



# The Relevance of Discourse Connectors in Some Political Newspaper Articles

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## Abstract:

The present study seeks to examine the relevance of discourse connectors in some political newspaper articles in the English and French print media. It identifies the types of discourse connectors used in both media, and analyses their semantico-pragmatic effects in a text. In a bid to achieve the said aim, the Relevance Theory propounded by Wilson and Sperber (1986/1995), was used as analytical framework. To this effect, the corpus consisted approximately of four hundred thousand (400,000) words, drawn from four hundred (400) political articles. Using the descriptive statistics method, involving a digital humanities tool (*AntConc*) the data were classified into tables, bars and pie charts. The study revealed discourse connectors play crucial role in political newspaper articles. They guide readers through the narrative, clarifying relationships between different pieces of information. They can signal shifts in argumentation, contrasting viewpoints or conclusions, which helps to frame writer's position and can influence the reader's perception of the argument's strength. They equally help to establish temporal and causal links, allowing readers to understand the sequence of events and the rationale behind political decisions. Effective use of discourse connectors can enhance reader engagement by creating a more dynamic and interactive reading experience.

**Keywords:** Discourse connectors, political article, relevance theory, cognitive effect, media.

## Review Article

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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been noticeable advances in the field of discourse analysis, defined by Zellig Harris (1952:25) as “a way of analysing connected speech and writing beyond the level of the sentence and the relationship between linguistic and non-linguistic behaviour”. Advances in this field, i.e. discourse analysis, have yielded to a new approach to the analysis of a discourse called critical discourse analysis. This time around, the focus will be on the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context, Fairclough & Wodak (1997: 258). Progresses in these two major fields has led to an increasing interest to the study of discourse connectors, defined by Biber *et al.*, (1999:256), as “devices used to bridge between turns and sentences, indicating the logical relations among the parts of a discourse and providing an interpretive framework for the

listener/reader”. As a result, many researchers like Blakemore (1987); Brinton (1996); Erman (1987); Fraser (1996); Östman (1981); Schiffrin (1987); Schourup (1985) for instance, have become interested by these expressions. Thus, a considerable amount of research has been carried out in the domain of discourse connectors in Cameroon, for instance Alima (2013,2018), Nupa (1998, 2001), Njimoh Asongu (2007), Tanga Mbouya (2005), Ongué Essono (2012), just to cite a few. However, these studies view connectors as simple cohesive devices that link sentences and paragraphs together. In the present research, discourse connectors will be examined first of all, in a discourse perspective, from a semantic and pragmatic point of view and their effect in the reconstruction and the interpretation of sentences and sequences of sentences in English and French in some newspaper articles, in order to come up with their differences and similarities. It is well-known that discourse connectors are essential

elements in the reconstruction and the interpretation of a discourse. They can modify the illocutionary force, indicate the beginning, continuation and end of a turn. Because of their crucial role in achieving a successful communicative act in text, discourse connectors are key elements in text production and perception, they are pragmatically obligatory tools for text processing. In order to produce acceptable, natural and communicatively effective texts, text-producers are required to use discourse connectors in a certain way that is expected and accepted by their text-receivers. Thus, underusing, misusing and overusing these items renders the texts unnatural, affects their acceptability, and increases the chances of communication breakdowns. Moreover, an inappropriate use of these expressions can also affect the natural flow of the text. Therefore, studying the function of discourse connectors as elements that ensure the texts' acceptability, naturalness, and effectiveness is indispensable for studying texts in any language. However, while studying how these elements affect the interpretation of a text is important for text studies in general, it is more important for studying texts across languages. Thus, the present study sets out at examining the role and function of discourse connectors in the interpretation of a discourse, especially their role in the Cameroonian print media.

### 1. Theoretical framework and literature review

Relevance Theory henceforth RT is a general theory of communication based on cognitive principles. It was propounded by Sperber and Wilson (1986/1995), as a model for text analysing discourse. The core of the theory is the communicative principle of relevance that "*An assumption is relevant in a context if and only if it has some contextual effect in that context*" Sperber & Wilson (1995). According to Sperber and Wilson (1995), contextual effect is contextual implication. Many studies have been conducted in analysing discourse connectors within the relevance theoretical framework, such as Blass (1990) and Wilson and Sperber (1993), Blakemore (1987), with viable results. Unlike the other theories, relevance theory stresses the cognitive processes involved in interpretations of utterances and the role of discourse connectors in constraining these interpretations.

