
A non-epistemic-modal analysis of the “half modal” *scheinen* in German

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In this talk, I propose a non-epistemic-modal analysis of *scheinen* in German. While the use of typical epistemic modals like *können* (*might*) or *müssen* (*must*) is odd when the truth value of the prejacent is known to the evaluator, it is not the case with *scheinen*:

- (1) Die rechte Linie scheint kürzer zu sein als die linke,
the right line seems shorter to be than the left
aber das stimmt nicht.
but that is correct not
'The right line seems to be shorter than the left one, but that is not true.'
(Colomo 2011: 225)

What matters in the case above is the speaker's subjective impression evoked by the present situation rather than the truth or falsity of the prejacent. My proposal builds on McCready & Ogata's (2007) analysis of Japanese evidential markers in their adjectival use, which makes crucial use of stereotypical properties associated with properties denoted by their complement NPs. Analogously, the present analysis refers to stereotypical properties of situations associated with the prejacent. As a potential alternative to this analysis, Davis & Hara's (2014) causation-based approach to evidentials is examined. It is argued that the present proposal is more permissive than theirs in that the former can more naturally explain examples with embedded conditionals and futurates.

References: • Colomo, K. (2011): *Modalität im Verbalkomplex*. Dissertation. Ruhr-Universität Bochum. • Davis, C. & Hara, Y. (2014): Evidentiality as a Causal Relation: A Case Study from Japanese *youda*. In C. Piñón (ed.), *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics* 10, 179-196. CSSP, Paris. • McCready, E. & Ogata, N. (2007): Adjectives, stereotypicality, and comparison. *Natural Language Semantics* 15, 35-63.