

# **اليقين في كلام الأطباء : تحليل خطابي للمسلسل التلفزيوني "الطبيب الجيد" الموسم الأول**

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## **Evidentiality in Doctors' Talk: A Discourse Analysis of "The Good Doctor" TV Series-Season One**

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### المستخلص

عندما نتحدث، ينطوي خطابنا في كثير من الأحيان على تقييم وتحليل المعلومات المستمدة من مجموعة متنوعة من المصادر. وهذا ينطبق على جميع اللهجات المهنية دون استثناء على الإطلاق. وعليه فإن الأطباء، في بيئة المستشفيات، يقومون بتقييم المعلومات من حيث موثوقيتها ومدى إدراكهم المباشر لها. إن الهدف الرئيس للبحث هو إظهار كيف يستعمل الأطباء في المسلسل التلفزيوني "الطبيب الجيد" مصطلحات اليقين لبناء أطر للمصداقية والمسؤولية التي يقوم عليها العمل الطبي. تشير النتائج إلى أن الأطباء يستعملون في الغالب مصطلحات إثبات مباشرة حيث يعبرون عن مصداقيتهم من خلال حواسهم. الكلمات المفتاحية: اليقين، مصطلحات اليقين، كلام الأطباء.

### Abstract

When we speak our discourse very often involves obtaining, evaluating and analyzing information drawn from a variety of sources. This applies to all professional registers with no exceptions at all. Thus, in a hospital setting doctors assess and act upon information that varies in terms of both reliability and the extent to which it may be directly perceived. In this article, the main aim is to show how doctors in the TV series The Good Doctor use evidentiality terms to construct frameworks of credibility and responsibility that both underlie and enable medical work. Results show that doctors mostly use direct evidentiality terms as they express their credibility through their senses

Keywords: evidentiality, evidentiality terms, doctors' talk

## 1. Introduction

Medical discourse in the broadest sense refers to the "discourse in and about healing, curing, or therapy; expressions of suffering; and relevant language ideologies" (Wilce, 2009: 199). It is an area of study that has received only little exploration. Therefore, the present research tries to explicate one discourse feature used by doctors in the TV series *The Good Doctor*, namely evidentiality terms to construct frameworks of credibility and responsibility.

So, the main concern of this research is to show how doctors, in a hospital setting, assess and act upon information that varies in terms of both reliability and the extent to which it may be directly perceived and how they use various evidential terms in their interactions with their patients or with each other.

## 2. Hypothesis

In the medical atmosphere, doctors always rely on different tools like blood examination, x-ray, ultrasound...etc to diagnose their patients. Counting on this, the research hypothesizes that doctors mostly use direct evidentiality terms as they express their credibility through their senses.

## 3. Significance of the Study

The significance of the present study stems from the fact that medical discourse, especially in televised settings, is an underexplored area of study. So, this study has come to fill the gap in the literature of televised medical discourse.

## 4. What is evidentiality?

Evidentiality, in simple terms, is described as a linguistic category whose primary meaning is the 'source of information' (Chafe 1986; Willett 1988; Aikhenvald 2004; Nuyts 2010). Others like Boye and Harder (2009) define it as a functional-conceptual domain which indicates the author's cognitive and/or communicative justification for a judgment. Hart (2011) maintains that evidentiality highlights the basis of the speaker's knowledge which concerns the state of affairs being reported in the assertion, and evidentials mark how the speakers have come to know what they are claiming.

## 5. Evidentiality in English

English has an ample reservoir of evidential devices. It provides its users with miscellaneous ways to express their modes of knowing and degrees of reliability. In English, evidentiality is expressed by the use of modal auxiliaries, some adverbs and various idiomatic expressions

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(Chafe, 1986). The expression of evidentiality through any of these ways is said to reflect different type of evidentiality; degrees of reliability, inference, sensory evidence, or hearsay evidence. To claim that a language-like English- with various evidential resources shows a degree of balance as its users try to reflect on the way(s) they use to obtain, evaluate and analyze their knowledge is a mere myth. Although, English has a large variety of evidential resources, it may use them in different proportions.

