



Epistemic modalities of Korean language in the discussion of "Moon Jae-In Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka?" (문재인 정부, 집값 잡기 성공할까?)

Eva Aida Luviani^{1*}, Herniwati¹, Didin Samsudin¹

¹Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: E-mail address: evaal@student.upi.edu

ABSTRACT

Epistemic modality is expressed through various grammatical forms, adverbs, and certain phrases that indicate degrees of certainty, doubt, or speculation. This research aims to determine the various forms and meanings of epistemic modality used by the speakers. The method used in this research was a descriptive qualitative method. The data source was a discussion entitled "Moon Jae-in Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka?". The data collection techniques used in this research were literature study, listening, and note taking. The research employed the analysis technique proposed by Miles and Huberman, namely Interactive Model. The analysis results showed that there were nine out of eleven forms of epistemic modality: {(N)}, {(V)}, {(N) (V)}, {(N) (AUX)}, {(N) (COP)}, {(N) (AUX-Sfx) (Vneg)}, {(-Sfx) (V)}, {(AUX)}, and {(-Sfx)The {(N) (V)} appears the most. This form is fully productive because it has a semantic appropriateness. Furthermore, the analysis results demonstrated that there were three gradients in the meaning of epistemic modality used by the speakers: certainty, probability, and possibility. The probability appears the most. This means that participants in the discussion are quite confident of their speech. The research results indicate that the participants in the discussion employed various ways to express the certainty, probability, and possibility of their speech.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Korean language with its unique and complex grammatical structure offers various forms and expressions to express ideas, opinions or other things in everyday life. These expressions are described in distinctive grammar according to the context the speaker wants to convey. When communicating, many people may not realize that the speaker is conveying a certain meaning. The use of grammar functions as a code for the context to be conveyed. This is related to the modalities used by speakers to convey meaning to the person they are talking to.

Grammar in Korean also describes what modalities are used in speech. In linguistic studies, modality is a form of language that refers to the speakers' attitudes and beliefs (Lubis, 2023). Bloomfield (in Nugraha, 2019) also stated that modality is a linguistic phenomenon which contains lexical elements that can be used to describe the speaker's attitudes and beliefs towards his speech. In communicating, modality is also used as a tool to show the speaker's attitude towards a situation or event, whether in the form of possibility, ability, desire, permission, and so on (Chaer, 2014; Irawati, 2019). In line with this, Hao (2022) said that mastery of modality helps speakers to express attitudes, beliefs and opinions effectively in conversation. One form of modality is epistemic modality. According to Dixon in Herawati (2023), in general, epistemic modality is a modality that concerns probability, possibility and necessity.

This research will focus on researching epistemic modality which is considered an important concept in linguistics which refers to how speakers convey beliefs, knowledge, or conjectures about a situation or event. In Korean, epistemic modality is expressed through various grammatical forms, adverbs, and certain phrases that indicate degrees of certainty, doubt, or speculation. The study of epistemic modality becomes especially relevant when applied to political discussions, as in the discussion "Moon Jae-In Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka?". This title refers to an evaluation of the efforts of President Moon Jae-in's government to overcome the problem of rising house prices in South Korea. This title questions whether the policies implemented by the government of the day were effective in reducing or controlling home prices, which is often a key issue in discussions about housing accessibility and the stability of the real estate market.

In the political context of South Korea, epistemic modality is used by speakers to convey opinions, predictions, and speculation about government actions and policies. This modality has become an important tool in political discussions, allowing speakers to express beliefs, doubts, or speculate about the future and effectiveness of political decisions. For example, in the analysis of "the success of the Moon Jae-In government in taking power", epistemic modalities play a key role in conveying varying degrees of confidence and uncertainty.

In Korean, there are several forms of epistemic modality according to Wyman (1996), the form {{(N)}} uses nouns such as 추정 [chu-jeong] which means 'estimate'; the {{(V)}} form uses verbs such as 믿다 [mid-da] which means 'to believe'; the form {{(N) (V)}} combines nouns and verbs such as 것 [geot] and 같다 [gath-da] to express conjecture; the form {{(N) (AUX)}} combines the noun with the auxiliary 하다 [ha-da] to express an assumption; the form {{(N) (COP)}} uses the copula 이다 [i-da] to express probability; the form {{(N)(Vneg)}} uses a negated construction to express certainty; the form {{(N) (AUX-ADN) (N) (Vneg)}} combines auxiliary and negation like 의심 할 바 없이 [eui-sim hal ba eops-i] which means 'without suspicion'; the form {{(N) (AUX-Sfx) (Vneg)}} uses a combination of noun, auxiliary, and negation such as 의심 [eui-sim] and -지

