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**ANALYSIS OF DISCOURSE MARKERS IN PRESIDENT BARACK  
OBAMA'S SPEECH AND THEIR TRANSLATIONS INTO THE  
UZBEK LANGUAGE**

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**Abstract:**

The article is devoted to the study of discourse markers in political speech through analyzing the speech of the American president, Barack Obama, depending on Hyland and Tse's (2004) classification of discourse markers; interpersonal and textual markers. The results show that these discourse markers function as means of social interaction aimed at influencing the nation. Moreover, the article aims to gain a deeper understanding in the translation of introductory discourse markers into the Uzbek language

**Keywords:** political text, interpersonal markers, textual markers, coherence, logical markers

**INTRODUCTION**

The notion of political discourse is mentioned by Graber (1993:305-332) saying that a political speech is not only a monologue, but also an example of social interaction aimed at influencing the nation, or at least an important diplomatic tool allowing for the negotiations of specific meanings and references. Through any political text, discourse markers play an important role as a cohesive device in conveying the intended message. Discourse markers can be defined as linguistic expressions of different length which carry pragmatic and propositional meaning. They are used to combine clauses or to connect sentence elements and they appear in both speaking and writing to facilitate the discourse. Each discourse marker indicates a particular meaning and a relationship between two or more clauses.

## MATERIALS AND DISCUSSION

### 3- Speeches for Analysis

In this section, samples from two speeches for Obama will be analyzed depending on the classification of discourse markers by Hyland and Tse (2004); textual and interpersonal markers.

**Sample Speech 1:** Obama's speech from the Oval Office on the change in mission

of the Iraq War on Aug. 31, 2010, as provided by the White House.

**Sample Speech 2:** President Barack Obama's remarks on Iraq, as prepared for delivery to the Disabled American Veterans in Atlanta, on August 2, 2010, 11:38 AM.

We've endured a long and painful recession. **And** sometimes in the midst of these

storms, the future that we're trying to build for our nation --.....

**But** this milestone should serve as a reminder to all Americans that the future is ours to shape if we move forward with confidence and commitment. It should also serve as a message to the world that the United States of America intends to sustain and strengthen our leadership in this young century.

.. As a **next** step, we're opening this competition to entrepreneurs and academics so the best minds in America can help us develop the best technologies to serve our vets, including those of you with multiple traumatic injuries.....for months, and it seemed possible that he might never wake up. **But then** something happened. His doctors can't explain it. His parents call it a miracle. Cory opened one of his eyes. A few weeks later, he moved a leg, **then** an arm. ....**Finally**, we're keeping faith with our newest veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. We're offering more of the support and counseling they need to transition back to civilian life. ....

...Americans across the political spectrum supported the use of force against those who attacked us on 9/11. **Now**, as we approach our 10th year of combat in Afghanistan, there are those who are understandably asking tough questions about our mission there. But we must never lose sight of what's at stake.....And because of our drawdown in Iraq, we are **now** able to apply the resources necessary to go on offense. .... And so at this moment, as we wind down the war in Iraq, we must tackle those challenges at home with as much energy, and grit, and sense of common purpose as our men and women in uniform who have served abroad. They have met every test that they faced. **Now**,

it's our turn. Now, it's our responsibility to honor them by coming together, all of us, and working to secure the dream that so many generations have fought for -- the dream that a better life awaits anyone who is willing to work for it and reach for it. .... And I made it clear that by August 31, 2010 America's combat mission in Iraq would end. And **that is exactly** what we are doing—as promised, on schedule....And if Afghanistan were to be engulfed by an even wide insurgency, al Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates would have even more space to plan their next attack. And as President of the United States, I refuse to let that happen.

**That is why**, after years in which the situation had deteriorated in Afghanistan, I announced a new strategy last December—a military effort to break the Taliban's

momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead for security; a civilian.....

We're offering more of the support and counseling they need to transition back to civilian life. **That** includes funding the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which is already helping more than 300,000 veterans and family members pursue their dream of a college education.

**That** is what we have done. We have removed nearly 100,000 U.S. troops from Iraq. We have closed or transferred hundreds of bases to the Iraqis. And we have moved millions of pieces of equipment out of Iraq. ....Yet no one can doubt President Bush's support for our troops, or his love of country and commitment to our security. **As I've said**, there were patriots who supported this war, and patriots who opposed it. And all of us are united in appreciation for our servicemen and women, and our hopes for Iraqis' future.

