

## Modal Adverbs of Certainty in a Corpus-Based Study of EP Debates: Polish-English Perspective

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Modality has always aroused interest of researchers representing various scientific areas, including philosophy and linguistics (Simon-Vandenberg and Aijmer 2007: 1). It is concerned with an attitude towards the utterance the speaker expresses, i.e. through modal elements of language speakers reveal the degree up to which they are convinced about – or sure of – the truthfulness of what they want to communicate to the recipient. On the other hand, thanks to modality speakers are capable of making definitive statements and express their beliefs to the fullest. Thus the code provides the tools useful for mitigating the force of a given utterance and helping communicators to distance themselves from the claims they make. Despite the fact that modality has already been discussed from different perspectives, it still remains a notion worth further investigation, which needs to be explained more thoroughly, especially from a cross-linguistic perspective (Simon-Vandenberg and Aijmer 2007: 1). Modality is a broad concept and the scope of this paper is limited to one of its aspects, i.e. modal adverbs of certainty. They appear highly interesting, especially from a contrastive viewpoint, because, while for some there is a one-to-one correspondence across two languages, in a number of cases seemingly similar adverbs carry completely different meanings and implicate totally different things across the two languages. Adopting a cross-linguistic perspective, this paper aims to establish how modal adverbs of certainty are employed in the debates in the European Parliament by Polish members of the EP and to identify their functions. It also seeks to compare how these adverbs are translated from Polish into English; in other words, the goal is to analyse what linguistic choices translators make when dealing with such items and whether similar Polish expressions classified as modal adverbs of certainty tend to be translated using only one English expression which is equivalent to all of them (for instance, an English adverb *certainly* may stand for four Polish adverbs, i.e. *z pewnością*, *przecież*, *oczywiście*, *rzeczywiście*). To this end, selected modal adverbs of certainty from the European Parliament Translation and Interpreting Corpus (EPTIC) are scrutinised. The entries under study come from one of the EPTIC corpora, i.e. EPTIC English translations from Polish which is supplemented by EPTIC Polish spoken sources and EPTIC Polish written sources. It is assumed that by looking at the three kinds of data, considerable insight into their frequency, distribution and linguistic functions can be obtained.

**WORD COUNT:** 334 words (396 words)