않다 [ji-anh-da]; the form {{(-Sfx) (V)}} uses the noun suffix -지 [ji] and the verb 모르다 [mo-reu-da]; the form {{(AUX)}} uses the auxiliary 것이다 [geo-si-da] which is shortened to 것다 [geot-da]; and the form {{(-Sfx)}} uses the suffix -겠 [get] to express certainty or prediction. Based on the theory above, this research analyzes epistemic modality in two aspects, namely syntax and semantics. The syntactic aspect will look at how sentence structures in Korean are used to convey epistemic modality. This includes analysis of grammatical forms such as the use of auxiliary verbs, particles, and sentence structures that indicate levels of confidence or uncertainty. The semantic aspect will examine the meaning of epistemic modality in a political context. This includes analysis of specific adverbs and phrases used to convey varying degrees of confidence, such as "definitely," "probably," "impossible," and so on.

There are several previous studies related to epistemic modality. In Kulup et al (2021), epistemic modality, a form of linguistic hedging, is used to express the level of certainty in communication. Research has examined its use among multicultural learners in Surabaya, finding that it is manifested as modalities of predictability, possibility, and necessity. Maerina et al. (2023) In news texts about the COVID-19 pandemic, epistemic modalities that convey certainty appear more often than those that convey predictability, necessity, or possibility. Kompas editorial analysis reveals epistemic modality as the most dominant type, reflecting the uncertain nature of editorial content (Rifiwanti et al., 2020). A contrastive study of epistemic modality in Japanese and Indonesian literature finds differences in modal markers, with one Indonesian modal potentially corresponding to several Japanese equivalents. However, similarities are found in the meaning conveyed by the modalities in both languages (A'yun & Nurhadi, 2020). Research on epistemic modality was also carried out by Aisyah (2019), this research found that epistemic modality is often used in the debate and discussion process. This is because discussions often contain significant errors and tend to be difficult to correct. Epistemic modality is used to convey assertions that contain information about 'knowledge' and 'belief' between the speaker and the interlocutor.

In this research there are two problem formulations, namely,

- (1) What is the form of epistemic modality in the discussion "Moon Jae-in Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka?" (문재인 정부, 집값 잡기 성공할까?)?
- (2) What is the meaning of epistemic modality in the discussion "Moon Jae-in Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka?" (문재인 정부, 집값 잡기 성공할까?)?.

It is hoped that this research can provide significant contributions in several aspects for future research, including the development of epistemic modality theory in the Korean language context and its use in more effective language learning. These findings can enrich the literature on political communication strategies and become a reference for political discourse analysis. In addition, this research opens up opportunities for interdisciplinary research involving linguistics, political studies, psychology, and communication science, so that it can develop theories and wider practical applications in various contexts.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach, namely a research and understanding process based on a methodology that investigates social phenomena and human problems (Siyoto & Sodik, 2015). This research uses a qualitative descriptive method because the data is in the form of soft data consisting of words, phrases and sentences so that it becomes a descriptive description. In this

research, the data used is the epistemic modality contained in the discussion entitled "Moon Jae-in Jeongbu, Jipgap Japgi Seonggonghalkka? (문재인 정부, 집값 잡기 성공할까?)". This discussion is the main event in *밤샘토론* [bam-saem-tho-ron] episode 142 which was broadcast on August 14 2020 at 00:20 pm on JTBC broadcast. This discussion presented 4 speakers, namely Kim Yoeng-bae as a member of parliament for the Democratic party, Kim Byeong-min as a member of the Future Integration party, Kim Hyeon-dong as head of the real estate construction reform division, and Seon Dae-in as director of the economic research institute Seondaein.

Data collection was carried out using library study techniques, namely sharing the understanding of library study techniques as data collection techniques by conducting review studies of books, literature, notes and reports that are related to the problem to be solved (Nazir, 2014). Next, use the listen & note method. The listening method is a method used in language research by listening to the use of language in the object to be researched (Sudaryanto, 2015). When applying the listening method, usually there will be an advanced technique, namely the note-taking technique (Mahsun, 2012). While listening, the author noted data that revealed epistemic modality in the discussion.

