

# **The Analysis of Discourse Markers Used in Business Section of Thai Online Newspapers**

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## **Abstracts**

At present, writing skills can improve the effectiveness of communication. This research may be conducted in online newspapers in the business section to give a creative way to use writing skills. This research aimed 1) to investigate the frequency and percentage of using discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers, 2) to examine the use of discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers, and 3) to compare the use of discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers. Three types of discourse markers as instruments were followed by theory of Fraser (2009 : 293-320). The number of samples was a total of 80 selected articles in the business section: 40 articles from the Bangkok Post and 40 articles from the Nation. This research used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The statistics used for collecting data were the frequency and percentage of discourse markers appearing in the two Thai online newspapers and the content analysis.

The results of this study showed that Elaborative Discourse Markers were used the most in both Thai online newspapers, followed by Contrastive Discourse Markers and Inferential Discourse Markers, respectively. Regarding the comparison between the Bangkok Post and the Nation, it was that using Elaborative Discourse Markers in the Bangkok Post (553 times) was higher than using Elaborative Discourse Markers in the Nation (511 times). And using Inferential Discourse Markers in the Bangkok Post (14 times) was less than that of Inferential Discourse Markers in the Nation (33 times). In summary, this research will be beneficial to teachers, students, course developers, academic staff, and stakeholders to use discourse markers in an accurate way to create their own written works and to create their future research as well.

**Keywords:** Discourse Markers; Business Section; Online Newspapers

## **Introduction**

Sajid and Siddiqui (2015 : 174-186) defined the meaning of academic writing as “systematic writing” as basically, which is aimed at structured research and used by researchers at the higher education level. Gray and Biber, (2018 : 71) added that academic writing is obviously beneficial information, and academic writing experts with extraordinary intelligence may write for specific people who may be interested and distribute an extraordinary written work to others via the attempt of experts to take heavy editing over a long period of time.

Listyani (2020 : 1135-149) and Fadda (2012 : 123-130) mentioned that avoiding applying the trouble words and phrases, revising the grammar in writing by themselves, facing the use of pronouns and preserving previous pronouns, making errors in using the relationship

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between subjects and verbs, doing fragments in their academic writing, and facing in mixing sentences are the problems met in their written works.

According to the study of Salehi, Abdollahbeigi, Langroudi, and Salehi (2012 : 381-387), the impact of a company's e-commerce depends on good writing taking the ease of accessing the information on a website. By providing simple and clear information views and keeping personnel for each customer, one could increase customer satisfaction and loyalty while also saving valuable time.

Moreover, writers should consider both the content and method of using language to fit the needs of each target reader (Machili, 2014 : 43). As for using discourse markers used to sharpen your writing skills, Dülger (2007 : 257-270) introduced that discourse markers are used as logical things to improve writing skills as a developing part of an approach to help students grow their ideas to create writing work more effectively. According to Fraser (1999 : 931-952), discourse markers (DMs) are the connecting words to elaborate sentences with proper structure and meaning.

Fraser (2009 : 293-320) mentioned that the classification of discourse markers is divided into three types of discourse markers, such as Contrastive Discourse Markers (CDMs), Elaborative Discourse Markers (EDMs), and Inferential Discourse Markers (IDMs). According to Tikham (2022 : 50-66), three types of discourse markers by Fraser (2009 : 2993-320) are come from the survey of cqweb.lancs.ac.uk, there are eighteen selected discourse markers that were used mostly over 4,000 frequencies.

In social media, when addressing the use of discourse markers and their functions, Kozhukhova and Pastukhova (2019 : 64-71) concluded that discourse markers are a universal facility in many types of communication. In media, communication from media transfers texts to receivers or readers with discourse markers; therefore, it may have the quality to reduce the risk of communication and to soften communication by using profound texts to readers as well.

Therefore, this research may take discourse markers to analyze writing skills in the business section of the Bangkok Post and the Nation as a well-known online newspaper of Thailand for readers or interested people. It means that discourse markers may apply to elevate the writing skills of interested people and others in a communicative way throughout their writing works more accurately and more effectively.

## **Research Objectives**

1. To investigate the frequency and percentage of using discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers
2. To examine the use of discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers
3. To compare the use of discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers

## **Research Methodology**

### **Research Design**

This study was designed in both qualitative and quantitative research. Content analysis was designed to analyze three types of discourse markers used in the business section of two Thai online newspapers: the Bangkok Post and the Nation. The frequency and the percentage of three types of discourse markers coming out through the prepared tables were divided into three types of discourse markers.

