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The Epistemicity of English LIKELY, Lithuanian PANASU and Polish PODOBNO in Academic Discourse

The present study examines morphosyntactic properties and functional distribution of the English adjective likely, the Lithuanian neuter adjective panašu and the Polish particle podobno, which etymologically derive from the field of comparison. The aim of the study is to explore how markers of similar etymology relate to the category of Epistemicity, namely Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality (Boye 2010) in academic discourse. The data have been collected from the academic sub-corpus of the British National Corpus, the Corpus of Academic Lithuanian and the sub-corpus of scientific-didactic literature of the National Corpus of Polish.

The study looks at the cross-linguistic nuances of meaning of the markers under consideration and discusses links between their present and initial functions (Nevalainen 2004). Likely expresses strong probability, panašu marks the author’s inferences drawn from perceptual and/or conceptual evidence and podobno relates to hearsay. However, sub-categorial cross-cuts have been observed in the use of the adjectives likely and panašu. Likely can express probability based on scientific evidence and facts (Bamford 2005), while panašu displays an overlap with the meaning of epistemic uncertainty. Functional differences of the markers can be attributed to their different morphosyntactic properties, namely types of complement clauses they subordinate, their scope and position in the clause.

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Modal Verbs of Necessity in Academic Lithuanian, English and Dutch: Epistemicity and/or Evidentiality?

In this paper, we conduct a contrastive study of the modal verbs of necessity in CorAlit (www.coralit.lt), a corpus of academic texts in Lithuanian (Usioniene et al. 2011), a comparable corpus of English (based on Davies 2008) and a comparable corpus of Dutch (our own compilation). The markers under investigation are turëti ‘to have’, must and moeten. In the first part, we compare the frequency and the usage (in terms of the semantic map of van der Auwera & Plungian 1998) of these verbs to check whether earlier, more general findings (Mortelmans 2010, Šoliënė forthcoming among others) extend to academic discourse. The questions that we want to answer include: is must less frequent and more typically non-epistemic than moeten, does Lithuanian as compared to English and Dutch use fewer modal verbs and are there any differences between disciplines (see Hyland 2008)? In the second part, we focus on the epistemic and/or evidential uses of these modal verbs. Academic discourse provides the perfect empirical basis to weigh in on the debate about “evaluative” must versus “purely evidential” moeten (see De Haan 2001 but compare Cornillie 2009) and on the epistemic (Holvoet 2009) or also evidential status of turëti ‘to have’.

Ivana TRBOJEVIĆ (University of Belgrade, RS)

Evidentiality as a Degree of Epistemic Stance? Some Evidence from English and Serbian Press

The paper attempts at circumventing the on-going dispute whether evidentiality is a category in its own right, whose primary meaning is marking of source information, or can rather be subsumed under epistemic modality. By adopting a broad and comprehensive framework of discourse modality and focusing in particular on the pragmatic and interactional functions of modality, the paper looks into a number of linguistic forms indicating propositional, illocutionary and lexical commitment and/or detachment from the truth of the utterance, using for this purpose a corpus consisting of interviews published in quality dailies and weeklies in English and Serbian.

The linguistic forms investigated in the paper are taken to be expressions of interactants’ epistemic stance, spanning a value-range from full commitment to full detachment. Within the framework of