Evidential shift, done by monsters

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In root declarative clauses, evidentials are always speaker-oriented. Under attitude predicates, evidentials may sometimes shift, i.e. switch their perspective and become oriented towards the attitude holder. In the literature on evidentiality, it is common to derive different shifting patterns from the narrow vs. wide scope of the evidential with respect to the attitude verb. However, this view makes wrong predictions. It also overlooks that the typology of evidentials vis-a-vis their shifting properties resembles the typology of indexicals and that there are further similarities in the distribution of evidentials and shifted indexicals. Given this parallel, it seems quite natural to analyse evidential shift and indexical shift in the same fashion. Sauerland and Schenner (2007) model evidential shift after Schlenker (1999)'s account of shifted indexicals, so that the locus of cross-linguistic variation is entirely in the evidential markers. Such view has several drawbacks. In particular, it does not account for the fact that not all attitude predicates license embedded evidentials. Thus it is desirable to base an analysis of the evidential shift on a theory that has more space for cross-linguistic variation. I argue that the Monster theory (Sudo 2012) is a better alternative and provide an analysis of evidential shift within this system.

References

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