

Epistemic Modality in Walt Whitman's *When the Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*

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Abstract:

The current study investigates epistemic modality as a linguistic phenomenon in Walt Whitman's *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Blomm'd*. It is the first of the collection of four elegies poems entitled *Memories of President Lincoln* appeared in Walt Whitman's masterpiece *Leaves of Grass* in which he commiserates the president Lincoln after his death in 1865. This poem falls in sixteen stanzas of two hundreds and six lines. It is investigated in terms of Thomas Willett's (1988) taxonomy of epistemic modality and evidentiality in which he proposes that epistemic modality involves evidentiality. The study shows how a certain source of evidence in terms of certain type of conceived truthfulness affects the degree of assertion of the epistemic coding of the interlocurers.

Keywords: Epistemic modality, Evidentiality, Conceived truthfulness .

الشكلية الحكمية في (عندما أزهـر الأرجوان في فناء الدار مؤخرًا)
ل (والت وتمان)

الباحث: زهير فؤاد ماري
أ.د. علاء حسين عودة
قسم اللغة الانكليزية/كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية/جامعة البصرة

المخلص:

تبحث هذه الدراسة الشكلية الحكمية كظاهرة لغوية في (عندما أزهـر الأرجوان في فناء الدار مؤخرًا) ل (والت وتمان) وهي أول أربع قصائد في المجموعة الشعرية الرثائية (ذكريات الرئيس لنكولن) للشاعر المذكور والتي كتبها في رثاء الرئيس لنكولن بعد موته عام ١٨٦٥ والتي ظهرت في رائعته (أوراق العشب). تقع هذه القصيدة في ستة عشر مقطعًا مؤلفة من مائتين وستة أبيات والتي تم تحليلها وفق تصنيف توماس وليت عام ١٩٨٨ للشكلية الحكمية والدليلية والذي اقترح فيه بأن الشكلية الحكمية تضم، بالإضافة إلى التأشير الحكمي، المميزات الدلالية وبين كذلك إن نوع الدليل الذي يمتلكه المتحاورون ومن خلال المصادقية المتخيلة لديهم يؤثر على درجة التوكيد للتأشير الحكمي لديهم.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الشكلية الحكمية، الدليلية، المصادقية المتخيلة .

1. Introduction

The use of various linguistic hints in our daily speeches is common. These hints' function is to help the participants of conversation to understand our attitudes. It is the case of using 'epistemic' attitude when we enrich our contribution in conversation with utterances indicating the amount of our certainty or the certainty of others. We also give a specific attention to provenance and authenticity of knowledge (Yap & Chor, 2014,pp.220,225).

Willett(1988,pp.52,86-88) states that 'epistemic modality' includes, in addition to the degree of certainty or confidence, evidentiality which refers to provenance of proof that the interlocurers have for their suppositions. In other words, the 'evidential' discriminations are included in the coding of 'epistemic modality'. Given that epistemic modality includes evidentiality as a part, the type of provenance of proof that the interlocurers have for their suppositions in terms of certain type of imagined authenticity that they conceive depending on that provenance of proof will affect the resulting certainty of the epistemic coding.

2. The Concept of Epistemic Modality

According to John Lyons (1977,p.797), 'epistemic modality' refers to the utterances by which the interlocurers express their qualification of their adherence to the actuality of their suppositions whether this qualification is explicated verbally, prosodically, or paralinguistically.

Bybee, Perkins, & Pagliuca (1994,p.179) state that 'epistemic modality' deals with the certainty that the interlocurers have for their suppositions and the range of their adherence to the actuality of these suppositions. Its markers point to a less degree of adherence rather than full adherence to the actuality of the interlocurers' suppositions.

Coates (1987,p.112) describes 'epistemic modality' as the modality that deals with the suppositions, or estimations of what is possible made by the interlocurers. Mostly, it refers to the assurance or the absence of the assurance that they have for the authenticity of their suppositions.

