

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed the background of the study, the research questions and the objectives of the study. It also presents the significance of the study, scope, and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Conversation is an important part of human social life. It is more than just the act of speaking. Through conversation, people share ideas, perspectives, and feelings, and they build understanding with one another. As Ferris (2022) explains, conversation is an exchange of ideas, thought, sentiments, observations, feelings, and opinions between two or more people. This means that conversation is not only about the words people use but also about how those words are delivered and how others respond.

One way to study conversation is through discourse marker in discourse analysis. Discourse analysis examines how language is used in real communication, not only at the sentence level but also in larger units such as conversations and written texts. According to Alba (2009), discourse includes both spoken and written language and is closely related to context. Paltridge (2012) also notes that discourse analysis helps explain how meaning is constructed through context and interaction. One important aspect of discourse analysis is the study of discourse markers. Discourse markers are words or phrases that help connect ideas and organize discourse during communication Akbar et al., (2023). Examples include *well*, *so*, *but*, *I mean*. Although these markers may seem small and unimportant, they help guide listeners through the flow of conversation and understand the speaker's intended meaning. Schiffrin (1987) describes discourse markers as linguistic devices that connect ideas, signal logical relationships, and organize discourse. For example, *well* can show hesitation, introduce a change in the direction of an utterance, or soften the speaker's response.

In this way, discourse markers contribute not only to the organization of discourse but also to the meaning that speakers intend to convey.

Several previous studies have examined the use of discourse markers in different contexts. For example, Fu and Ho (2022) investigated discourse markers in television interviews, while Ali and Mahadin (2016), Huneety et al., (2023), and Li (2022) analyzed discourse markers in students' writing. In addition, Di Ferrante (2021) examined their use in workplace conversations. These studies show that discourse markers play important roles in organizing ideas, expressing meaning, and managing interaction. Fraser (1999) also explains that discourse markers establish relationships between discourse segments, while Babel (2006) argues that language used in fictional dialogue can reflect characters' personalities and relationships. Therefore, film dialogue provides a valuable source for discourse marker analysis.

The film entitled *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*, directed by Rian Johnson, is a suitable source for this study because it presents interactions between characters with different roles and communication styles. The two main characters analyzed in this study are Benoit Blanc, the protagonist and a detective, and the antagonist, Miles Bron, the murderer behind the case. Throughout the film, both characters use discourse markers in different ways while interacting with each other and responding to various situations. These differences make the film an appropriate source for examining the types and functions of discourse markers in context.

Although many previous studies have focused on identifying the types or frequency of discourse markers, and some have examined their role in maintaining coherence, only a few have explored their functions in functional dialogue through contextual analysis. Therefore, this study examines the types and functions of discourse markers used by the two main characters in *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* by applying Fraser's (1999) classification of discourse marker types and Schiffrin's (1987) framework of discourse marker functions. This study aims to show that although discourse markers may appear insignificant, they play an important role in organizing utterances and conveying meaning during interaction. By analyzing how Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron used discourse markers in different communication situations, this study is expected to provide a better understanding

of how discourse markers function in dialogue. Therefore, the researcher conducts this study under the title ‘*An Analysis of Discourse Markers Used by Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron in The Film Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery (2022)*’.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the research questions of this study are:

1. What are the types of discourse markers used by Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron in the film *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*.
2. What are the functions of the discourse markers used by Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron in the film *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*.

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The objective of the study:

1. To identify the type of discourse markers used by Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron in the film *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*.
2. To describe the function of discourse markers Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron in the film *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Theoretically, this study provides an understanding of how DMs function in spoken interaction, especially in film dialogue. This study also shows that DMs, despite their small form, have important meanings in conversation. This study is supported by Fraser’s discourse markers theory, applying Fraser’s (1999) classification of types and Schiffrin’s (1987) framework of functions.

Practically, this study is expected to give more information and knowledge related to the same theory and/or source of data, especially for students, lecturers, and language enthusiasts who study discourse markers or film analysis. This study is also useful for scriptwriters and translators in understanding how certain linguistic choices affect the tone and intention of characters’ dialogue.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study is in the field of discourse analysis and focuses on the use of discourse markers in the film *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* (2022), directed by Rian Johnson. The study applies Fraser's (1999) theory to classify the types of discourse markers and Schiffrin's (1987) framework to analyze their functions. This study is limited to discourse markers identified in the utterances of the two selected characters, Benoit Blanc and Miles Bron. The analysis includes only the utterances containing discourse markers produced by these two characters throughout the film.