

Veridicality and commitment with propositional attitude verbs and modals

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In this talk, we discuss the truth entailing properties of propositional attitude verbs and modals in order to understand how speakers use them to express commitment to the embedded proposition. I address initially the puzzling choice of indicative mood with a number of doxastic predicates in Greek, and move on to propose that Hintikka belief is *subjectively* veridical, i.e. it entails p in the modal space M of the attitude subject, and adds p to M — an operation that Giannakidou and Mari (in progress) call Private Assert. Subjective veridicality thus provides the criterion for full commitment. Modal verbs and attitudes of desire do not entail p in M , they are therefore nonveridical, i.e. non-committal about p , and introduce uncertainty about p . These differences have consequences for mood choice (and I will illustrate with Greek and Italian), negative polarity items, and they are also important when we consider how information is added and updated in the discourse.