

Les fluctuations de sens dans quelques formes modales à la lumière d'une approche quantitative et qualitative

A quantitative and qualitative approach to the study of the fluctuations in meaning of certain modal expressions

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Abstract: The expressions discussed in this article – *certes*, *peut-être* and *sans doute* – share the property of conveying a modal meaning (to be understood as non-denotational), which oscillates between an epistemic and a more or less conventionalized concessive value. To take this type of variation in meaning into account, the author on the one hand combines a qualitative and quantitative approach and on the other uses a theoretical framework, called the *triadic model*, which is based on the representation of the semantic contribution of the marker on three different levels: the *semantic*, the *enunciative* and the *rhetorical* level.

Key words: modal expressions, quantitative method, collocation, statistics, corpus.