

## **La modalité au service de l'argumentation**

### Modality at the service of argumentation

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**Abstract:** Communication sometimes consists for the speaker of putting forward an endorsed opinion in a given situation and in attempting to provide the audience with the best reasons in order for them to concur with this opinion, while granting them the liberty of espousing or not the thesis in question at the end of the reasoning. In other words, the subject that the speaker is going to debate, a subject which falls within the whole set of ideas and opinions shared by his/her possible or real interlocutors at the moment  $T_i$  will take the form of an *argumentation*. A special relationship is established between the speaker and the message recipient, as well as between the former – also called *argument providing subject* ('*sujet argumentant*') by certain researchers – and his/her *words*, of whose *validity* he/she must *convince* the latter, the *target audience*. In order for the *argumentation* to succeed, the speaker must carefully mark his/her position regarding the *words* he/she employs, as well as regarding the *value of the arguments* mobilized. It is precisely on these levels that the importance of *modality* becomes manifest, thus contributing to the success of argument phrasing ('*mise en argumentation*'). How can *modality* prove useful for argument phrasing? On what levels is it involved in the process of *argumentation* and how is it achieved? Such is the subject we attempt to develop starting from a message of a particular type: a revealing fragment, in our opinion, taken from a literary text.

**Key words:** argumentation, argument providing subject, opinion, truth value, modality.