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Her current research interests include contrastive pragmatics and academic metadiscourse, with special reference to the use of discourse markers. She has taken

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José Portolés, Catedrático de Lengua Española en la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Obras relacionadas con el seminario Libros: Marcadores del discurso (20012), Pragmática para hispanistas (2004)

Coeditor de: Diccionario de partículas discursivas del español (www.dpde.es)

Artículos recientes: “Les échelles additives avec además” (en prensa), “Las partículas focales desde una perspectiva polifónica” (2011), “El significado de oposición de la locución lejos de” (2011), “Los marcadores del discurso y la estructura informativa” (2010), “Alternativas convocadas por partículas discursivas” (2009).



Methodological tools from Relevance Theory and Argumentation Theory for the contrastive study of discourse markers in Spanish and in English

As has been shown in recent years, Argumentation Theory and Relevance Theory have a high explanatory potential for the study of discourse markers. The objective of this presentation is to illustrate, from these two theories, the contrastive study of these elements. In order to do this, first, we present a comparative review of both theoretical fields, with reference to their origins, views on communication and Pragmatics, and treatment of discourse markers.

Afterwards, following the developments proposed by Portolés (2001, 2004), a synthesis is elaborated from the contributions of both theories: discourse markers have an instructional meaning which guides utterance processing and which leads to a particular discourse continuation or to predictable inferences. This instructional/procedural meaning includes several types of instructions: argumentative, informative, scalar, polyphonic, etc.

This constitutes a flexible framework which can be applied to the study of discourse markers of different languages and which allows us to establish both qualitative and quantitative comparisons as well as to explain grammaticatization phenomena or meaning changes.