### **Samples**

The samples used in the study were a total of 80 articles in the business section from Thai online newspapers: the Bangkok Post and the Nation. The Forty Articles of the Bangkok Post and The Forty Articles of the Nation were selected. Thus, the eighty articles were selected from the date between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Research Instruments**

This study was applied the classification of discourse markers by Fraser (2009) as an instrument of research, such as 1.) Contrastive Discourse Markers – CDMs (Although, But, However, Nevertheless, On the other hand, and Though), 2.) Elaborative Discourse Markers – EDMs (And, For example, For instance, Furthermore, In addition, and Moreover), and 3) Inferential Discourse Markers – IDM (As a result, Because, Because of, So, Therefore, and Thus).

### **Data Collection**

1. Data were selected from a total of 80 articles (Date: 1-30 June 2022) in the business section of the online newspapers; 40 articles from the Bangkok Post and 40 articles from the Nation.

2. Data were summarized and calculated on the frequency and the percentage of discourse markers from 40 articles of the Bangkok Post and 40 articles of the Nation in each type of discourse marker shown in three tables, such as Table 1. CDM, Table 2. EDM, and Table 3. IDM.

3. Data were analyzed in an accurate way by using discourse markers starting from the Bangkok Post by selecting two example sentences from each of the three types of discourse markers.

4. Data were analyzed in an accurate way by using discourse markers starting from the Nation by selecting two example sentences from each of the three types of discourse markers.

5. Data were compared between the total number of frequencies for using each DM of the Bangkok Post and each DM of the Nation to investigate, such as which the most EDM used in the Bangkok Post and the Nation.

### **Data Analysis**

This data analysis was set in three steps as follows:

1) Counting and calculating the frequency and percentage of the three types of discourse markers used in the business section of two Thai online newspapers: the Bangkok Post and the Nation.

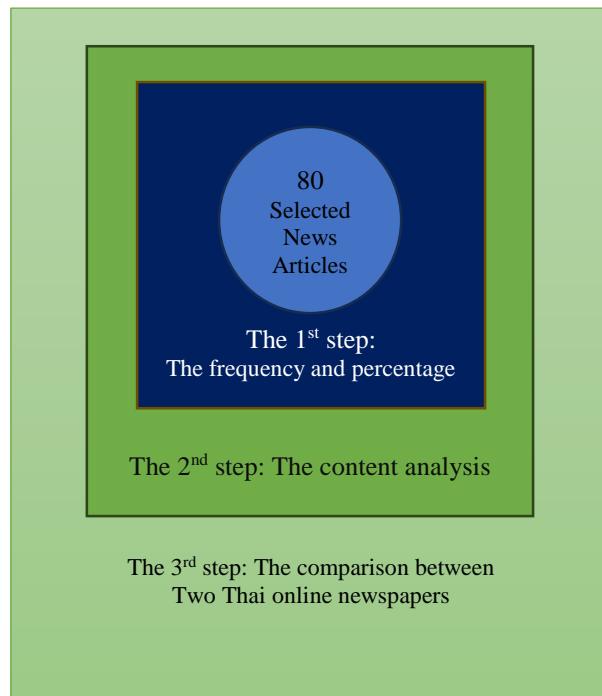
2) Checking and analyzing an accurate way of using three types of discourse markers in the business section of two Thai online newspapers; the Bangkok Post and the Nation.

3) Comparing the most discourse markers used in the Bangkok Post and the Nation.

## Research Conceptual Framework

It is a framework for the study that aims to answer step-by-step the three objectives of this research, as shown in the figure below.

**The figure of a conceptual framework**



## Research Results

1. To answer the first objective reported by three types of discourse markers as follows;

**Table 1. CDMs – the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

Contrastive Discourse Markers	The Bangkok Post		The Nation	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Although	7	11.29	3	4.84
2. But	29	46.77	29	46.78
3. However	13	20.97	28	45.16
4. Nevertheless	1	1.61	1	1.61
5. On the other hand	3	4.84	1	1.61
6. Though	9	14.52	0	0
Total	62	100	62	100

Table 1 CDMs shows the writers from the Bangkok Post used **But** at most 29 times (46.77%) and they used **However, Though, Although, On the other hand**, and **Nevertheless** as respectively. The writers from the Nation used **But** at most 29 times (46.78%) and they used **However, Although, and On the other hand** as respectively. But the writers used **On the**

