

**Evidentiality and evidential extensions of epistemic modal expressions:
A cross-linguistic study**

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This paper examines the functions of evidential ‘seem’ and ‘parecer’ constructions, as well the evidential extensions of epistemic modal ‘must’ and its cognate modal verb ‘deber’. The paper focuses on the following research issues: (a) the degree to which certain evidential functions are associated with particular evidential constructions; (b) the meaning extensions of epistemic modals into the neighbouring evidential domain (Boye 2012; Wiemer 2010), and whether the ‘evidential’ function characteristic of ‘*must*’ in English is also found in the cognate modal in Spanish (De Haan 2009); (c) the extent to which these evidential and modal expressions reveal significant similarities or differences in certain semantic and distributional features in the two languages.

The conceptual domain of epistemicity comprises the subdomains of epistemic modality and evidentiality (Boye 2012). Epistemic modals pertain to the reality status of events; they involve the conceptualizer’s striving for control of relations at the level of reality and of control of conceptions of reality (Langacker 2009, 2013). Modals invoke different degrees of epistemic support regarding the realization of the event designated in a proposition. Evidentials primarily indicate the source of evidence (Aikhenvald 2004), and the epistemic justification on the basis of which the speaker/writer feels entitled to express a proposition (Boye 2012). The various parameters of evidentiality – speaker’s involvement, modes of access to the information, domains and sources of evidence – also yield different values of reliability of the evidence, and of hearers/readers’ potential acceptance of the validity of the information (Marín-Arrese 2011, 2013).

The paper presents results of a contrastive case study (English vs. Spanish). The data consists of naturally occurring examples of evidential and epistemic modal expressions, randomly selected from spoken and written corpora in the two languages (BNC, CORLEC-UAM, CESJD-UCM). The analysis of the data will focus on the evidential functions and subfunctions of these markers (inference based on perception, inference based on conceptual evidence, reportative evidence, etc.) in relation to the various constructions. The paper will also examine these evidential constructions and the evidential extensions of epistemic modal markers in relation to a set of features which include: evidential justification, scope, semantic restrictions, co-occurrence with other modal or evidential expressions, transparency and subjectivity/intersubjectivity.

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