**..Shortly** after taking office, I announced our new strategy for Iraq and for a transition to full Iraqi responsibility. And I made it clear that by August 31, 2010 America's combat mission in Iraq would end. And that is exactly what we are doing—as promised, on schedule...

**..Let us never forget**—it was Afghanistan where al Qaeda plotted and trained to murder 3,000 innocent people on 9/11. It is Afghanistan and the tribal regions of Pakistan where terrorists have launched other attacks against us and our allies.... **Because of** our troops and civilians -and **because of** the resilience of the Iraqi people - Iraq has the opportunity to embrace a new destiny, even though many challenges remain. So tonight, I am announcing that the American combat

mission in Iraq has ended. Operation Iraqi Freedom is over and the Iraqi people now have lead responsibility for the security of their country.

As so many of **you know**, P-T-S-D is a pain like no other—the nightmares that keep coming back, the rage that strikes suddenly, the hopelessness that has led too many

of our troops and veterans to take their own lives. Today, I want to say to anyone who is struggling—do not suffer in silence. It's not a sign of weakness to reach out for support; it is a sign of strength. Your country needs you. And we are here to help you stand tall again.....

**And** since the rumors continue to fly, let me say it as **clearly** as I can. The historic health care reform legislation that I signed into law does not—I repeat, does not— change your veterans benefits. The VA health care and benefits that **you know** and trust are safe, and that includes prosthetics for our disabled veterans. **But** this milestone should serve as a reminder to all Americans that the future is ours to shape if we move forward with confidence and commitment. It should **also** serve as a message to the world that the United States of America intends to sustain and strengthen our leadership in this young century.

And we're already putting dozens of these innovative ideas into action. **Additionally**, we're enabling more veterans to check the status of their claims online and from their cell phone. As a next step, we're opening this competition to entrepreneurs and academics so the best minds .....

This afternoon, I spoke to former President George W. Bush. It's well known that he and I disagreed about the war from its outset. **Yet** no one can doubt President Bush's support for our troops, or his love of country and commitment to our security.....Our troops are the steel in our ship of state. And **though** our nation may be travelling through rough waters, they give us confidence that our course is true, and that beyond the pre-dawn darkness, better days lie ahead. And because of our drawdown in Iraq, we are now able to apply the resources necessary to go on offense. **In fact**, over the last 19 months, nearly a dozen al Qaeda leaders -- and hundreds of al Qaeda's extremist allies -- have been killed or captured around the world.....

And next month, we will change our military mission from combat to supporting and training Iraqi security forces. **In fact**, in many parts of the country, Iraqis have already taken the lead for security.

.....We will disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately defeat al Qaeda. And we will give our troops the resources and equipment to get the job done and keep our country



safe. **At the same time**, every American who has ever worn the uniform must also know this—your country is going to take care of you when you come home. ...Through their extraordinary courage, confidence and commitment, these troops and veterans have proven themselves as a new generation of American leaders. **While** our country has sometimes been divided, they have fought together as one. **While** other individuals and institutions have shirked responsibility, they have welcomed it. **And while** it is easy to be daunted by overwhelming challenges, the generation that has served in Iraq has overcome every test before them. For too long, **we** have put off tough decisions on everything from our manufacturing base to our energy policy to education reform. **As a result**, too many middle-class families find themselves working harder for less, while our nation's long-term competitiveness is put at risk.....to make sure America is serving our veterans as well as you've served us; and, most recently, to sign advanced appropriations into law **so that** veterans health care will never again be held hostage to the budget battles of Washington..

**But** this milestone should serve as a reminder to all Americans that the future is ours to shape **if** we move forward with confidence and commitment. This new approach reflects our long-term partnership with Iraq -- one based upon mutual interest and mutual respect. **Of course**, violence will not end with our combat mission....And since the rumors continue to fly, let me say it as **clearly** as I can. The historic health care reform legislation that I signed into law does not- I repeat, does not—change your veterans benefits. **Unfortunately**, over the last decade, we've not done what's necessary to shore up the foundations of our own prosperity. We spent a trillion dollars at war, often financed by borrowing from overseas. We've endured a long and painful recession. And sometimes in the midst of these storms, the future that we're trying to build for our nation -- a future of lasting peace and long-term prosperity -- **may** seem beyond our reach. This was my pledge to the American people as a candidate for this office. Last February, I announced a plan that **would** bring our combat brigades out of Iraq, while redoubling our efforts to strengthen Iraq's Security Forces and support its government and people. ....

