

## On evidentiality and German "reportive" *sollen*

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Evidentiality, according to the definition given in Aikhenvald (2012: 4), is the "grammatical marking of how we know something – whether we saw it happen, or heard it, or smelt it, or inferred what was happening based on logical assumption, or on a result we can see, or just were told about it".

With regard to the Germanic languages, there is an ongoing debate as to whether these languages have a system of grammaticalised evidential markers ("evidentials"; cf. for example Diewald/Smirnova 2010). For German, studies like Diewald/Smirnova (2011) postulate an evidential system, made up by the constructions *werden* 'shall'/'will' & infinitive, *scheinen* 'seem', *versprechen* 'promise', *drohen* 'threaten' & *zu* 'to' & infinitive and the reportive *sollen* 'shall' & infinitive. In pursuance of this view, *werden*-, *scheinen*- and *sollen*-constructions like the following are evidentials: *Pia wird morgen nach Polen fliegen* 'Pia will fly to Poland tomorrow'; *Pia scheint jetzt in Polen zu sein* 'Pia seems to be in Poland now'; *Pia soll jetzt in Polen sein* 'Pia is said to be in Poland now'.

The paper will focus on the construction *sollen* & infinitive. Some authors (e.g. Diewald/Smirnova 2011; Diewald in print) have added this construction to the list of evidential markers only recently, whereas others have been regarding *sollen* & infinitive as an evidential for a considerable time already, e.g. de Haan (2001, 2005).

According to my hypothesis, this variant of *sollen* & infinitive is grammaticalised to a higher degree than presupposed in studies like Diewald/Smirnova (2011) and Diewald (in print). These studies consider the evidential *sollen* & infinitive as a so-called reportive, contrasting reportives with "quotatives", a category which includes markers like the present subjunctive ("Konjunktiv I"), which indicate reported speech (*Pia sagt, dass sie müde sei* 'Pia says that she is tired'). According to the two studies, quotatives imply origo shift from the actual to the quoted speaker, whereas reportives like *sollen* & infinitive, being less grammaticalised than quotatives, do not. Earlier studies (cf. Letnes 1997, 2008), however, back up the thesis that the evidential *sollen* & infinitive may replace the present subjunctive in certain contexts, cf. *Klaus sagt, der Motorradfahrer sei zu schnell gefahren* 'Klaus says that the motorcyclist has driven too fast' and *Klaus sagt, dass der Motorradfahrer zu schnell gefahren sein soll*. With reference to Letnes (2008), Diewald (in print) concedes that the ongoing grammaticalisation process could possibly lend *sollen* more quotative features, but announces at the same time that the results of an empirical examination (Diewald/Smirnova [in preparation]) do not unequivocally confirm such an assumption.

Against this background, the above thesis will be further discussed and evaluated. The evaluation will include a broader text based survey and feedback from German mother tongue informants.

### References

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