### 6. Evidentiality, Evidential, Evidence and Knowledge

Aikhenvald (2018) differentiates and draws the borderlines between the terms evidentiality, evidentials and evidence and their relation to knowledge. In her terms 'evidential' and 'evidentiality' as being linguistic categories they don't involve 'evidence', as it is used in common language. She moves on to explain that 'evidence' covers facts, circumstances, objects which prove the validity or the existence of something and 'statement of proof' that is admissible as testimony in a law court.

The linguistic notion of evidentiality- as it is articulated by Boas (1938) and exemplified by Aikhenvald (2018)- differs greatly from the conventional usage of 'evidence'. Linguistic evidentiality has nothing to do with providing proof in court or in argument, or indicating what is true and what is not, or indicating one's belief. All evidentiality does is supply the information source.

In conclusion, evidentiality does nothing but marking information source. It covers the way in which the information was acquired, without necessarily relating to the degree of speaker's certainty concerning the statement or whether it is true or not. However, evidence provides support for the information source. Nevertheless, evidence can be reliable or not. Moreover, the notion of reliability or 'truth' only marginally applies to information source, and thus to evidentiality.

### 7. Evidentiality Systems

Evidentiality systems across the languages of the world vary in terms of the number of information sources encoded. Some systems work with just two evidential options, others provide three or four evidential options and some other systems provide larger evidentiality systems (Aikhenvald:2004, 23).

Our main concern here is not to survey or provide a full account of the evidential systems of the languages of the world, but we will confine

ourselves to the English evidential system. The English evidentiality system is a three-term system which involves direct, inferential and reportative terms. In the direct term, evidence is acquired through experiencing or witnessing the events. The evidence could be visually acquired through visual witnessing of the event or it may be acquired non-visually by other senses through hearing, smelling, tasting and touching. In the inferential or (as it is referred to sometimes) the indirect term, the inference is based on visible or tangible evidence or result. In the reportative term, the evidence is acquired from something someone else has said. The source of evidence is called hearsay if the reported information has no reference to who it was reported by. In addition, it is called quotative if the reported information has an overt reference to the quoted source (Aikhenvald, 2004 & 2018). Table (1) below summarizes all three terms.

**Table (1) The English Three-Term Evidentiality System**

Evidentiality Term	Evidence	Example
<i>Direct</i>	Seeing	I see her coming down the hill
	Hearing	I heard her yelling at my son.
	Tasting	I taste pepper in my soup.
	Smelling	I smell a heavenly scent.
	Touching	The ground under my feet is rough.
	Feeling	I feel something crawling up my leg.
<i>Inferential</i>	Based on Seeing	It must have been raining.
	Based on result	Someone must have snatched my wallet.
<i>Reportative</i>	Hearsay	It is said that the strike will end soon.
	Quotative	Paul said that he was feeling ill.

**8. Data and methodology**

The data consist of transcripts of all 18 episodes of season one of the TV series *The Good Doctor*<sup>1</sup>. The transcripts were copied from the website <https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk> and they were pasted

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into newly opened word documents for ease of analysis. The average number of words per episode is 4716 and the total number of words is 84888.

With respect to the methodology, the analysis has been informed by the terms of evidentiality suggested by Aikhenvald (2004 & 2018).

### 9. Data Analysis

As the orientation of the study is both quantitative and qualitative, the Wordsmith software version 4 was used to search the frequency of occurrence. Frequencies of the evidentials occurrences were categorized in tables. Examples are provided in the discussions that follow the tables.

The processing of the data in the Wordsmith software version 4 has shown that the medical staff in this TV series have used the direct term of evidentiality 329 times. Their use of the reportative term comes with 174 occurrences. Not surprisingly, the inferential term comes last with 11 occurrences only. Screenshots (1-8) below show the concordances of the lexical items that represent all three terms of evidentiality as they are used by the doctors. Not all examples of concordance were considered for some of them don't involve evidentiality.