Sperber and Wilson (1986:45) argue that "*people have intuitions of relevance; that they can*

*consistently distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, or in some cases, more relevant from less relevant information*". Anderson (1998:150) points out that in relevance theory "*utterances are seen as inputs to inferential processes which affect the cognitive environment of the hearer*". Relevance degree of the utterance by the speaker depends on contextual effect and processing effort from the positive and negative aspects. The balance between contextual effect produced by an utterance and the processing effort of the hearer to understand an utterance is the position communicators expected to reach, which is called optimal relevance. According to optimal relevance, on the one hand, the hearer believes that the speaker will produce ostensive stimulus with enough relevance which is worth processing.

Relevance Theory is based on a combination of two principles namely: the cognitive principle of relevance and the communicative principle of relevance Sperber & Wilson, 1986/1995).

As far as the cognitive principle of relevance is concerned, Sperber and Wilson (1986/1995:260) stipulates that "*human cognition tends to be geared to the maximisation of relevance*". All the inputs available at any given moment, our cognitive system tends automatically to process those with the greatest expected relevance and to build a context that will enable our inference system to maximise the relevance of the input.

Concerning communication, Sperber and Wilson (1986/1995:260) asserted that "*every act of ostensive communication communicates a presumption of its own optimal relevance.*" Relevance Theory proposes a rather different theory from Grice's. Instead of seeing communication between humans as cooperative exchanges of information, they suggest that to communicate with someone is to attract the addressee's attention and to offer her (relevant) information (Sperber & Wilson, 1986/1995). As mentioned above, the human cognitive system tends to select what is most relevant from the context (Cognitive Principle of Relevance); hence, in order for the hearer to choose the speaker's utterance as the most relevant input to attend to, the speaker must ensure that her utterance "*achieves the required level of relevance*".

## 2. Research Design and Methodology.

Any scientific work has to follow a procedure in order to gather appropriate data and make these data meaningful. Such a procedure takes into account the research design, the research instruments, the data collection procedure and the sampling techniques and methods of data interpretation.

### 2.1 Research Design

In order to achieve the objectives, set on this work, the present research will adopt a case study as a design. The choice for this design was motivated by many reasons. First of all, the study deals with language use in the print media and more particularly the usage of discourse connectors. The case study is best defined as an intensive study of a single unit with an aim to generalise across a larger set of units. The generalisation of results from case studies, from either single or multiple designs, stems on theory rather than on populations, Yin (1984). Yin (1984:23) defines the case study research method “*as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used.*”. For McMillan and Schumacher (2001), a case study examines a bounded system or a case over time in detail, employing multiple sources of data found in the setting. All the collected evidences are collated to arrive at the best possible responses to the research question(s). As a result the researcher may gain a sharpened understanding of why the instance happened as it did, and what might become important to look at more extensively in future research. Through case study methods, a researcher is able to go beyond the quantitative statistical results and understand the behavioural conditions through the actor’s perspective. This research design is important in the way that it deals with the usage of discourse connectors.

The advantages in using this research design is that it permits to narrow a more general field of research, a domain or a topic into a more concrete and researchable one, as it is the case with our topic which deals with language use in general, but the usage of discourse connectors in the English and French political newspaper articles in particular. Moreover, it is a flexible research design that can incorporate at the same time

quantitative and qualitative data analysis method in order to have a better insight on the phenomenon under study. As will be the case in this study, the quantitative side of the analysis will be performed using descriptive statistic methods which consists of statistical analysis such as frequency calculations in order to show the occurrences and distribution of discourse connectors in each print media. More particularly, the data will be classified into tables, bar charts and pie charts. The statistical analysis will be taken as a starting point for a qualitative analysis of the functions served by discourse connectors in these particular media.

### 3. Methods of data collection

There are various methods used to ensure effective and efficient collection of data in all research projects. The main data from this study were collected from a survey method using a questionnaire and the secondary data from back issues of print media. In this part of the work, we describe the various steps in data collection in the study. The main corpus used in this study is specialised corpora containing political newspaper articles. For the present study, the corpus consists of approximately four hundred thousand (400,000) words, drawn from four hundred (400) political articles. These articles were selected from three major daily newspapers in Cameroon, with one in English *the Guardian Post* with one hundred (100) political articles, another one in French *Mutation* with equally one hundred (100) articles and a bilingual newspaper, *Cameroon Tribune*, with two-hundred political (200), one hundred (100) in English and the other one hundred (100) in French.