Nuyts (1992,pp.267,304) defines 'Epistemic modality' as "qualification of the likelihood of the state of affairs being the case or not in the possible world under consideration". The difference of provenance of information that the interlocurers have for 'modal qualification' results in difference in estimating the 'objectivity' or 'subjectivity' of that 'modal qualification'.

3. Types of Epistemic Modality

According to John Lyons (1977,pp.797-798), there is two distinguished types of 'epistemic modality': 'subjective; and 'objective' as in the following lines from *Leaves*

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of *Grass* which show the difference between those two modalities as Lyons states the difference between using 'may' and 'must':

"You may read in many languages, yet read nothing about it,"
(Whitman,2013,p.241).

"I answer that I cannot answer, you must find out for yourself."
(Whitman,2013,p.100).

In the first line, the interlocurer qualifies his adherence to the actuality of his supposition. He depends on his non-assertion. This refers to the 'subjective modality', whereas the modality in the second line refers to the interlocurer's knowledge of feasibility rather than thinking or believing, i.e. 'objective modality'.

Palmer (2001,pp.24-29) classifies 'epistemic modality' into three types in terms of the 'judgments' commonly occur in languages: the type that indicates 'uncertainty', the type that indicates 'inference' in terms of monitoring of proof, and the type that indicates 'inference' based on general knowledge. They are categorized into 'speculative', 'deductive', and 'assumptive' with the exception that some language do not have all those three types like does English. The first type refers to the interlocurers' uncertainty about their suppositions, the second refers to the interlocurers' 'firm judgment' in terms of having proof, whereas the third refers to 'judgment' based on general knowledge. However, the third one represents the 'reasonable conclusions'. The following lines from *Leaves of Grass* include the three above types of judgments:

"And may be just as much as the seasons."(Whitman,2013,p.28)

"So faint, I must be still, be still to listen,"(Whitman,2013.p.276).

"What will be will be, for what is is well,"(Whitman,2013,p.491).

Those three types are indicated in respect of: 'possible conclusion' to the first one, 'only possible conclusion' to the second', and the 'reasonable conclusion' to the third. Though, the aforementioned examples indicate 'judgments' about suppositions related to 'present', there is a contradiction in English in the 'speculative' and 'deductive' such as the case with 'may' and with 'must' (in a fewer extent) in the first two lines above which can indicate 'future' by adding, for example, an adverb referring to future such as adding 'tomorrow' which results in reference to 'future' rather than 'past'. Moreover, there is a possibility to refer to suppositions related to 'past' as in 'have' when its use is accompanied with 'past participle' form of a verb. See this line:

"I assert that all past days were what they must have been,"(Whitman, 2013,268).

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Bybee & Fleischman (1995,p.4) state that, as the case in 'natural languages', there is no obligation to limit the epistemic concept to 'necessity and possibility' according to the conventional linguistic philosophy. Neglecting such a limitation is attributed to two matters. On one hand, the adherence of the actuality of the suppositions is something related to extent. On the other hand, the interference of 'epistemic modality', or its inclusion into additional syntactic unit, namely 'evidentiality' does exist.

Bybee, et al.(1994:179-180) taxonomy of Epistemic Modality is applied to the cases in which the interlocurers express their adherence of suppositions which usually have the following degrees of judgments: 'possibility, 'probability, and 'inferred certainty'. 'Possibility' refers to the feasibility of the suppositions to be actual as in the following line from *Leaves of Grass*:

"It may have to wait long, but it will certainly come in use,"

(Whitman,2013,250).

'Probability' refers to a lager degree of 'likelihood' in which the suppositions can be actual than that of 'possibility' as in this line from *Leaves of Grass*:

"I should have made my way straight to you long ago,"

(Whitman,2013,p.260).

The 'inferred certainty' refers to the grater degree of likelihood. It refers to the interlocurer's having well causes to their suppositions to be actual as in this line from *Leaves of Grass*:

"(This is curious and may not be realized immediately, but it must be realized,"

(Whitman,2013,p.533).

