Jolanta Šinkūnienė
Vilnius University

Greičiausiai, tikriausiai, veikiausiai: linguistic profile, distribution and patterns of use in different text types in Lithuanian

The study focuses on the three adverbs frequently defined as each other’s synonyms (Lyberis 2002, DLKŽe, LKŽe), their semantic properties and distribution in three distinct text types: academic, news and fiction. The paper also attempts to cast light on the semantic diversity of greičiausiai, tikriausiai, veikiausiai employing translations of fiction texts into English and Lithuanian and exploring the translation correspondences of the three adverbs. The analysis is based on several corpora: the Corpus Academicum Lithuanicium (CorALit) representing 5 different science areas, news and fiction sections of the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language (CCLL), the parallel corpus ParaCorpELT (Usonienė, Šolienė 2010) (original Lithuanian fiction texts and their translations into English) and the parallel corpus compiled at the Center of Computational Linguistics at Vytautas Magnus university (original English texts and their translations into Lithuanian).

Contrastive corpus based methodology employed in this study allows for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the three adverbs. The translation corpora are a good supplement for the decoding of the meaning of linguistic items as „translators, through the linguistic choices they make, inadvertently supply evidence of the meanings of the forms they are receiving and producing“ (Noël 2002: 155).

Despite apparent semantic and pragmatic similarities of the three adverbs, their distributional frequencies are different. A distinctive feature of greičiausiai is that it retains its quite frequent use as a manner adverb alongside its modal meaning. The findings of the study are interpreted in the light of epistemic modality category, pragmatic hedging function and (inter)subjectivity (Traugott 2003, 2010) dimension.

References:


