

**NOM Prénom** : DEPRAETERE Ilse

**Nature de la mission** (séjour de recherche, participation à un colloque...): colloque EMEL (Evidentiality and Modality in European Languages)

**Lieu et date** : Madrid, 6-8 octobre 2014

**Frais de mission attribués par le laboratoire** : 330.52€

**Description de la mission** (par ex. résumé de l'intervention proposée/activités de recherche réalisées au cours de la mission...):

J'ai fait une communication 'source of modality et *need to*' lors du *Workshop on evidentiality, modality and corpus*' (<http://paolapietrandrea.altervista.org/workshop/index-madrid.html>)

#### Résumé

Recent overviews of the distribution of modal verbs in English (Smith 2003, Leech *et al* 2009) have shown that *need to* is claiming an increasingly important space in the paradigm of verbs expressing obligation. Smith reports a 287% increase in British English between 1960 (LOB) and 1990 (FLOB) and Leech *et al* 2009 a 125% increase in American English.

In this talk, I will present the results of a corpus analysis that aims to position *need to* more explicitly in the paradigm of necessity verbs (*must, should, have to, ought to*). The distributional development suggests that *need to* is intruding upon the fields of meaning covered, until recently, by other verbs. Does its increase indeed partially fill the gap left by the decrease in the use of *must*, which Myhill (1997) explains in terms of a changing, less authoritarian society where blunt and strong expressions of obligation are avoided? (cf. also Smith 2003) Are necessities and obligations being reformulated in terms of needs in order to facilitate smooth communication? In order to answer these questions, I analysed the source of the modality associated with *need to* in a sample of 585 sentences extracted from the BNC. The sample reflects the occurrence of the different forms of *need to* normalized to 1 million words (spoken and written). What modal source is typically associated with *need to* and how does the distribution of sources compare to that associated with other modal verbs? In order to position *need to* with respect to *must, have to, should* and *ought to* in terms of the source of the modality, the results from the analysis of the BNC sample will be compared to those of similar investigations into *must, have to, should* and *ought to* (Depraetere and Verhulst 2008, Verhulst *et al* 2013).

Depraetere, I. and A. Verhulst. 2008. Source of modality: a reassessment. *English Language and Linguistics* 1: 1-25.

Myhill, J. 1997. *should* and *ought*: the rise of the individually oriented modality in American English. *English Language and Linguistics* 1: 3-23.

Leech, G., Hundt, M., Mair, C. and N. Smith. 2009. *Change in Contemporary English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Smith, N. 2003. Changes in the modals and semi-modals of strong obligation and epistemic necessity in recent British English. In Facchinetti, R., M. Krug, and F. Palmer (eds.) *Modality in contemporary English*. Berlin/New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter. 241-266.

Verhulst, A., I. Depraetere and L. Heyvaert. 2013. Source and strength of modality: an empirical study of root *should, ought to* and *be supposed to* in Present-day British English, *Journal of Pragmatics* 55: 210-225.

**Bénéfice de la mission** (pour le chercheur/l'enseignant-chercheur, pour le laboratoire):

J'ai fait la connaissance de Paola Pietrandrea (Université de Tours, co-organisatrice du workshop auquel j'ai participé), qui travaille en linguistique computationnelle, et qui a présenté un projet visant l'annotation de marqueurs de modalité dans un corpus italien. Nous allons échanger à ce sujet, comme j'envisage une étude d'un corpus anglais qui englobe toute une série de facteurs qui entrent en jeu dans le choix de marqueurs de modalité.

J'ai également pu assister à un workshop qui traitait de l'évidentialité et l'interface sémantique/pragmatique et j'ai ainsi pu établir des contacts (Belgique, Espagne, Allemagne) qui seront utiles dans le cadre des travaux sur cette thématique à STL.