Emerging discourse markers in Lithuanian research writing: GALIMA 'it is possible'
constructions within the epistemicity domain

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The past few decades of studies on research writing have convincingly shown that *author voice* or *author stance* (Hyland & Sancho Guinda 2012) plays an important role in the presentation and shaping up of scientific argumentation (cf. Hyland 2005; Fløttum *et al.* 2006). One of the central categories of author stance expression in research writing are hedging devices (e.g. *probably*, *perhaps*, *may*) which make the proposition sound less categorical. While hedging is substantially researched in English research writing, there are less studies done in other languages, especially regarding the linguistic items less readily associated with stance expression and mitigation.

This paper focuses on the non-agreeing passive participle of the verb *galėti* 'can/be able' and its constructions with infinitive in Lithuanian academic discourse. Based on the 9 million word corpus of academic written Lithuanian (CorALit), the paper explores three different science fields (humanities, technology, medicine) in order to define the semantic-pragmatic profile of these constructions in Lithuanian.

Though the semantic potential of GALIMA 'it is possible' is typically described in literature as limited to expressing dynamic and deontic modality (Holvoet 2009), it is argued in the paper that the constructions with GALIMA + mental/speech act verbs acquire epistemic-evidential overtones. Especially in the humanities they are used by scientific writers to convey stance, and act as discourse markers performing the pragmatic function of hedging. Within a broader perspective, these constructions could be viewed as manifestations of (inter)subjectivity (Traugott 2010) and pragmaticalization (Aijmer 1997) in research writing.

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