A tale of two -*mIş*'s: between evidential and attitudinal semantics

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1 Introduction

- Turkish is well-known for overtly marking indirect evidentiality (Şener 2011, Meriçli 2016)
- (1) Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak-mış.
 school Monday day open-pass-prsp-evid

 'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard/ I inferred).'
- Focus of today's talk: the "double-mIş" construction
- (2) Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak**-mış-mış**. school Monday day open-pass-prsp-**EVID-MIŞ**
 - 1. 'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone who heard it from someone).'
 - 2. 'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone but it's ridiculous).'

Main proposals

- Two distinct meanings of -mIş-mIş:
 - 3rd-hand reportative evidential: "SPKR heard p from someone, who heard it from someone else"
 - Incredulity attitude over 2nd-hand report: "SPKR heard p from someone, and finds p to be ridiculous."
- The two uses pattern differently with respect to: Interrogative Flip, discourse commitments
- Proposal in a nutshell:
 - Distinguish reportative evidential $-mI_{\S_{\text{REP}}}$ and incredulity attitude $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$
 - Compositionally derive 3rd-hand reportative -mIş-mIş and incredulity over 2nd-hand report -mIş-mIş

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2 Two uses of -mIş-mIş

- Double-mIş constructions have two distinct interpretations
- 3rd-hand reportative
- (3) **The principal told Gökçen** that the school is going to reopen on Monday. **Gökçen then told this to Merve.** Merve says to her mother: *I just talked to Gökçen, who talked to principal...*

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Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış.
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school Monday day open-pass-prsp-rep-3rep

'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone who heard it from someone).'

• Incredulity attitude over 2nd-hand report

(4) **Gökçen told Merve** that the school is going to reopen on Monday. **Merve thinks that this information is ridiculous.** Merve says to her mother: *I just talked to Gökçen...*

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Okul Pazartesi günü aç-1l-acak-mış-mış. school Monday day open-pass-prsp-rep-incred
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'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone, but it's ridiculous).'

- The incredulity attitude ranges over the **at-issue proposition** (the information being reported):
 - In (4), Merve's utterance conveys that she thinks that *the school is going to reopen on Monday* is ridiculous.
 - The incredulity attitude is *not* about the evidential proposition "According to what Gökçen believes/thinks, the school is going to reopen on Monday."
 - This is diagnosed by the infelicity of (5).
- (5) **Gökçen told Merve** that the school is going to reopen on Monday. **Merve thinks that it is ridiculous for Gökçen to believe/think such thing.** Merve says to her mother: *I just talked to Gökçen...*

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# Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış. school Monday day open-pass-prsp-rep-incred
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'(It's ridiculous for Gökçen to believe/think that) The school is going to reopen on Monday.'

- The incredulity attitude is also *not* about the quality of the **source** of information.
- If the quality of the source was relevant, (6) would be felicitous
- (6) Gökçen encounters a fortune teller, who tells Gökçen that his wife is cheating on him. **Gökçen happens to know that his wife is cheating on him, but he also thinks that fortune telling is bogus.** He says to a friend: *I just talked to a fortune teller...*

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# Eş-im beni aldat-ıyor-muş-muş. partner-1sg(poss) 1sg.acc cheat-prog-rep-incred
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'(According to an unreliable source) My wife is cheating on me.'

3 Key empirical differences

3.1 Discourse commitments

- Reportatives cross-linguistically are compatible with variable speaker commitment to the at-issue *p* ("Reportative exceptionality", AnderBois 2014)
- (7) Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak**-mış**.
 school Monday day open-pass-prsp-**rep**'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone).'
 - a. ... valla, ben inanıyorum.

'I believe this.'

b. ... ben inanmıyorum.

'I don't believe this.'

3.1.1 3rd-hand reportatives

- Evokes variable speaker commitment to the at-issue *p*
- Patterns with reportative evidentials
- (8) Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak-mış**-mış**. school Monday day open-pass-prsp-rep-**3rep**'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone **who heard it from someone**).'
 - a. ... valla, ben inanıyorum.

