

Parallel corpus - a tool for diagnosing multifunctionality across languages: ACTUALLY, NATURALLY and IN FACT vs. their correspondences in Lithuanian

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The concept of multifunctionality has become inseparable from the analysis of discourse markers, pragmatic markers, modal particles and stance adverbials. Quite frequently and successfully the evasive semantic and pragmatic nature of those linguistic items is highlighted with the help of contrastive analysis based on parallel translation corpora (Aijmer & Simon-Vandenberg 2003, Aijmer 2007, Johansson 2007, inter alia). Speaking in favour of “translation method”, Aijmer et al. (2006: 113) convincingly argue that it can ultimately provide “insights into the question of multifunctionality and how it relates to semantic and pragmatic polysemy” and emphasize the need for more empirical work in different languages (ibid.).

This paper attempts to contribute to the existing literature on the broad range of semantic and pragmatic properties of *actually*, *naturally* and *in fact* (Aijmer 2002, Aijmer & Simon-Vandenberg 2007, Grossmann & Wirth 2007, Mortier & Degand 2009, Defour et al. 2010) as based on contrast to their key correspondences in Lithuanian. Consider the following examples for illustration:

- (1) EN-orig: *He was angry, **naturally**, that I was giving up.*
LT-trans: ***Žinoma**, jis siuto, kad pasiduodu.*
Lit. ‘**Certainly**, he was angry that I was giving up.’
- (2) EN-orig: *She was very strict, like most of the teachers, and **naturally** we were afraid of making mistakes.*
LT-trans: *Ji, kaip visos mokytojos, buvo labai griežta ir, **aišku**, mes bijodavome suklysti.*
Lit. ‘She, like all teachers, was very strict and, **clearly**, we were afraid of making mistakes’.

One of the tasks is to establish the dominant function of the expressions under analysis as well as to draw their semantic profile within the categories of epistemic modality and evidentiality. The study employs two types of corpora: a self-compiled bidirectional parallel corpus ParaCorp-EN \leftrightarrow LT (Usoniene & Soliene 2012) which consists of fictional texts (about 5 million words), and CorALit (Corpus Academicum Lithuanicum), which is comprised of various academic texts in five science fields (about 9 million words). Academic discourse provides perfect empirical grounds to define pragmatic functions of Lithuanian correspondences of the markers under study and, combined with the fictional corpus, to arrive at the description of their full functional potential.

The results do not only confirm the semantic and pragmatic multifunctionality of the markers under study in both languages but also point towards cases of language specific conceptualization and

functional diversity, which irrevocably demonstrate the efficiency of the parallel-corpus-based analysis.

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