Exploring Gender Differences Under the Lens of Discourse Markers in Mohsin's *The Diary of a Social Butterfly*

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Abstract

The study aims to explore gender differences in terms of using discourse markers in the novel *The Diary of a Social Butterfly*. Schiffrin's (2014) model has been applied as the framework of the study. Hence, the data has been comprised of thirty-six paragraphs selected through the purposive sampling technique. Meanwhile, it has been analyzed by using software known as Ant Conc. The findings revealed that both gender characters have used discourse markers such as 'and', 'or', 'but', 'like', 'actually', 'rather', when', and then in the conversation. The female characters have used more discourse markers as linguistic fillers than the males and certain markers 'like', 'and', 'so' and 'but" remained dominant throughout their conversation.

Introduction

Discourse markers are perceived as an important aspect of pragmatics, referring to participles in a discourse that help express procedural meaning and clarify ideas in one's conversation (Zaho, 2014). The term has drawn the attention of several well-known researchers across the globe who made a detailed study on the potential role of discourse markers in oral and written modes of communication. Thus, Levinson (1983) mentioned the term discourse markers as a subject of study in his book entitled *Pragmatics* in which he claimed that many words and phrases in the English language play a crucial role in building a positive relationship between the utterancesand prior discourse. Hem only made comments by mentioning related examples but did not have a deep

insight into the phenomenon.

DMs are used in discourse because they take the responsibility to set up the local coherence which is usually expected to be collectively built up by both parties, the speaker and the hearer interms of the structure of their discourse, its context, and action during their conversation. She further claimed that all discourse markers have an indexical function in terms of their capacity to place adjacent arguments not only to the speaker but also to its addressee and the subsequent exchange (Schiffrin, 1987). Thus, her concept of discourse markers includes the followingaspects; first, the exchange structure that is normally made up of adjacency pairs, second, the action structure which is comprised of speech acts and the third one is ideational structural that has some semantic features and the last one is known as participation framework that is responsible for the establishment of social relations between the speaker and the addresseeand the piece of information which is expected to do with the mental capacities of both parties indulged in a particular conversation.

Hence, the present study is focused on exploring the use of discourse markers in terms of gender differences in a particular novel. Some scholars disagree with the question when they askwhether a particular gender affects the language while using certain markers in its communication (Yeganeh and Ghoreyshi, 2015). According to Holmes (2001), language helps us not only to express our thoughts but also to understand the fact that how society and our mind function. The language used by females is sometimes considered more demure and self-assured. Escalera (2016) asserted that the use of linguistic elements varies in every situation and depends
on the gender of the speaker. Thus, through this study, the researcher intended to unfold the use of discourse markers made by the male and female characters in the novel *The Diary of a Social Butterfly*. Further, the researcher has also attempted to reveal how the use of particular discourse markers plays a significant role in the language of both genders.

Synoptic Overview of the Novel

The novel under this investigation is *The Diary of a Social Butterfly* written by a well-known Pakistani British writer Moni Mohsin. This novel provides an amusing and incisive look into the socialite lifestyle in Pakistan. The story revolves around the life of a lady namely Butterfly who is considered very talkative, fashionable, and has an extrovert personality and the main attraction of the novel. Throughout the novel, she seems busy making comments about the people

surrounding her, attending extravagant parties, and showing off her expensive commodities. Moreover, the novel shows the geographic history of the world including several major events like militarization, the incident of 9/11, the dilemma of the US president, the earthquake the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, and the rise of consumerism across the world.

ResearchQuestions

1. What type of discourse markers are being used by the male and female characters in the novel *The Diary of a Social Butterfly* by Moni Mohsin?
2. What particular function do markers play in the conversation of female characters?
3. What type of discourse markers remains dominant throughout the utterances made by male and female characters in the novel *The Diary of a Social Butterfly* by Moni Mohsin?

Literature review

Rahimi (2011) investigated the relationship between the use of discourse markers and writing aspects in two different kinds of essays written by Iranian EFL students. The study was based on a quantitative paradigm and the findings revealed the frequent use of "And" in both essays and shown the least use of contrastive and inferential markers. Generally, the study revealed the average use of discourse markers was higher in argumentative essays as compared to the former type. The qualitative aspect of the study showed that Iranian EFL students could not make use of discourse markers as a significant index of their writing quality.

Awan et al (2020) conducted a comparative study to reveal the use of discourse markers made by male and female characters of two particular novels that were respectively "Pride and Prejudice" and "The Alchemist". The study was based on a mixed method and the findings revealed that most of the female characters used discourse markers as just linguistic fillers that were meaningless as compared to the opposite gender. The study also revealed that "And" was the linguistic marker frequently used by female writers.

Hashmi and Razzaq (2022) did their study to unfold the reverse gender roles in Moni Mohsin's work 'The Diary of Social Butterfly' under the lens of Geetha's perspective of reverse gender roles embedded in her book 'Theorizing Feminism'. The findings showed that the writer depicted the main female character in a way that seemed to challenge the traditional gender roles of females in

general.

Saeed and Abid (2022) investigated the novel under this study to explore the element of identity distortion by applying Baudrillard's (1994) concepts of hypermarket culture. The results of the study revealed that through her particular novel, Moni has tried to depict a society of technology-driven consumerists who present commodities as a symbol of sophisticated realities which in reality distort reality.

Ayoola and Agbeleoba (2023) investigated the use of discourse markers in Habib's Yakoob work entitled The Ugly Ones. Schiffrin's (1987) notion was applied as the theoretical framework. Hence, the findings showed the writer made significant use of discourse markers thathelped him to build a narrative that not only guided the readers but also focused on conveying deep meanings embedded in the particular text.

