Contextualization as a key concept for modelling evidentiality

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The central claim of the presentation is that in the on-going, dynamic process of contextualization, phenomena of natural epistemology (Givón 1982; Bednarek 2006), including evidentiality, can be described using comparative concepts of contextualization (Auer 2009, Tátrai 2022). In the operations of contextualization, the phenomena that shape the mental world of the participants in the discourse are linked, including the construal of evidentiality and epistemic modality (cf. Kugler 2014). The proposed functional cognitive approach to operational description is more flexible than the widespread a priori categorization, which requires a binary choice between categories for interconnected, inextricably linked phenomena, and is also able to implement language- and culture-specific features of construal into the description, along with the general semantic space of evidentiality. Since consultants usually provide contextual explanations of their linguistic behaviour (such as *I said this because we both heard it from our mother*), empirical data collected by field workers also fit in the contextualisation model.

1) Contextualization is inherently perspectival, as knowledge can be construed in discourse from the perspectives of the participants. Egophoricity (cf. Floyd et al. eds. 2018) is well related to the phenomenon of intersubjectivity and perspectivization (cf. Verhagen 2019).

2) Contextualization includes epistemic grounding, which allows the speech participants for the joint attention of the referential scene by linking its process and its figures to the ground of the discourse (cf. Brisard 2021; Langacker 2015). Epistemic grounding can efficiently deal with the „evidentials" and the most grammaticalized markers among them.

3) Contextualization, in addition to context-dependent sharing of knowledge, also allows the speaker to reflect on his/her own and his/her speech partner(s)' reflexive relation to the construing processes. The display of this reflexive relation is an indication of metapragmatic awareness (Verschueren 2000). Metapragmatic awareness is related to the referential scene, its construal and the factors of interaction, and, most importantly for evidentiality, to the organization of the mental world of discourse (Tátrai 2022). Reflexive contextualizers play an important role in the organization of the mental world of the discourse. The discursive alignment of the speech partners' mental functioning also provides an applicable factor for modelling engagement (cf. Bergqvist 2016; Evans et al. 2018).

The presentation illustrates the proposed modelling of phenomena 1) – 3) on Hungarian corpus data through the interpretation of the potentialis construction of the verb and the metapragmatic function of lexicalized markers.

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