#### 3.1 Methods of data analysis

The software will quantify the connectors both quantitatively and qualitatively. The quantitative side of the analysis will be performed using descriptive statistic methods which consists of statistical analysis such as frequency calculations in order to show the occurrences and distribution of discourse connectors in each print media. More particularly, the data will be classified into tables, bar charts and pie charts. The statistical analysis will be taken as a starting point for a qualitative analysis of the functions served by discourse connectors in these particular media. To this effect, the process will start with the identification of discourse connectors at paragraph level then at sentential level.

### 3.2 Analysis of data

In what follows, the data used in the present study are presented and classified using the descriptive statistical method. Indeed, the data are classified into tables, pie charts and bar charts for a better comparison of the items under study. Finally, the data are analysed using Wilson and Sperber (1995) Relevance Theory. Since a text is structurally and hierarchically organised, connectives will be analysed at the sentence, paragraph and textual level. In this section of the work, the categories of connectors are compared and contrasted starting by the additive category.

## 4. RESULTS

This overview of discourse connectors identified in this study provides a general idea on how these items are used as a group in the English and French print media, before describing specific functions of members of this group. Thus, in the following part of the work, we expose the frequency of usage of connectors found in our study. In the following table is exposed the total distribution of discourse connectors found in the study.

**Table 1: Total distribution of discourse connectors**

Category	Total Number	Percentage
Additive	1302	23.15
Adversative	984	17.49
Enumerative	243	04.32
Concessive	648	11.52
Goal	266	04.72
Illustration	266	04.72
Consequence	445	07.91
Explanative	291	05.17
Causal	356	06.33
Temporal	556	09.88
Condition	230	04.08
Summative	37	0.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>5624</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table is of paramount importance to shed light on the aspect of language under study here. It provides an overview of the categories of connectors used and their references as well. The table reveals that a total of five thousand six hundred and twenty-four (5624) discourse connectors were used in the study. Furthermore, the table indicates that the additive connectors, one thousand five three hundred and two (1302) in total, representing 23.15% of the total amount of connectors, were the most used

category. Following the additives are the adversatives, nine hundred and eighty-four (984), corresponding to 17.49%.

The third category are the concessive, with a total of six hundred and forty-eight (648) occurrences, for a percentage of 11.52%; the temporal category with five hundred and fifty-six (556) occurrences correspond to 09.88%. Immediately after the temporal, follow the consecutive connectors with a total of four hundred and forty-five (445) occurrences for a percentage of 07.91%. Next are causal connectors with three hundred and fifty-six (356) occurrences, which correspond to 06.33%. The explanative with two hundred and ninety-one (291) occurrences corresponds to 05.17% of the total amount of connectors. The illustrative and goal follow with two hundred and sixty-six (266) items each, for a percentage of 04.72. Enumerative and condition follow two hundred and forty-three (243) and two hundred and thirty (230), for a percentage of 04.32 and 04.08% for each. In last resort, it can be observed from this table that the least used category of discourse connectors are the summative with thirty-seven (37) elements, representing 0.67% of the total amount of connectors used.

## 5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The discussing of findings will be centered on four important aspects namely the frequency of usage of discourse connectors in each media, the varieties of connectors and their position within the sentence, and finally their relevance on political articles.

### 5.1 The frequency.

The total amount of discourse connectors collected for the purpose of this study is five thousand six hundred and twenty-four (5624) items, among which one thousand six hundred and seventy-three (1673) were found in Cameroon Tribune English (CTE), representing 29.74 % of the occurrences, followed by The Guardian Post (TGP) with one thousand four hundred and thirty-five occurrences (1435), corresponding to 25.51 percent of the total. Cameroon Tribune French (CTF) comes with 23.89%, which corresponds to one thousand three hundred and forty-four (1344) elements, while Mutations closes the list with one thousand one hundred and seventy-two (1172), corresponding to 20.83% of the total, as illustrated by the following diagram.