The analysis technique used in this research refers to the Interactive Model proposed by Miles & Huberman (2014). The data collection process begins by collecting text from the discussion transcripts. Next, researchers identify and mark epistemic modality expressions that indicate a level of confidence or uncertainty, and categorize and code these expressions according to Wyman's (1996) theory to facilitate analysis. The next process is data reduction, which begins by identifying and extracting expressions of epistemic modality from the text, then categorizing them based on the level of confidence or uncertainty. Syntactic analysis is carried out by examining the sentence structure to understand the integration of epistemic modalities in the sentence, including their position and usage patterns. Finally, semantic analysis evaluates how the expression of epistemic modality influences sentence meaning and context.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the discussion which lasted for more than 2 hours, the author found that there were 99 sentences containing epistemic modality. Meanwhile, from the 99 sentences, it was found that there were 17 expressions of epistemic modality used. Expressors of epistemic modality in Korean that appeared in this discussion include, 추정이다 [chu-jeong-i-da], 것 같다 [geot-gath-da], -겠 [get], 생각하다 [saeng-gak-ha-da], 것이다 [geo-si-da], -지 모르다 [ji-mo-reu-da], 가능성 높다 [ga-neung-seong noph- da], 것다 [geot-da], 의심하지 않다 [eui-sim-ha-ji anh-da], -걸 [geol], 확신하다 [hwak-sin-ha-da], 물론 [mul-lon], 생각 들다 [saeng-gak deul-da], 생각 갖다 [saeng-gak gat-da], 수 있다 [su-it-da], 보다 [bo-da], and 판단하다 [pan-dan-ha- da].

Of the 11 forms proposed by Wymann (1996), only 9 forms appeared in the discussion, including the form {{(N)}; {{(V)}; {{(N)(V)}; {{(N) (AUX)}; {{(N)(COP)}; {{(N) (AUX-Sfx) (Vneg)}; {{(-Sfx) (V)}; {{(AUX)}; and {{(-Sfx)}}. In the form {{(N)}}, only 1 sentence was found, in the form {{(V)}} there were 6 sentences, in the form {{(N) (V)}} there were 34 sentences, in the form {{(N) (AUX)}} there were 20 sentences, the form {{(N) (COP)}} there are 20 sentences, form {{(N) (AUX- Sfx) (Vneg)}} there is 1 sentence, form {{(-Sfx) (V)}} there are 7 sentences, form {{(AUX)}} there are 2 sentences, and finally there are 8 sentences in the form {{(-Sfx)}}.

Next is the meaning contained in expressing epistemic modality. Of the three levels of belief mentioned by Park Jae-yeon, all of them emerged in the discussion. The first meaning is the meaning that shows 'certainty' which consists of 32 sentences. Then the meaning shows 'probability' which consists of 34 sentences. Next is the meaning that shows 'possibility' which consists of 33 sentences.

3.1. Forms of Revealing Epistemic Modality in Discussions

1) Form {(N)}

In the discussion used as a data source, there is the noun 물론 [mul-lon] which contains the epistemic meaning, namely belief, which is interpreted as 'of course' in Indonesian which shows that the speaker feels that what he is expressing is something clear or cannot be debated.

Sentence:

물론 이제 당장히 말씀하긴대로 저도 아쉬움이 되게 많아요.

[mul-lon i-je dang-jang-hi mal-sseum-ha-gin-dae-lo jeo-do a-swi-um-i doe-ge manh-a-yo.]

'Of course there are many unfortunate things as I said.'

In this sentence, 물론 [mul-lon] is a noun that functions as a marker of epistemic modality, expressing certainty or belief. Its form as a single word shows that what is expressed next is something that is considered clear and cannot be debated. 물론 [mul-lon] is used at the beginning of a sentence to emphasize that the feelings of regret that will be expressed are certain and accepted, with the translation "of course" or "definitely" in Indonesian. In the sentence 물론.

2) Form {(V)}

Apart from using nouns, epistemic modality coding can also use verbs, namely the verb 보다 [bo-da]. The verb 보다 [bo-da] is proven to be used to indicate a guess or estimate of a previously mentioned action or state (proposition). The following are sentences containing the expression 보다 [bo-da] found in the discussion.

Sentence:

그래서 지정 때로 한 채에 대한 집을 사기 위해서 금융에 대한 대출을 충분히 받기를 원하는 국민들의 관점에서 바라봤을 때 전부가 9 억 등에 대한 기준을 정해 놓았지만 이미 부동산 값은 천정부지로 오르고 있고 거기에 대한 규제로써 새로운 기회를 막탈하는 국민들의 마음을 정보 충분히 허리 필요가 있다고 봅니다.