Azeez, Mahmoud, and Nouri (2023) conducted a gendered-based study to analyze the discourse markers used in G.B. Shaw's 'Arms and the Man' by using Biber's (1999) eclectic model. The results showed that females use fewer discourse markers than males. Due to their social boundaries, both genders use discourse markers differently. Moreover, it also revealed that the factors that impact male and female use of discourse markers are their status, mood, distance, topic, text type, and theme.

Methodology

The present study is based on the mixed method; which means the researcher has gone for the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the data. The source of data has been comprised of the novel "*The Diary of a Social Butterfly*" (2008) written by a well-known Pakistani writer Moni Mohsin. Meanwhile, a particular sample has been drawn by the use of the purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling allows the researcher to obtain the data that can be the true representative of the whole data (Kumar, 2011). The text of the novel was available in pdf form that the researcher converted in xxx.text format to be used for AntConc software, a corpus tool that is widely used by researchers over a period of time within a purpose to analyze theelectronic texts to unfold the linguistic patterns used in them. As far as the framework isconcerned, Schiffrin's (2014) model is applied by the researcher.

Analysis:

Discourse markers used by Moni Mohsin's characters in *"The Diary of a Social Butterfly"* serve several purposes. She used them with the purpose of coherence of the text, transitioning between chapters, creating emphasis on themes, engaging readers, and portraying the personalities of the characters. Some common discourse markers used by her are but, actually, and, well, because, since, so, when, okay, immediately, though, and since.

a. Use of 'But'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 383 Page Size 100 hits 1 to 100 of 383 hits		
1	653...	never be able to find a wife,' I told him.	But	I don't give a damn, yaar. He can
2	653...	I'm still delighted that the Taliban are being ousted,	but	I don't like to see Afghanistan being bombed
3	653...	my holy water. She says she spilt it by mistake,	but	I don't believe her because she's come
4	653...	on hunger strike. And Mush has stopped being a general	but	I don't know how I'm going to
5	653...	eeps complaining and grumbling that he can't see Wimbledong	but	I tau damn care. Vaisay I think so the
6	653...	shouldn't blow too hard on one's own drum,	but	I tau have gone as Ashwariya Rai in green
7	653...	bony hips, as if he'd done potty in them.	But	I tau haven't said even a word. Baba,
8	653...	so flooded that people have been macarooned in their houses.	But	I think so only in poor, poor bits of
9	653...	think Janoo's metre has turned. 'Pajero is also okay,	but	I think so maybe Prado is better.' 'I meant
10	653...	uss ne join hands kar liye thay with Mush, na,	but	I think so now they've had a separation.
11	653...	instead.' Trust Janoo to pour water over all my plans.	But	I have also decided with myself that I'm
12	653...	good and kind-hearted and so everybody takes my advantage,	but	I have my limits also—and Janoo always says
13	653...	the Kajol-style now?' 'I know, I know,' she soothed, '	but	I still think you're over reac...' 'Over? Me?
14	653...	So we didn't have to cancel anything. Thanks God.	But	I still wonder where the account is and who
15	653...	She gave me a sarrhial-si look and pounced off.	But	I also didn't let her sarrhial comments spoil

Use of 'but' in '*The Diary of a Social Butterfly*'

Novel characters have used 'but' as a discourse marker 383 times in this novel. It is 360 times used by female characters and mostly by the protagonist butterfly khan and males used it only 23times.

'But' can be used as a discourse marker as well as a conjunction. When it is used as a conjunction, indicates contrast between two different clauses but when it is used as a discourse marker it denotes contrast within the same clause and also causes a shift in the narrative. It is used as a marker of denial and to connect the contrastive ideas in any communication.

There are some examples of 'but' as a discourse marker.

- We'll celebrate, of course, with a few close friends, **but** nothing lavish. We'll give the money away instead (Janoo).

Janoo who is the protagonist's husband uses 'but' as a disagreement marker to go against his wife's plans to do their son's lavish wedding. He doesn't use 'but' on a superficial level but uses it to beware his wife that he will not allow his wife to spend money extravagantly.

- Instead, I will try to be all sweet si, understanding si, oopar-oopar se, **but** inside-inside I will do exactly what I want. Which is to have a HUUUUUGE wedding (Butterfly Khan).

- They looked at me with dismay. Janoo had given me 1000 rupees kay notes for children's Eidi, **but** I kept those well hidden in the inside zipped-up department of my bag. (Butterfly Khan).

Butterfly Khan uses 'but' as a marker of denial to show her dissatisfaction with her husband's plans related to her son's future marriage plans and her husband's generosity in giving money to others.

b. Use of 'Actually'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
				Total Hits: 12 Page Size 100 hits ⌄ ↺ 1 to 12 of 12 hits →
1	653...	other people's homes so they can't hear you	actually	doing small bathroom. 'Do you know Lyall-Grant's
2	653...	of a hair transplant Haw, look at Shahbaz Sharif! Or	actually,	don't! You may not recognise him with his
3	653...	na. Gillo and Ali have been living in Dubai forever.	Actually	even before forever—from olden days when Dubai-wallahs
4	653...	and lose-lose morals. There was that Aqeela, the hairdresser—	actually	hairdresser bhi nahin, blow-dryer—whom Aunty Pussy paid
5	653...	all the rozas this year and saying all my namaazes.	Actually	he hasn't seen me too much lately, because
6	653...	they were giving visas out like laddoos only,' she said.	Actually,	it's all Mummy's fault. Who told her
7	653...	month, which my sister-in-law had given to me. (	Actually,	I'd always hated that hideous thing that Janoo'
8	653...	now he has to watch Australia win in double size.	Actually,	poor old Mulloo and Tony had booked tickets and
9	653...	peering closely at my face, 'As you speak, I can	actually	see hairs sprouting from your chin...' Benazir Bhutto launches
10	653...	cottage is, na?' 'My double-storey kothi is in Defence,	actually,'	she replied. 'Bilal's just got a new job.
11	653...	up to it.' And Kulchoo, my little baby, tau looked	actually	so disappointed, so disappointed keh pooch hi na. So
12	653...	⊳ Presentation Convent pretending to be seven when she was	actually	ten. So first tau I wanted to tell Flopsy

