ABSTRACT: The article presents a semantic analysis of a group of Russian and French expressions formed with the speech verbs dire (French) / skazat’ (Russian): disons – skažem, pour ainsi dire – tak skazat’. In spite of formal similarities (the equivalent verb in the same form), these expressions (called in the article discourse markers of dire - les mots du discours du dire) are used in quite different contexts. Three problems are discussed: 1. properties of discourse markers of dire compared to the properties of other discourse markers (called “classical”); 2. the semantics of the verbs dire / skazat’ that is in the basis of the semantics of discourse markers and of its differences; 3. the semantics and contextual properties of use of two couples of discourse markers: disons – skažem (Verb 1 pers.pl), pour ainsi dire – tak skazat’ (Prep. + adverb + verb inf.).

The whole analysis is based on the théorie de l’énonciation of A.Culioli. The semantico-contextual approach presented in the article was worked out in the frame of the Russian-French project of the description of discourse markers.