**other hand** and **Nevertheless** as equal to 1 time. **Though** was not used in the selected articles of the Nation.

**Table 2. EDMs – the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

Elaborative Discourse Markers	The Bangkok Post		The Nation	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. And	540	97.66	488	95.49
2. For example	3	0.54	3	0.59
3. For instance	2	0.36	2	0.39
4. Furthermore	2	0.36	8	1.57
5. In addition	2	0.36	7	1.37
6. Moreover	4	0.72	3	0.59
Total	553	100	511	100

Table 2 EDMs shows the writers from the Bangkok Post used **And** at most 540 times (97.66%) and they used **Moreover**, **For example**, and **For instance** as respectively. But, the writers used **For instance**, **Furthermore**, and **In addition** as equal to 2 times. The writers from the Nation used **And** at most 488 times (95.49%) and they used **Furthermore**, **In addition**, **For example** as respectively. But the writers used **For example** and **Moreover** as equal to 3 times. **For instance** was used at least 2 times (0.39%).

**Table 3. IDM – the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

Inferential Discourse Markers	The Bangkok Post		The Nation	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. As a result	6	42.86	9	27.27
2. Because	6	42.86	12	36.36
3. Because of	2	14.28	1	3.03
4. So	0	0	4	12.12
5. Therefore	0	0	4	12.12
6. Thus	0	0	3	9.10
Total	14	100	33	100

Table 3 IDM shows the writers from the Bangkok Post used **As a result** and **Because** at most 6 times (42.86%) and they used **Because of** as 2 times (14.28%) only. **So**, **Therefore**, and **Thus** are not met. The writers from the Nation used **Because** at most 12 times (36.36%) and they used **As a result**, **So**, **Thus** as respectively. But the writers used **So** and **Therefore** as equal to 4 times (12.12%).

2. To answer the second objective reported by three types of discourse markers as follows;

2.1) As the analysis of function used CDMs in the Bangkok Post:

The writers of the Bangkok Post used the CDMs in their topics in online newspapers. Contrastive Discourse Markers (CDMs) are, such as **Although**, **But**, **However**, **Nevertheless**, **On the other hand**, and **Though**. All samples from **Extract 1** to **Extract 11** come from Appendix – The Bangkok Post.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post may put **Although**, **But**, and **On the other hand** at the beginning position of the sentence and sometimes put at the connecting position between the prior sentence and the last sentence. **However** and **Nevertheless** may be frequently put at the beginning position of the sentence. **Though** maybe frequently put at the connecting position between the prior sentence and the last sentence.

For example,

**Ex.1:** We expect the number of flights to return to normal next year. **Although** the Move Forward Party wants to introduce zero-based budgeting for the next fiscal year, he said the TAT is unfazed by this change. (Extract 1)

**Ex.2:** The Move Forward-led coalition continues with preparations to form a government **but** it could face a setback if a ruling on media share ownership goes against Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat. (Extract 3)

**Ex.3:** It does not expect to make any major investments this year. **However**, Lion Corporation remains confident in its sales growth projection of 5% to reach 18.9 billion baht this year. (Extract 5)

**Ex.4:** Prospects for a new Ukrainian offensive notwithstanding, the war has lately taken a back seat to global economic conditions. **Nevertheless**, any moves towards a peaceful settlement could provide support. (Extract 7)

**Ex.5:** Among other currencies, the Chinese yuan and the Malaysian ringgit weakened 0.5% and 0.1%, respectively. The Indonesian rupiah and Indian rupee, **on the other hand**, rose 0.4% and 0.1%, respectively. (Extract 8)

**Ex.6:** Consumer confidence remains tepid following the pandemic, **though** consumer spending on instant noodles has improved since the second half of 2022. (Extract 10)

From **Ex.1** – **Ex.6** as samples of CDMs, the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post aimed to create two contrastive sentences by using DMs, such as **Although**, **But**, **However**, **Nevertheless**, **On the other hand**, and **Though** in the contrastive way as possible as effectively.

2.2) As the analysis of function used EDMs in the Bangkok Post:

The writers of the Bangkok Post used the EDMs in their topics in online newspapers. Elaborative Discourse Markers (EDMs) are, such as **And**, **For example**, **For instance**, **Furthermore**, **Nevertheless**, **In addition**, and **Moreover**. The selected samples from **Extract 12** to **Extract 23** come from Appendix – The Bangkok Post.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post may put **For example**, **For instance**, **Furthermore**, **In addition**, and **Moreover** at the beginning position of the sentence. **And** maybe frequently put on the function of connecting position between word phrases as effectively.

