

## Evidential passive constructions in English and their equivalents in Lithuanian

Similarly to other European languages, in English and Lithuanian, evidential meanings are frequently expressed by lexical means, such as adjectives, sentence adverbs, complement taking predicates (CTPs), etc. (Simon-Vandenberg, Aijmer 2007; Lampert, Lampert 2010; Usonienė 2003, 2004; Wiemer 2007, 2010; Ruskan 2013). However, the two languages also display specific realizations of evidentiality, which will be explored in the present paper. The focus will be on the evidential constructions in English which consist of the passivized communication, perception or cognition verb taking the infinitival complement (Noël 2002) and their functional equivalents in Lithuanian based on participial CTPs, as in the examples below:

- (1) *He is Gary Johns, 27, who is **known to** visit north and east London, where he has friends and relatives.* (BNC)
  
- (2) *Žinoma, kad žmogaus organizme yra apie 1014 ląstelių.*  
'It is **known** that a human body is made up of about 1014 cells.' (CorALit)

The aim of the study is to compare functional distribution of the verbal markers under study in English and Lithuanian academic and journalistic discourse. The main parameters for analysis are syntactic properties, evidential functions and frequency of the markers. The study is corpus-based and the data have been collected from the sub-corpora of academic and newspaper registers in the British National Corpus (BNC), the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language (CCLL), the Corpus of Academic Lithuanian (CorALit) and the multilingual corpus *Europarl*.

The preliminary results of the study show that in terms of functional distribution, the verbal constructions in the two languages may express reports or inferences drawn from conceptual or perceptual evidence. However, in Lithuanian, individual participle-based CTPs show traces of adverbialization, reflected by complementizer omission, syntactic mobility, meaning of secondary predication and acquisition of pragmatic functions (Usonienė 2012; Usonienė, forthcoming). In English, the evidential passive constructions are also discursively secondary (Noël 2002), which is supported by the Lithuanian translations in the *Europarl* corpus, but they are not prone to functional extensions. These cross-linguistic functional differences may be motivated by the structural features of the markers. The evidential passive constructions in English represent “auxiliary-like function words” (Noël 2002, 141-146), while the Lithuanian participle-based CTPs take on the properties of sentence adverbials (Usonienė, forthcoming). Thus this study foregrounds language specific realizations of evidential content and their possibilities of functional extension.

## References

- Lampert, Günther, Martina Lampert. 2010. Where does evidentiality reside? Notes on (alleged) limiting cases: *seem* and *be like*. *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* 63 (4), 308–321.

- Noël, Dirk. 2002. *Believe-type matrix verbs and their complements: Corpus-based investigations of their functions in discourse* [PhD dissertation]. Gent University.
- Ruskan, Anna. 2013. *Nemorfologinio evidencialumo raiška ir turinys lietuvių kalboje: bevardės giminės būdvardžiai ir prieveiksmiai* [PhD dissertation]. Vilnius: Vilniaus universitetas.
- Simon-Vandenberghe, Anne-Marie, Karin Aijmer. 2007. *The semantic field of modal certainty. A corpus-based study of English adverbs*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Usonienė, Aurelija. 2003. Extension of meaning: Verbs of perception in English and Lithuanian. *Meaning through language contrast*. Jaszczolt, Katarzyna M., Ken Turner, eds. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company. 193–220.
- Usonienė, Aurelija. 2004. *Modalumas anglų ir lietuvių kalbose: forma ir reikšmė*. Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla.
- Usonienė, Aurelija. 2012. Komplementiniai predikatai ir jų multifunkcionalumas. *Darbai ir Dienos* (58), 223–232.
- Usonienė, Aurelija [forthcoming]. Non-morphological realizations of evidentiality: the case of parenthetical elements in Lithuanian. *Contemporary approaches to Baltic linguistics*. Arkadiev, Peter, Axel Holvoet, Björn Wiemer, eds. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Wiemer, Björn. 2007. Lexical markers of evidentiality in Lithuanian. *Rivista di Linguistica* 19 (1), 173–208.
- Wiemer, Björn. 2010a. Lithuanian *esq* – a heterosemic reportive marker in its contemporary stage. *Baltic Linguistics* 1, 245–308.