[geu-lae-seo ji-jeong mae-lo han chae-e dae-han jib-eul sa-gi wi-hae-seo geum-yong-e dae-han dae-chul-eul chung-bun-hi bad-gi-leul won-ha-neun gug-min-deul-ui gwan-jeom-e-seo ba-ra-bwass-eul ttae jeon-bu-ga 9 eog deung-e dae-han gi-jun-eul jeong-hae noh-ass-ji-man i-mi bu-dong-san gabs-eun cheon-jeong-bu-ji-lo o-leu-go iss-go geo-gi-e dae-han

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'So, from the perspective of people who want to get a loan of enough money to buy a house at a designated sale, looking at it, everyone has set the bar for 900 million, but real estate prices have gone up and I think there is a need to inform people about the opportunity new as a rule for that.'

In this sentence, the verb 보다 [bo-da] is used to express a subjective evaluation based on a certain perspective, which is an aspect of epistemic modality. The phrase 바라봤을 때 [ba-ra-bwass-eul ttae], which means 'when looking at' or 'seen from perspective', shows that the speaker is assessing the situation from the perspective of people who want to buy a house and get a loan.

3) Form {(N) (V)}

In principle, the form {(N) (V)} is completely productive as encoding epistemic modality because the combination of noun and verb is semantically compatible. The noun geot means 'thing' or 'something', while gatta means 'the same' or 'similar'. In Indonesian, this combination of words produces the meaning 'seemingly', 'seemingly', or 'apparently', which is coding to show the speaker's suspicions about the speech he is making.

Sentence:

한번 차원 더 빠르게 나오면 다시 제 일상하러 걸러 가능한 한 아파트에서 빌라로 뭐 어디 외곽으로 그렇게 할 수밖에 없는 아마 그런 분들 많이 있을 것 같아요.

[han-beon cha-won deo ppa-leu-ge na-o-myeon da-si je il-sang-ha-lyeo geol-lyeo ga-neung-han han a-pa-teu-e-seo bil-la -lo mwo eo-di oe-gwag-eu-lo geu-leoh-ge hal su-bakk-e eobs-neun a-ma geu-leon bun-deul manh-i iss-eul geos gat-a-yo.]

'As soon as I get out early, I try to go back to my daily routine of going from apartment to villa or suburb, it seems like there are a lot of people like that.'

In this sentence, the form 있을 것 같아요 [iss-eul geot gat-a-yo] is used to express epistemic modality, namely conjecture or estimation about a situation. This characteristic of epistemic modality arises from the combination of the noun 것 [geot] and the verb 같다 [gat-da], which together provide a conjectural or approximate meaning. 것 [geot], which means 'thing' or 'something', functions as a noun referring to the proposition or situation being discussed, while 같다 [gat-da], which means 'same' or 'similar', in this context functions to state that something appears or seems to be as described. The combination 것 같아요 [geot gat-a-yo] is translated as 'it seems' or 'seems' in Indonesian, indicating that the speaker is giving an assessment or guess about a situation based on existing information.

4) Form {(N) (AUX)}

Apart from being combined with free verbs, there is also the auxiliary 하다 [ha-da] which functions as a verbalization of the noun in front of it. This auxiliary word can be combined with nouns such as the word 생각 [saeng-gak] which means 'mind'. Combined these two words produce the meaning of 'thinking' or 'guessing', where the speaker thinks about and evaluates something using the brain before expressing his final judgment to the person he is speaking to.

Sentence:

조금 전에 저는 선대인 소장님이 말씀하셨던 내용 되게 사실 우리 국민들이 듣고 있는 공감대를 형성하는 부분이라고 생각을 합니다.

[jo-geum jeon-e jeo-neun seon-dae-in so-jang-nim-i mal-sseum-ha-syeoss-deon nae-yong doe-ge sa-sil u-li gug-min-deul-i deud-go iss-neun gong-gam-dae-leul hyeong-seong-ha-neun bu-bun-i-la-go saeng-gag-eul hab-ni-da.]

'I think what Mr. Seon Dae-in said some time ago is an interesting part for the public to hear.'

In this sentence, the form 생각을 합니다 [saeng-gag-eul ham-ni-da] is used to express epistemic modality, namely judgment or thinking about a situation. 생각 [saeng-gak] as a noun is the essence of this form, functioning as an object of thinking activity. In this form, 생각 [saeng-gak] is followed by the particle 을 [eul] to indicate that it functions as the object of the auxiliary 하다 [ha-da]. Meanwhile, 하다 [ha-da] is an auxiliary which functions to change the noun 생각 [saeng-gak] into a verb which means 'think' or 'judge'. This auxiliary gives active meaning to a noun that was previously passive.