Willett (1988,p.52,) states that 'epistemic modality' consists of epistemic coding in which 'evidential' discriminations are included, establishing that 'evidential' discriminations are part of the coding of 'epistemic modality', despite the fact that the former's mentioning is theoretically when dealing with 'modality'.

4. Willett's (1988) taxonomy of Epistemic Modality and Evidentiality

Willett (1988,pp.86-88) displays his own taxonomy in which he thinks that epistemic modality involves evidentiality. His taxonomy is of 'three major parameters': 'source', 'assertion', and 'conceived truthfulness' in which he relates the 'source of information' to the epistemic coding determined by 'assertion' type, and to 'conceived truthfulness'.

The 'source' of information is either 'direct' or 'indirect'. The 'direct' includes 'attested' proof in which the interlocurers have a sensed proof which can be either 'visual', 'auditory', or 'sensed' by other senses.

The indirect provenance of proof is of two types:

1. **'Reported'**: it is either 'second hand', 'third hand', or 'folklore'. The 'second hand source' refers to the interlocurers' knowledge of the event by extracting it from someone else who witnesses it directly. The 'third hand' refers to the interlocurers' knowledge of the event by extracting it not from someone else who witnesses it directly, rather from a third one who informs the second one. The 'folklore' refers to the interlocurers' knowledge of the event in terms of 'established oral history'.
2. **'Inferring'**: it refers to the knowledge of the interlocurers of about event in terms inference and perhaps they do not determine the provenance of that inference, whether 'observable results' or from 'mental reasoning'. The inference that is based on 'results' refers to the interlocurers' knowledge of a certain event depending on observing the circumstance of that event. The inference that is based on 'reasoning' refers to the interlocurers' knowledge of certain event depending on certain criteria like their own 'intuition', 'experience', or 'mental construct'.

The second 'parameter' of Willett's taxonomy is 'assertion' which ranges from 'strongest assertion' to 'weakest assertion'. It is of four types: 'emphatic', 'certain', 'probable', 'possible' and 'doubtful'. 'Emphatic' represents the stronger value of assertion than the other types. The third 'parameter' is that 'conceived truthfulness' which ranges from 'true' to 'false' and which also ranges from 'factual', 'potential', up to 'unlikely'.

Besides, Willett argues to relate the first 'parameter' of his taxonomy 'source' of proof to the other parameters 'assertion' and 'conceived truthfulness' in that the 'source' of proof in terms of certain 'conceived truthfulness' affects the degree of 'assertion'. For more specification, five epistemic values which are 'emphatic', 'certain', 'probable', 'possible', and 'doubtful' are to be determined in terms of the interlocurers' having certain proof and the 'conceived truthfulness' they have for that proof. With the case of 'factual conceived truthfulness', the three following types of epistemic coding of 'assertion' are distinguished:

1. The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'attested' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' as in the following line from *Memories of President Lincoln*:

"As I saw you had something to tell as you bent to me night after night,"

(Whitman,2013,p.385).

2. The epistemic coding is of 'certain assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'reported' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' as in the following line from *Memories of President Lincoln*:

"Ever-returning spring, trinity sure to me you bring," (Whitman,2013,p.383).

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3. The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'inferring' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' as in the following line from *Memories of President Lincoln*:

"I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring."(Whitman,2013,p.383).

With the case of 'potential conceived truthfulness', the three following types of epistemic coding of 'assertion' are distinguished:

1. The epistemic coding is of 'certain assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'attested' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'potential' as in the following example:

I think I already saw him.

2. The epistemic coding is of 'possible assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'reported' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'potential' as in the following example:

He told me that he may come.

3. The epistemic coding is of 'possible assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'inferring' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'potential' as in the following example:

I think he will come.

With the case of 'unlikely conceived truthfulness', the three following epistemic values of 'assertion' are distinguished:

1. The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'attested' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely' as in the following line:

I hear that he will not come.

