Expressions of Quotativity and Reportivity

German Reported Speech and Reportive Evidentiality

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Overview

• A. Theoretical Background
  - A.1. Reportive Evidentiality vs. Reported Speech
  - A.2. Reportivity and Quotatativity

• B. Data Analysis: sollen (‘shall’)

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A. Theoretical Background

A.1. Reportive Evidentiality vs. Reported Speech
A.1. REvi vs. RS

• (Reportive) Evidentiality
  - "Evidentiality proper is understood as stating the existence of a source of evidence for some information; this includes stating that there is some evidence, and also specifying what type of evidence there is" (Aikhenvald 2003: 1)
  - For REvi: "indicating that the current speaker has not witnessed the event him/herself but has merely heard about it from other sources" (Chojnicka 2012: 173)

• Reported Speech
  - 173: "brings together tools and devices used for attributing knowledge to another speaker[,] usually divided into direct and indirect speech, which differs in the degree to which the original speaker's perspective – or voice – is preserved"
A.1. REvi vs. RS

Commonalities

1. Both involve reference/referral
   - Information in a certain (syntactic, prosodic,...) form (or register) with a certain (semantic) content, occurring with a certain purpose in a certain situation (place, time), stemming from one or more sources (persons) in a certain interaction
   - Referenced by another person (typically the current speaker) with a certain purpose in another (similar or different syntactic, prosodic,...) form with roughly the same (semantic) content in another situation and interaction
A.1. REvi vs. RS

2. Both crucially invoke ‘source’
   - A Referred SP/W or Information Source
     • The (supposed) origin of the information that is rendered in the/ as the proposition
     • Variety of ways of marking (see infra)
   - A Referring SP/W
     • Renders information in the proposition while (overtly) referring back to its origin (thus signalling his own non-authorship)
     • Often not marked overtly

=> Clearly related, yet also clearly different
Differences

1. Different kinds of reference/referral
   - Reported Speech
     • References a SOURCE/ SP/W (and the info it provided)
     • Renders utterances of others
       - Jakobson (1971: 130), Chojnicka (2012: 173, 175): knowledge attribution to another speaker, Güldemann (2008: 407): "In normal R[eported] D[iscourse] the quote [...] represents non-immediate discourse; [a] minor part of a larger text that constitutes the immediate discourse", "the quote [...] is a fairly well-delineated intrusion into the main text"

   - Marking in German
     - Two propositions (speech act + content of speech act)
     - Pres Subj, Ind (+ source indication), quotation marks, verbs of saying, INF, ...
- Reportive Evidentiality
  - References some type of information
  - Indicates sources for one’s own utterances, focus on SELF
    - Güldemann (2008: 407): "With a hearsay evidential [...] the text in the scope of the evidential [...] belongs to the main body of the ongoing immediate discourse", "the quote [...] "expands" to actually become the main text"
    - Chojnicka (2012: 175): speaker claim is central, evidence is "background information"

- Marking in German
  - One proposition (content of speech act)
  - sollen ‘shall’ (wollen ‘will’), potentially things like es heißt ‘it is said’
A.1. REvi vs. RS

2. Different source relevance (and type/marking, see infra)
   - Reported Speech
     • Focus on the Referred SP/W
     • The Referring SP/W enters into his own discourse a swath of text that is perspectivised from the Referred SP/W
   - Reportive Evidentiality
     • Focus on the Referring SP/W
     • The Referring SP/W makes a swath of text that does not stem from him to part of his own discourse, rendered from his own perspective
A.2. Reportivity and Quotativity
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- RS and REvi invoke the same (facets of the same) domain, but differently
- Can be related as poles on a continuum within that domain
- Diewald & Smirnova (2010):
  - RS = Quotatives (non-deictic)
    - Speaker role shifts to a 2nd speaker who is quoted
    - One comm. sit. embedded in another (2 mental spaces)
    - Current "I-Here-Now" ≠ vantage point
  - REvi = Reportives (deictic)
    - Speaker role remains with 1st speaker
    - Source marked in current comm. sit. (1 mental space)
    - Current "I-Here-Now" = vantage point
A.2. Reportivity and Quotativity

- However, a continuum implies "intermediate constructions", gradual transitions from pole to pole.

- Hence: Quotativity and Reportivity
  - A degree of the measure to which a construction is quotative or reportive in nature
  - Check lists can be made of the traits the most prototypical (or rather basic) representative of each category has
  - Intermediate constructions will share traits of both categories
A.2. Reportivity and Quotativity

• Quotatives = Quotes (Prototypically:)

Meir Lau [...] sagte vor kurzem im israelischen Radio den Satz: “[...] Ich habe diese Erfahrung in meiner Kindheit nicht gemacht” (DS/37.12/32)

'Meir Lau recently spoke the following sentence on Israeli radio: “I did not have this experience in my childhood”'

- “channelling” or “mediating” another perspective; communicative distancing (Confais 1989: deactualisation)
- “Accuracy Requirement”
- RefInfo= finite clause, grounded in surrogate ground
- Clear delineation of what is (not) referred (cf. two propositions)
- Clear overt indication of def, sg, human source
- Description of source, speech act/situation, register, interaction, content, form
- Non-deictic marking (speech verbs, quotation marks,...)
A.2. Reportivity and Quotativity