5) Form {(N) (COP)}

The next form of expressing epistemic modality contained in the discussion is the combination of the noun 추정[chu-jeong] with the copula 이다[i-da]. 추정[chu-jeong] functions as the main modal which shows the epistemic meaning, namely 'estimate', 'assumption', and 'estimate', while the copula 이다[i-da] functions as a verb formator.

Sentence:

민간조사 업체 부동산 114 에 따르면 지난달 기준 서울 서울 아파트 평균 가격 이 억 10 억 509 만원 을 해 처음 처음 으로 10 억 을 남겼다 고 고 밝혔는데 에 따라 살이 를 포기 하는 하는 하는 하는 이 이 있다는 추정입니다.

[min-gan-jo-sa eob-che bu-dong-san 114e tta-leu-myeon ji-nan-dal mal gi-jun seo-ul a-pa-teu-ui pyeong-gyun ga-gyeog-i 10 eog 509 man-won-eul gi-log-hae cheo-eum-eu-lo 10 eog-won-eul nam-gyeoss-da-go balg-hyeoss-neun-de i-e tta-la seo-ul sal-i-leul po-gi-ha-neun 3040 se-dae-deul-i il-eo-na-go iss-da-neun chu-jeong-ib-ni-da.]

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'According to the private real estate research company 144, as of the end of last month the average price of an apartment in Seoul reached 1 billion 5.09 million won, leaving 1 billion won for the first time and **it is estimated** that the 3040 generation left life in Seoul.'

In this sentence, the form 추정입니다 [chu-jeong-im-ni-da] is used to express epistemic modality in the form of an assessment or prediction about a situation. This characteristic of epistemic modality arises from the combination of the noun 추정[chu-jeong] which means 'estimate' or 'estimate', with the copula 이다[i-da]. The noun 추정[chu-jeong] functions as the object of a statement indicating that the information provided is the result of conjecture or estimation, while 이다[i-da]. functions to change the noun into a predicative form, confirming that the statement is a judgment or conclusion. The combination 추정입니다 [chu-jeong-im-ni-da] is generally translated as 'this is an estimate' in Indonesian, indicating that the information conveyed is subjective and based on evaluation, not definite facts.

6) Form {(N) (AUX-Sfx) (Vneg)}

This form is very limited because it can only be used through a combination of the noun 의심 [eui-sim], auxiliary 하다 [ha-da], suffix -지 [-ji] and negative verb 않다 [anh-da], which when combined becomes 의심 하지 않다 [eui-sim ha-ji anh-da].

Sentence:

그래서 저는 문재인 정부의 부동산 정책에 대한 선의를 **의심하지 않습니다.**

[geu-lae-seo jeo-neun mun-jae-in jeong-bu-ui bu-dong-san jeong-chaeg-e dae-han seon-ui-leul ui-sim-ha-ji anh-seub-ni-da.]

'The real estate policy of the Moon Jae-in government definitely has good intentions, **I don't doubt it.**'

The form 의심하지 않다 [eui-sim-ha-ji anh-da] is very limited because it can only be used through a combination of the noun 의심 [eui-sim], auxiliary 하다 [ha-da], suffix -지 [-ji], and negative verb 않다 [anh-da]. In this sentence, this form is used to express epistemic modality in the form of an assessment that there is no doubt or suspicion about a situation. 의심 [eui-sim] means 'doubt' or 'suspicion', which functions as the main noun in this form. 하다 [ha-da] is an auxiliary that changes the noun 의심 [eui-sim] into a verb, functioning to indicate an action or state related to doubt. -지 [-ji] is a suffix used to form a negative form or express the absence of the action or state described by the previous noun. 않다 [anh-da] is a negative verb meaning 'not' or 'not to do', used to emphasize the absence of the action or state mentioned. The combination 의심하지 않다 [eui-sim ha-ji anh-da] is translated as 'does not doubt' in Indonesian. This form shows that the speaker has no doubts or suspicions about what is stated.

7) Form {(-Sfx) (V)}

The next coding of epistemic modality in the discussion is the use of the suffix -지 [ji], with the verb 모르다 [mo-reu-da], which means 'don't know', thus forming the construction {{(- Sfx) (V)}}.

Sentence:

아마 지금 30 대 40 대 젊은 사람들 입장에서는 김연미 국도 부상관 호흡 홍리회 부천 기회가 어떤 방식의 부동산 대책 얘기하는 지보다 이 부동산 온라인 카페에서 사무업무이라는 필명을 가지고 있는 피자를 들어 보셨는지 모르겠습니다만 이런 사람들 이 얘기하고 올리는 방식속에서 부동산이 어떻게 가는지를 바라보는 것이 훨씬 불가마가 클 겁니다.

[a-ma ji-geum 30 dae 40 dae jeol-meun sa-ram-deul ip-jang-e-seo-n-eun kim-yeon-mi guk-do bu-sang-gwan ho-heup hong-ri- hoe bu-cheon gi-hoe-ga eo-tteon bang-sik-ui bu-dong-san dae-chaeg yae-gi-ha-neun ji-bo-da i bu-dong-san on-la-in ka-pe-e-seo sa-mu-eob-mu-i-ra-neun pil-myeong-eul ga-ji-go iss-neun pi-ja-leul deul-eo bo-syeoss-neun-ji mo-reu-ges-seum-ni-da-man i-reon sa-ram-deul-i yae-gi-ha-go ol-li-neun bang-sik-sog-e-seo bu-dong-san-i eo-tteon -ga-neun-ji-leul ba-ra-bo-neun geos-i huol-sim deo bul-ga-ma-ga keul geob-nida]

'I don't know if you've heard about the job that has the pseudonym of pizza in an online cafe than talking about real estate settlement methods from the perspective of young people in their 30s and 40s regarding the opportunities for Kim Yeon-mi's national highway, but in the way these people talk and post it will be much more important to see how the real estate works.'

In this sentence, the use of the suffix -지 [ji] with the verb 모르다 [mo-reu-da], which means 'don't know', forms the construction -지 [ji] + 모르다 [mo-reu-da] to express epistemic modality in the form of ignorance or uncertainty about a piece of information or situation. 모르다 [mo-reu-da] means 'don't know', which functions as the main verb indicating ignorance or lack of knowledge about something. -지 [ji] is a suffix that adds a nuance of ignorance or uncertainty to a statement being made, often used to express that the speaker has no information or is unsure about something. The combination -지 [ji] + 모르다 [mo-reu-da] forms the phrase 보셨는지 모르겠습니다만 [bo-syeoss-neun-ji mo-leu-gess-seub-ni-da-man], which is generally translated as 'I don't know' or 'I'm not sure'. This shows that the speaker does not have definite knowledge or information about the situation or information mentioned.

8) Form {{(AUX)}}

The auxiliary expression 것다 [geot-da] is also used as an encoding for epistemic modality. 것다 [geot-da] is an abbreviation of the expression 것이다 [geo-si-da] and is one of the expressions of epistemic modality in Korean which is expressed grammatically.

Sentence:

하지만 문재인 정부가 정책을 쏟아내고 과정에서는 규제 일변도의 정책을 쏟아내고 기다려 라 시간이 지남에 결국은 여기에 대해서 부동산 값이 잡힐것다.

[ha-ji-man mun-jae-in jeong-bu-ga jeong-chaeg-eul ssod-a-nae-go gwa-jeong-e-seo-neun gyu-je il-byeon-do-ui jeong-chaeg -eul ssod-a-nae-go gi-da-lyeo-la si-gan-i ji-nam-e gyeol-gug-eun yeo-gi-e dae-hae-seo bu-dong-san gabs-i jab -hil-geos-da.]

‘However, the Moon Jae-in administration issued a policy and in the process issued a policy of dedication so that as time goes by, we will definitely eventually control real estate prices.’

In this sentence, the use of 것이다 [geo-si-da] which is shortened to 것다 [geot-da] functions as an epistemic modality coder that shows predictions or conjectures about the future. 것이다 [geo-si-da] is the basic form which means 'will be' or 'will happen'. This serves to express something that is estimated or predicted to happen in the future. 것다 [geot-da] is an abbreviated form of 것이다 [geo-si-da] which is used in Korean to express a prediction or guess about a future event. The combination 것다 [geot-da] in this sentence is translated as 'will definitely' or 'will happen' in Indonesian. This indicates that the speaker predicts or believes that a situation or circumstance will occur in the future based on current information or conditions.

9) Form {(-Sfx)}

The suffix -걸 [geol] is also used to encode the most grammatical epistemic modality. This suffix is used when the speaker believes that the probability of a proposition is very high in actually happening. The following are sentences containing the suffix -걸 [geol] which are in the discussion.

Sentence:

지금 말씀하신대로 그걸 좀 종합해서 충분히 내부 토론도 하고 요런 더 수렴하고 여기저기 의견을 들어서 한 달 후에 종합대책도 나와도 될걸.

