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***That* and zero following adjectives**

This paper focuses on the retention or omission of the conjunction *that* following adjectives.

Retention: (1) *I am sure that you will understand the reasons for this.* (CEY 597)
Omission: (2) *I am sure you read the papers and know the stories.* (FRJ 1814)

Whereas the retention or omission of *that* following verbs has been studied both synchronically (e.g. Elsness 1981, 1984) and diachronically (e.g. Finegan/Biber 1995, Rissanen 1991), this aspect has not found much attention as far as adjectives are concerned.

In example (1) the subject complement consists of the adjective *sure* and its postmodifying *that*-clause. Example (2) is a case of *that*-omission.

This syntactic structure is taken as the basis for the analysis of the retention or absence of the conjunction *that*. My research concentrates on the most 51 frequent adjectives within this position. They comprise about 50,000 cases, all taken from the British National Corpus (BNC). Two different conditioning factors are studied, which can be seen as triggers either for *that*-retention or zero-preference. They are: (a) genre and (b) realisation of subject in matrix clause and in *that*-clause.

For each of the two conditioning factors statistical procedures such as hierarchical cluster analysis and correlation analysis have been performed. This line of research yields new insights. The paper will make it clear under which circumstances hierarchical cluster analysis can be employed to distinguish between different genres. There are high correlations between certain types of subjects and the retention or omission of *that*. These correlations allow for a division of adjectives into different groups.

Select Bibliography:

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