Use of 'actually' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

The word 'actually' is used by the characters of this novel 12 times, 11 times by females, and only one time by the character Janoo. 'Actually' as a discourse marker can be used as the 'clarification/correction marker' 'emphasizing marker' 'opening marker', and as a 'marker of

uncertainty'.

- Haw, look at Shahbaz Sharif! Or **actually,** don't! You may not recognize him with his new hair (butterfly Khan).

- Gillo and Ali have been living in Dubai forever. **Even** before forever—from the olden days when Dubai-wallahs used to come for shopping to Karachi—Imagine! (Butterfly Khan).

- 'You know something?' said Janoo, peering closely at my face, 'As you speak, I can **actually** see hairs sprouting from your chin…'(Janoo).

In example one she used 'actually' as a correction or clarification marker and in example two, the opening marker is used to add information regarding the previous narration. But example three is used to introduce the surprising nature of Janoo and his keen observing nature. He uses actually in a more meaningful way than the females of the novel who use it only as a linguistic connecter to convey their ideas.

c. Use of 'And'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 1840 **Page Size** 100 hits 1 to 100 of 1840 hits		
1	653…	at them, but they said they didn't know anything,	and	then I called Shareef the electrician, who is badmash
2	653…	my namaazes all in one lump sum, kazaa you know,	and	then I go to Mulloo Tony's for a
3	653…	to burn yourself on my funeral pyre when I die.'	And	then I remembered that film Water and I decided
4	653…	calls. But I'm never doing su-su. Never, ever!!'	And	then I sacked her. Haw, look at this earthquake.
5	653…	no mention, no nothing of Preferendum and minbuses in it,	and	then I thought, forget it. It will only lead
6	653…	the maid while I'm left on the janamaaz praying.	And	then I write my book and tell everyone about
7	653…	Mummy's house. Doctor came and did a check-up	and	then he asked her about her signs and systems.
8	653…	said. 'More than you've ever felt for Pakistanis, obviously.'	And	then he looked at my Nikes and said, 'Marching
9	653…	of attar and serves Houbara bustard soup and ibex pulao.	And	then he rode home also in King Abdullah's
10	653…	off in October.' 'Well, I did it today,' said Janoo.	And	then he started saying such weird- weird things that
11	653…	at me in wonder and said, 'Madam, I salute you!'	And	then he took me out to dinner. At Cosa
12	653…	was all dressed up with everyone looking at me enwiously.	And	then the bearer came stammering into the room after
13	653…	new pink suede Jimmy Shoe sandals are also being splashed,	and	then the driver pulls hard on the rope to
14	653…	going to ask why?' The father and mother exchanged glances	and	then the father stammered out, 'W-why?' So the
15	653…	to make people hear the things you want to say?'	And	then the more I thought about it, the stranger

Use of 'and' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

The discourse marker of 'and' is used more in this novel by the female characters than the male ones. 'And' as a discourse marker has used 1840 times total from which females have used it 1613 times and males only 227 times. 'And' can be used as a conjunction and a discourse markeras well. When we use it as a conjunction it combines two or more than two phrases or clauses butas a discourse marker, we use it only to make our conversations fluent.

- I'd just come back from lunch at Mummy's **and** when I entered my room, I got such a blast of Saharan heat that I nearly got knocked up (Butterfly Khan).

- Thank God summers are over, well almost, **and** season has started, well almost (Butterfly Khan). (Butterfly Khan).

- 'It's not just Bugti I'm mourning,' he shouted, 'it's my country. You can go **and** dance your feet off if you want, but with Balochistan in flames I can't find all that much to celebrate.' (Janoo).

Women use 'and' as a discourse marker in their conversation more than men. They use 'and' to describe events in a sequence and to link related actions that occur in series. Butterfly uses it to link lunch at her mother's house with her homecoming and facing heat weave. Whereas, men use it to convey their deeper thoughts and to make their conversation more meaningful. He used it to refer to the protests that arose after Akbar Bugti died in Afghanistan.

d. Use of 'well'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 37 **Page Size** 100 hits		1 to 37 of 37 hits
1	653...	tau anyways coming, but now even serious political types as	well.	I can't name names just yet, but wait
2	653...	shrieked. 'You know I only switch it off in October.' '	Well,	I did it today,' said Janoo. And then he
3	653...	Habib—bhai, Fida Ali, architect nahin hai, from Karachi only?—	well,	I heard him overtalking of something called 'minimalism' at
4	653...	ra, that downmarket bazaar where all the penny- pinchers go?' '	Well,'	I replied sweetly. 'You've accepted the invitation, so
5	653...	case! And so black also, from wandering outside all day. '	Well,'	I responded, 'I may not be one of your
6	653...	s lost all interest in life.' 'Please describe his symptoms.' '	Well,'	I said, 'where do I start? He won't
7	653...	dollars ka graduation present na day. And just as	well	I went, because when Janoo gave me the lifafa
8	653...	pped. 'All the newspapers are saying there were four millions?' '	Well,	about three quarters were men,' he said. Aik tau
9	653...	alks Janoo sinks into depression Thanks God summers are over,	well	almost, and season has started, well almost. First there
10	653...	God summers are over, well almost, and season has started,	well	almost. First there was that nice Munir (bhai, Structure-
11	653...	he said, 'Go on, then, name one book you know	well.'	And cool as a cucumber, I said, 'Cheque book!'
12	653...	in four millions Muslims. I asked him and he said, '	Well,	Apa, one million, really.' I wish he wouldn't
13	653...	the dining room and cases of mangoes under their beds?	Well,	apparently the savaal was done ages ago and the
14	653...	her eyes and skin all lose-lose and pale jaisi—	well,	as pale as anyone can be with Aunty Pussy'
15	653...	shaw or something like that. Billoo kaun hai? You may	well	ask. He's Janoo's nephew. Son of Janoo'

