

Abs-201

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Phraseology Meets Pragmatics *that is to say* Discourse Markers of Reformulation under Phraseological Investigation

The term reformulation markers groups discourse markers such as *that is to say* and *in other words*. By reformulation we basically understand the process of reinterpreting the contents of an utterance through elaboration and/or exemplification. However, just like appositions (cf. Meyer 1992), the reformulations function as paraphrases, reorientations, specialisations and/or corrections of the aforesaid utterance. They are thus used to facilitate understanding.

As the aforementioned discourse markers mostly consist of more than just one single lexeme and have been present throughout the history of the English language, the paper considers them interesting for the diachronic as well as synchronic investigation of phraseology. It thus provides an overview of previous literature and supplies new information on these multifunctional phrases.

Describing the semantic and syntactic behaviour, the diachronic perspective sheds light on the distribution of *that is to say* and its characteristic behaviour as a phraseological unit. Thus, the paper provides a framework for the study of pragmatic markers within the context of phraseology, which, in turn, allows the consideration of all its (historical) variants. An example of such an investigation into different variants is the question whether *that is* is a parallel development to, the origin of or rather the elliptic development of *that is to say*.

With the help of various corpora, this paper presents a contrastive analysis of the Middle English reformulation marker *that is to say* and its Old French pendant *c'est-à-dire*. This way, both diachronic as well as synchronic analyses provide examples of the evolution of the discourse marker itself and its further development within both languages. While the French discourse marker still seems to be frequently used, the *British National Corpus* and other more recent corpora provide proof of its use in contemporary British English. In American English (cf. the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* and the *Corpus of Historical American English*) *that is to say* is clearly on decline since the 1880s and the paper tries to provide reasons for this trend.

It is the combination of comparative (historical) phraseological investigations of discourse markers of reformulation that makes this paper as difficult to describe as it is interesting. This is why the paper focuses on the analysis of the distribution and discourse function(s) of *that is to say* throughout the history of the English language.

References:

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