

**PRAGMATIC MARKERS USED IN THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
BARKHA DUTT AND OPRAH WINFREY  
AT JAIPUR LITERARY FESTIVAL ON JANUARY 22, 2012**

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**Abstract**

*This study is aimed to find the type and to explain the functions of pragmatic markers used in the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at the Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012. This research used qualitative research, because the research doesn't give the numeral or statistics, but just depends on the knowledge of the researcher in analyzing the data. In collecting the data, the researcher presented 124 turn which contain pragmatic markers. In analyzing the data, the researcher followed several step, they are: reading the script carefully; identifying pragmatic markers found in the conversation; classifying pragmatic markers found in the conversation; describing the function of pragmatic markers found in the conversation; interpreting the finding, and drawing conclusion. The result showed that the pragmatic markers used mostly by the speakers are interrogatives and declaratives. The interrogatives are mostly used by BarkhaDutt because she is the host in the conversation. While, the declaratives are mostly used by Oprah Winfrey because she is the guest in the conversation. She answered and explained the question by BarkhaDutt. There are seven functions why BarkhaDutt and Oprah Winfrey used pragmatics markers in their conversation. They are to initiate a discourse, to express a response, to affect an interaction between speaker and hearer, to get the hearer's attention, to express deference, to express intimacy, and to end a discourse.*

**Keywords :** *BarkhaDutt, conversation, Jaipur Literary Festival, Oprah Winfrey, pragmatic markers*

**INTRODUCTION**

In communication process, human uses a language as a tool to communicate with others, whether in oral and written forms. Without language human cannot do anything to express what they want to achieve. When someone talks to other person, it is called conversation. Conversation is communication by two or more people, or sometimes with one's self, often on a particular topic. Conversation is the ideal form of communication in some respects since they allow people with different views of a topic to learn from each other.

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics studying the aspects of meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker, the addressee and other features of the context of utterance. The effect that the speaker's choice of expression and the addressee's interpretation of an utterance. Pragmatic change can be seen as a product of active speakers, of the strategically built interaction between a speaker and an addressee. Elements of pragmatic especially serve as a means through which speakers can structure pragmatic and express personal points of view through language known as pragmatic markers. (Fraser, 1996:167)

Pragmatic markers are strategically deployed mainly to construct a persuasive and harmonious interpersonal relationship between the interlocutors, as they help the speakers mitigate face threats and help the addressees process the incoming messages as polite requests. (Fraser, 1996:169). Pragmatic markers are drawn from all segments of the grammar, verbs, nouns, and adverbs as well as idiom.

The researcher chooses Oprah Winfrey's conversation because she always gives inspiring to other people and influential person. She also asked for everyone to go forward and come together, to stand with people who can be trusted to build better things. Oprah Winfrey is an American media proprietor, talk show host, actress, producer, and philanthropist. She is best known for her multi-award-winning talk show *The Oprah Winfrey Show* which was the highest-rated program of its kind in history and was nationally syndicated from 1986 to 2011.

Barkha Dutt is India's most celebrated journalist. She is a group editor with NDTV. New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV) is an Indian commercial broadcasting television network founded in 1988 by Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy. NDTV is an acronym for the original name of the company, New Delhi Television. She has received several foreign awards, including one for the "most intelligent journalist". Barkha Dutt is the only celebrity journalist on this planet to have hate pages on Facebook. The Internet is full of posts describing her as a Hindu basher. She is probably the only news anchor on Indian TV that has a "dress sponsor".

Jaipur Literary Festival is an annual literary festival taking place in the Indian city of Jaipur, which began in 2006, is now regarded as a cultural catalyst within India and around the world, exposing audiences to a constant flow of ideas. Featuring live music sessions and interactive workshops, the Festival provides a space to dare, dream and imagine. As the largest free literary festival on earth, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival brings together some of the greatest thinkers and writers from across South Asia and the world. However, so far the researcher chooses this conversation as the data.

An important step of pragmatic markers is the process of data transcription. The data of the study were taken from internet. The data of the study is the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012. They talk about Indian family values, India's traffic chaos, and her own sexual abuse as a child, and why she chooses to be single. This study is aimed to find out the type and to explain the functions of pragmatic markers in the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at the Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012.

## **METHOD**

This research is descriptive qualitative because it is intended to describe types and the functions of pragmatic markers found in the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012. Isaac and Michael (1987:42) stated that: "The purpose of descriptive method is to describe systematically situation or area of interest factually and accurately". The researcher describes types and the functions of pragmatic markers found in the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012.

The data has taken from internet. The conversation contains 124 turns produced by the speakers. The unit of analysis in this research is every turn in a unit of utterance created by the speakers. This can be recognized between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey in the conversation at the Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012.

