

Les expressions métadiscursives dans les contes acadiens de tradition orale

Metadiscursive expressions in Acadian folktales

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Abstract: Our paper deals with the metadiscursive expressions based on the French verb *dire*, such as *je vas dire*, *on va dire* [subject (+ semi-auxiliary) + *dire*], in a corpus of Acadian folktales. In a corpus-driven approach, the syntactic configurations that underlie pragmaticalization and the emergence of discourse markers are studied. The examination of their pragmatic values leads to the conclusion that specific enunciative mechanisms can be identified in the art of storytelling: the markers based on *dire* possess linguistic features that allow the storyteller to perform, to represent his/her enunciation. The configuration of *on va dire* makes it a particularly suitable marker for the story specific enunciation. If this marker indicates a non-commitment from the enunciator, it is for a consensual purpose. This is a particular enunciation, in which the enunciator, in search of connivance, tries to make the co-enunciator share the commitment.

Key words: metadiscourse marker, *dire*, Acadian folktale, pragmaticalization, non-commitment, *on va dire*.