Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen and Jacqueline Visconti (eds), *Manual of Discourse Markers in Romance*, De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin/Boston, 2024, 631 p.

The series *Manuals of Romance Linguistics* (MLR), published by De Gruyter (currently De Gruyter/Brill), coordinated by Günter Holtus (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen) and Fernando Sánchez-Miret (Universidad de Salamanca), already comprising nearly forty volumes, is in our opinion an important reference for both specialists and students. The volumes are written by renowned specialists and offer systematic approaches to linguistic and extralinguistic phenomena broadly related to Romance studies, such as standardization, linguistic borders, specialized languages, grammatical interfaces, sociolinguistics, deixis, modality, language acquisition, discourse markers (hereafter DMs), while also including manuals dedicated to individual Romance languages (*Manual of Catalan Linguistics*, *Manuale di linguistica friulana*, *Manuel de linguistique française*, *Manuale di linguística italiana*, *Manual de lingüística española*, *Manuale di linguistica sarda*, *Manual de linguística portuguesa*, *Manual of Brazilian Portuguese Linguistics*, *Manual of Galician Linguistics*, *Manuel de linguistique occitane*).

Manual of Discourse Markers in Romance, edited by Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen and Jacqueline Visconti, is a new addition to the series, synthesising decades of research on DMs across the Romance languages, engaging with a wide range of theoretical traditions while presenting recent empirical work. The contributions are not limited to descriptive studies of DMs; rather, they question their functioning and distribution across different contexts and discursive genres and contain documented analyses for their diachronic trajectories.

The volume is structured in five parts that seek to define, describe, and analyse DMs using different theoretical approaches: Part I. *What are discourse markers?* (p. 3-61); Part II. *Discourse Markers at Different Levels of Linguistic Description* (p. 65-223); Part III. *Approaches to the Study of Discourse Markers* (p. 227-316); Part IV. *Discourse Markers and Interfaces* (p. 319-443); Part V. *Discourse Markers in the Major Romance Languages* (p. 447-624).

In Part I, *What are discourse markers?*, the introductory chapter by Hansen and Visconti (p. 3-28) sets the tone by highlighting the status of the DMs research in the broader field of Romance linguistics, with a focus on several diachronic trajectories identified over the last decade, ranging from grammaticalization and pragmaticalization to the more recent theory of constructionalization. The authors argue

that these processes are not mutually exclusive, and that DMs often emerge through a combination of reanalysis, decategorialization, subjectification, and usage-based generalization. The second chapter by Fedriani and Morielli (p. 29-61) proposes a distinction between discourse markers and pragmatic markers, based on their inter-discourse and inter-subjective meaning and function. The authors discuss the diachronic trajectory of both categories in their classification, as pragmatic functions tend to be more ephemeral and become obsolete, while discourse markers tend to be more stable over time.

Part II. *Discourse Markers at Different Levels of Linguistic Description* goes through several models of description and comprises five chapters. Rossari and Ricci (p. 65-96) provide a nuanced distinction between semantic and pragmatic meaning in DMs and propose a textometric method (statistical calculations in the study of digitalized textual corpora) to identify distributional preferences of connectors in French and Italian. This methodology helps identify the functioning of several subclasses of connectors, in the sense that they can also be conveyors of the involvement of the speaking, therefore having both semantic and pragmatic meaning. The grammatical status of discourse markers is the focus of the chapter co-authored by Giacalone Ramat and Fiorentini (p. 97-128). Several morphosyntactic features are analysed, with a case study of digressive Italian DMs, such as morphological invariability or the position with respect to the clause. The overall conclusion is that they are part of the knowledge of grammar, as identified in previous research. Estellés Arguedas (p. 129-162) examines prosody, moving beyond impressionistic observations to include experimental phonetic evidence for intonational contours that signal the DMs status, with a case study on continental and Latin American Spanish. The study reveals the importance of regional variation, language register and speaker's subjectivity for DMs prosody. Borreguero Zuloaga's (p. 163-191) contribution discusses "periphery", a term borrowed from syntax and frequently used in DMs analysis. The author considers that "periphery" is an improper term for the description of DMs and reviews other theoretical models (Val. Es.Co and Basel models, discourse unit models), highlighting their merits and shortcomings. Cuenca's (p. 193-223) chapter contributes to the research of DMs clusters, with special focus on Catalan. As Cuenca shows in the first part of the contribution, the topic of DMs co-occurrence has been analysed in terms of structure, function, and patterns. The conclusion of the analysis is that not all DMs sequences are clusters, and they must be distinguished from multi-word DMs. The integration of DMs in sequences varies and the order of elements follows several patterns, while frequency and prosody are essential in establishing their degree of integration.