- Reportives = Reports (Prototypically:)

Rund die Hälfte der Gefangenen stammt aus Yemen; auch der Verstrobene soll Jemenit gewesen sein (FAZ/12-09/6)
‘Around half of the inmates comes from Yemen; the deceased is also said to have been a Yemenite’

- Information from own perspective – communicative imposing (still indicating non-authorship)
- No “Accuracy Requirement”
- Referred info (“essential content”, cf. Langacker 1987b: 253) = non-finite
- Referred info is part of one proposition, grounded in the actual ground
- Source "restrictionless", often not marked overtly and/or unknown
- Characterisation of content, vague reference to third-party source
- Deictic marking ((mood), modal verbs)
A.2. Reportivity and Quotativity

• “Traditional” continua: type approach
  - E.g. Vliegen (2010): between types of RS
    • DR > DRp > IRp > nIR > DASS > INF
  - Mortelmans & Vanderbiesen (2011): between moods/modals
    • sollen > wollen > present subjunctive

• Refinement: token approach
  - E.g. One DR token may have more reportive traits than another
  - Illustrated with sollen
B. Data Analysis: *sollen* ‘shall’
B. Data Analysis: sollen

- Manually composed German newspaper corpus
  - Tabloid: Bild
  - Broadsheet: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, der Spiegel
  - Regional: Münchner Merkur, Frankfurter Neue Presse

- One edition each (12/09/2012)
  - Scanned for RS (and limiting cases), relevant sollen- and wollen-constructions (and ambiguous cases)

- So far: 97 tokens for sollen
B. Data Analysis: *sollen*

- **Sollen**: very reportive
  - Mitarbeiter von führenden deutschen Stahlherstellern *sollen sich* [...] auf Firmenkosten im Bordell *vergnügt haben*. (B/12-09/6)
  'Coworkers of leading German steel producers are said to have enjoyed themselves in brothels on the company's dime'

  - Der Militärische Abschirmdienst der Bundeswehr (MAD) *soll* [...] *versucht haben* [...] Uwe Mundlos anzuwerben. Das wurde gestern beim Untersuchungsausschuss im Bundestag bekannt. (B/12-09/2)
  'The Military Counterintelligence Service is said to have attempted to hire Uwe Mundlos. That came out yesterday in the committee of inquiry in parliament'

- Tokens may appear with quotative elements
B. Data Analysis: *sollen*

Overt source indication

- Nach ersten Erkenntnissen der Polizei *soll* der Fahrer in letzter Sekunde *versucht haben*, eine Autobahnausfahrt zu nehmen. (FAZ/12-09/9)
  'According to preliminary observations by police the driver is said to have attempted to take an exit at the last second'

- Laut Augenzeugen *sollen* die Schüler kurz zuvor an der Laterne darüber *gescherzt haben*, dass bei Berührung Funken aus ihr sprühten. (B/12-09/3)
  'According to eyewitnesses, the students are said to immediately beforehand have made light of the fact that upon touching it the lighting pole was spraying sparks'
Co-occurrence with quotations

- According to indications by Edathy his public authority is said to have even been coaxed into making the remark that they were dealing "with only a murder case", it was not "important enough that the police should help".

- Most frequently, doctors are said to have "blundered and bungled" during operations.
B. Data Analysis: sollen

Occurrence in/support from RS-constructions

- „Das Tafelsilber wird verscherbelt“, soll Dehm unter anderem gesagt haben – was er bestreitet. (FNP/12-09/11)
  '"The silverware is being broken", Dehm alledgedly said, amongst other things – which he contests'

- Laut „Bild“-Zeitung soll Amann auch zwei weiteren Führungskräften mitgeteilt haben, dass er nicht weiter mit ihnen zusammenarbeiten wolle. (BMP/12-09/10)
  'According to "Bild"-Zeitung, Amann is said to have told two other executives that he did not want to continue working with them'
C. Final Thoughts
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• RS and REvi on a continuum
  - Proto RS is quotative: info is ascribed to a specific source and presented from its perspective
  - Proto REvi is reportive: info is marked as being non-original (reported) to the current SP/W, as having another source
  - In actual practice, constructions often do a bit of both

• Amazing flexibility
  - Variatio delectat
  - Clear boundary between reportives and quotatives as types, but fuzzy between their tokens: reportivity and quotativity
  - Not “anything goes” (e.g. no reportive DR or quotative sollen (!)), but definite tendencies and overlaps, which is desirable from a cognitive linguistic perspective
C. Final Thoughts

• Continuum goes both ways
  - Quotatives may grammaticalise into reportives, but not vice versa
  - But we see reportives may take up quotative functions and traits (and vice versa)

• Function is crucial
  - Traditional research defines types of RS on syntactic (i.e. formal) grounds
  - Token approach looks at function first: not the type of marker defines the classification as RS or REvi / reportive or quotative, but the function of the token in context
  - This involves looking not only at content, but also at construal
  - Source is a critical ingredient
C. Final Thoughts

- Further Research
  - Reported Speech constructions (more compelling data)
  - *Wollen* (hybrid form)
  - Theoretical implications of continuum (“reportive mood” in German)
  - Relation to epistemic and other non-evidential uses
  - Detailed study of source-marking (main clause vs. adverbial phrase,...)
It is said that these talks have to leave time for questions...

So have at it!

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