

An Investigation of Epistemic Modality in Literary Texts

By

¹Nader Assadi Aidinlou and ²Sholeh Mohammadpour

¹PhD in Applied Linguistics, Islamic Azad University, Ahar Branch

²M.A. Candidate in TEFL, Islamic Azad University, Ahar Branch

Abstract

Language is employed for not only conveying factual information but also expressing one's attitudes and opinions about the truth of the proposition contained in an utterance. Here the authors has made their attempts to realize how epistemic modality, which indicates addressees's (non)-commitment to the truth of the proposition, is textualized in literary works. The results from the data analysis indicates that modality is lexico-grammaticalized in literary narratives in a variety of modes of which the epistemic modals are of high frequency. Furthermore, these modals construe four types of ideology; that is to say, possibility, probability, inference and belief, in, from among which the epistemic possibility is utilized with high frequency.

Keywords: *Epistemic Modality, Literary Texts, Textualization, Interpersonal Function*