Irina Shchemeleva*

[a]*Higher School of Economics*
National Research University, Russia

[b]*University of Helsinki, Finland*
ishemeliova@hse.ru

"IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THAT…": CLUSTERS OF EPISTEMIC STANCE EXPRESSIONS IN WRITTEN ACADEMIC ELF TEXTS

Abstract

Nowadays, when English has firmly established itself as a lingua franca (ELF) in academic settings, it is very important to study the features of texts written by L2 speakers who come from a variety of cultural and L1 backgrounds and who use ELF in their academic communication. The present study focuses on clusters of epistemic stance expressions used in research articles in social sciences and humanities written by L2 speakers. The analysis of twenty papers from the SciELF corpus reveals the patterns in the use of epistemic stance clusters, their distribution in different sections of research articles and the functions the clusters perform at the textual level. The results show that there are many similarities in the distribution and functions of epistemic stance clusters in texts. This suggests that the way L2 speakers, who are professionals in their fields, express epistemic stance seems to be more influenced by the norms of the genre and the discipline than by their linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

* Corresponding address: Irina Shchemeleva, 16, Soyuza Pechatnikov, St. Petersburg, Russia, 190008.