

Epistemic Modality in German and Japanese

Frank Sode (Goethe University Frankfurt/Mie University) &
Ayaka Sugawara (Mie University)

In the first part of the talk, we present new data illustrating deliberative uses of the German modal *sollte* in the antecedent of conditionals, (1), relative clauses, (2), and deliberative questions, (3).

- (1) *Wenn Seehofer davon gewußt haben sollte, dann muss er zurücktreten.*
If Seehofer of.it known have should then must he step down
'If Seehofer should have known about it, he has to step down.'
- (2) *[W]ir waren entschlossen, jeden zu befragen, der gewählt haben sollte.*
We were determined everyone to ask who voted have should
'We were determined to ask anyone who should have voted.' (lit.)
- (3) *Sollte das etwa doch noch der Postbote sein?*
Should this PRTL PRTL still the postman be?
'Should this be the postman after all?' (lit.)

Based on this data, we propose a unified semantics for *sollte* that can account for its deliberative use, its epistemic use, see Matthewson & Truckenbrodt (2018), and its use as a normality modal, see Yalcin (2016).

In the second part of the talk, we discuss some of the results from an experimental study on the Japanese epistemic modal expressions *nititgainai* and *hazu* that may help to shed some new light on the conceptual unity of epistemic and normality uses.

Literature

Matthewson & Truckenbrodt (2018): Modal flavour/modal force interactions in German: *soll*, *sollte*, *muss* and *müsste*. To be published in: *Linguistische Berichte* 255/2018.

Yalcin, Seth (2016): Modalities of normality. In: Nate Charlow and Matthew Chrisman (eds.), *Deontic Modality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 230–255.