[ji-geum mal-sseum-ha-sin-dae-lo geu-geol jom jong-hab-hae-seo chung-bun-hi nae-bu-ton-lon-do ha-go yo-leon deo su-lyeom- ha-go yeo-gi-jeo-gi ui-gyeon-eul deul-eo-seo han dal hu-e jong-hab-dae-chaeg-do na-wa-do doel-geol.]

‘As has been said, we put all that together, have internal discussions, collect things like this and listen to various opinions, comprehensive steps can also come out within a month.’

In this sentence, the use of the suffix -걸 [geol] functions as an epistemic modality coder that indicates a high level of certainty or probability that a proposition will occur. -걸 [geol] is an abbreviated form of -것을 [geos-eul] which is used to indicate that something is considered very likely or almost certain to happen. This suffix indicates that the speaker believes that the proposition expressed has a very high probability of coming true. The combination -걸 [geol] in this sentence is translated as 'definitely possible' or 'most likely' in Indonesian. This indicates that the speaker believes that comprehensive measures or a final decision will likely be produced in the near future, based on existing information and plans.

3.2 The Meaning of Revealing Epistemic Modality in Discussion

1) Certainty

The expression 확신하다 [hwak-sin-ha-da] has the meaning of 'to believe' and 'to believe' in something (in this case it is the proposition being expressed). The use of 확신하다 [hwak-sin-ha-da] is intended so that not only himself, but the listener also believes and believes in the truth of the proposition.

Sentence:

그래서 지금 타이밍이 그런 타임이 있는데 그걸 도입을 해 가지고 이 혼란이 굉장히 장교가 될 거라고 좀 확신합니다.

[geu-lae-seo ji-geum ta-i-ming-i geu-leon ta-im-i iss-neun-de geu-geol do-ib-eul hae ga-ji-go i hon-lan-i goeng -jang-hi jang-gyo-ga doel geo-la-go jom hwag-sin-hab-ni-da.]

'So now the time is right and I believe that this chaos will be very detrimental to officers.'

In the sentence above, the speaker says that he is very confident that the current chaos will be very detrimental to officers. This is not just a guess. Before saying it, the speaker has thought it through carefully and evaluated it with accurate calculations and then expressed the results of his conclusions to other people.

2) Probability

The expression of the epistemic modality which has the meaning 'probability' is a combination of 가능성 [ga-neung-seong] and 높다 [noph-da]. The word 가능성 높다 [ga-neung-seong noph-da] means 가능성 [ga-neung-seong] 'possibility', while the word 높다 [noph-da] means 'high'. The combination of these two words, 가능성 높다 [ga-neung-seong noph-da], indicates a high degree of probability, so it is used to denote 'probability' in the context of epistemic modality.

Sentence

사실 문재인 정부 출범할 때 그 한 언론 인터뷰를 통해서 문재인 정부의 아킬레스 운도 부동산 문제가 될 가능성이 높다.

[sa-sil mun-jae-in jeong-bu chul-beom-hal ttae geu han eon-lon in-teo-byu-leul tong-hae-seo mun-jae-in jeong-bu-ui a-kil-le -seu un-do bu-dong-san mun-je-ga doel ga-neung-seong-i noph-da.]

'In fact when the Moon Jae-in administration started, going by a press interview the Achilles heel of the Moon Jae-in administration was most likely to be the real estate issue.'

The sentence above uses the expression 가능성 높다 [ga-neung-seong noph-da] to show how likely it is for the speaker to actually happen the proposition. According to him, the Moon Jae-in government could be the main factor in real estate problems and the possibility of this happening is quite high.

3) Possibility

The combination -지 모르다 [ji-mo-reu-da] is included in the expression that expresses the meaning of 'possibility'. The word moreuda has the dictionary meaning of 'don't know'. The word 모르다 [mo-reu-da] contained in this expression shows semantically that the speaker does not know anything about the truth of the proposition he is saying, but if he has to judge it, he feels that his assumption is true. This expression is used to suspect or estimate things that are not yet clear.

Sentence:

사실은 일정기간 동안에 나타날 수 있는 아까 말씀드린 심리적 혼란이라든지 혹은 아니면 약간의 이제 불일치하는 현상들은 있을지 모르지만 전체적으로 보자면 이번 제도가 법으로 이제 행되는 것이기 때문에 저는 전월세 시장에서 서민들의 주거가 보장이 되는 방향으로 안정화되지 않겠느냐라고 하는 기대가 합리적이다라는 말씀을 꼭 드리고 싶습니다.