2. The epistemic coding is of 'possible assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'reported' proof and which they conceive its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely'.

"But I saw they were not as was thought,"(Whitman,2013,p.390).

3. The epistemic coding is of 'doubtful assertion' caused by the interlocurers' having 'inferring' proof and which they conceive its truthfulness as 'unlikely' as in the following line from *Memories of President Lincoln*:

"O harsh surrounding cloud that will not free my soul."(Whitman,2013,p.383).

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Example (4):

p.384

Song of the bleeding throat
Death's outlet song of life, (for well dear brother I know,
If thou was not granted to sing thou wouldst surely die.)

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'wouldst' and the adverb 'surely' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its truthfulness as 'factual'.

Example (5):

p.384

Passing the apple-tree blows of white and pink in the orchards,
Carrying a corpse to where it shall rest in the grave,
Night and day journeys a coffin.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'shall' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (6):

p.385

(Nor for you, for one alone,
Blossoms and branches green to coffins all I bring,
For fresh as the morning , thus would I chant a song for you O sane and
sacred death.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'doubtful assertion' fulfilled by using the interrogative form of the modal verb 'would' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely'.

Example (7):

p.385

All over bouquets of rose,
O death, I cover you over with roses and early lilies,
But mostly and now the lilac that blooms the first,
Copious I break , I break the sprigs from the bushes,
With loaded arms I come, pouring for you,
For you and the coffin all of you O death.)

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Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the adverbs 'mostly and now' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its truthfulness as 'factual'.

Example (8) :

O western orb sailing the heaven, p.385
Now I know what you must have meant as a month since I walk'd,
As I walk'd in silence the transparent shadowy night,
As I saw you had something to tell as you bent to me night after night,
As you droop'd from the sky low down as if to my side, (while the other
stars all look'd on,)
As we wander'd together the solemn night, (for something I know not
what kept me from sleep,)
As the night advanced, and I saw on the rim of the west how full you
were of woe,
As I stood on the rising ground in the breeze in the transparent night,
As I watch'd where you pass'd and was lost in the netherward black of
the night,
As my soul in the trouble dissatisfied sank, as where you sad orb,
Concluded, dropt in the night , and was gone.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'must' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'reasoning-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'. Furthermore, The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verbs of 'sense' which are 'saw' twice and 'watch'd' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of 'visual' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (9) :

Sing on there in swamp, pp.385-386
O singer bashful and tender, I hear your notes, I hear your call.
I hear, I come presently , I understand you,
But a moment I linger, for the lustrous star has detain'd me,
The star my departing comrade holds and detains me.

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Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'hear' thrice as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'auditory' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (10):

O how shall I warble myself for the dead one there I loved? P.386
And how shall deck my song for the large sweet soul that has gone,
And what shall my perfume be for the grave of him I love?

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'doubtful assertion' fulfilled by using the interrogative form of the modal verb 'shall' thrice as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely'.

Example (11):

Sea-winds blown from east and west, p.386
Blown from the Eastern sea and blown from the Western sea, till there
on the prairies meeting,
These and with these and the breath of my chant,
I'll perfume the grave of him I love.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'will' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (12):

O what shall I hang on the chamber walls? P.386
And what shall the pictures be that I hang on the walls,
To adorn the burial-house of him I love?
Pictures of growing spring and farms and homes,
With the fourth-month eve at sundown, and the gray smoke lucid and
bright,

comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'doubtful assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'shall' twice as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely'.