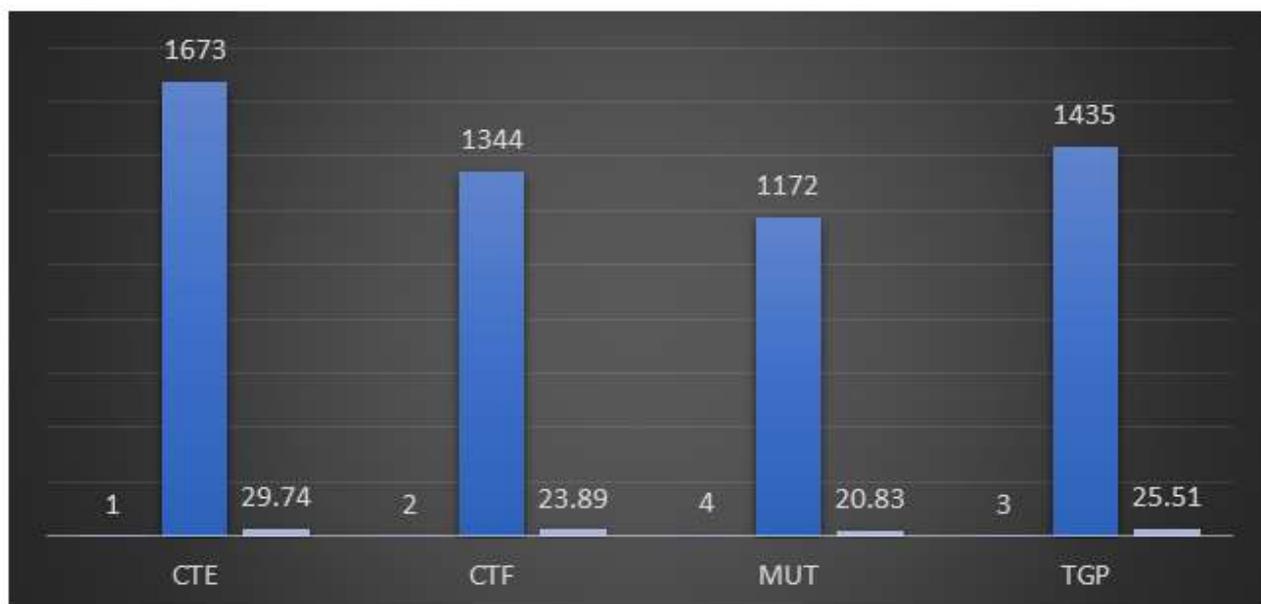


Chart 1: Distribution of connectors in the four media

## 5.2 Varieties of connectors

The most used discourse connectors in the English print media are almost the same in the French print media. Indeed, the comparison of each category of connectors has revealed that the English language share some features as concerns the usage of connectors.

- **Additive connectors.** The most used additive connectors in the English print media are ‘also’, with three hundred and thirty-two (332) occurrences and ‘and’, with two hundred and forty-seven (247) elements, and the most used additive in the French print media are ‘Et’ two hundred and forty-seven (281) items and ‘aussi’, with one hundred and fifty-three (153) cases. These connectors are equivalent to one another in both languages, as illustrates the following examples:

### Ref 1: The Guardian Post No. 1363 Thursday March 01, 2018.

*Akere Muna, it would be recalled, announced his intention to run for president in October last year, while Osih was given the green light by his party during last week’s landmark convention in Bamenda. For Maurice Kamto of the Cameroon renaissance movement, MRC, it is expected that he will **also** get his party’s blessing to vie for the coveted office when they hold a convention in the weeks ahead.*

- **Adversative connectors.** Similarly, the most used adversative connectors in English print media are almost the same as in the French print media. As a matter of fact, ‘but’, with ninety-seven (97) occurrences is the most used connector in the English print media, which is the equivalent of ‘mais’ with two hundred and thirty-eight (238) elements in the French print media, as the following examples show:

### Ref 2: The Guardian Post No. 1359 Friday February 23, 2018

*After President Biya’s war on the vice, there was a noticeable disappearance of top-of-the-range luxury vehicles in Yaounde used by small flies in the civil service whose monthly income did not permit them such luxuries, **but** thanks to corruption, they flaunt it around with impunity, built mansions left right and centre at the expense of the economy.*

- **The concessive connectors.** Concerning this category of connectors, the study has revealed that the most used connector in the English print media was ‘though’, with one hundred and fifty-one (151) occurrences, whereas the most used concessive connector in the French media was ‘malgré’ sixty-three (63) elements, as the it is illustrated down.