The data of this study were obtained by doing the following steps: Choosing the video, and selecting the transcript. The steps of analyzing the data were based on the framework given by Fraser (1996), those are identifying pragmatic markers found in the conversation; classifying pragmatic markers found in the conversation; describing the function of pragmatic markers found in the conversation; interpreting the finding, and drawing conclusion

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1 Pragmatic Markers found the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah at Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012.**

NO	CATEGORY	B (TOTAL)	O (TOTAL)	Σ	%
	<b>Structural Basic Markers</b>				
1.	Interrogative	36	28	64	16
2.	Declarative	17	148	165	41,25
3.	Imperative	1	1	2	0,5
	<b>Lexical Basic Markers</b>				
4.	Performative expression	6	78	84	21
5.	Pragmatic expression	5	15	20	5
	<b>Hybrid Based Markers</b>				
6.	Interrogative-based hybrid	3	3	6	1,5
7.	Declarative-based hybrid	5	-	5	1,25
	<b>Parallel Markers</b>				
8.	Vocative markers	12	38	50	12,5
9.	Speaker displeasure markers	-	1	1	0,25
10.	Solidarity markers	-	3	3	0,75
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 shows the most prominent types of pragmatic markers devices employed in the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey at Jaipur Literary Festival on January 22, 2012, is Structural Basic Markers. The first B produced 36 interrogatives and O produced 28 interrogatives, the total is 64 (16%) interrogatives. The second, B produced 17 declarative and O produced 148 declaratives, the total is 165 (41,25%) declaratives. The third, B produced 1 imperative and O produced 1 imperative, the total is 2 (0,5%) imperatives. After that is Lexical Basic Markers, B produced 6 performative expressions and O produced 78 performative expressions, the total is 84 (21%) performative expressions. The next, B produced 5 pragmatic expressions and O produced 15 pragmatic expressions, the total is 20 (5%) pragmatics expressions. Thus, Hybrid-basicmarker, B produced 3 interrogative-based hybrid and O produced 3 Interrogative-based hybrid, the total is 6 (1,5%) interrogative-based hybrid. Then, B produced 5 declarative-based hybrid and O produced 0, the total is 5 (1,25%) declarative-based hybrid. The last is Parallel Markers, B produced 12 vocative markers and O produced 38 vocative markers, the total is 50 (12,5%) vocative markers. B produced 0 and O produced 1 (0,25%) speaker displeasure markers. B produced 0 and O produced 3 (0,75%) solidarity markers.

### 1. Basic Marker

This type of pragmatic markers is divided into 3 types, they are Structural Basic Markers, Lexical Basic Markers, and Hybrid Basic Markers.

#### 1.1 Structural Basic Markers

In this part, the researcher gave ten excerpts, they are :

Excerpt 1

TURN SPEAKER UTTERANCE

1 B *A very good morning, ladies and gentlemen.*

In this utterance above, “*A very good morning*” is structural basic markers, the category is declarative. This is a stage where the conversation begins. The function is to initiate a discourse. Generally, people do not just start initiating topic when they first meet.

Excerpt 2

TURN SPEAKER UTTERANCE

115 B *What's the marrying kind?*

116 O That's a good question for the women of India. I think, had we got married

we would have probably been divorced by now.

In excerpt 2, the utterance above, “*What's the marrying kind?*” is structural basic markers, the category is interrogative. It is included in WH-question. The function is to get hearer’s attention. B gave a question to O, and O give a response. O has never married because she lives in a country and culture that allows me to have a choice. If she is going to get married, she has chosen to partner over the years will be a wonderful person to do something. She thought when they were married, they would probably have been divorced, for the Indian cultures and other are different.

Excerpt 3

TURN SPEAKER UTTERANCE

69 B *Tell us a little bit about that*

70 O Yay! I was saying yay, because it is no small thing taking

on a school from scratch 8,000 miles away.

In excerpt 3, the utterance “*Tell us a little bit about that*” is structural basic markers, the category is Imperative. The function is to affect an interaction between speaker and hearer. The purpose is to ask O to tell about her experience when she as a child.

## 1.2 Lexical Basic Markers

Lexical Basic Markers divided into two categories, they are Performative Expression and Pragmatic Expression.

### 1.2.1 Performative Expression

Excerpt 4

TURN	SPEAKER	UTTERANCE
24	B	<i>We don't know either.</i>
25	O	<i>I <b>can</b> tell you this.</i>

In the utterance, “*I can tell you this*”, “**can**” is lexical basic markers, the category is performative expression, and usually is called performative hedges. “**Can**” is modal auxiliary verb. The modal auxiliary verbs “**can**” has a meaning possibility. B used “**can**” in her utterance because she asked explanation with O told to the audience. The function is to mark a boundary in discourse. O hedges herself to explain ways of being more precise in reporting the information.

### 1.2.2 Pragmatic expressions

Excerpt 5

TURN	SPEAKER	UTTERANCE
70	B	<i>We don't know either.</i>
71	O	<i><b>Yeah, okay.</b> Now, when I had Aishwarya and Abhishek on my show.</i>

In this utterance above, “**yeah, okay**” is lexical basic markers, the category is pragmatic expressions. The function is to express a response. “**Yeah**” means agree with B’s opinion while B said didn’t know, but “**okay**” used as a pragmatic marker to signal speaker intention to reorient the ongoing conversation.