Use of 'well' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

Characters of the masterpiece novel by Moni Mohsin have used 'well' as a discourse marker 37 times, which is used by females 30 times and by males only 7 times. It can be used as an 'opening marker', 'response marker', 'agreement marker', and a 'pause marker'. Here are a few examples of the use of 'well' as a discourse marker.

- 'You know I only switch it off in October.' **'Well'** I did it today,' said Janoo (Janoo)

In this sentence 'well' is used as a marker of agreement. Male characters use it in a meaningful way to acknowledge their doings. Here Janoo acknowledges his action of turning off the generator and doing it so every year in October.

- **'Well'** I responded, 'I may not be one of your precious nilgais, but it may interest you to know that I was also on the verge of distinction worrying about you (Butterfly Khan).

- Haw, you all are not going?' she asked me, knowing fully **well** that poor Mummy's been refused and I'm reapplying next week. (Aunt pussy).

Female characters use it as an opening marker and to maintain continuity in the conversation. They use it generally just to create a flow in their speech and to create a transition in the discourse.

e. Use of 'because'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 141 Page Size 100 hits		1 to 100 of 141 hits
1	653...	me why I have started doing all this, I reply, '	Because	I am like that only.' I told Janoo that
2	653...	from his chair, but followed him into the hallway. 'Just	because	I am right and you are wrong, now you'
3	653...	But I didn't tell poor old Janoo all that	because	I didn't want to make him disheart. So
4	653...	nice but I left before the guest speaker's speech	because	I didn't want to miss the final episode
5	653...	hear me? What year were you born? Tell, na, Mummy,	because	I think so I might be able to find
6	653...	.' 'You mean Bangladesh.' 'Whatever,' I replied airily. 'Why?' '	Because	I think so we gave them freedom. And they
7	653...	saying hello to everyone—even those I didn't know,	because	I thought if they are at Bali's they
8	653...	I don't want to wear secondhand but didn't	because	I thought keh Karachi ki top designer hai, mind
9	653...	pictures in papers, but you can think whatever you want,	because	I damn care. I know why I went, and
10	653...	balls or any shaadis this winters. 'Bhai, why?' I asked. '	Because	I don't feel like it,' he said. 'And
11	653...	the eyes of my dolly that Daddy got from Bombay.	Because	I had dolly and you didn't. You've
12	653...	everyone and said at least eight hundred hellos. I know	because	I kept count. I have an electronic tasbeeh, na,
13	653...	illness, I've not missed a single party or shaadi.	Because	I know how much people look forward kar rahe
14	653...	'Not Bangladesh,' snapped Janoo. 'Qamar. Why's he gone?' '	Because,'	I said, speaking very slowly as if to a
15	653...	can go and do whatever it is that they do,	because	I tau damn care, frankly speaking. So in keeping

Use of 'because' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

 'Because' is used 141 times by the male and female characters of the novel. It is used by women 112 times while by men only 29 times. It serves as a discourse marker for clarifying intentions and causalities, making excuses, providing reasons, and for the expression of conditions.

- When people say to me why I have started doing all this, I reply,**'Because'** I am like that only (Butterfly Khan).

- Which was such a relief, **because** then I could have a proper iftaar with naan kabab and

biryani and koftas and haleem sitting on my proper table on my comfy chair in my tracksuit (Butterfly Khan).

- He's their PM, not yours. Why are you eating our heads over it?' '**Because** what he does has ramifications for the whole world,' he shouted (Janoo).

In both of the above examples 'because' is used only to provide support to their excuses and to provide reasons behind their unachieved ambitions. Women use 'because' only for their convenience whereas men use it more sensibly to indicate consequences around them. Moreover, they use it to clarify their intentions behind everything.

f. Use of 'Since'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 23 Page Size 100 hits — 1 to 23 of 23 hits		
1	653...	He's only two years younger than me and ever	since	he became bald he looks forty five, which makes
2	653...	Uncle Cock-Up tau, poor thing hasn't been same	since	he got beaten up by those goondas. So they'
3	653...	worked with The Old Bag, Janoo's mother, na, ever	since	he was a child. His father was their masaalchi.
4	653...	I told Janoo about my sleepless nights. 'Good!' he said. '	Since	you are up all night you can keep watch
5	653...	you have not deigned to visit for four years, and	since	you mention a cosy-sa, chota-sa farmhouse, my
6	653...	all the nice-nice bearers at Imperial Hotel also. But	since	you seem to be an outer-space-wallah, an
7	653...	I don't know any poor people. At least not	since	I discovered that Janoo's cousin Shameless (well, her
8	653...	I remember dimly seeing a missed call from Janoo but	since	I knew it was going to be some bore
9	653...	That was five days ago. Billa hasn't been seen	since	and neither has the cycle. Aslam and Madam are
10	653...	enough is enough, baba. For the last twenty years, ever	since	bloody Zia, I've been turning a blind cheek
11	653...	it's the first time he's spoken in Lahore	since 1969. '	Haw, tau all this time he's been whispering?'
12	653...	better to do... It's been at least two weeks	since	I had a facial, visited my darzi, or had
13	653...	keh we'd better decide Jonkers ka rishta before Muharram,	since	I'm extremely supercilious and they say it's
14	653...	all packed by his mother in a neat brown parcel.	Since	Janoo is always doing burh-burh about my having
15	653...	mine tau is really driving me around the bends. Ever	since	Jonkers' wife, that razor-blade Miss Shumaila, left him,