... Now, as we approach our 10th year of combat in Afghanistan, there are those who are understandably asking tough questions about our mission there. But we **must** never lose sight of what's at stake. As we speak, al Qaeda continues to plot against us,....We **must** jumpstart industries that create jobs, and end our dependence on foreign oil. We must unleash the innovation that allows new

products to roll off our assembly lines, and nurture the ideas that spring from our entrepreneurs. **This will be difficult.** But in the days to come, it must be our central mission as a people, and my central responsibility as President. **Now**, it's not every day that somebody gets past the Secret Service while wielding a baseball bat. **I think** you heard about this. Turns out it was a genuine Louisville Slugger—a thank you for going to bat for our veterans on advanced appropriations.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The results of the analyzed political speeches reveal that among the **textual markers**, the most frequently used markers are the "logical markers". The addition

logical connective "and" is used 237 times. In the above examples, "and" is used to

precede support units of talk through explanation and also it indicates a speaker's continuation. To introduce further evidences, the speaker depends on using specific

markers to achieve his aim. Above, markers like "also, additionally" are used for this purpose. "Also" is used 8 times while "additionally" is used once.

Coherence is the main function of discourse markers. The using of adversative "But" in the above example text, indicates that what follows it contrasts with what precedes it. It is used 24 times. Obama refers to "milestone" to be a reminder to shape a good future. He used another marker like "and" to add explanation and clarification about "milestone". By using other adversative markers like "yet, though", the speaker here tries to deny the expectation. Both markers are used twice. The above example, when Obama uses "yet", he refers to the fact that First Bush disagreed about launching war then he supports their troop. The adversative marker "as" is used as sign for contrast while the using of "while" gives expression to two ideas which contrast but do not contradict each other. The marker "as" is used 30 times and the marker "while" is used 8 times. In the above example, we find the using of sequence markers "next", "then". The speaker uses this marker as a sign of moving toward a new step or an event in future and they are also considered as announcement markers which refer forward to future sections in the text. The marker "next" is used 3 times while "then" is used once.

Also, the marker conclusive marker "finally" is used to give a conclusive relationship of the context ideas. And to summarize, the speaker uses markers "shortly, briefly..." in order not to give more details. Each one of these markers is used once.

To indicate cause and result of events, the markers "as a result, so, because" are used. Obama talks about the reason behind the existence of American troops in Iraq and then he refers to the result after their withdrawal. So here, we have the using of "because" and "so". Both markers contribute to the coherence of discourse by signalling relations between discourse units. The marker "because" is used by the speaker to indicate a relation of 'cause and result' while "so" is used to indicate a relation of 'premise and conclusion' and also indicating a result and to establish a causal link among events. Obama declares the end of the American mission and links it to the role of his troops and of the resilience of the Iraqi people. The marker "so" is used 12 times, while "because" is used 8 times and "as a result" is used only twice.

The using of the reminder marker "as...said" is used by the speaker referring to what is mentioned before this point of speech. And in order to draw the audience attention and focus on a certain point, the speaker uses a condensed expression such as "let..." referring to an important point in his speech. Here Obama refers to

Afghanistan where al Qaeda exists. The marker "as....said" is used once and "let..."

is used twice. The topicaliser marker "now" is used 17 times. In his speeches, Obama refers to some events and relate them to each other .He mentions the attack of September and then relate this to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. In this respect

the use of "now" indicates temporal relationships between units of talk. Moreover,

the marker "now" is used to make a shift among different ordered events and refer to what will happen next. The code glosses markers "this and that" are used. They are used both as "logical markers" having the textual function in connecting sentences to what is said before and as "openers sentences" having the interpersonal function in opening a new paragraph. In the example text, "that" is used as an "opener sentence" and at the same time as a connector. The speaker uses the marker "that is" trying to re express what is said before and as

a Code gloss marker that explains, rephrases, expands or exemplifies propositional content. To sum up, it reflects the writer's expectations about the audience's knowledge or ability to follow the argument. The marker "that" is used 5 times and "this" is used 3 times.

