

## On inferential and reportative evidential markers in Lithuanian newspaper discourse

The studies into the category of evidentiality in European languages have disclosed the use of evidential markers in a number of discourse types, namely academic (Grossmann, Tutin 2010), spoken (Cornillie 2010) and newspaper (Bednarek 2006; Hidalgo 2006; Marín 2006; Martínez 2006; Hennemann 2012). In Lithuanian, evidential markers have been primarily addressed intralinguistically and crosslinguistically in fiction and academic prose (van Olmen, Šinkūnienė 2012; Ruskan 2012; Usonienė forthcoming). In newspaper discourse, only individual inferential and reportative markers such as *matyt* 'evidently', *neva* 'as if', *esq* 'they say' have been analysed (Wiemer 2007; Wiemer 2010). The current study focuses on non-agreeing adjectives (*akivaizdu* 'evident', *aišku* 'clear'), verbs (*sakyti* 'say') that function as Complement-Taking-Predicates (CTPs) subordinating *that* clauses or parentheticals and adverbs (*akivaizdžiai* 'evidently', *tariamai* 'allegedly') used as sentence adverbials, for example:

- (1) LT: **Akivaizdu**, kad mes susigrąžinome rinkėjų pasitikėjimą.  
EN: 'It is **evident** that we have regained our voters' trust.'
- (2) LT: M.Mažvydo bibliotekai pabaigti, **sako**, reikia dar 10-20 mln. litų.  
EN: 'You need 10-20 mln LT, **they say**, to finish the renovation of M. Mažvydas library.'
- (3) LT: Milžiniška pinigų suma **tariamai** buvo paslėpta krepšyje tarp maišelių su maisto produktais.  
EN: 'A large sum of money was **allegedly** hidden in the basket with food.'

The goal of the study is to identify the evidential functions of the non-agreeing adjectives, verbs and adverbs under study and reveal their distribution in Lithuanian newspaper discourse. The study will explore the manifestations of the source (the author or third party) responsible for the proposition (Bednarek 2006: 639) and types of evidence (inferences and reports) that ground the proposition (Plungian 2001). The data have been obtained from the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language, namely from the subcorpus of central newspapers (<http://tekstynas.vdu.lt>). Since it is maintained that the context determines the functions of the evidential marker but not its form (Lampert, Lampert 2010), an attempt will be made to identify the contextual clues favouring the rise of evidential functions.

The preliminary results show that in Lithuanian newspaper discourse reports conveyed by specified third parties are the most frequent types of evidence. Although the author may distance himself/herself from personal evaluation of the proposition by providing reports made by third parties, his/her attitude towards the reported proposition can be expressed by the adverbial *tariamai* 'allegedly', which implies untrustworthy source and possibly false information. The adjectives *akivaizdu* 'evident', *aišku* 'clear' and adverbs *akivaizdžiai* 'evidently', *aiškiai* 'clearly' mark the author's inferences drawn from perceptual or conceptual evidence. However, in newspaper language these inferential markers frequently occur under the scope of reportative CTPs, which means that they are attributed to third parties and the author's perspective is withdrawn.

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