Text	Freq	Form	Count	Percentage
I see a wringer next to it. It's been in use here for long. The Chief of Surgery	3,551	1st	7%	0.7%
Chay, it's what I can't drop by to see Elizabeth. Not surprisingly, she's	2,919	1st	7%	0.7%
Assured still. I heard it gives you. You see it's behind my back. The patient	2,287	1st	7%	0.7%
Learner says that he likes to hear to see you. [Chuckles] Yeah. The patients	2,274	1st	7%	0.7%
Phases out down your hands. Chay, I see you.	1,839	1st	7%	0.7%
One of the operating room? I don't see anything. [Shan no blood and no	1,432	1st	7%	0.7%
Hope. [Shan] It's too hot. I can't see the Adams apple. Chay, cut along	1,077	1st	7%	0.7%
Look. That's important. You really want to see the patient's head?	1,077	1st	7%	0.7%
All right, you're in. Now, let me see what I can get out. [BREATHING]	2,535	1st	7%	0.7%
on the ground right now. Hey, do you see this, man? I am not playing around.	1,417	1st	7%	0.7%
My wallet is in my pocket. You can't see my hands if they are trying to be a	1,360	1st	7%	0.7%
hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand. Hand.	1,360	1st	7%	0.7%
Keep your hands where I can see 'em. I can't get out your wallet?	426	1st	7%	0.7%
I want to go to the Super Bowl. Chay, see that's exactly the best of things you	4,551	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	4,551	1st	7%	0.7%
the pillow to the moment wake up, all I see is black. Hey, there's your head if	3,387	1st	7%	0.7%
after the last MRI. [Shan] Yeah, I can't see it either. That's the	2,207	1st	7%	0.7%
are you willing to let her? [Shan] I can see the position. That's great. Listen,	2,165	1st	7%	0.7%
equal. [Shan] It's very high. What do you see? [SHAN] The vertebrae are barely	291	1st	7%	0.7%
has a head and with anyone. Confusing as hell? You got a broken calculator	291	1st	7%	0.7%
by not looking back. I can't wait for you to see Dr. Milton. [SHAN] [SHAN] I if	364	1st	7%	0.7%
Thank you. And here's the head. [Shan] Oh, yes. You can't see	3,668	1st	7%	0.7%
with James Herold is she what? Can I see her? [Shan] Not here. That's a	2,021	1st	7%	0.7%
my patient's problem. No, I need to see my patient's scans. Is your patient	1,418	1st	7%	0.7%
smoke inhalation. Can I see? Do you see that? Her mouth is closed. [Shan]	600	1st	7%	0.7%
people are. Good, when you finally see them. "The turned out the light and	4,578	1st	7%	0.7%
is a seal. Let's see a couple hands, see if there's any evidence of pneumonia.	2,275	1st	7%	0.7%
to play baseball again? [Shan] I don't see why not, since it's completely	1,720	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	1,720	1st	7%	0.7%

Text	Freq	Form	Count	Percentage
I hear the sound of a door closing. [Shan] I hear the sound of a door closing.	4,077	1st	7%	0.7%
I'm damn sure. You heard that heart. I heard that heart. And I should like	641	1st	7%	0.7%
mother that unless I'm damn sure. You heard that heart. I heard that heart.	637	1st	7%	0.7%
my own ears here on Gabriel. [Shan] I heard that heart. I heard that heart.	1,119	1st	7%	0.7%
As I hear that you're all right, I just heard what happened. [SHAN] [Shan]	1,209	1st	7%	0.7%
You think that's the best time for me to hear that? It's always the best	1,864	1st	7%	0.7%
possible. That's the best time for me to hear that? It's always the best	1,119	1st	7%	0.7%
Mr. Wilson, he, the Dr. had [Shan]. Heard you had some advanced game	322	1st	7%	0.7%
[LAUGHING] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan]	322	1st	7%	0.7%
ing something to [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan]	4,077	1st	7%	0.7%
but she's not thinking rationally. You heard her say she'd rather die than	1,409	1st	7%	0.7%
Shan off and back into surgery. I heard you hear. You're welcome. And a	1,409	1st	7%	0.7%
cases. [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan]	2,096	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	2,096	1st	7%	0.7%
told you the old. Yeah, I can't see the heart. I hear you. Yeah, I'm sorry.	1,882	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	1,882	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	4,244	1st	7%	0.7%
response to directly [Shan]. You heard her when my mom said she might	3,126	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	3,126	1st	7%	0.7%
Shan. You see we would have heard more of the story if she hadn't	600	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	600	1st	7%	0.7%
Middle central artery. Yeah, I heard about you. You're the one making	1,017	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	1,017	1st	7%	0.7%
And good for you. I wasn't sleeping. I heard the way you handled that other	3,668	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	3,668	1st	7%	0.7%
in the night. Chay, see, I just heard about you and this thing in the	114	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	114	1st	7%	0.7%
Wilson. [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan]	3,668	1st	7%	0.7%
... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING] ... [LAUGHING]	3,668	1st	7%	0.7%
They need you to see us. [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan] [Shan]	610	1st	7%	0.7%