Use of 'since' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

'Since' as a discourse marker has been used 23 times by the characters. It is by the women 18 times and by the men only 5 times. It is used as an 'agreement marker', 'interim marker', and 'justification or reason marker'.

- I wish he wouldn't call me Apa. He's only two years younger than me and ever **since** he became bald he looks forty-five, which makes me… (Butterfly Khan).
- And Uncle Cock-Up tau, poor thing hasn't been the same **since** he got beaten up by those goondas (Butterfly Khan).
- 'Good!' he said. '**Since** you are up all night you can keep watch on the house and we can dismiss the guards (Janoo).

In this novel women use 'since' to show the time frame in which the event occurs and the reasons for it. Women here use it to compare themselves with others and how others look bad. Whereas men use it to justify a situation or action. He justifies her insomnia by saying that in this situation she will be able to guard their house.

g. Use of 'so'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
	Total Hits: 566 **Page Size** 100 hits	1 to 100 of 566 hits		
1	653…	after his ceremony, I saw that it was bulging alarmingly.	So	I said excuse me and pretended I needed to
2	653…	huge-huge farmhouses—no, no, I mean simple-se farmhouses.	So	I said to Janoo as we were driving back
3	653…	of course I wasn't about to tell the sweepress.)	So	I said to her that I was a good,
4	653…	with them and then go and do just the opposite.	So	I said yes, I know it's all my
5	653…	talking disaster, but later I realised he meant the tsumani.	So	I put a big pathar on my heart and
6	653…	be a loser if he wants, I'm tau going.	So	I put on my 55,000 ka jora, latkaoed Mummy's
7	653…	ney, khandani types have them like other people have napkins.'	So	I put the phone down and immediately called the
8	653…	bore book, looked up mildly and said, 'Anything the matter?'	So	I started abusing the fundos, of course. At this
9	653…	than me, that I can tell you from now only.	So	I started my champagne to hook a rich Indian.
10	653…	never checked. But of course I couldn't admit that,	so	I started screaming and shouting about how the message
11	653…	hai. I feel as if I'm wearing a duvet.	So	I was about to send the shawl-wallah off
12	653…	Cup, even though it was so late at night. And	so	I was also forced to watch, and one minute
13	653…	a Home Econmics girl. So what can you expect? Haan,	so	I was telling you about the dinner party. Janoo
14	653…	she said. 'The chor was absolutely right, times are bad.'	So	I charged into Janoo's study and yelled at
15	653…	sorry, I mean seizure. Honestly, these people are so crude!	So	I charged out of the bathroom like a heat-

Use of 'so' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

In the novel '*The Diary of a Social Butterfl*y the character 'so' is used 566 times, 387 times by the females, and 179 times by the male characters. 'So' can be used as a 'consequence marker', 'concluding marker', agreement marker', and 'intention expressing marker'.

- 'Haan, khud tau she survived and got **so** many innocent people killed. I tau think she has blood on her hands (Butterfly Khan).

- Of course, the day dragged on and on with the fast, and by evening I was feeling **so** faint, **so** faint that I thought my soul had transmigrated already (Butterfly Khan).

- '**So** many times Musharraf had said, "Don't do jalooses, don't do jalooses,"' said Tony (Tony).

Women use 'so' as an intensifier to express the outcome of the consequences. While describing the attack on Benazir Bhutto she uses 'but' to describe the deaths of so many people. Women don't use it properly but use it as a linguistic filler to convey their thoughts to other people. While males use it to emphasize the frequency of statements and their results. In example three Tony uses it to describe the intentions of Musharraf behind his forbidding of Benazir Bhutto for rallies.

h. Use of 'Okay'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 14 **Page Size** 100 hits 1 to 14 of 14 hits		
1	653...	r much calibration, I suggested someone new to Aunty Pussy.	Okay,	I accept she's an elderly girl, thirty two
2	653...	had become so easy. What more does anyone want, haan?	Okay,	I admit, there were a couple of little things,
3	653...	didn't mean that, na. Please don't take personally,	okay?	I mean, if it wasn't for this nice
4	653...	I think Janoo's metre has turned. 'Pajero is also	okay,	but I think so maybe Prado is better.' 'I
5	653...	boil ho chuki thi, not to mention bore. GTs are	okay	but they can't take the place of a
6	653...	ours vaisay were the best. Indian Captain, Samir Suhag, was	okay	also but nowhere as cute as our Kublai Khan,
7	653...	hated that hideous thing that Janoo's horrid sister, Cobra—	okay	baba, Kubra—had brought for me from Jeddah and
8	653...	No one is in Lahore. Gulberg is safe, safe, safe.	Okay?' '	Dilli door-ast,' he said wearily. See? Crack hai
9	653...	silver is over, but one tray I think so is	okay.	Habib says the trick to avoiding headaches, and I
10	653...	us. And then don't say we didn't say.	Okay?	Now take your finger out and go to sleep.
11	653...	times, the olden times I mean, it may have been	okay	to cook a deg and have a ladies-only
12	653...	ba, voh nahin hai designer, Kamra, sorry, sorry, Karma- wallah,	okay?—	two from Sonia Batla and one from Hasan Sheheryar,
13	653...	but you never called back so I thought you were	okay	with our trip.' Hmm. I remember dimly seeing a
14	653...	of Taliban if he was such a darpoke, hain? Chalo,	okay,	you can't stand so much of bombing but

Use of 'Okay' in '*The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

'Okay' has been used as a discourse marker by the characters 14 times in the novel, 13 times by the females, and only 1 time by the male. It can be used as an 'agreement marker', 'confirmation marker', 'transitioning marker', 'assumption marker', and a 'permission marker'.

