

**TEXTUAL FUNCTION OF DISCOURSE MARKERS: A
STUDY OF GENDER DIFFERENCES IN CALL HER
DADDY "ES SHEERAN: YOU EITHER LOVE ME OR
HATE ME" ON YOUTUBE**

A THESIS

**Presented in a Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Completing the
Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature**



By:

STEFANUS DIKY SETYAWAN
1612100001

**FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA
UNIVERSITAS 17 AGUSTUS 1945 SURABAYA**

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Advisor



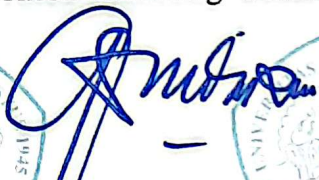
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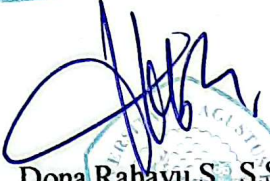
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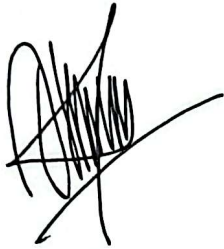
First and foremost, all praise and glory I give to Jesus Christ, the source of all wisdom, strength, and unfailing love. Without His presence, this thesis would have remained a dream. Through every phase of this process, He has shown His grace and faithfulness time and time again. As written in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" This verse was not just a quote—it was my breath, my anchor, and my reminder to keep going.

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This thesis is the product of a long, winding process filled with sweat, tears, and whispered prayers. It may not be perfect, but it stands as proof that with faith, perseverance, and the grace of God, even the impossible becomes possible.

Surabaya, 23 June 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stefanus Diky Setyawan

TABLE OF CONTENT

APPROVAL SHEET I.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET II.....	ii
SURAT PERNYATAAN	iii
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	vii
LIST OF TABLE.....	ix
ABSTRACT	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	4
1.4 Scope and Limitation	5
1.5 Significance of the Study	5
1.6 Organization of the Study.....	5
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	7
2.1 Previous Studies	7
2.2 Theoretical Review	10
2.2.1 Discourse Analysis	10
2.2.2 Discourse Markers.....	11
2.2.2.1 Opening Frame Markers	12
2.2.2.2 Closing Frame Markers.....	13
2.2.2.3 Fillers	13
2.2.2.4 Turn Takers	14
2.2.2.5 Topic Switchers	14
2.2.2.6 Information Indicators	15
2.2.2.7 Sequence Markers.....	15
2.2.2.8 Repair Markers	16
2.2.3 Gendered Communication.....	16
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	19
3.1 Research Approach.....	19
3.2 Research Design	19
3.3 Data Source and Data.....	20
3.4 Research Instrument	20
3.5 Data Collection Procedure.....	21

3.6 Data Analysis Procedure	22
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS.....	24
4.1 Findings Types of Textual Functions	24
4.2 Discussion	26
4.2.1 Opening Frame Markers	26
4.2.2 Closing Frame Markers	27
4.2.3 Turn Takers	28
4.2.4 Fillers	31
4.2.5 Topic Switchers	33
4.2.6 Information Indicators	34
4.2.7 Sequence/Relevance Markers.....	35
4.2.8 Repair Markers	37
4.3 Most Dominant Textual Functions	38
4.4 Gender Differences in the Use of Textual Functions	40
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION.....	43
5.1 Conclusion	43
5.2 Suggestion	44
REFERENCES.....	45
APPENDIX	

LIST OF TABLE

Table 2.1 The Textual Functions of Discourse Markers by Brinton (1996)	11
Table 3.1 Data Code Types of Textual Functions	21
Table 3.2 The Frequency of Textual Functions	22
Table 4.1 The Types of Textual Functions.....	24

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the textual functions of discourse markers (DMs) and explores gender-based differences in their usage in a real-life podcast conversation. The data source is the discourse markers from the utterances in the YouTube podcast Call Her Daddy, titled "*Ed Sheeran: You Either Love Me or Hate Me*," featuring Alex Cooper as the host and Ed Sheeran as the guest. This research employs Brinton's (1996) framework to categorize the textual functions of DMs and applies Deborah Tannen's (1990) Difference Theory to examine gendered communication styles. Using a descriptive qualitative method, the study identifies 788 total discourse markers: 591 produced by the male speaker and 197 by the female speaker. The most dominant category of textual function was fillers, followed by information indicators and sequence/relevance markers. The findings reveal that Ed Sheeran, although male, frequently used fillers and repair markers typically associated with rapport-style communication. Meanwhile, Alex Cooper, despite using fewer DMs overall, relied heavily on topic switchers and turn-taking markers, aligning with her role as host. These patterns support Tannen's theory that male speakers tend to emphasize information and logical structure (report talk), while female speakers focus on maintaining conversational flow and interpersonal rapport (rapport talk). The study highlights how discourse markers function not only as linguistic tools but also as reflections of gender identity, conversational role, and interactional purpose in digital media discourse.

Keywords: *discourse markers, gender differences, podcast, pragmatics, textual functions*