CHAPTER FOUR

‘WELL I WILL NOW PRESENT MY ARGUMENTS’. DISCOURSE COHESION MARKED BY ΟΥΝ AND ΤΟΙΝΥΝ IN LYSIAS

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1. Introduction

Nowadays it is generally agreed that (connective) particles play an important role in marking the transition from one discourse unit to another and in signalling hierarchical relations between the discourse units in question. Thus, in the speeches of Lysias we often find at the end of the proem an announcement of the speaker that he is going to tell what has happened (in the narrative section of the speech). In the sentence announcing the narrative, various connective particles are found, e.g. τοίνυν (example 1), οὖν (example 2), and δέ (example 3). The first sentences of the narratives in Lysias appear to be nearly always marked by γάρ (examples 1 and 2), but sometimes we find an asyndeton (example 3).

(1) ἐγὼ τοίνυν ἐξ ἀρχῆς ύμῖν ἅπαντα ἐπιδεῖξω τὰ ἐμαυτοῦ πράγματα, οὐδὲν παραλείπων, ἀλλὰ λέγων τἀληθῆ· ταύτην γὰρ ἐμαυτῷ μόνην ἡγοῦμαι σωτηρίαν, ἐὰν υμῖν εἰπεῖν ἄπαντα δυνηθῶ τὰ πεπραγμένα. ἐγὼ γάρ, ὦ Ἀθηναῖοι, ἐπειδὴ ἔδοξέ μοι γῆμαι καὶ γυναῖκα ἠγαγόμην εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν, τόν μὲν ἄλλον χρόνον οὕτω διεκείμην ὡστε (…).

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2 The occurrence of γάρ in these contexts may be explained as follows: γάρ being explanatory, i.e. providing answers to possible questions raised by the speaker’s utterances, may be said to explicitly answer the question how the speaker will make good the promises or announcements he has made in the proem of his speech. In example (1) γάρ introduces an embedded narrative consisting of a rather large text unit (Lys. 1.6–27). See e.g. Sicking & van Ophuijsen (1993: 23); De Jong (1997: 182).
Well, I shall therefore set forth to you the whole of my story from the beginning; I shall omit nothing, but will tell the truth. For I consider that my own sole deliverance rests on my telling you, if I am able, the whole of what has occurred. When I, Athenians, decided to marry, and brought a wife into my house, for some time I was in such a way that (…). (Lys. 1.5–6)

(2) Many people are surprised because of my accusing the corn-dealers, and they tell me that they consider those who accuse them as slanderers.

ὅθεν οὖν ἠνάγκασμαι κατηγορεῖν αὐτῶν, περὶ τούτων πρῶτον εἰπεῖν βούλομαι. ἐπειδή γάρ οἱ πρυτάνεις ἀπέδοσαν εἰς τὴν βουλὴν περὶ αὐτῶν, (…).

I therefore propose to speak first of the grounds on which I have found it necessary to accuse them. When the Committee of the time brought up their case before the Council, (…). (Lys. 22.1–2)

(3) δόμως δὲ πειράσομαι ὑμᾶς ἐξ ἀρχῆς ὡς ἂν δύνωμαι δι’ ἐλαχίστων διδάξαι.

οὑμὸς πατὴρ Κέφαλος ἐπείσθη (…).

Nevertheless I will try to inform you of the matter from the beginning, as briefly as I can. My father Cephalus was induced (…). (Lys. 12.3–4)

In this article I want to study in more detail the function of the particles οὖν and τοίνυν, which are often used in seemingly similar contexts. I will do so in one homogeneous corpus, the forensic speeches of Lysias, hoping that a better understanding of the ways in which one author deals with these particles and, consequently, with discourse cohesion, may further our knowledge about discourse cohesion in general. The main questions I want to investigate are the following:

• What exactly is conveyed by the particles in question? What is the exact contribution of these particles to the discourse cohesion?
• Given the fact that both connectors in the traditional syntactic sense (i.e. coordinating conjunctions such as δέ) are found in between discourse units, as well as connective particles (οὖν and τοίνυν), one