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

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Keywords: just, because, just because, grammaticalization, truncation, discourse marker

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]SUBJ does not mean they are correct. Instead of using that to initiate an NS (i.e., [That the data satisfy your expectations]SUBJ 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-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 I can function in discourse as a discourse marker.

References
Hirose, Y. 1991. ‘On a certain nominal use of because-clause: Just because because-clause substitute for that-clause does not mean that this is always possible.’ English Linguistics 8, pp. 16-33.
Hilpert, M. 2007. ‘Just because it’s new doesn’t mean people will notice it.’ English Today 23, pp. 29-33.