- **Okay,** I accept she's an elderly girl, thirty-two or whereabouts, but comes from a theek-thaak family, not exactly khatay-peetay but theek-thaak (Butterfly Khan).

- Haw, Aunty,' I replied, 'in your times, the olden times I mean, it may have been **Okay** to cook a deg and have a ladies-only milaad and chalo, shaadi ho gayee (Butterfly Khan).

- I even left a message but you never called back so I thought you were **Okay** with our trip (Kulchoo).

In the first and second above-mentioned examples 'Okay' is used as the marker of agreement or acceptance to the situation. Whereas in example number three it is used to express the assumption of the speaker towards the situation. Assumption marker is used in a way that while going on a trip with his father, her mother doesn't reply to his calls and messages he considers that his mother doesn't want to go.

i. Use of 'When'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
		Total Hits: 163 Page Size 100 hits 1 to 100 of 163 hits		
1	653...	ffered Jinnah Pakistan without Kashmir, Jinnah also took, nahin?	When	I got home and asked Janoo, he said it
2	653...	hrough Liberty Market raising naaras and posing for TV cameras.	When	I got home, I strode into the sitting triumphantly
3	653...	Kyunke Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi. But imagine what happened	when	I got home? Kulchoo was watching The Meekest Link
4	653...	who was dragging something on a rope. Imagine my horror	when	I saw it was a bakra! A real, live,
5	653...	was jealous and cyclical and didn't recognise true love	when	I saw it. After that I didn't say
6	653...	not talking. But imagine what knives walked over my heart	when	I saw Liz Hurling in Bedian (hai, so nice
7	653...	Attock or Mianwali jail or somewhere scarey like that but	when	I heard he was sitting in Model Town only,
8	653...	shoulder with them'. Pehlay tau I got a bit worried	when	I heard he'd been locked up. I thought
9	653...	even Shahrukh Khan. He didn't even want to know	when	I told him that one of our GT crowd
10	653...	one seedhi-saadhi shareef type in all those teaming millions.'	When	I told The Old Bag that Mummy was off
11	653...	the people who came to check me out for rishtas	when	I was at college but never proposed. Kuttay jaisay.
12	653...	of a Social Butterfly came to be. In the 1990s	when	I was working at The Friday Times in Lahore,
13	653...	children. Imagine! She's also brought me a wooden tasbeeh	when	I asked for Basra pearls. Well, that's the
14	653...	slumps across the canal and used to do my waxing.	When	I chucked her out and hired her neighbour Hameedaan,
15	653...	chhoro Janoo ko. Why waste time talking about that loser	when	I could be telling you about this tabahi party

Use of 'when' in '*The Diary of a Social Butterfly*'

Characters of this novel have used 'when' as a discourse marker 163 times total, 142 times by the female characters and 29 times by the male characters. It can be used to provide background information, to contrast, to highlight the point of time, and to indicate relationships.

- But really, just look at Floozie. She's known Dropsy since KG, **when** they used to sit next to each other in Little Sweet Hearts School on Jail Road only (Butterfly Khan).
- And Mulloo, for not inviting me to her last dinner **when** she called our whole gang except me (Butterfly Khan).
- 'What's the point?' he asked. 'You'll never be ready by 2:30 pm, which is **when** the event starts.' (Kulchoo).

In the first and second above-mentioned examples, 'when' as a discourse marker is used to indicate the background information of the events. In these examples, the events are specified when Floozie elopes with Boxer, her best friend's husband whom she has known since childhood, and when Mulloo doesn't invite her to her dinner party. Whereas in example three itis used in the context of time by Kulchoo to specify the expected time of party occurrence.

j. Use of 'Immediately'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	653...	What goes up must come down.' Or something like that.	Immediately	I knew what she was talking about. So of
2	653...	milkshake—I think so it was vanilla—nearly choked. So	immediately	I said, 'No, no, I'll stay if it
3	653...	because he knows, na, that I am very tasteful, so	immediately	I saw it and bus, fell in love. But
4	653...	to do is get gas and she's flown out	immediately.	And probably biz class too. Fat cow. 'What's
5	653...	day, jab pata chala it was suicide bomb tau Janoo	immediately	announced that it was Al Qaeda. 'Hai, bhai, how
6	653...	the creak of dawn saying I must go to hospital	immediately,	because Uncle Kaukab (whom Janoo calls Uncle Cock-Up)
7	653...	people have napkins.' So I put the phone down and	immediately	called the shawl-wallah and handed him 125. Cash. In
8	653...	have had kala jadoo done on him and I must	immediately	give bakra and have Quran read. So I sent
9	653...	a party or gallery opening or shaadi or whatever, I	immediately	pout and make sure I am standing inside his
10	653...	I be left out of the social scene? So I	immediately	pushed myself forward and said keh I tau all
11	653...	like the Sabri brothers and hum nava. The Old Bag	immediately	sat up and grabbed Janoo's hand and, with
12	653...	only if it's wood or limestones. Chips must be	immediately	uprooted. Prints are out. So no paisleys, and flowers
13	653...	everything! As soon as he got out of hospital he	immediately	went off to Haj to give thanks. That was

Total Hits: 13 Page Size 100 hits · 1 to 13 of 13 hits

Use of 'immediately' in *'The Diary of a Social Butterfly'*

'Immediately' is used 15 times in this masterpiece by the characters, which is all the times used by the females only. 'Immediately' can be used to indicate action, highlight consequences,clarify the timing, and stress the need for immediate action.