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Example (13):

O liquid and free tender! P.387
O wild and loose to my soul-O wondrous singer!
You only I hear-yet the star holds me, (but will soon depart,)
Yet the lilac with mastering odor holds me.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'hear' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'auditory' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'. Furthermore, the epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'will' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (14):

Now while I sat in the day and look'd forth, p.387
In the close of the day with its light and the fields of spring, and the
farmers preparing their crops,

comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'look'd' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'visual' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (15):

The many-moving sea-tides, and I saw the ships how they sail'd, p.387
And the summer approaching with richness, and the fields all busy with
labor,

comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'saw' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'visual' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (16):

Then with the knowledge of death as walking one side of me, p.388
And the thought of death close-walking the other side of me,
And in the middle as with companions, and as holding the hands of
Companions.

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Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'certain assertion' fulfilled by using the expressions 'with the knowledge of' and 'the thought of' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having a 'reported evidence' of the 'folklore' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (17) :

Come lovely and soothing death, p.388
Undulate round the world, serenely arriving, arriving,
In the day, in the night, to all, to each,
Sooner or later delicate death.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the prepositional phrases 'in the day', 'in the night', 'to all', and 'to each' with the adverbs 'sooner or later' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'reasoning-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (18):

Prais'd be the fathomless universe, p.388
For life and joy, and for objects and knowledge curious,
And for love, sweet love-but praise! Praise! Praise!
For the sure-enwinding arms of cool-enfolding death.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the prepositional phrase 'for the sure' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (19):

Dark mother always gliding near with soft feet, p.388
Have none chanted for thee a chant of fullest welcome?
Then I chant it for thee, I glorify thee above all,
I bring there a song that when thou must indeed come, come unfalteringly.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'probable assertion' fulfilled by using the modal verb 'must' and the adverb 'indeed' as epistemic markers because of the interlocurer's having an 'inferring evidence' of the 'results-based' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

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Example (20):

And I saw askant the armies, p.389
I saw as in the noiseless dreams hundreds of battle-flags,
Borne through the smoke of the battles and pierc'd with missiles I saw,
And carried hither and yon through the smoke, and torn and bloody,
And at last but a few shreds left on the staffs,(and all in silence,)

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'saw' thrice as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'visual' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'.

Example (21):

I saw battle-corpses, myriads of them, p.390
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them,
I saw the debris and debris of all the slain soldiers of the war,
But I saw they were not as was thought,
They themselves were fully at rest, they suffer'd not,
The living remain'd and suffer'd, the mother suffer'd,
And the wife and the child and the musing comrade suffer'd,
And the armies that remain'd suffer'd.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'saw' four times as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'visual' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual'. Furthermore, the epistemic coding is of 'possible assertion' fulfilled by using the negative form of the past participle of the verb 'think' as an epistemic marker because the interlocurer's having 'reported evidence' of the 'folklore' type which he conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'unlikely'.

Example (22):

Covering the earth and filling the spread of the heaven, p.390
As that powerful psalm in the night I heard from recesses,
Passing, I leave thee lilac with heart-shaped leaves,
I leave thee there in the door-yard, blooming, returning with spring.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the verb of sense 'heard' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'auditory' type which he conceives its truthfulness as 'factual'.

Example (23):

I cease from my song for thee, p.390
From my gaze on thee in the west, fronting, communing with thee,
O comrade lustrous with silver face in the night.

Comment:

The epistemic coding is of 'emphatic assertion' fulfilled by using the prepositional phrase 'from my gaze' as an epistemic marker because of the interlocurer's having an 'attested evidence' of the 'visual' type which he conceives its truthfulness as 'factual'.

6. Concluding Remarks

The current study affirms its hypothesis that epistemic modality is a linguistic phenomenon which does exist in poetry elegy discourses. This is fulfilled in terms of investigating the aforementioned data.

The study also affirms Willett's (1988) taxonomy in which he states that 'epistemic marking' includes 'evidential distinctions'. This is shown throughout investigating the data which affirms how the 'source of evidence', in terms of certain type of 'conceived truthfulness', determines the type of epistemic coding. For example, the 'attested evidence' in example (8) which the interlocurer conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' results in an epistemic coding of 'emphatic assertion', the 'reported source' in example (2) which the interlocurer conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' results in an epistemic coding of 'certain assertion, the 'inferring source' in example (1) which the interlocurer conceives its 'truthfulness' as 'factual' results in an epistemic coding of 'probable assertion', and other examples of certain types of 'source' which are in terms of certain type of 'conceived truthfulness' result in different epistemic values.