**Ex.7:** More than 120 BIE member states are expected to cast votes for the host country of the Specialised Expo 2028 after Phuket **and** other four contenders. (Extract 12)

**Ex.8: For example**, the price of pork is on a downward trend and is currently lower than the benchmark price by about 40 baht per kilogramme, or 20%, averaging 145 baht per kg. (Extract 14)

**Ex.9:** The prices of agricultural products are in a very favourable range. **For instance**, the prices of all five types of rice are higher than the guaranteed prices provided by the government's income guarantee. (Extract 16)

**Ex.10: Furthermore**, the store includes merchandise sales zones and an artificial intelligence booth from Line Webtoon, offering interactive entertainment for customers. (Extract 19)

**Ex.11:** External demand is slowing given the deep decline in the MPI and moderate fall in the value of exports. **In addition**, other central banks in the region have started to pause rate hikes. (Extract 20)

**Ex.12:** A Thai export recovery is likely to be slow. **Moreover**, political and policy uncertainty should result in an investment slowdown. (Extract 23)

From Extract 12 – Extract 23 as samples of EDMs, the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post aimed to augment more information by connecting two sentences with the connecting words, such as **And**, **For example**, **For instance**, **Furthermore**, **In addition**, and **Moreover** to support a prior sentence with a last sentence more reliably and more information as possible as effectively.

2.3) As the analysis of function used IDM in the Bangkok Post:

The writers of the Bangkok Post used the IDM in their topics in online newspapers. Inferential Discourse Markers (IDMs) are, such as **As a result**, **Because**, and **Because of**. This topic had nothing to use **So**, **Thus**, and **Therefore** used in the online newspapers from the selected samples of Bangkok Post. The selected samples from **Extract 24** to **Extract 29** come from Appendix – The Bangkok Post.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post may put **As a result** at the beginning position of the sentence and put at the rear of a sentence to fulfil the whole sentence completely. **Because** maybe put at the connecting position between sentences. **Because of** maybe put at the connecting position between word phrases as effectively.

**Ex.13: As a result**, when the loan interest rate is increased by 0.25%, there is no need to increase the monthly payment. (Extract 24)

**Ex.14:** Rising interest rates affect new housing loan demand as homebuyers have low purchasing power **because** inflation is pushing up living costs. (Extract 26)

**Ex.15:** Inflation in Thailand is expected to increase by only 0.5% year-on-year in May, the lowest in ASEAN, **because of** a decline in the prices of fresh food such as pork and chicken. (Extract 28)

From **Extract 24** – **Extract 29** as samples of IDM, the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post aimed to give a reason by connecting two sentences with the connecting words, such as **As a result**, **Because**, and **Because of** to show the sentence as something like a logic followed the prior sentence as possible as effectively.

2.4) As the analysis of function used CDM in the Nation:

The writers of the Nation used the CDM in their topics in online newspapers. Contrastive Discourse Markers (CDMs) are, such as **Although**, **But**, **However**, **Nevertheless**, and **On the other hand**. This topic had nothing to use **Though** used in the online newspapers from the selected samples of the Nation. The selected samples from **Extract 30** to **Extract 37** come from Appendix – The Nation.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Nation may put **Although, However, Nevertheless, and On the other hand** at the beginning position of the sentence. **But** may be put at the connecting position between the prior sentence and the last sentence.

**Ex.16:** **Although** the economy has demonstrated consistent signs of recovery, the progress has been unevenly distributed across sectors due to increased production costs and the upward trend in interest rates, potentially affecting borrowers' ability to service their loans. (Extract 30)

**Ex.17:** Loan quality showed a slight improvement compared to the end of 2022, **but** non-performing loans (NPLs) still accounted for 2.7% of the total. (Extract 32)

**Ex.18:** **However**, it represented a significant improvement from a core loss of 3.7 billion baht in the first quarter of 2022 due to improved operational performance in Europe and Latin America, Thailand, and Australia. (Extract 34)

**Ex.19:** **Nevertheless**, the SET index is expected to fluctuate within the range of 1,540 to 1,575 points this week. (Extract 36)

**Ex.20:** **On the other hand**, housing loans and business operations have a much lower proportion at only 4%. (Extract 37)

2.5) As the analysis of function used EDMs in the Nation:

The writers of the Nation used the EDMs in their topics in online newspapers. Elaborative Discourse Markers (EDMs) are, such as **And, For example, For instance, Furthermore, In addition, and Moreover**. The selected samples from **Extract 38** to **Extract 49** come from Appendix – The Nation.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Nation may put **For example, For instance, Furthermore, In addition, and Moreover** at the beginning position of the sentence. **And** maybe frequently put on the connecting position between word phrases as effectively.

