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## **Emphatics in academic discourse: a cross-disciplinary perspective on research articles**

The paper explores ways in which specialized corpora can be used to study language variation across disciplines. Expressions used to emphasize a statement are studied with special attention to the overlapping functions of adverbials conveying both stance and degree. Focusing on academic genres in the fields of economics and history, the work centers on the role played by intensifying adverbials of stance with a view to the dialogic and argumentative features of academic discourse. It is felt that these adverbials strategically foreground diverse forms of implicit and explicit evaluation. And yet, while a considerable amount of literature has been dedicated to the question of mitigation, relatively few studies have addressed the role of emphatics. It is readily conceded that their semantic features and pragmatic functions deserve closer study (Hyland 1999, 2000; Biber et.al. 1999, Conrad and Biber 2000; Precht 2003).

The paper is based on an analysis of specialized corpora consisting of research articles in economics and history collected from 1999 and 2000 (approx. 2,200,000 tokens each). The analysis centers on a selected list of emphatics and studies them first from the point of view of the generic structure of the research article, in order to identify the different roles they play across sections and moves. The main focus of the analysis, however, is on how the frequencies, meanings and uses of the chosen emphatics vary across disciplines. Particular attention will be paid to their pragmatic features and to the role they play in knowledge construction. The conclusions will relate this to the epistemological suppositions of the different disciplinary communities.

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