**Ref 3: N° 9963/6164** - Friday, November 04, 2011.

*The President was talking here about a subject that is of major national interest. Election, democrats believe, is the cornerstone of democracy, even though several other components exist without which the process will remain incomplete. Cameroon's democracy has come of age and is progressing, **though** at what some critics continue to describe as snail pace. But as the Head of State said in his speech, "Our democratic system has been gradually taking root, consolidating and improving."*

- **The consecutive connectors.** The most used consecutive connector in the English print media was 'so' with seventy-seven (77) occurrences and the most used consecutive connector in the French print media is its natural equivalent 'ainsi', seventy-six (76) elements.

**Ref 4: N° 9680/5881** Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

*Government has already set its priorities for 2017 with the budget just having been voted in Parliament. **So** where is the money going to come from to replace the destroyed government property? The ensuing bill from these acts of destruction will have to be paid by ordinary citizens through taxes. **So** where is the wisdom in these fatuous acts of destruction?*

- **Causal connectors.** 'Because', with one hundred and eighty-two (182) connectors is the most used causal connector in the English print media whereas the most causal connector is 'car', with thirty-eight (38) occurrences. It should be noted that this connector is followed by 'parce que' in the French print media with thirty (30) elements. The references below perfectly illustrate this situation.

**Ref 5: N° 10500/6701** - Friday, January 03, 2014

*Cameroonians who failed to register on the electoral lists either **because** their ages did not permit or were unavailable, have started doing so at Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) Council offices across the country.*

- **Connectors of goal.** The most used connector of goal in the English print

media is 'in order to' with eighty-four (84) occurrences while the most in French print media is 'pour', with forty-seven (47) items.

**Ref 6 N° 9680/5881** -Tuesday, September 14, 2010

*Following the discussions, the SDF Chairman said, "We believe that they owe Cameroonians a resignation from ELECAM **in order to** respect the law, in place of the resignation they tendered to their political parties".*

- **Temporal connectors.** In this category, the most connector in the English print media is 'before' with sixty-five (65) occurrences while the most used connector in the French media is 'après' thirty-eight (38) elements, as the following examples show.

**Ref 7: The Guardian Post No. 1530 Wednesday November 07, 2018**

***Before** concluding, I want to stress that I deeply reflected over the frustrations and aspirations of the vast majority of our compatriots in the North-West and South-West Regions. A good number of these concerns and aspirations will be addressed as part of current efforts to accelerate the decentralisation process. Measures will be taken as soon as possible to broaden the powers of local authorities in order to provide them with the means for greater autonomy.*

### 5.3 The position of connectors

The data analysis of discourse connectors in the English and French print media has revealed something important about their position in the sentence. As a matter of fact, the study has shown that discourse connectors can occupy various syntactic position in a sentence, whether sentence onset, middle position or they can occur at sentence final position. However, a noticeable feature about discourse connectors is that depending on their position in the sentence, they can perform different roles. Thus, the study revealed that the favoured position occupied by discourse connectors is sentence initial position, with three thousand two hundred fifteen (3215) occurrences, for a percentage of 57.16%.

**Ref 8: Mutations n° 4727 vendredi 26 octobre 2018**

*Afin de pallier aux défaillances observées pendant le déroulement du scrutin, le Cran recommande la poursuite de l'information et de la formation des protagonistes des processus électoraux à venir. Il convient **cependant** d'émettre des réserves notamment sur la question liée à la garantie du secret de vote car, le mauvais emplacement des sacs à rebus dans certains bureaux a participé à la violation dudit secret. **De plus**, la défectuosité des lampes solaires dans les bureaux de vote lors du dépouillement était de nature à favoriser le bourrage des urnes et par conséquent remettre en cause la sincérité du scrutin.*

The second privileged position by connectors is middle position, with two thousand three hundred and eighty-six (2386) elements, corresponding to 42.42%.

**Ref 9: The Guardian Post No. 1359 Friday February 23, 2018**

*The 9th ordinary convention of the social democratic front, SDF, is holding in Bamenda amid heavy deployment of forces of law and order armed to the teeth and soldiers in plain cloth, **despite** earlier threats from Ambazonia activists and calls for ghost towns. Economic activities began slowly yesterday with taxis and commercial bike riders circulating **while** shop owners looked on doubting whether to open or not. By midday **however**, only commercial motorbikes and taxis could be seen on the streets **while** shops were completely locked.*

The least position occupied by discourse connectors in the print media is the final position, with only twenty-three (23) for a percentage of 0.40.