- That chor Kashmiri came to show it to me because he knows, na, that I am very tasteful, so **immediately** I saw it and bus, fell in love (Butterfly Khan).

- And this morning Mummy woke me up with a call at the creak of dawn saying I must go to the hospital **immediately** because Uncle Kaukab (whom Janoo calls Uncle Cock-Up) has taken a turn for the worst (Butterfly Khan).

- The Old Bag **immediately** sat up and grabbed Janoo's hand and, with tears pouring down her face, started banging on about her 'aakhrilamha' and 'aakhrifarmaish' (Butterfly Khan).

In all of the above examples 'immediately' is used to express the immediacy of the actions. In example one, when Butterfly sees Jamawar's shawl buys it without hesitation whereas in example two her mother asks her to go to the hospital immediately to see Uncle Kaubab's health.Example three shows her mother-in-law's quick response to the emotional moment. At the time of her illness when she sees her son, quickly hugs her and tries to spend some time with her son.

k. Use of 'Though'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	653...	gayee hain. The way they make demands on me, as	though	I have nothing better to do... It's been
2	653...	she is based on a real person of my acquaintance.	Though	I often respond to the query with vague denials,
3	653...	me as 'Kasturba', but I pretended not to notice even	though	I wanted to scratch their eyes out. Instead I
4	653...	front of him, kyoon keh mind na kar jaye. Even	though	he's a buddhi rooh, sarrhi boti, I still
5	653...	fall madly in love with him and marry him, even	though	he's beaten all his wives before and beats
6	653...	halved.) Anyways, Jonkers hadn't got anywhere to go, even	though	it was Saturday night, so he'd gone to
7	653...	in our bedroom which he got for World Cup, even	though	it was so late at night. And so I
8	653...	jaisi na ho tau. No one is talking about Boxer,	though.	At least not that much. Because men tau are
9	653...	which is when the event starts.' Thanks God for Janoo,	though.	Chalaak jaisa, he had emailed in his request and
10	653...	them something nice, na.' 'Aren't these a bit much,	though?'	Janoo asked. 'I was thinking of giving them just 20
11	653...	say Quaid-e-Azam's wife was very beautiful even	though	she wasn't a Muslim. Quaid's daughter also
12	653...	to come by, people are turning to England universities. Even	though	they don't give financial aids. Vaisay sometimes I

Total Hits: 12 Page Size 100 hits — 1 to 12 of 12 hits

Use of 'Though' in *The Diary of a Social Butterfly*

Moni Mohsin's characters have used 'though' as a discourse marker 12 times in this work. It is used 11 times by the female characters and only one time by the male leading character. It can be used as a 'contrasting marker', 'emphasizing marker', 'point admitting marker', 'qualification adding marker', and a 'transitional phrase marker'.

- The way they make demands on me, as **though** I have nothing better to do… (Butterfly).
- **Though** I often respond to the query with vague denials, the fact is that the Butterfly is based on someone I know intimately: myself (Butterfly Khan).
- 'Aren't these a bit much, **though?**' Janoo asked. 'I was thinking of giving them just 20 thou each' (Janoo).

In example one, 'though' is used to emphasize the contradiction between the expectations of Aunt Pussy and her son related to his marriage and the actual situation of the Butterfly. Due to their tantrums, she doesn't get time for herself grooming. In Example Two, as a discourse marker it is used to contrast the speaker's denials about the resemblance of Butterfly in real life with the true revelation. Example three shows that Janoo uses it to contrast between the intentions of Butterfly giving box gifts to Nikki and her husband and Janoo's considerations about their suitability and thought of giving them money instead of gifts.

l. Use of 'Now'

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
				Total Hits: 127 Page Size 100 hits 1 to 100 of 127 hits
1	653…	off? That mother?' I asked. But just imagine, the cheeks!	Now	I know for a fact that Musharraf came to
2	653…	such kush makush keh jiss ka koi hisaab hi nahin.	Now	I know how poor old General Mush must have
3	653…	bhi kuch keh do, tau she flies off the candle.	Now	I suppose I'll have to go and manao
4	653…	Osama run there now? Haw. No one even told me.	Now	I suppose Janoo won't want to go out
5	653…	on it and he said it was a lakh and	now	I think so I'll call the shawl-wallah
6	653…	to Haj to give thanks. That was three years ago.	Now	I think so he is living in a huge,
7	653…	her old school, which I don't know is what	now.	I asked her what I should write about—'Story-
8	653…	no dinner, no coffee morning, no funeral, no GT—uff,	now	I have to explain GT to you also? Get
9	653…	who will sow my sari blouses in the Kajol-style	now?' '	I know, I know,' she soothed, 'but I still
10	653…	fasts and get all my savaabs, couldn't I? So	now	I must make sure no one drives their own
11	653…	was a time to get a die-vorce, it's	now.	I swear, he spends his whole life in front
12	653…	rubbing it in. 'So, where's your precious Mullah Omar	now?'	he asks, grinning from year to year. Uff, at
13	653…	the entrance to the bazaar. 'How can I go home	now?'	he cried to the fruit-seller. Then he took
14	653…	a new wall-mounted TV for the World Cup and	now	he has to watch Australia win in double size.
15	653…	Then he started switching off lights in empty rooms. And	now	he refuses to let me have my bedroom ka

Use of 'Now' in '*The Diary of a Social Butterfly*'

The use of 'now' as a discourse marker is used 127 times by the characters, 116 times by the female characters, and 11 times by the male characters of the novel. As a discourse marker, it can be used as an 'opening marker', 'contrastive marker', 'conclusive marker', 'continuation marker', and 'topic changing marker'.