Among the **interpersonal markers**, the most frequently used markers are the "commentaries markers". The marker "we" is used 111 times and "I" is used 55 times. The aim behind using it by a president is to develop the relationship with the

listener by shortening the distance, regardless of their disparity in age, social status

and to feel close to the speaker points. In the commentaries, especially "we" is used widely in both texts. To refer to the probability of an event, Hedges markers like "may, would" are used. Also; they are used to withhold full commitment to the statements displayed in the text. Each one is used 5 times.

The certainty markers "in fact, of course, clearly" are used to admit unexpected events and to express a degree of certainty. Obama refers with certainty that violence will not end with the end of the combat mission. Also, he used "clearly" to ensure that health care legislation will not change their veterans benefits. In addition, the marker "you know" is used as a marker of meta knowledge about what speakers and hearers share and what is generally known. It is also used to indicate a situation in which the speaker knows that the hearer shares some knowledge about a particular piece of information. Each one of these markers are used twice but "clearly" is used once. As an attitude marker, "must" is used to express the writer's affective values towards the audience and the content presented in the text. It is used 17 times. Marker like "unfortunately" is used to express an attitude by the speaker. The speaker used this marker as an opener marker to describe the situation. It is used once.

In the following I will demonstrate the way introductory pragmatic markers are translated into Uzbek analyzing Obama's speech samples and try to give their Uzbek alternatives.



N	In original version	Translated version by Kenjaeva Gulbadanbegim	Expressions	Expressions in translation
1	As a next step, we're opening this competition to entrepreneurs and academics so the best minds in America can help us develop the best technologies.	Keyingi qadam sifatida biz ushbu tanlovni tadbirkorlar va akademiklar uchun ochmoqdamiz, shuning uchun Amerikadagi eng bilimdon shaxslar bizga xizmat qilish uchun eng yaxshi texnologiyalarni ishlab chiqishda yordam berishi mumkin.	As a next step	Keyingi navbatda
2	Finally, we're keeping faith with our newest veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.	Nihoyat, biz eng yangi faxriylarimiz Afg'oniston va Iroqdan qaytib kelishlariga ishonamiz	Finally	Nihoyat
3	Now, as we approach our 10th year of combat in Afghanistan, there are those who are understandably asking tough questions about our mission there. But we must never lose sight of what's at stake...	Shunday ekan, biz Afg'onistondagi jangovar faoliyatimizning 10-yiliga yaqinlashamiz., u erdagi missiyamiz haqida qiyin savollarni so'rayotganlar bor. Ammo biz xavf ostida bo'lgan narsani hech qachon unutmasligimiz kerak.	Now	Shunday ekan
4	Now, it's our responsibility to honor them by coming together, all of us, and working to secure the dream that so many generations have fought for.	Shunday ekan, ularni hurmat qilish bizning burchimizdir, barchamiz birlashamiz va ko'p avlodlar kurashgan orzuni amalga oshirish uchun harakat qilamiz	Now	Shunday ekan
5	That is why, after years in which the situation had deteriorated in Afghanistan, I announced a new strategy last December	Afg'onistondagi vaziyat yillar o'tib yomonlashgani sababli, men o'tgan yilning dekabr oyida yangi strategiyani e'lon qildim.	That is why	Shu sababli
6	As I've said, there were patriots who supported this war, and patriots who opposed it.	Aytganimdek, bu urushni qo'llab-quvvatlagan vatanparvarlar ham, unga qarshi chiqqan vatanparvarlar ham bor edi.	As I've said	Aytganimdek
7	As so many of you know, P-T-S-D is a pain like no other—the nightmares that keep coming back, the rage that strikes suddenly, the hopelessness that has led too many of our troops	Ko'pchiligingiz bilganingizdek, P-T-S-D boshqa hech narsaga o'xshamaydigan og'riqdir - qaytib keladigan dahshatli tushlar, to'satdan paydo bo'ladigan g'azab, ko'plab askarlarimiz va faxriylarimiz o'z	As so many of you know,	Ko'pchiligingiz bilganingizdek

