adverbial, it effectively facilitated the connection between thoughts and ideas, promoting a smooth and uninterrupted flow of communication. The presence of neither salutations nor valedictions nor the absence of diverse courteous speech patterns indicated an informal and straightforward conversational style. The scope of this study was limited to a singular episode and was based on particular discourse markers theories. However, it provided vital findings regarding these markers' significant contribution in improving communication efficacy. In anticipation of future developments, prospective research activities possess the potential to advance this discipline by expanding its scope.

In conclusion, this study has revealed discourse markers' various categories and complex roles by examining the Oprah interview with Michelle Obama. The omission of specific direct messages, such as greetings and polite speech-act formulae, highlights the sincere and unfiltered nature of the discourse. It is advisable for aspiring researchers to proactively consider and prepare for any limits in the available data. One potential approach to broaden the scope of their studies is to incorporate a diverse range of videos, explore various ideas related to discourse management, and engage with textual discourse. Furthermore, considering the substantial body of research on discourse analysis, future research should aim to discover untapped areas and innovative subjects in order to provide new insights to this evolving field of study.

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Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]

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Inas Tsuroyya [1], Agwin Degaf [2]