Screenshot (2) concordance of (hear)

N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	f	os	f	os	f	os	File	%
1	have to factor for that possibility. Nice touch. Beauty increases happiness.	1,022	154	0%	0	2%	0	2%	episode 9	dal		23%
2	a walled-off abcess? It's large - Don't touch it - I already am. If you move and the bleeding, but didn't want to touch it otherwise - Good thing it	3,784	604	0%	0	3%	0	3%	episode 7	dal		84%
3	not on the list. You weren't supposed to touch it. So after it's everything you	383	78	0%	0	8%	0	8%	episode 6	dal		5%
4	but I can't make you, the world's softest touch, care about me. Hey, I need a	4,106	662	0%	0	1%	0	1%	episode 4	dal		81%
5	months. I can have my assistant get in touch with you to refer you to a therapist	1,324	214	7%	0	8%	0	8%	episode 2	dal		29%
6	after your husband, a home. You lose touch with who you were. You you said it	2,286	375	5%	0	8%	0	8%	episode 18	dal		49%
7	had our first kiss to this song. I wanna touch you, but there's history. I'm sorry	1,885	250	0%	0	0%	0	0%	episode 16	dal		40%
8	first overnight at the hospital. I wanna touch you, but I'm too late. We had our	5,289	757	0%	0	6%	0	5%	episode 15	dal		96%
9	of mine. I hope that it follows you [TOUCH BY SHURA PLAYING.] Okay,	5,232	745	0%	0	4%	0	4%	episode 15	dal		94%
10	you don't I don't feel nothing. No, don't touch him. If he can't control his bladder	3,970	535	0%	0	1%	0	1%	episode 15	dal		72%
11	bring home every disgusting germ they touch at preschool. I can't afford to miss	570	103	9%	0	1%	0	1%	episode 14	dal		11%
12	Well, she's Muslim. Wouldn't let me touch her. Religious people aren't	2,515	370	9%	0	4%	0	4%	episode 13	dal		54%
13	That makes sense. People shouldn't touch people unless there's a very good	610	94	0%	0	3%	0	3%	episode 13	dal		13%
14	The test is fine. But, um please don't touch me, except for medical purposes.	577	89	5%	0	2%	0	2%	episode 13	dal		12%
15	in him. [VENTILATOR HISsing.] Can I touch her? Of course. Goodbye, baby. -	1,867	321	0%	0	0%	0	0%	episode 12	dal		49%

Screenshot (3) concordance of (touch)

N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	f	os	f	os	f	os	File	%
1	touching my hands with you. You smell like bubble gum. I know, it's so	4,944	811	0%	0	7%	0	7%	episode 4	dal		97%
2	Hemum! [LAUGHTER.] Oh, you smell good, Jenny. What is that	5,143	722	7%	0	2%	0	2%	episode 16	dal		92%
3	weapon. So I could make perfume. Small that. It's beautiful. But very stupid.	4,182	616	7%	0	0%	0	0%	episode 13	dal		91%
4	hear - [TRES SQUEALING.] this. I smell smoke. Yeah, that's the point.	2,737	437	5%	0	3%	0	3%	episode 11	dal		53%
5	night's sleep and hygiene. Shaan, you smell. I will shower in the doctor's	1,133	196	0%	0	3%	0	3%	episode 10	dal		23%