Part III. *Approaches to the Study of Discourse Markers* advances methodological reflections. Zufferey (p. 227-255) conducts a contrastive study of backwards causal connectives in French (*parce que, car, puisque*) and Spanish (*porque, ya que, puesto que*), based on parallel corpora, and provides a replicable model for cross-linguistic DMs analysis. Degand and Crible (p. 257-279) highlight how quantitative corpus-linguistic methods can aptly reveal the distribution, function, and source categories of DMs, their contribution being essential reading for linguists conducting research in pragmatics with an empirical orientation. This chapter convincingly argues that quantitative studies have a theoretical merit, as they contribute to the definition and the categorization of DMs. Pons Bordería and Salameh (p. 281-316) show that DMs may vary significantly by register (they document differences in register in 107 DMs retrieved from the *Dicionario de Partículas Discursivas del Español*), reinforcing the need for context-sensitive analyses. The Val.Es.Co model is useful in producing relevant generalizations, thus proving its efficiency and relevance.

Part IV tackles DMs at linguistic interfaces. Delahaie and Col (p. 319-350) explore the politeness functions of DMs, analysing their mitigating, affiliative, and face-saving functions in various contexts. The authors link these functions to established models such as Brown & Levinson (1978/1987) and interactional sociolinguistics, arguing that DMs play important roles in conflict avoidance, facework, positive and negative politeness. Blondeau and Deng (p. 351-376) study *genre* in French over 40 years through the lens of social variation, showing how DMs shift in form, function, and frequency over time. The authors illustrate how age, period, gender, and social origins are crucial in DMs variation. Pekarek Doehler and Thörle (p. 377-412) use conversation analysis and interactional SLA frameworks to tackle the acquisition of the French *je sais pas* and the Spanish *no sé*, arguing that DMs are crucial to the development of interactional competence. They also argue that the SLA analysis may be useful in revealing the role that social interaction plays in the grammaticalization or pragmaticalization processes that result in DMs. Laralde, Moyer and Noveck (p. 413-443) introduce experimental psycholinguistic paradigms to the processing of DMs, an underexplored area in Romance pragmatics, and they conduct an experimental study on *donc, et* and *mais*. The main finding is that there is a clear distinction between logical connectives and discourse connectives if the pragmatic meaning of the latter is isolated.

Part V offers six language-specific studies on major Romance languages, namely French, Italian, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, and Romanian. Each chapter is authored by eminent specialists in the field (Gaétane Dostie for French; Chiara Ghezzi and Maria Cristina Lo Baido for Italian; Eugenia Sainz and Laura Nadal for Spanish; Iria da

Cunha for Catalan; Amália Mendes and Pierre Lejeune for Portuguese; Ariadna Ștefănescu and Rodica Zafiu for Romanian) and has a similar structure: a historical overview, the main theoretical frameworks, key markers and constructions, and corpus-based case studies. These specific chapters are particularly valuable for researchers interested in cross-linguistic comparison and intra-Romance variation.

To sum up, like the other volumes in the series, the *Manual of Discourse Markers in Romance* is an excellent example of what a linguistic handbook should be: rigorous, comprehensive, and with an interdisciplinary approach. We are sure it will serve as an essential reading for pragmatists, interactional linguists, sociolinguists, and Romance languages specialists. Through its multidisciplinary approach, detailed analysis, meticulously carried out case studies, this manual will be an excellent resource for linguists interested in mapping the field and finding gaps in the current research on DMs.

Veronica Manole
Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca
veronica.manole@gmail.com