Here are some uses of 'now' with some examples.

- Then he started switching off lights in empty rooms. And **now** he refuses to let me have my bedroom ka AC on when I'm not there (Butterfly Khan).

- All month he's been sitting in his bore village in Sharkpur, where he's built a free school for children, and **now** he went to set up a library and fit in a computer and hire teachers and things (Butterfly Khan).

- On top, Janoo keeps rubbing it in. 'So, where's your precious Mullah Omar **now?'** he asks, grinning from year to year (Janoo).

In example one 'now' is used as a continuation marker to link past and present. It emphasizes the situation by comparing it to the previous one as Butterfly indicates that in the past Janoo used to switch off lights only but now he does the same with AC. In Example Two also butterfly uses it to link Janoo's building school in the past to setting the library in the present. Whereas in example three, a contrastive marker is used in the sense of his wife's expectations related to Mullah Omar in the past and his reality in the present.

Findings and discussion

The study was conducted to analyze the discourse markers used by the male and female characters to reveal the fact that what sort of discourse markers are being used by both the genders of the novel and from the analysis, it became obvious that, but, actually, and, well, because, since, so, Okay, when, immediately, though, now are used by the characters of the novel. These characters use them for 'contrasting ideas, starting a conversation, responding to something, making excuses, providing reasons, clarifying intentions, indicating relationships, and highlighting the consequences. Further, the second question of this research was to trace the functions that discourse markers play in the conversation of female characters, where the researcher discovered that women use more discourse markers in their communication than men. They use them meaninglessly in their conversations just to describe events in a sequence, to create transitions in the discourse, to provide reasons in their conversations, to accept anything in

any situation, to point out any period, and to contrast two things with each other. Lastly, the researcher responded to the third question in a way that, characters of the novel use discourse markers such as 'and', 'but', 'so', 'like', and 'or' excessively in their conversation. 'And' is used in the novel 1840 times total, and by females (1613) times. Whereas by men highest used discourse marker is 'so' which is used 27 times. Characters use discourse markers unduly to communicate with one another, to convey ideas and emotions during conversation, and to create smooth interaction. This graph represents the dominant variables of discourse markers used by the characters in the novel.
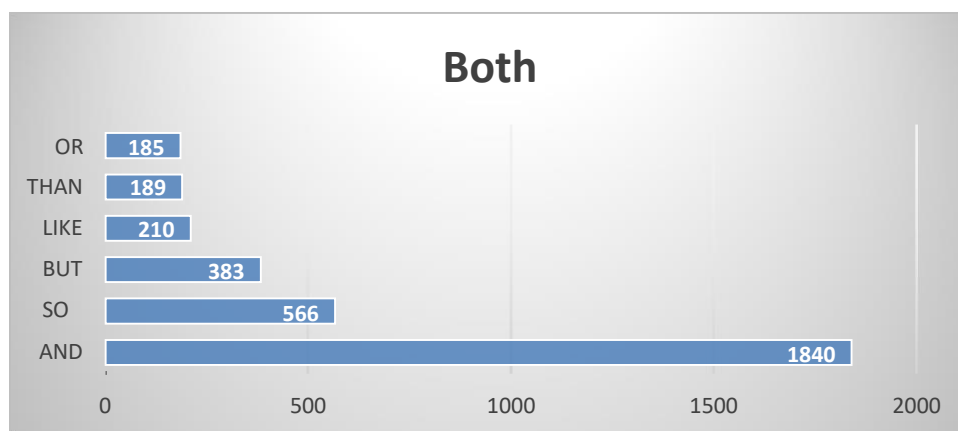

Figure (1): Dominant discourse markers throughout the novel

This figure shows the most used discourse markers in the novel by the characters. Characters used and (1840), so (566), but (383), like (210), then (189), and or (185) times during their conversations most and the other DMs are the least used. The dominant use of the discourse markers contributes to the portrayal of characters by adding authenticity, and richness and also increasing the texture of the novel.

Conclusion

This study has successfully revealed the use of discourse markers by male and female characters of the novel through their conversation. This concludes that female characters use discourse markers more than male, meaninglessly in their conversations only to create a sequence in the narration. They use them as linguistic fillers to fulfill their interpersonal needs such as to change the topic, to provide excuses to save themselves from disgrace, and to start any conversation whereas men use them keeping in view of the textual purposes of the discourse. They use them

for rhetorical purposes to convey their deeper thoughts and to bring clarity to their conversations, to indicate consequences around them, to handle difficult situations logically, and to express their intentions. The most used discourse markers in this novel are 'and', 'so', 'but', 'like', and 'or'. By the female characters, the most used discourse marker is 'and' whereas by the men 'so'is most used. Female characters of the novel used 84% of discourse markers whereas men used only 16% in their communication.

Future Recommendations

1. Future researchers' can explore how discourse markers alter throughout cultural backgrounds.

2. It will help researchers explore the use of discourse markers by males and females in some real settings.

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