**Ex.21:** Sustainable packaging **and** green technology are some of the key highlights at the 30<sup>th</sup> “ProPak Asia 2023”. (Extract 38)

**Ex.22:** **For example**, Khon Kaen in the northeastern province [of the same name] may be the cheapest city to visit, but its dinosaur museum is a rare treasure worth promoting to attract international tourists, especially families. (Extract 40)

**Ex.23:** **For instance**, artificial intelligence (AI) firms are expected to perform better than solar panel companies. (Extract 42)

**Ex.24:** **Furthermore**, the Digital Council of Thailand aims to increase the proportion of individuals with digital skills at various levels. (Extract 44)

**Ex.25:** **In addition**, EXIM Bank has received the Best Green Bond award in the Financial Institution category from The Asset Triple A Awards 2022, organized by The Asset, a leading Asian financial magazine. (Extract 46)

**Ex.26:** **Moreover**, Indonesia has set its sights on becoming a hub for electric vehicle battery production, utilising its abundant resources, particularly nickel, a crucial raw material for lithium-ion batteries. (Extract 48)

From **Extract 38 – Extract 49** as samples of EDMs, the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post aimed to add more information by connecting two sentences with the connecting words, such as **And, For example, For instance, Furthermore, In addition, and Moreover** to show giving details as possible as usefully.

2.6) As the analysis of function used IDMs in the Nation:

The writers of the Nation used the IDMs in their topics in online newspapers. Inferential Discourse Markers (IDMs) are, such as **As a result, Because, Because of, So, Thus, and Therefore** used in the online newspapers from the selected samples of the Nation. The selected samples from **Extract 50** to **Extract 60** come from Appendix – The Nation.

It showed that the authors (or writers) of the Nation may put **As a result** at the beginning position of the sentence. **Because, Because of, So, and Thus** may put at the connecting position between sentences or between a sentence and a word phrase. **Therefore** may be put at the beginning position of the sentence and sometimes put at the connecting position between sentences or between a sentence and word phrases as effectively.

**Ex.27:** As a result, in order to effect real change under the ESG model, we [ttb] must act as an intermediary, empowering businesses to achieve their sustainability goals. (Extract 50)

**Ex.28:** Agoda customers will be able to cancel their reservations **because** the platform will use its backend technology to find the right replacement for their cancelled room. (Extract 53)

**Ex.29:** The production plans of nine car manufacturers (Nissan, Honda, Suzuki, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Ford, Mazda, MG, and VW), which produce hybrid plug-in electric vehicles, have been disrupted **because of** global chip shortages over the past 2-3 years caused by shutdowns of major automobile chip-making factories during the Covid-19 crisis. (Extract 54)

**Ex.30:** There has long been a lack of skilled labour in the hotel industry, **so** we saw an urgent need to build that labour through academic expertise. (Extract 55)

**Ex.31:** Previously, 70% of Pruksa Real Estate's portfolio comprised houses and condos priced below 3 million baht. **Therefore**, they have shifted their attention to lower-tier real estate properties. (Extract 57)

**Ex.32:** Minor has also partnered with Swiss hospitality school Les Roches to set up the Asian Institute of Hospitality Management (AIHM) to train a skilled and talented workforce for the hospitality industry and **thus** end the labour shortage problem. (Extract 59)

From **Extract 50 – Extract 60** as samples of IDMs, the authors (or writers) of the Bangkok Post aimed to give a reason by connecting two sentences with the connecting words, such as **As a result, Because, Because of, So, Therefore, and Thus** to show the sentence as something like a logic followed the prior sentence as possible as effectively.

3) As answering the 3<sup>rd</sup> Objective: To compare the use of discourse markers used in the business section of two Thai online newspapers

**Table 3.1 The comparison of using CDMs between the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

No.	Newspaper Name	The Frequency of CDMs (times)
1	The Bangkok Post	62
2	The Nation	62

The frequency of CDMs used in the Bangkok Post was a total of 62 times. On the other hand, the frequency of CDMs used in the Nation was a total of 62 times. Therefore, the comparison was an equal frequency of using CDMs in both the Bangkok Post and the Nation.

