INFERENTIAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN EUROPEAN PORTUGUESE: A CORPUS-BASED ACCOUNT

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Abstract

The present study focuses on the inferential constructions of European Portuguese from a corpus-based perspective. Inferentials have been thoroughly studied in other languag-es, such as English, French, and Spanish (Delahunty 1990, 2012; Declerk 1992; Fernández Leborans 1992; Delahunty & Gatzkiewicz 2000; Pusch 2003, 2006; Calude & Delahunty 2011; Atayan & Wienen 2014; De Cesare 2018). In particular, much attention has been devoted to their form, function, and the relationship between inferentials and cleft construc-tions. Specifically, inferentials have been deemed part of the cleft family (Hedberg 1990; De Cesare 2017) or cleft lookalikes (Roggia 2009; De Cesare 2018). However, besides a few remarks in studies on clefts (Casteleiro 1979; Gonçalves 2001; Reichmann 2004), a descrip-tion of the frequency, form, and function of inferentials in European Portuguese is yet lack-ing. The present study, thus, aims to fill this gap in the literature and provide an overview of the inferentials independently from their status, either as clefts or cleft lookalikes.