**Ref 10: The Guardian Post No. 1387 Friday April 06, 2018**

*The Constitutional Council yesterday confirmed that the SDF won all seven senate seats in the North West region during the March 25 senatorial election, contrary to suggestions that the seats would be shared with the ruling CPDM because the opposition party was thought not to have won an absolute*

*majority. CPDM party still swept an overwhelming majority of seats, **nonetheless**.*

**6. The relevance of discourse connectors in political newspaper articles**

All over the study, the multi-functionality of discourse connectors has been highlighted such as initiating a discourse, showing boundary in a discourse, indicating turn in a unit of discourse or aiding the speaker hold the floor. In a country like Cameroon where the political scene is hindered by many problems such as freedom of expression, tribalism, corruption and many other problems, the place, the frequency, the variety discourse connectors become very crucial in achieving some communicative goals. The emphasis is more laid on persuasion and persuasive techniques than in the basic role of the print media which is simply information. This can explain why some categories of connectors are more used in the print media than other. The additive connectors for instance, which are the most used categories in the English and French print media, are used to indicate that one sentence adds new information to the previous sentence.

Thus, adding information is the prior function carried out by discourse connectors in political newspaper articles. As a matter of fact, all over the study, additive connectors have been extensively used in the English and French print media. This shows that political actors in Cameroon, mostly use addition to convince their electorate, for example adding promises on others.

**Ref 11: CTE N° 11077/7276 16 juillet 2016.**

*Le Cameroun est un Etat de droit et un Etat de bon droit. Les remises de peines accordées hier à Thierry Atangana et Edjoa Titus et aujourd'hui à Lydienne Eyoum sont autant de preuves que le Cameroun dispose d'institutions républicaines solides qui fonctionnent normalement. **En plus**, le Président Paul BIYA vient encore de prouver qu'il est le Chef de l'Etat, au-dessus de toute mêlée partisane, seul juge de l'opportunité et arbitre impartial des affaires républicaines.*

In this stretch of discourse, the additive 'en plus' comes in reinforcement to the preceding argument that the country has good institutions. Moreover, it connects the institutions to the president magnanimity by setting free political opponents.

**Ref 12: The Guardian Post No. 1360 Monday February 26, 2018.**

*Historically, it has always been an uphill task to democratically remove incumbents from power in African politics through the ballot box. But it is not impossible. Neighbouring Nigeria has done it. They went into an alliance with other opposition party. That is what the SDF should do now, not later. **And** we advised earlier, an opposition alliance should not be limited only to a single presidential candidate but should involve legislative and municipal, and I give you a better way to go about it, if opposition parties are united, in a constituency like Noun division where the UDC is the main cock that crows, all other opposition parties in the alliance should support the UDC candidates.*

The discourse connector ‘and’ in this paragraph adds more information to the fact removing incumbent political leaders can be possible through vote and making alliances with other political parties.

Except adding information in a discourse, discourse connectors can also be used to express a goal or unveil the intentions of political leaders. Indeed, many political leaders when defending a project or trying to convince the electorate, can refer to connectors of goal to better clarify their position. The following example is a perfect illustration of this situation.

**Ref 13: The Guardian Post No. 1363 Thursday March 01, 2018.**

*“As you know, this year 2018 will be a crucial election year for the future of our country. In accordance with the promise I have made in my new year speech to our fellow compatriots, I do have the honour to request an appointment with you as soon as possible **so that** we can examine together conditions for a collective approach including other opposition political parties and forces of progress for the upcoming consultations” wrote Kamto in his letter dated January 8, 2018. **“In order to** make this approach real in a timeframe that allows Cameroonians to see the change in power they have been wanting for more than a quarter of a century, I will provide here below my personal contacts where you can reach me at any time” added Kamto.*

In this stretch of discourse, the leader of the CRM Kamto uses goal connectors to express the ideology of his party. These connectors unveil the intentions of the author who is exposing his ideas and the way he intends to tackle the coming presidential elections.

Connectors are also used in political articles to contrast to some ideas or some argument of political opponents. Some politicians want to show the obscurity of the ideas or criticising the projects of their political opponents. At this level, they can make use of adversative connectors to tackle such a situation.