**Table 3.2 The comparison of using EDMs between the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

No.	Newspaper Name	The Frequency of EDMs (times)
1	The Bangkok Post	553
2	The Nation	511

The frequency of EDMs used in the Bangkok Post was a total of 553 times. On the other hand, the frequency of EDMs used in the Nation was a total of 511 times. Therefore, the comparison was not equal, the frequency of using EDMs in the Bangkok Post was higher than using EDMs in the Nation.

**Table 3.3 The comparison of using IDM s between the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

No.	Newspaper Name	The Frequency of IDM s (times)
1	The Bangkok Post	14
2	The Nation	33

The frequency of IDM s used in the Bangkok Post was a total of 14 times. On the other hand, the frequency of IDM s used in the Nation was a total of 33 times. Therefore, the comparison was not equal, the frequency of using IDM s in the Nation was higher than using IDM s in the Bangkok Post.

## Discussion

According to the four previous research of Tikhamp (2022 : 50-66), Choemue and Bram (2021 : 1209), Ali and Mahadin (2016 : 23-35), and Sharndama and Yakubu (2013 : 15-24), they were summarized that discourse markers by Fraser 2009 are instruments to acquire the recognition of discourse markers may create a written work as possible as effectively and elaborative discourse markers may be used the most when comparing with contrastive discourse markers and inferential discourse markers.

The discussion of this research may follow as details below;

1. The frequency of using EDMs both the Bangkok Post and the Nation may be used the most, using CDMs, and using IDM s may be followed, respectively.
2. The use of each discourse marker in both the Bangkok Post and the Nation may be clear to arrange discourse markers in sentences in accurate way of function.
3. In fact, the writers of both the Bangkok Post and the Nation used EDMs as main discourse markers to create the details of news for communicating to readers. That mentioned that the writers may try to show the reason for using EDMs in terms of explaining or giving more details more deeply and clearly as much as possible. So, using CDMs and IDM s may be less than using EDMs respectively. Therefore, it may reflect the main idea of the writers creating the truth news under being a transmitter of the truth story and it is not brought their own ideas to conclude or judge something before writing the news story. Why the number of using IDM s may be the least in the results of the study.

The accurate way of using CDMs written by the writers of the Bangkok Post and the Nation. For example,

**Extract 2:** The MPC raised its rate, **although** the global economy is showing signs of a slowdown, while Thai export value fell moderately in April and the manufacturing production index (MPI) fell steeply. (The Bangkok Post)

**Extract 31:** **Although** this isn't necessarily an example of a traditional merger or acquisition, it captures the positive potential of this broadened vision of M&A. (The Nation)

**Extract 2** and **Extract 31** can give an idea to create a professional sentence a lot inspired by the authors from two famous online newspapers; the Bangkok Post and the Nation. It may ensure to express the CDMs in a contrastive way between the prior sentence and the last sentence connected by CDMs. If the prior sentence as a good vibe may start first, then put the CDM in front of the last sentence. Or if the prior sentence as a bad vibe may be put CDMs before, then may follow with the last sentence as a good vibe.

The accurate way of using EDMs written by the writers of the Bangkok Post and the Nation. For example,

**Extract 18:** The fast-food chain has introduced a promotional set aimed at children called "King Jr", priced at just 99 baht. **Furthermore**, the company has organised activities that allow all customers to immerse themselves. (The Bangkok Post)

**Extract 44:** **Furthermore**, the Digital Council of Thailand aims to increase the proportion of individuals with digital skills at various levels. (The Nation)

**Extract 18** and **Extract 44** can give an idea to create a professional sentence a lot inspired by the authors from two famous online newspapers; the Bangkok Post and the Nation. It may ensure to express the EDMs for supporting or giving much more details to complete a whole sentence added by EDMs connectors.

