

Constructional schemas and the emergence of evidential meaning: The case of Hungarian and Finnish evidential adverbs

The category of Hungarian and Finnish modal and evidential expressions include series of deverbal adverbs, for example *tudhatóan* 'sg can be known', *köztudottan* 'generally, widely known', *feltehetőleg* 'presumably'; *tietääkseni* 'to my knowledge', *luullakseni* 'I suppose', *tieltävästi* 'as far as is known', *luultavasti* 'presumably'. These series illustrate the derivational and inflectional system characteristic of both languages: in addition to the verb stems, the different morphological constructions contribute to the emergence of evidential/inferential meaning of these lexemes. The paper focuses on the productive patterns of adverbs derived from cognition (e.g. 'know; suppose') and perception verbs (e.g. 'see').

Finnish:

Construction of shared access	V + passive present participle + adverbial suffix
	e.g. V 'see'
	<i>nähtävästi</i> 'evidently'
Construction of individual access	V + infinitive + translative + 1.sg. possessive suffix
	e.g. V 'see'
	<i>nähdäkseni</i> 'as far as I know'

Hungarian:

Schema of the most productive deverbal construction

Verb	-hAt	-O	-An/-lAg
MENTAL PROCESS (PERCEPTION, INFERENCE, OTHER KNOWLEDGE- RELATED PROCESS)	POTENTIALITY without grounding to the mental subject (tr) construing potentiality	CPTCP, simultaneous CHARACTERISTICS of a thing without grounding in time	adverbial suffix, MANNER → THE WAY OF CONCEPTUALIZATION
a thing (object (Im) or event in the target structure) can be conceptualized (without being anchored to the mental subject (tr)) as being V-ed; tr serves as subjectivized reference point			

Examples

semantic category	access	adverb	
evidentiality	shared (potential experience/knowledge)	<i>láthatóan</i> 'visibly'	<i>láthatólag</i> 'visibly'
		<i>tudhatóan</i> 'sg can be'	
	shared or individual		
epistemic-inferential modality	rather individual (potential, hypothetical situation)	<i>vélhetően</i> 'supposedly'	<i>vélhetőleg</i> 'supposedly'

Our analyses illustrates how the epistemic and evidential meanings of these adverbs evolve as an integration of the meaning of the verb and the derivational and inflectional schemas. These constructions differ in how the access to the knowledge is construed (shared, individual etc., cf. Squartini 2008). Important is also the subjectification/objectification of the speaker's point of view: whether the speaker as the subject of consciousness remains implicit in the background (subjectified), or is she construed on-stage, part of the immediate scope (objectivized) (cf. Langacker 2006, 2008, Pelyvás 1998, 2006).

Keywords: morphological constructions, epistemic access, evidentiality, intersubjectivity, subjectification, modal/evidential adverbs

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