'I believe this.'

b. ... ben inanmıyorum.

'I don't believe this.'

3.1.2 Incredulity attitude over 2nd-hand report

- INCRED commits the SPKR to the incredulity attitude
 - (9) is only compatible with lack of speaker commitment
- (9) Okul Pazartesi günü aç-ıl-acak-mış**-mış**.
 school Monday day open-pass-prsp-rep-**incred**'The school is going to reopen on Monday (I heard from someone, **but it's ridiculous**).'
 - a. #... valla, ben inanivorum.

'I believe this.'

b. ... ben inanmıyorum.

'I don't believe this.'

3.2 Interrogative Flip

- The evidence holder flips from SPKR to ADDR in information-seeking questions (Garrett 2001, Korotkova 2018, Bhadra 2020)
- It is possible for evidentials to be non-flipping if the interrogative force is noncanonical (Dayal 2016), e.g. quiz questions, self-directed questions, etc. (Bhadra 2020)
 - In the information-seeking interrogative (10) the evidence holder flips from the SPKR (Merve's brother) to the ADDR (Merve)
- (10) **Gökçen told Merve** that the school is going to reopen on Monday. Merve's brother overheard Merve's conversation, but misses the date. He asks Merve:

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Okul ne zaman aç-ıl-acak-mış?
school what time open-pass-prsp-rep
'(According to YOUR second-hand report) When is the school going to reopen?'
```

3.2.1 3rd-hand reportative

- 3REP displays Interrogative flip: the evidential origo flips to the ADDR
 - In (11) the evidence holder is flipped to the ADDR (Merve), who has third-hand evidence
- (11) The principal told Gökçen that the school is going to reopen on Monday. Gökçen then told this to Merve. Merve's brother overheard Merve's conversation, but misses the date. He asks Merve:

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Okul ne zaman aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış? school what time open-pass-prsp-rep-3rep '(According to YOUR third-hand report) When is the school going to reopen?'
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- In unbiased questions, the evidence holder obligatorily flips to the ADDR
 - In the unbiased interrogative (12) the evidence holder can't be the SPKR (Merve's brother)
- Gökçen told Merve that the school is going to reopen on Monday. Merve's brother overheard Merve's conversation, but misses the date. He asks Merve:

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# Okul ne zaman aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış?
school what time open-pass-prsp-rep-3rep
# '(According to MY third-hand report) When is the school going to reopen?'
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3.2.2 Incredulity attitude over 2nd-hand report

- Evidence holder flips from SPKR to ADDR
- Attitude holder remains the SPKR
 - In (13) the evidence holder is the ADDR (Merve), but the attitude holder is the SPKR (Merve's brother)

Gökçen told Merve that the school is going to reopen on Monday. Merve's brother overheard Merve's conversation, but misses the date. Merve's brother thinks that Gökçen is a liar. He asks Merve:

Okul ne zaman aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış?
school what time open-pass-prsp-rep-incred

'(According to YOUR second-hand report) When is the school going to reopen (—and I would find whatever your report says to my question to be ridiculous)?'

- The attitude holder can't be flipped to the ADDR
 - In the **infelicitous** (14) both the evidential origo and the attitude holder are flipped to the ADDR (Merve)
- Gökçen told Merve that the school is going to reopen on Monday. Merve's brother overheard Merve's conversation, but misses the date. He knows that Merve does not believe whatever Gökçen says. He thinks Gökçen is reliable. He asks Merve:

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# Okul ne zaman aç-ıl-acak-mış-mış? school what time open-pass-prsp-rep-incred
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(15) Summary of empirical properties for REP, 3REP and INCRED-OVER-REP

	REP	3rep	INCRED-OVET-REP
$\mathbf{SPKR}\ \mathbf{commitment}\ \mathbf{to}\ p$	variable	variable	no commitment
Interrogative Flip:			
Evidence holder flips to ADDR	✓	✓	✓
Attitude holder flips to ADDR	_	_	×

4 Analysis

4.1 Overview

- Want: a parsimonious set of lexical items that
 - Compositionally derives both uses of -mIş-mIş and their key properties;
 - Is both language-internally and typologically well-motivated.

Proposal 1: Turkish has two -mIş suffixes with distinct semantics.

- A reportative evidential $-mI_{\S_{REP}}$ = identical with the reportative version of single evidential $-mI_{\S}$
- An incredulity attitudinal -mIş_{INCRED}

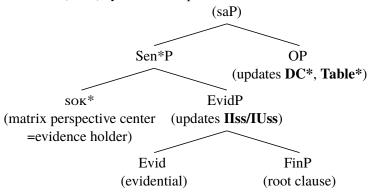
Proposal 2: The two uses of $-mI_{\S-mI_{\S}}$ are derived compositionally from $-mI_{\S_{\text{REP}}}$ and $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$.

- 3rd-hand reportative $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$ is composed of $-mI_{\S_{REP}}-mI_{\S_{REP}}$ = a genuine "double evidential"
- Incredulity over 2nd-hand report $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$ is composed of $-mI_{\S_{REP}}-mI_{\S_{INCRED}}$

^{&#}x27;(According to YOUR second-hand report) When is the school going to reopen (—and YOU would find whatever your report says to be ridiculous)?'

4.2 Theoretical preliminaries

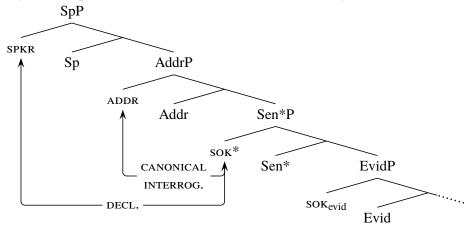
- Two types of approaches to evidential meaning
 - Evidentials as encoding epistemic meaning, either modal (Izvorski 1997, Matthewson et al. 2007, Smirnova 2013, a.m.o.) or attitudinal (Korotkova 2016)
 - Evidentials as contributing illocutionary updates (Faller 2002, Murray 2010, 2017, AnderBois 2014, a.o.)
- Evidentials-as-epistemic theories more explicitly handle **epistemic-semantic** properties: <u>embedding</u>, <u>perspective-anchoring/shift</u>, *de se*-ness, modal strength of claim
- Evidentials-as-illocutionary theories more explicitly handle **discourse-level** properties: <u>discourse commitments</u>, not-at-issue-ness, force, anaphora
- Recent work (Bhadra 2017, 2020) has pointed towards a **integrative/interface** approach:
- Model **both** epistemic **and** illocutionary meanings, at different functional layers in the syntactic-compositional structure. This is schematically shown in (16).
- Main ingredients of this approach:
 - Adopt *configurational* (syntactic) representations of evidentiality, point-of-view phenomena and discourse roles in the left periphery (Speas and Tenny 2003, Miyagawa 2012, Haegeman and Hill 2013, Wiltschko and Heim 2016, Zu 2018, a.o.)
 - Explicitly define semantic composition and discourse updates in terms of this articulated syntactic structure.
 - Goal: an explicit syntax-semantics (static and dynamic) interface
- (16) Bhadra's (2020) syntactic-compositional structure for evidentially-marked utterances



(Bhadra 2020:ex.57, adapted)

- We are working towards an integrative analysis for -mIş-mIş.
 - Today's focus: static compositional semantics, in the Sentience layer
- We specifically adopt Zu's (2018) formulation of the speech-act layer in the syntax, as shown in (17).
 - The root SPKR and ADDR are each introduced in the specifier position of a dedicated speech-act-layer functional projection: SpP and AddrP.

- Root-clause perspective center ("seat of knowledge," soκ) is introduced in the specifier position of a root-clause Sentience projection: Sen*P