[sa-sil-eun il-jeong-gi-gan dong-an-e na-ta-nal su iss-neun a-kka mal-sseum-deu-lin sim-li-jeog hon-lan-i-la- deun-ji hog-eun a-ni-myeon yag-gan-ui i-je bul-il-chi-ha-neun hyeon-sang-deul-eun iss-eul-ji mo-leu-ji-man jeon-che -jeog-eu-lo bo-ja-myeon i-byeon je-do-ga beob-eu-lo i-je haeng-doe-neun geos-i-gi ttae-mun-e jeo-neun jeon-wol-se si-jang-e-seo seo-min-deul-ui ju-geo-ga bo-jang-i doe-neun bang-hyang-eu-lo an-jeong-hwadoe-ji anh-gess-neu-nya-la -go ha-neun gi-dae-ga hab-li-jeog-i-da-la-neun mal-sseum-eul kkog deu-li-go sip-seub-ni-da.]

'In fact, there may be the opposite phenomenon or psychological confusion that I mentioned earlier, overall I would say that it is reasonable to expect that the rental market will not stabilize in a direction that guarantees ordinary people real estate because of the current system.'

In the sentence above, the speaker does not know whether the phenomenon of conflict or psychological confusion exists or not, but it could exist, so he decides to tell people about it. But this conjecture is not the point of his remarks, because regardless of whether his conjecture is true or false, the speaker simply wants to say that it is very reasonable to expect that the rental market will not stabilize in a direction that guarantees ordinary people real estate because of the current system.

4. CONCLUSION

The discussion that lasted more than two hours revealed the use of epistemic modality in 99 sentences, with 17 different expressions of epistemic modality in Korean. These phrases include 추정이다 [chu-jeong-i-da], 것 같다 [geot-gath-da], -겠 [get], and others. Of the 11 forms of expressing epistemic modality identified by Wymann (1996), 9 forms appear in the discussion, such as {{(N)}, {{(V)}, {{(N) (V)}, {{(N) (AUX)}, and {{(N)(COP)}}. Based on meaning, three levels of belief emerged: certainty (32 sentences), probability (34 sentences), and possibility (33 sentences).

The form {{(N)}} indicates certainty as in the use of 물론 [mul-lon]. The form {{(V)}} with the verb 보다 [bo-da] shows conjecture or estimate. The form {{(N) (V)}} combined with geot and 같다 [gat-da] expresses a guess or estimate. The form {{(N) (AUX)}} with the word think like 생각하다 [saeng-gak-ha-da] shows judgment or thought. The form {{(N) (COP)}} with 추정이다 [chu-jeong-

i-da] indicates an estimate or estimation. The form {(N) (AUX-Sfx) (Vneg)} such as 의심하지 않다 [eui-sim-ha-ji anh-da] expresses no doubt, while the form {(-Sfx) (V)} with -지 [ji] and 모르다 [mo-reu-da] indicates ignorance or uncertainty. The use of 것이다 [geot-da] as an abbreviation of 것이다 [geo-si-da] emphasizes certainty in the process of time.

In the context of epistemic modality, there are three different levels of belief: certainty, probability, and possibility. Certainty refers to a very strong and steady belief in the truth of a proposition, as expressed with 확신하다 [hwak-sin-ha-da], where the speaker is completely sure that something is true. Probability reflects an estimate of how likely an event is to occur, for example with the expression 가능성 높다 [ga-neung-seong noph-da], which indicates that a proposition has a high probability. Meanwhile, possibility refers to uncertainty or suspicion regarding the truth of a proposition, which is expressed with the expression -지 모르다 [ji-mo-reu-da], where the speaker is not completely sure but thinks there is a possibility.

Regarding epistemic modalities in Korean political discussions, there are several promising research directions. One is a comparative analysis between Korean and other languages to identify universal as well as language-specific strategies in the expression of certainty and possibility. This research could provide insight into how epistemic modalities are applied differently across languages and contexts. Additionally, research can be expanded to include different types of discourse, such as casual conversations and media presentations. This can help in exploring the impact of epistemic modalities on persuasion and argumentation, as well as how these techniques affect audiences in different situations. It is also important to consider the study of the development of epistemic modalities in language acquisition, including how these concepts are learned and adapted by non-native speakers. This research may provide additional insight into how epistemic modalities develop and function in online communication. Finally, quantitative analyzes of the distribution of epistemic markers across different corpora, as well as studies of the influence of culture on the use of epistemic modalities, could also enrich our understanding of this phenomenon. This kind of research not only increases our understanding of how epistemic modalities function in political contexts, but also provides practical applications in communication in general.

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