Screenshot (4) concordance of (smell)

N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	f	os	f	os	f	os	File	%
1	Smell. I know I kind of like her. You smell like bubble gum. Okay, that's his	4,933	804	7%	0	7%	0	7%	episode 16	dal		97%



Screenshot (5) concordance of (taste)

Line	Text	Word #	%	File	%
1	the extra check the constant word feel to the pink for you you feel	4,073 653 37%	0 7%	0 7%	episode 9.dad 88%
2	make me feel guilty? Yes, I want you to feel dumb. That's the only thing that's	2,998 480 37%	0 4%	0 4%	episode 9.dad 65%
3	What are you trying to do, make me feel guilty? Yes, I want you to feel	2,991 478 17%	0 4%	0 4%	episode 9.dad 65%
4	sorry. You just can't say it. Okay, uh, I feel bad for you - because we made a	1,484 238 9%	0 2%	0 2%	episode 9.dad 32%
5	You can feel sorry. In fact, you should feel sorry. You just can't say it. Okay,	1,474 236 6%	0 2%	0 2%	episode 9.dad 32%
6	"Sorry?" You can say sorry. You can feel sorry. In fact, you should feel sorry.	1,469 235 6%	0 1%	0 1%	episode 9.dad 32%
7	We'll give him medicine to make him feel better. And then you can take him	1,421 226 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 9.dad 31%
8	was hoping that these would make him feel welcome. Georgia: Yes. You are	639 80 1%	0 2%	0 2%	episode 9.dad 12%
9	And don't start lying to me to make me feel good. You're the only honest guy I	4,717 788 2%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 8.dad 96%
10	We just hit our son. You shouldn't feel bad. You did what you thought was	4,040 647 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 7.dad 89%
11	With a new pacemaker, maybe you'll feel better. So, I'll be cured? Good as	1,778 315 9%	0 9%	0 9%	episode 7.dad 40%
12	on its way, and it's gonna make you feel a lot better. Is it? I will be back to	729 132 4%	0 6%	0 6%	episode 7.dad 17%
13	beetrootar paper? It should make her feel a little better. [SINGS] I in the fee	351 59 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 7.dad 8%
14	His heart is barely pumping blood. I can feel the pulmonary artery I just need to	3,732 629 7%	0 1%	0 1%	episode 5.dad 81%
15	If they don't, lie through your teeth and feel good about it. What if they need to	1,971 369 7%	0 3%	0 3%	episode 5.dad 43%
16	The operation went perfectly. But I don't feel anything down there. You're still on	4,624 741 0%	0 1%	0 1%	episode 4.dad 91%
17	able to drain the abscess. I already feel better. SHALIN: That's only because	3,311 554 0%	0 5%	0 5%	episode 4.dad 66%
18	I'm confident. Which should make you feel better. [MONITOR BEEPING.]	3,040 569 6%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 4.dad 61%
19	you. But I am curious why you always feel the need to defend him. Well, we're	481 83 4%	0 9%	0 9%	episode 4.dad 10%
20	you're looking for. Shaun: Yes, I can feel it. It's funny. And I don't know what	2,990 510 3%	0 2%	0 2%	episode 3.dad 72%
21	So, that's a "no" on the swelling? No, I feel lousy all the time, pretty much. But	733 155 3%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 3.dad 18%
22	in a way that's funny so they don't feel quite so bad. Isn't it just funny? Mm,	2,016 329 0%	0 2%	0 2%	episode 2.dad 43%
23	make me feel better. It makes her feel better. I'm pathetic. - What? I am	1,257 207 6%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 2.dad 27%
24	you feel better. No, it doesn't make me feel better. It makes her feel better. I'm	1,252 206 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 2.dad 27%
25	of our patients whenever it makes you feel better. No, it doesn't make me feel	1,245 205 5%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 2.dad 27%
26	OPEN: Hey. What's up? Do you still feel the same way about Dr. Murtagh as	4,029 630 9%	0 5%	0 5%	episode 18.dad 86%
27	a regional nerve block, so you shouldn't feel anything. Huh. Cool. [Beats the 02?	410 87 3%	0 9%	0 9%	episode 18.dad 9%
28	agents which we will repeat. Do you feel bad? It's okay. You told them it was	3,090 476 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 17.dad 68%
29	How much longer? Um, how do you feel about tomorrow? Seriously? I never	1,281 207 1%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 17.dad 28%
30	contagious. You said I feel good, you feel good Everybody likes smiles. I don't	1,100 173 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 17.dad 24%
31	smiles, see confidant. You saw? I feel good, you feel good Everybody likes	1,097 171 0%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 17.dad 24%