The accurate way of using IDM<sup>s</sup> written by the writers of the Bangkok Post and the Nation. For example,

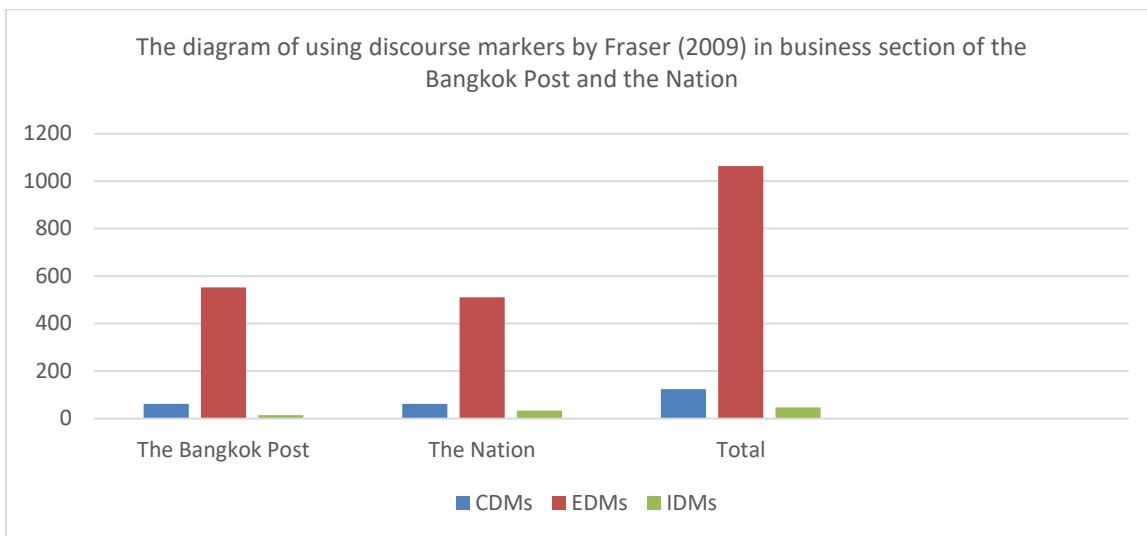
**Extract 24:** **As a result**, when the loan interest rate is increased by 0.25%, there is no need to increase the monthly payment. (The Bangkok Post)

**Extract 51:** China is investing over US\$1.4 trillion in new technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence. **As a result**, the China A-share market is a tidal wave of opportunities that could trigger the investment shift of a lifetime. (The Nation)

**Extract 44** and **Extract 51** can give an idea to create a professional sentence a lot inspired by the authors from two famous online newspapers, the Bangkok Post and the Nation. It may ensure to express the IDM<sup>s</sup> in a summative way to refer to a reason from the prior sentence that may affect to the explanation of the last sentence by putting IDM<sup>s</sup> in front of the last sentence.

The comparison of using CDMs-EDMs-IDM<sup>s</sup> between the Bangkok Post and the Nation may be quite a bit different. The number of using EDMs in the Bangkok Post may be higher than using EDMs in the Nation and the EDMs may be used most by the authors of both the Bangkok Post and the Nation. It showed that the ideas of the authors of both the Bangkok Post and the Nation try to present more details as deeply and clearly rather than giving a conclusion judged by their own ideas.

The diagram of using discourse markers by Fraser 2009 in the Bangkok Post and the Nation is shown as below;



### **The diagram of using discourse markers by Fraser (2009) in business section of the Bangkok Post and the Nation**

The diagram above may be shown the most frequency of using discourse markers by Fraser (2009 : 293-320) as Elaborative Discourse Markers (EDMs) as 553 times from the Bangkok Post and 511 times from the Nation, Contrastive Discourse Markers (CDMs) as 62 times from the Bangkok Post as equal to the Nation, and Inferential Discourse Markers (IDMs) as 14 times from the Bangkok Post and 33 times from the Nation.

The discussion of this study may agree with the four previous research mentioned-above, it is important to improve writing skills by using discourse markers of Fraser 2009, efficiently. Inferential discourse markers may be used less in online newspapers because they may use real details by conducting elaborative discourse markers at most and followed by contrastive discourse markers. On the other hand, writers in online newspapers may avoid showing the conclusion on their own because of concern about pointing out the presentation of online newspapers as to whether that news is true or not. The moral and ethics of writers are essential to presenting online newspapers on each topic.

## **Recommendation**

### **Suggestions for further studies**

These recommendations will be beneficial to English teachers, course developers, instructors, researchers, English writers, English interpreters, and students who may be interested to implement themselves by conducting discourse markers to improve writing skills in the classroom.

1. Writing skills and reading skills should be developed for further study.
2. The questionnaire and interviews should be combined in further study.
3. Discourse markers by Fraser 2009 should be implemented in ESP focusing on writing skills.

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