

Finnish and Estonian epistemic-evidential markers

The present study examines pairs of Finnish and Estonian epistemic-evidential markers whose members seem to be synonymous with each other, since they are derived from a stem with the same meaning and have (largely) similar morphological structure in the two languages. The aim of the study was the functional description of the selected lexical markers (what type of evidence and epistemic content they denote), as well as the exploration of similarities and differences between the Finnish and Estonian markers. The present research is part of a larger project, and I conducted the examination of the selected epistemic-evidential markers based on a questionnaire that was developed for this project.

On the basis of the questionnaire survey conducted with the informants, it can be established that the given epistemic-evidential markers cannot be regarded as synonyms of each other in the two languages. There are already differences between the Finnish and Estonian markers in terms of the types of evidence expressed, but the most pronounced difference is in the speaker's certainty.

Keywords: evidentiality, epistemic modality, lexical markers, Finnish, Estonian

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