Screenshot (6) concordance of (feel)

Screenshots (1-6) above display the lexical items that were used by the doctors as a representation of the direct term of evidentiality. They provide examples of the base form of the verbs only; however, the other forms were considered also in the analysis if they show evidentiality. Though they appear in the concordance analysis, some verbs in contexts that don't involve any evidential reference were not considered in our study.

Line	Text	Word #	%	File	%
1	after all her trauma. This morning must've been crazy. Are you okay? This	2,419 409 7%	0 0%	0 0%	episode 8.dad 49%
2	file. For a very long time. Well, there must've been a biopsy. What did the	2,900 503 7%	0 3%	0 3%	episode 5.dad 63%
3	it from the cold storage, but they must've left some blood behind, which	3,059 619 9%	0 3%	0 3%	episode 3.dad 73%
4	told you that. Uh, no. Congratulations. I must've told Dr. Browne, then. Where is	796 172 0%	0 9%	0 9%	episode 3.dad 19%

Screenshot (7) Concordance of (must've)- Inferential term

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N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	t	#	os	#	os	#	os	ft	#	os	ft	File	%
1	and he said. "Good for you," and you said. "Yeah, right. I just broke about			3,253	526	9%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	70%
2	You were at the nurses station, and he said. "Good for you," and you said.			3,247	526	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	70%
3	we discussed at length, which you said you were 100% behind me on. I			3,048	487	0%	5	5%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	69%
4	say you were stupid. Shaun. Nobody said you were stupid. But sometimes			1,718	268	0%	7	7%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	37%
5	- Yeah? What was she doing when she said that? Touching me. She was flirting			888	132	9%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	20%
6	Claire. Why do you say that? - She said I was an asshole. - Yeah? What was			875	130	0%	9	9%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 9	19%
7	mean. I wanted to blow her off, so, uh I said I forgot water. I mean, I figured we'd			3,503	583	1%	0	2%	0	2%	2%	0	2%	2%	2%	episode 8	72%
8	why you're here? Yes. Dr. Glassman said I had to talk to you. After any doctor			1,780	320	3%	0	7%	0	7%	7%	0	7%	7%	7%	episode 8	37%
9	the rest of the day off. Dr. Melendez said that, too. - Why? - "Why?" Because			1,518	274	0%	1	1%	0	1%	1%	0	1%	1%	1%	episode 8	31%
10	Why the hell not? [DIMPERS:] You said keep my hands where you could			1,342	237	7%	0	8%	0	8%	8%	0	8%	8%	8%	episode 8	28%
11	Keep your hands where I can see 'em. I said get out your wallet! [HEART			431	67	3%	0	9%	0	9%	9%	0	9%	9%	9%	episode 8	9%
12	I want I want What, honey? He said I could do it. I want Dr. Shaun. Your			3,366	534	3%	0	4%	0	4%	4%	0	4%	4%	4%	episode 7	74%
13	for including us in their study. They said they were happy to do it. And they			4,441	791	3%	0	5%	0	5%	5%	0	5%	5%	5%	episode 6	95%
14	he said something, and then you said something, and together, you My			1,700	336	1%	0	6%	0	6%	6%	0	6%	6%	6%	episode 6	38%
15	call? - Don't we have to - Maybe he said something, and then you said			1,695	336	8%	0	6%	0	6%	6%	0	6%	6%	6%	episode 6	38%
16	do. "Atticus was right. "One time he said you never really know a man "until			4,406	762	3%	0	6%	0	6%	6%	0	6%	6%	6%	episode 5	96%
17	Well, you know, as a wise person once said, "holding a gudge is a stone in your			3,343	563	3%	0	3%	0	3%	3%	0	3%	3%	3%	episode 5	73%
18	be cancer. - Fractured arm? - Yes. You said he'd been diagnosed with stage four			2,788	493	0%	1	1%	0	1%	1%	0	1%	1%	1%	episode 5	61%
19	"a lie is a stone in your heart." Who said the last one? Ma. I made it up.			1,820	336	7%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 5	40%
20	maybe alcohol-induced. The son said he smelled alcohol on his father at			358	82	7%	0	8%	0	8%	8%	0	8%	8%	8%	episode 5	9%
21	'Cause we rock. Nothing else need be said. - Cheers. - Cheers. When you're			5,078	844	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 4	100%
22	under - I'm gonna pretend you never said that. If it's the only chance to save			3,835	645	3%	0	5%	0	5%	5%	0	5%	5%	5%	episode 4	76%
23	I should've known you would take what I said literally. It's okay. Actually, you			2,779	464	1%	0	5%	0	5%	5%	0	5%	5%	5%	episode 4	55%
24	me at 12:40 a. m. Yes. Dr. Glassman said I can call you any time I need			2,632	450	3%	0	3%	0	3%	3%	0	3%	3%	3%	episode 4	54%
25	you have to cut off my No. No, as I said, the abscess is most likely the			1,185	194	9%	0	3%	0	3%	3%	0	3%	3%	3%	episode 4	24%
26	place where we used to live Where you said you never wanted kids Sometimes,			4,114	784	6%	0	8%	0	8%	8%	0	8%	8%	8%	episode 3	98%
27	before you're registry eligible. And you said you weren't good at math. He gets			2,887	590	4%	0	9%	0	9%	9%	0	9%	9%	9%	episode 3	70%
28	to me? Just one drink? That's what he said. Should I inform the registry? How			2,206	469	0%	3	3%	0	3%	3%	0	3%	3%	3%	episode 3	53%
29	news. SHAUN: We're not leaving. You said you liked helicopters. We are not			1,256	254	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 3	30%
30	Everything has to be perfect. You said that already. I'm your fail-safe. The			567	123	0%	4	4%	0	4%	4%	0	4%	4%	4%	episode 3	14%
T11	never to be seen again I had him say I said he said, but he flew in			4,781	776	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	episode 2	90%