**Ref 14 Cameroon Tribune N° 10499/6700 - Thursday, January 02, 2014.**

*Sceptics have over the years cast doubts on the ability or determination of Cameroon and the Biya regime to build a culture of democracy in the country. **Yet**, that criticism never dampened the resolve of the Head of State to pursue his goal of ensuring that Cameroonians imbibe basic democratic principles such as accepting the right to be different and even most importantly, accepting political challenge and defeat.*

**Ref 15 Cameroon Tribune N° 10499/6700 - Thursday, January 02, 2014**

***While** some political parties, until October 1, 2011 kept complaining of lack of funds to carry out their campaigns, the Social Democratic Front, SDF, party announced plans to return the money into the public treasury on grounds that they no longer need it. According to texts governing the current electoral campaign, officials at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation say the sum of FCFA 30 million has been earmarked for each of the political parties going in for the poll. Half of the amount is being given to the political parties now **while** the rest will be given after the election*

Discourse connectors help to organize information and ideas, making the text easier to follow. In political articles, where complex arguments and multiple viewpoints are often presented, these connectors guide readers through the narrative, clarifying relationships between different pieces of information. They permit to

structure the argumentation or especially during political speeches. This allows the speaker to be more coherent and more fluent.

**Ref 16: The Guardian Post No. 1530 Wednesday November 07, 2018.**

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY H.E. PAUL BIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

*Allow me, **first of all**, to thank the President of the National Assembly for his words of welcome and his encouragement as I begin this new term of office. I **also** wish, **before** you, **once again**, to thank the Cameroonian people for having renewed their trust in me. Such trust will represent an invaluable support to me in the discharge of the weighty responsibilities awaiting me in the years ahead. The oath I have just taken “**before** the people”, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of our Constitution, in the presence of their representatives, is of a highly symbolic significance on two counts: - it is an expression of absolute loyalty to the institutions of the Republic from which I cannot derogate; and - it is an irrevocable personal commitment to performing the duties of Head of State as set forth in our Constitution. As in the past, these principles will guide my action in serving the Cameroonian people during the seven-year term of “Great Opportunities” beginning today. Ladies and Gentlemen, **Before** outlining our prospects, I would like us to take a quick look back **so that** we can take stock of the present situation. The seven-year term that has just ended was not a bed of roses.*

**Ref 17 ° 46: 10499/7700 - Thursday, 23 décembre 2016.**

*Constructive dialogue is needed when serious complaints have been expressed. We are proud to say that constructive dialogue has been established between the government, the teachers and the lawyers. The teachers' grievances have been taken seriously. **Firstly**, the complaints and grievances of the teachers will be addressed properly by an Inter-Ministerial Ad Hoc Committee, which is already created. This Committee will carefully examine all the grievances of the teachers. **Secondly**, President Paul BIYA has already allocated a special subsidy of 2,000,000,000*

*(two billion) francs for lay private and denominational schools. Proprietors of private and denominational schools continue to be the faithful partners of our government. **Thirdly**, President Paul BIYA has also ordered the special recruitment of 1,000 (one thousand) bilingual technical school teachers to address the shortage of teachers in Anglophone Technical Schools and Colleges. **Finally**, we ask teachers to go back to school and continue to teach their children. Schools are the wonderful places where teachers carry out their God-given duties Teachers are paid every month to teach the children of the South West and North West Regions.*

Thus, the place, the frequency and the varieties of discourse connectors play a vital role in the interpretation of the political articles and speeches. They must be given special attention by press editors and writers because of their special role in the comprehension of a text.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of discourse connectors in political articles newspaper revealed their significant role in shaping the clarity, coherence, and persuasive power of political discourse. These linguistic tools not only facilitate the logical flow of ideas but also guide readers through complex arguments, enhancing their understanding of intricate political issues. By linking statements and providing contextual cues, discourse connectors help to establish relationships between different pieces of information, thereby influencing the readers' interpretation and engagement with the text. Moreover, the strategic use of these connectors can reflect the author's intentions, whether to emphasize a viewpoint, contrast different points or present a cause-and-effect relationship. This underscores the importance of discourse connectors as not merely grammatical elements but as vital components of effective communication in political debates, their relevance remains paramount, serving as a bridge writer's message and reader's interpretation.

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