Furthermore, the detailed investigation of epistemic modality of the data manifests the linguistic markers used to encode epistemic modality. These markers include the verbs of senses such as 'see', 'hear', 'look', and 'watch', modal verbs in affirmative, negative, and interrogative forms such as 'shall', 'wouldist', 'must', 'will', adverbs such as 'surely', 'mostly and now', 'sooner or later', and 'indeed', past-participle form of verbs serves also as epistemic modality markers such as 'thought', adjectives such as 'sure to me', and 'for the sure' serve also as markers of epistemic modality, and prepositional phrases such as 'with the knowledge of', 'the thought of', 'from my gaze', 'in the day, in the day', and 'to all, to each' serve also as markers of epistemic modality.

The epistemic coding of the data investigated is ranging from 'emphatic' 'probable', 'doubtful', 'certain', to 'possible assertion'. The majority of epistemic coding value constitutes the coding of 'emphatic assertion'. The less epistemic coding value constitutes the epistemic coding of 'probable assertion'. The less one constitutes

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the epistemic coding of 'doubtful assertion'. The less epistemic one constitutes the 'certain assertion'. The least one in the data investigated constitutes the 'possible assertion'. The occurrences of epistemic coding values can be tabulated like this:

Table 1 Occurrences of Epistemic Coding Values

N.	Types of epistemic value	occurrences	percentages
1	Emphatic	18	42 %
2	Certain	3	7 %
3	Probable	14	33 %
4	Possible	1	2 %
5	Doubtful	7	16 %
Total		43	100%

According to Willett's (1988) taxonomy, the aforementioned epistemic coding occurrences of 'assertion' are the result of the 'direct' and 'indirect sources' of proofs. See table (2) which expresses the 'direct attested source' occurrences:

Table 2 Occurrences of Direct Attested Sources of Evidence

.	Attested	occurrences	percentages
1	visual	13	72 %
2	auditory	5	28 %
3	other physically sensed	zero	0 %
Total		18	100%

The occurrences of 'indirect source' of evidence can be tabulated like :

Table 3 Occurrences of Indirect sources of Evidence

Reported			inferring		Total
Firsthand	second hand	folklore	results-based	reasoning-based	
1	zero	3	19	2	25
4%	0%	12%	76%	8%	100%

The 'source of evidence' of the data investigated is ranging from 'indirect' to 'direct'. The majority of 'source of evidence' constitutes the 'indirect source' of evidence ranging from 'inferring' of the type of 'results-based' to the type of 'reasoning-based'. The less value of 'source of evidence' constitutes the 'direct attested' one ranging from 'visual' type to 'auditory' one. These types of 'source of evidence' in terms of certain types of 'conceived truthfulness' result in certain types of epistemic coding of 'assertion'. The occurrences of those 'true' and 'false' types of conceived truthfulness can be tabulated like this:

Table 3 Occurrences of Conceived Truthfulness

N.	Types	occurrences	percentages
1	Factual	35	81 %
2	Potential	zero	0 %
3	Unlikely	8	19 %
Total		43	100%

The 'conceived truthfulness' of data investigated is ranging from 'true' to 'false'. The majority of 'conceived truthfulness' constitutes the 'true' one of the 'factual' type. The less value of 'conceived truthfulness' constitutes the 'false' one of the 'unlikely' type. Accordingly, the whole data is highly of 'strongest emphatic assertion', of 'indirect inferring results-based source of evidence', and of 'true factual conceived truthfulness'. This is attributed to the occurrences of (18) epistemic coding values of 'strongest emphatic assertion', (25) of 'indirect inferring results-based sources of evidence', and (35) of 'true factual conceived truthfulness' values.

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