

## A pragmatic construction of two constructions: A corpus-based case study on *just because*

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In the realm of prescriptive grammar, noun clauses (i.e., the nominal structure; henceforth NS) have three forms of initiatives in the canonical system (Quirk *et al*, 1985): 1) *that*, 2) *wh-*, and 3) *if/whether*. Yet a relatively recent emergence of an NS form of a non-canonical system proposed by Hirose (1991) has been widely and frequently used: [*Just because* the data satisfy our expectations]<sub>SUBJ</sub> does not mean they are correct. Instead of using *that* to initiate an NS (i.e., [*That* the data satisfy your expectations]<sub>SUBJ</sub> does not mean they are correct.) or leaving *because* as an adverbial conjunction and using an *it* as the subject of the sentence (i.e., [*Just because* the data satisfy your expectations], *it* doesn't mean they are correct.), the sentence pattern *just because...doesn't mean...*, henceforth JB-X DM-Y (Bender & Kathol, 2001), has gained its NS position despite the role of *because* as an adverbial adjunct (Hirose 1991, and Hilpert 2007). The semantic properties and the constructions of *just* and *because* have been well investigated (For *just*, see Quirk *et al* 1988, Tobin 1995 and Hoye 1997; for *because*, see Jespersen 1949 and Bender *et al* 2001.); however, the construction *just because* (henceforth *JB*) as a whole has yet to be addressed.

The present study, based on the British National Corpus (BNC) and the JB-X DM-Y structure and its syntactic properties as well as its semantic properties, aims to 1) shed light on the probable underlying constituents of how the JB-X structure was nominalized and grammaticalized, and further came into being, and 2) investigate the pragmatics in use — the truncated *JB* structure — to see how *JB* can function in discourse as a discourse marker.

### References

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