

Original Papers(None)

Discourse Analysis: Differences in Degree of Probability and Certainty among Four Adverbs—*Maybe, Probably, Perhaps and Possibly*—

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(Accepted 1996-05-22 00:00:00+09)

Key words:discourse analysis, four adverbs(*maybe, probably, perhaps, and possibly*), degree of probability and certainty

Abstract

This paper focuses on the different degrees of probability and certainty among four adverbs—*maybe, probably, perhaps, and possibly*—as a study in the field of discourse analysis. Data for the analysis is based on the results of questionnaires which were obtained by the author at Central Washington University, Washington, USA. The results of this research reveal how these four adverbs are used in real communication among American-native English speakers.