Screenshot (8) concordance of (said) –Reportative term

Table (2) below provides a full description of the concordance results obtained from the Wordsmith software version 4.0.

Table (2) Evidentiality Terms in *The Good Doctor*

Evidentiality Term	Evidence	Frequency	Example
<i>Direct</i>	Seeing	164	I saw a biohazard bag in here yesterday.
	Hearing	59	I heard that heart.
	Tasting	1	This tastes terrible.
	Smelling	9	I smell smoke.
	Touching	0	-----
	Feeling	96	I can feel the pulmonary artery.
<i>Inferential</i>	Based on Seeing	0	-----
	Based on result	11	I must have ruptured the aortic wall.
<i>Reportative</i>	Hearsay	0	-----
	Quotative	174	The son said he smelled alcohol .....

### 10. Conclusions

Based on the results obtained from the Wordsmith software and as table (2) above summarizes them, it can be seen that the objective

## Evidentiality in Doctors'..... (566)

component, represented by the direct term of evidentiality, in the doctors' talk is more than the subjective component which is represented by the reportative term of evidentiality. This definitely means that the doctors base their judgments greatly on physical examination of the hospitalized patients in order to ensure accurate diagnosis. However, they need some subjective component to be presented to them by their patients or care-givers of the patients to know something about the history of the patient, but they don't reckon fully on the information provided by the patients or their care-givers for they don't want to be misled by the inaccurate descriptions of the cases. Moreover, less inferences were made by the doctors because they try not to infer things unless they have an evidence at hand either based on seeing or on result. That's why we see that they haven't made many inferential utterances.

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<sup>1</sup> The Good Doctor tells the story of Dr. Shaun Murphy, a young surgeon with autism and savant syndrome, who is recruited into the surgical unit of a prestigious hospital.