	and veterans to take their own lives.	joniga qasd qilishiga olib kelgan umidsizlikdir.		
8	<b>Additionally</b> , we're enabling more veterans to check the status of their claims online and from their cell phone.	<b>Bundan tashqari</b> , biz ko'proq faxriylarga o'z da'volari holatini onlayn va mobil telefonlari orqali tekshirish imkonini beramiz.	Additionally	Bundan tashqari
9	<b>Yet</b> no one can doubt President Bush's support for our troops, or his love of country and commitment to our security.....	hech kim Prezidentga shubha qila olmaydi. Bushning qo'shinlarimizni qo'llab-quvvatlashi yoki uning Vatanga bo'lgan muhabbati va xavfsizligimizga sodiqligi...	Yet	Lekin
10	<b>In fact</b> , over the last 19 months, nearly a dozen al Qaeda leaders -- and hundreds of al Qaeda's extremist allies -- have been killed or captured around the world.....	<b>Darhaqiqat</b> , so'nggi 19 oy ichida o'nga yaqin al- Qoida yetakchilari - va Al-Qoidaning yuzlab ekstremistik ittifoqchilari o'ldirilgan yoki butun dunyo bo'ylab qo'lga olingan ....	In fact	Darhaqiqat
11	<b>In fact</b> , in many parts of the country, Iraqis have already taken the lead for security.	<b>Darhaqiqat</b> , mamlakatning ko'p joylarida iroqliklar allaqachon xavfsizlikni ta'minlash bo'yicha yetakchilikni o'z zimmlariga olishgan.	In fact	Darhaqiqat
12	<b>At the same time</b> , every American who has ever worn the uniform must also know this—your country is going to take care of you when you come home.	<b>Shu bilan birga</b> , forma kiygan har bir amerikalik buni ham bilishi kerak - uyga qaytganingizda mamlakatingiz sizga g'amxo'rlik qiladi.	At the same time	Shu bilan birga
13	<b>As a result</b> , too many middle-class families find themselves working harder for less, while our nation's long-term competitiveness is put at risk.....	<b>Natijada</b> juda ko'p o'rta tabaqali oilalar o'zlarini kamroq uchun ko'proq mehnat qilishadi, xalqimiz esa uzoq muddatli raqobatbardoshlik xavf ostida....	As a result	Natijada
14	<b>Of course</b> , violence will not end with our combat mission....	<b>Albatta</b> , zo'ravonlik bizning jangovar vazifamiz bilan tugamaydi.	Of course	Albatta
15	<b>Unfortunately</b> , over the last decade, we've not done what's necessary to shore up the foundations of our own prosperity.	<b>Afsuski</b> , so'nggi o'n yil ichida biz o'z farovonligimiz poydevorini mustahkamlash uchun zarur bo'lgan narsani qilmadik.	Unfortunately	Afsuski

16	<b>Now</b> , it's not every day that somebody gets past the Secret Service while wielding a baseball bat.	<b>Endi</b> kimdir har kuni beysbol tayoqchasini ko'tarib Maxfiy xizmatdan o'tib ketavermaydi.	Now	Endi
17	<b>I think</b> you heard about this. Turns out it was a genuine Louisville Slugger—a thank you for going to bat for our veterans on advanced appropriations.	<b>Menimcha</b> , siz bu haqda eshitgansiz. Ma'lum bo'lishicha, bu haqiqiy Louisville Slugger edi - faxriylarimiz uchun ilg'or mablag'lar bo'yicha jang qilganingiz uchun rahmat.	I think	Menimcha

## CONCLUSION

The field of discourse markers is still in its infancy, ongoing in the present and future research will enrich the understanding of their roles in building and mastering the communication between the speaker and the hearer. It is hoped that the findings of this research can trigger more research on the aspect of political speeches. It is interesting to further research and explore a comparison between the use of DMs in political speeches and its function in ordinary speeches or other domains like religion speech and so on. It has been revealed that discourse markers study is a widespread field in linguistic branches. Accordingly, it examines the linguistic items used in an utterance or in a conversation and even spoken and written texts. Since the notion of discourse markers is a complex and abstract one, many theories come to light with distinct perspectives. This research examines the function of discourse markers in political speeches. These functions are manifested in several political texts. As a case of study Obama's language is the example in this research process.

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