

Jan Nuyts
(University of Antwerp)

Deconstructing evidentiality

This talk will offer a ‘conceptual analysis’ of the status of evidentiality in the system of ‘tense-aspect-modality’ categories or ‘qualificational’ categories more in general, with special focus on its relation to the modal categories (cf. the analysis of the latter in Nuyts 2005). It will argue that evidentiality as such, as ‘the marking of the source of information’ (e.g. Willett 1988, Aikhenvald 2004), is not a coherent semantic category, and should rather be dissolved and split up in a number of entirely independent categories, each with quite different semantic properties, and with a quite different conceptual status.

References

- Aikhenvald, A. (2004). *Evidentiality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nuyts, J. (2005). The modal confusion: On terminology and the concepts behind it. In: A.Klinge, H.Müller (eds.), *Modality: Studies in form and function*, 5-38. London: Equinox.
- Willett, T. (1988). A cross-linguistic survey of the grammaticalization of evidentiality. *Studies in Language* 12: 51-97.