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### How epistemic modal are quotative indexes in Udmurt?

In colloquial Udmurt, there is quite a diverse system of quotative strategies. Besides the autochthonous quotative particles *pe* and *pöj* (in Beserman dialect *pi* – cf. Arkhangelskiy 2014), there are a number of quotative strategies borrowed from Russian. Among those strategies one can find uses of the Russian complementizers *čto* and *budto* with speech and non-speech verbs (1), the quotative particles *mol* (2) and *deskat'*, and the new quotative *tipa* 'like' (3).

- (1) *Kožaškod, budto mon ug todišky*  
suppose.PRS.2SG like 1SG NEG.PRS.1SG get to know.CN  
*val, čto ton vańze umoj šotod?*  
be.PST.3SG COMP 2SG all.ACC3SG correctly give.FUT.2SG  
'You **suppose like** I wouldn't know that you will hand out everything correctly?' (Blog subcorpus).

- (2) *...izviňat'sa kari, mol jangyšaj.*  
sorry do.PST.1SG like/QI be mistaken.PST.1SG  
'I **apologized** here **like** I was wrong' (vk.com).

- (3) *...tipa, pofig hot' valady, hot' ad, ne*  
like who cares if understand.PRS.2PL if NEG NEG  
*mynam jyrvišone.*  
1SG.GEN headache.1SG  
'[Belosludtsev was talking in Udmurt before singing, without translating into Russian], **like**, who cares whether you understand or not, it is not my problem' (Blog subcorpus).

In Russian, both the complementizer *budto* and the quotative particles *mol* and *deskat'* bear epistemic modal meanings. Differently from the epistemic neutral complementizer *čto*, *budto* is used when the reporter aims to indicate uncertainty or low commitment to the accuracy of a quote (Shvedova 1980: §2277-79; Letuchij 2008: 229-30). The quotative particle *mol* and *deskat'* appear in reported discourse constructions to indicate a difference between the reported and the original text. By using *mol*, a reporter aims to preserve the important information, and the less important facts are either left unspecified or are presented vaguely. Hence, the subjective position of the speaker is present the least. *Deskat'*, on the contrary, occurs quite frequently in contexts where a reporter intends to interpret reported discourse with a tone of subjectivism (Plungjan 2008: 291-93). By using the new quotative *tipa* 'like', the reporter aims to distance him-/herself from the ongoing reported discourse and shows that it is produced with a note of uncertainty (cf. Buchstaller & Van Alphen 2012: XV).

Since it cannot be taken for granted that Russian quotative indexes are replicated into Udmurt together with their epistemic modal meanings, several questions arise. First, it is important to understand whether the epistemic modal meanings are preserved also in colloquial Udmurt. Further, it is interesting to compare the epistemic modal meanings of autochthonous and Russian quotative particles in Udmurt. To answer these questions, qualitative research is carried out. As basic material, data depicting internet communications are used. The choice is motivated by the fact that the language in the social network sites largely reflects actually spoken language in the written form, combining both standard writing and colloquial speech inside one text (Hellavuoto *et al.* 2014: 13; Pischlöger 2014b: 144). The results (i) show the differences between the use of the indigenous and borrowed quotative indexes, (ii) explain the motivation for the borrowing of individual quotatives which lies behind the meanings these markers express both in the matrix and recipient language.

**Keywords:** quotative indexes, quotative particles, epistemic modality, reported discourse, Udmurt.

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