

On the polyfunctionality of evidential adverbials in Lithuanian

Evidential adverbials primarily refer to the author's source of information for the proposition. The latest intralinguistic and crosslinguistic studies into evidential adverbials in Germanic and Romance languages show that these markers may also acquire pragmatic functions (Simon-Vandenberg, Aijmer 2007; Cornillie 2010; Cornillie, Pietrandrea 2012; Rossari 2012). In Lithuanian, the potential for the polyfunctionality of evidential adverbials has been attested (Usonienė 2012; Usonienė, forthcoming; Ruskan 2013). However, more research is needed to look into the reasons for the functional variation of these adverbials. The present paper focuses on the evidential sentence adverbials *akivaizdžiai* 'evidently', *aiškiai* 'clearly', *ryškiai* 'visibly', which formally resemble the manner predication adverbials, and the adverbial *aišku* 'clearly, of course', which derives from the adjective-based complement taking predicate (CTP) clause. Consider the following pairs of examples:

(1) Evidential sentence adverbial

Šeimininkas akivaizdžiai suglumo.

'The host **evidently** became confused.'

Manner predication adverbial

Akivaizdžiai matau, kad esi neramus.

'I **evidently** see that you are worried.'

(2) Sentence adverbial

Klausimai, aišku, pašaipūs.

'The questions are **clearly** sarcastic.'

CTP clause

Jau aišku, kad j mokyklą šiandien neis.

'It is **clear** (ADJ. NAGR) that s/he is not going to school today.'

The aim of the paper is to find out which evidential adverbials under study that derive from the semantic domain of perception are prone to polyfunctionality in Lithuanian and which factors trigger this behaviour. The research is conducted applying a corpus-driven methodology and the data are obtained from the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language (<http://donelaitis.vdu.lt>), namely from the sub-corpus of fiction, and the Corpus of Academic Lithuanian (<http://www.coralit.lt/>).

The preliminary results of the study show that out of the four evidential adverbials considered, the adverbial *aišku* 'clearly, of course' turns out to be the most polyfunctional. Apart from its inferential evidential functions, it acquires interactional and textual functions (Brinton 2008). In contexts of common knowledge, especially in academic discourse, it signals interaction with the reader and links units of discourse. In fiction, the functional change of the marker is apparent in emotive contexts, where a speech act and its participants are emphasised. The loss of evidential functions correlates with the positional variability of the marker. It appears sentence initially, medially and finally. Despite the clear instances of the evidential and pragmatic uses of the adverbial *aišku* 'clearly, of course', it is not always easy to distinguish the two functions because they can be closely related (Wichmann, Simon-Vandenberg, Aijmer 2010). In contrast to the sentence adverbial *aišku* 'clearly, of course', the adverbials *akivaizdžiai* 'evidently', *aiškiai* 'clearly' and *ryškiai* 'visibly' primarily denote inferences drawn from perceptual and conceptual evidence. They do not reveal proneness to the acquisition of pragmatic functions but rather show functional ambiguity with the corresponding manner adverbials. Lack of polyfunctionality of these adverbials is compensated by the adverbials that come from verb-based and

adjective-based CTP clauses, which make up a common source of evidential and related functions in Lithuanian (Usonienė, forthcoming).

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