

Modes of knowing in Galen: Evidential expressions and register marking in Ancient Greek

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This paper is dealing with evidentiality as a potential device of register marking in ancient languages for special purposes.

It will start off with a discussion of the relations between the domains of epistemicity, subjectivity and evidentiality. Evidentials are not generally included among epistemics and have been regarded as markers of the speaker's information source as opposed to epistemic markers of the speaker's state of knowledge or belief (Aikhenvald 2004). More integrative accounts include evidentials under epistemics as speaker strategies of indicating a '(lack of) commitment to the truth of the proposition being expressed' (e.g. "It is said that..." or "It appears that..."; cf. Palmer 1986: 52), or identify at least areas of overlap between epistemics and evidentials (such as van der Auwera & Plungian 1998).

Based on these grounds, the paper will enter into the question how the concept of evidentiality was displayed linguistically in Ancient Greek (building on perspectives such as van Rooy 2016). Selected examples from Galen's medical books will be used to investigate the range of linguistic strategies of evidential marking and its interrelation with modality, comprising lexical as well as grammatical means.

On the (more) lexical side, we are dealing with adverbs and notional verbs encoding modes of knowledge acquisition through perception or logical induction (for the categories, cf. Willet 1988):

De locis affectis I,1,5

Καὶ μὲν δὴ καὶ ἀγγείου τι μόριον οὐ μικρὸν ἀναβηχθὲν **ἐθεασάμεθα σαφῶς ἐνδεικνύμενον** καὶ τοῦτο τοῖς ἐμπείροις ἀνατομῆς, ὥς ἐκ τοῦ πνεύμονός ἐστι.

'And **we have also seen clearly** (direct/perceptual evidence) that not a small part of a vessel has been coughed up, **this being an obvious sign** (indirect/inferred evidence) for the experienced dissectors that it comes from the lungs.'

On the (more) grammatical side, we find the specific use of moods such as the optative and/or modal particles indicating the speaker's stance on the reliability of the information source (such as ἄρα; cf. la Roi 2019) or referring to shared knowledge of speaker and addressee(s) (such as δὴ, cf. Allen 2021). Further strategies of situating evidence within a discourse might be identified in references to medical authorities and in Galen's references to his own work.

In considering possible correlations between type and frequency of evidential expressions and contextual-situational factors, it will be suggested that evidentials might help us to get a grip on Galen's communicative strategies and to identify linguistic registers (as discussed in Bowcher 2020) in his texts.

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