

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to determine whether study abroad has an effect on the frequency of discourse markers in speech of advanced learners of English. The data used for the analysis are interviews with ten advanced learners of English conducted before and after studying abroad in an English-speaking country for one or two semesters. 1,228 discourse markers were identified and tagged. The research revealed that nine out of ten speakers increased their use of discourse markers post-SA, although this increase was only significant for four of them. The most frequently used discourse markers both before and after the SA were *like* and *so*. Apart from these two markers, *you know* has experienced the highest increase in frequency post-SA. The thesis also examined locational distribution of markers *well* and *so* within an utterance, but did not find any significant changes post-SA. The analysis of individual speakers' recordings proved that apart from changes in frequency, variety of the DMs also changed for most of the students, which suggests their speech was influenced by the study stay abroad.

**Keywords:** discourse markers, learner language, study abroad