Excerpt 6

TURN	SPEAKER	UTTERANCE
93	B	<i>This is a crazy, complex contradictory country.</i>
94	O	<i><b>Yes,</b> and that's why (express agreement)</i>

In excerpt 6, the utterance “**yes**” is lexical basic markers, the category is pragmatic expressions. The function is to express a response. “**Yes**” also answer of B question. O used “**yes**” to seek agreement with B that between the African and Indian life was very different in some aspect.

Excerpt 7

TURN	SPEAKER	UTTERANCE
121	B	<i>Can we <b>please</b> say thank you to Oprah Winfrey and ask her to come back again?</i>

In excerpt 7, the utterance “*can we **please** say thank you to Oprah Winfrey and ask her to come back again?*” is lexical basic marker, the category is pragmatic expressions or idiom. “**Please**” is a pragmatic idiom signalling illocutionary force, “**please**” occurs before an imperative structure. It means that O intends the utterance to be taken as request. The function is to get the hearer’s attention.

#### 4.2.1.3 Hybrid Basic Markers

Excerpt 8

TURN    SPEAKER    UTTERANCE

115        B        *That says everything, doesn't it?*

116        O        *That's a good question for the women of India*

In those utterance “*That says everything, doesn't it?*” is include type of hybrid basic markers, the category is declarative-based hybrid. This category is similar structures to declarative (structural basic markers), but the category which consists of a declarative sentence followed by a brief tag. This structure, the so-called negative tag question, the function is to initiate a discourse. The speaker intends to convey the claim that B asked a request that the addressee confirm that “*doesn't it?*” to O about marriage advice. B asked O how to get married to a right guy.

Excerpt 9

TURN    SPEAKER    UTTERANCE

53        B        *I have to ask you, will you come again?*

54        O        *yes*

In excerpt 9, the utterance above “*will you come again?*” is included in interrogative-based hybrid. This structure is simply interrogative sentences in which the speaker is expressing a desire for a yes/no response. The category is combination between basic markers and lexical basic markers. This category is combination between interrogative and modal auxiliary “*will*”. However, these forms have become standardized and such sentences are characteristically heard directly as a speaker request for action either in their interrogative form or their inverted form.

#### 2 Parallel Marker

Excerpt 10

TURN    SPEAKER    UTTERANCE

1        B        *A very good morning, ladies and gentlemen.*

In the utterance, “*ladies and gentlement*” is vocative markers. The category is general noun. By using one of these vocative forms, ladies and gentlement the speaker is explicitly sending the message that the addressee of this message is ladies and gentlement as audience. B greeted the audience by using the word ladies and gentlemen. The function is to express respect to the audience.

Excerpt 11

TURN    SPEAKER    UTTERANCE

70        O        *And then you go "Damn! I was poor" So I was looking*

*for girls like that, who had the ability and the desire to*

*succeed, to be leaders in the world, because that's how*

*you are going to change the world, one woman at a time through leadership.*

In excerpt 11, the researcher only wrote one utterance because the utterance is continuing with the previous utterance by O. In the utterance above, "***Damn! I was poor***" is Speaker displeasure markers. The category of parallel markers signals the speaker's displeasure. Where the parallel marker signals a message of the speaker expressing annoyance, but it is not usually clear whether the addressee or the situation is the target of the anger. The function of this type is to affect an interaction between speaker and hearer.

Excerpt 12

TURN    SPEAKER    UTTERANCE

44            O            *I immediately emailed **my friend**, Maria Shriver, who for years has held a woman's conference in the state of California.*

In this excerpt, the researcher only wrote one utterance because the utterance is continuing with the previous utterance by O. In the utterance above, "***my friend***" is Solidarity markers. This category of parallel markers signals solidarity. O mentioned her friend in providing an explanation, O used solidarity markers to express of intimacy between O and her friend.

## CONCLUSION

Barkha Dutt is the speaker who initiated this topic, Barkha Dutt is as host so that she is dominant in producing interrogative because B gave more question to Oprah Winfrey. While, Oprah Winfrey is as the guest in the conversation. Oprah Winfrey is more dominant used declarative than Barkha Dutt because Oprah Winfrey answered the question and gave a lot of explanations.

Based on the data analysis of the conversation between Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey, there are seven functions why Barkha Dutt and Oprah Winfrey used pragmatics markers in their conversation. The first function is to initiate a discourse, this function is used in interrogative. The second function is to express a response used in declarative and pragmatic expressions. The third function is to mark a boundary in discourse used in performative expressions. The fourth function is to affect an interaction between speaker and hearer. The fifth function is to get the hearer's attention, usually used by interviewer to get audience's attention. The next function is to express deference, this function is used in vocative markers. The last function is to express intimacy, as a solidarity markers.

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