

Corpora and discourse analysis: argumentative metadiscursive markers

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1. Summary

The aim of this paper is to study the formal devices that mark arguments and counterarguments in Ancient Greek. In the last thirty years research on discourse studies has bloomed and the area of classical languages is no exception. Apart from many works on individual issues (see the bibliography in Bakker & Wakker 2007) Kroon's work (1995) on particles has given a sound theoretical and practical frame to analyze discourse coherence and cohesive means. Nevertheless, most works are focused on a rather formal approach since they take as starting point the individual cohesive means (formal marks) and try to find out their meaning (cohesive force). Instead in this paper I will try to adopt a functional approach: the speaker's need to formulate arguments and counterarguments in order to support his thesis and to undermine his opponent's statements. Therefore I will try to give a holistic view of how the different formal devices (connectors, metadiscursive expressions, mood, etc.) fit into the general scheme of (counter-)argumentation.

This is a corpus-driven research. The *corpus* is mainly made up by Lysias' works, which are tagged from a formal and semantic point of view in html (a system of CSS sheets allows to apply different styles on them according to the research purposes). This tagging follows Kroon's theoretical frame (structural linear vs. dependent relationships, and semantic relationships) and tries to capture the hierarchical form of texts (see the example at the end). The html files containing the speeches so tagged are managed by a database that keeps track of the elements studied: connectors, metadiscursive expressions, topical entities, and so on.

Apart from the particles in their dennistonian sense (γάρ, καίτοι, etc.), the paper will take into account other less prototypical connectors that can also be used in the presentational level of discourse (intraclausal syntax), as for example εἶτα, ἔπειτα, πρὸς τούτῳ/πρὸς τούτοις, ἔτι, νῦν δέ, etc., many of which are absent from traditional descriptions. For example, the combination νῦν δέ is used in similar contexts as ἀλλὰ γάρ in order to restate the speaker's version of the facts after his opponent's view has been undermined by counterarguments introduced by καίτοι; however νῦν δέ is excluded from Denniston's work unlike ἀλλὰ γάρ.

The research will include other devices, as metadiscursive expressions: for example the verbs σκέπτομαι and ἐνθυμέομαι (under certain conditions) are used in Lysias to present a new point within

the argumentation. One of the problems when dealing with metadiscursive expressions is that, unlike connectors or other invariable markers, they may exhibit different forms that cannot be known and classified *a priori*. For example, any of the following expressions are variants of the same formula and this formula (see the red word in the following example) is used in a consistent way in Lysias and other Athenian writers (Sophocles, Plato, Demosthenes, and so on) to introduce an argument within an (counter)argumentative chain, as I will try to prove in my paper: (i) ἐνθυμείσθαι/ἐνθυμηθῆναι/σκέψασθαι ἄξιον; (ii) ἐνθυμείσθαι/ἐνθυμηθῆναι/σκέψασθαι χρῆ; (iii) ἐνθυμείσθε/ἐνθυμήθητε/σκέψασθε (imperative); (iv) σκέψασθαι δεῖ; (v) σκέψασθαι προσήκει; (iv) σκέψασθαι ὑμέτερον ἔργον; (v) σκεπτέον. Only the tagging of whole corpora may bring to light the existence and forms of these expressions, since they are not collected nor studied in the reference grammars and works for evident reasons (see Bateman as an exception).

The following example taken from Lysias tries to capture the contribution of the different devices (connectors and metadiscursive expressions) to the hierarchical structure of the text:

(1) Lysias, *Against Simon* 21.4-26.6

Thesis	ἐπειδὴ δὲ αὐτῷ οὐδὲν μέλει τῶν ὄρκων ὧν διωμόσατο, πειράσομαι καὶ περὶ ὧν οὗτος ἔψευσται διδάσκειν ὑμᾶς.
Simon1	Ἐτόλμησε γὰρ εἰπεῖν ὡς αὐτὸς μὲν τριακοσίας δραχμὰς ἔδωκε Θεοδότῳ, συνθήκας πρὸς αὐτὸν ποιησάμενος, ἐγὼ δ' ἐπιβουλεύσας ἀπέστησα αὐτοῦ τὸ μειράκιον.
Counter2	καίτοι ἔχρην αὐτόν, εἴπερ ἦν ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ, παρακαλέσαντα μάρτυρας ὡς πλείστους κατὰ τοὺς νόμους διαπράττεσθαι περὶ αὐτῶν. οὗτος δὲ τοιοῦτον οὐδὲν πώποτε φαίνεται ποιήσας, ὑβρίζων δὲ καὶ τύπτων ἅμ' ἀμφοτέρους ἡμᾶς καὶ κομᾶζων καὶ τὰς θύρας ἐκβάλλων καὶ νύκτωρ εἰσιὼν ἐπὶ γυναικῆς ἐλευθέρως. [...]
	σκέψασθε δὲ ὡς ἄπιστα εἶρηκε.
Simon2	τὴν γὰρ οὐσίαν τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἅπασαν πεντήκοντα καὶ διακοσίων δραχμῶν ἐτιμήσατο.
Counter2	καίτοι θαυμαστὸν εἰ τὸν ἐταιρήσοντα πλειόνων ἐμισθώσατο ὧν αὐτὸς τυγχάνει κεκτημένος.
Simon3	εἰς τοῦτο δ' ἦκει τόλμης ὥστε οὐκ ἔξαρκεῖ περὶ τούτου μόνον αὐτῷ ψεύσασθαι , περὶ τοῦ δεδωκέναι τὸ ἀργύριον, ἀλλὰ καὶ κεκομίσθαι φησί .
Counter3	καίτοι πῶς εἰκός ἐστι τότε μὲν ἡμᾶς τοιαῦτα ἔξαμαρτάνειν οἷα κατηγορήκεν οὗτος, ἀποστερηθεῖν βουλομένους τὰς τριακοσίας δραχμὰς, ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἀπεμαχεσάμεθα, τῆνικαῦτα ἀποδοῦναι τὸ ἀργύριον αὐτῷ, μήτε ἀφειμένους τῶν ἐγκλημάτων μήτε ἀνάγκης ἡμῖν μηδεμιᾶς γενομένης;
Thesis	ἀλλὰ γὰρ , ὃ βουλή, πάντα αὐτῷ ταῦτα σύγκειται καὶ μεμηχάνηται, καὶ δοῦναι μὲν φησιν [...]

Counterarg. = Counterargument

The use of a *corpus* in the study of discourse is a game-changer, since it helps (or rather "forces") to detect devices that create text cohesion (metadiscursive expressions, non prototypical connectors), but are absent from the traditional descriptions in grammars and other reference works.

2. Bibliography

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