- Importantly: Interrogative Flip is modeled as the differential binding of root sok by SPKR (in declaratives and certain non-canonical questions) and ADDR (in canonical questions).
- This mechanism will enable a configurational account of why evidentials such as 3REP -mIş-mIş Flip, whereas attitudinal markers such as INCRED -mIş-mIş do not Flip.
- (17) Syntactic representation of discourse context (Zu 2018, synthesized)

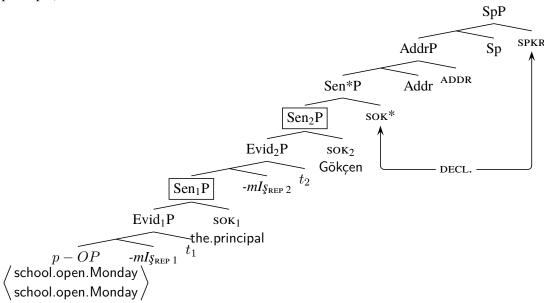


4.3 3rd-hand reportativity = reportative evidential -mIş \times 2

- We analyze the semantics of evidentials like $-mI_{\S_{\text{REP}}}$ as epistemic attitudes (following Korotkova 2016, Bhadra 2017, Bhadra 2020).
 - In particular, following Bhadra (2020), we analyze REP evidentiality as **attitude ascription to a third person** (a non-discourse participant) by a discourse participant, as shown in (18).
- For expository purposes, we adopt a two-dimensional semantic representation (à la Potts, 2005, see also Bary and Maier 2021), to keep track of the at-issue proposition and the not-at-issue evidential/attitudinal meaning component (not necessarily claiming specific dynamic-semantic properties at this stage).

• This enables us to analyze 3rd-hand reportative $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$ as one $-mI_{\S_{REP}}$ embedded in another $-mI_{\S_{REP}}$. An illustrative derivation is shown in (19a).

- Each -mIş_{REP} heads a EvidP projection, with a Sen(tience)P introducing its evidence holder (Speas and Tenny 2003).
- SenP's can be embedded: models perspective-shift phenomena in attitude complements (Zu 2018:§2).
- We maintain a root Sen*P as the locus of the perspective center of the evidentially-marked root clause, i.e. the evidence holder (SPKR in declaratives, ADDR in canonical questions).
- (19) Syntactic-compositional structure and semantic derivation for 3rd-hand reportative -mIş-mIş:
 - a. 'The school is going to open on Monday (SPKR heard it from Gökçen who heard it from the principal).'



b. Semantic derivation for 3rd-hand reportative -mIş-mIş

$$\begin{split} \llbracket \mathsf{Sen}_1 \mathsf{P} \rrbracket &= \llbracket -mI \S_{\mathsf{REP}} 1 \rrbracket \left(\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{school.open.Monday} \right\rangle \right) (t_1) (\mathsf{the.principal}) \\ &= \lambda t \lambda j \lambda w \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{school.open.Monday} \\ \forall \langle w', t', j' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t,j} [\mathsf{school.open.Monday}(w')(t')(j')] \end{array} \right\rangle (t_1) (\mathsf{the.principal}) \\ &= \lambda w \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{school.open.Monday} \\ \forall \langle w', t', j' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t_1,\mathsf{the.principal}} [\mathsf{school.open.Monday}(w')(t')(j')] \end{array} \right\rangle \\ \llbracket \mathsf{Sen}_2 \mathsf{P} \rrbracket &= \llbracket -mI \S_{\mathsf{REP}} 2 \rrbracket (\llbracket \mathsf{Sen}_1 \mathsf{P} \rrbracket) (t_2) (\mathsf{G\"{o}k\'{c}en}) \\ &= \lambda w \left\langle \forall \langle w'', t'', j'' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t_2,\mathsf{G\"{o}k\'{c}en}} [\\ \forall \langle w', t', j' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t_1,\mathsf{the.principal}} [\mathsf{school.open.Monday}(w')(t')(j')] \right\rangle \end{split}$$

Paraphrase of evidential component: for all that Gökçen knows in w at t_2 , it is the case that, for all that the principal knows in w at t_1 , school will reopen on Monday.

• Essentially: the evidential meaning of p-mI ς_{REP} -mI ς_{REP} amounts to "p for all that src_2 knows at t_2 from all that src_1 knows at t_1 ."

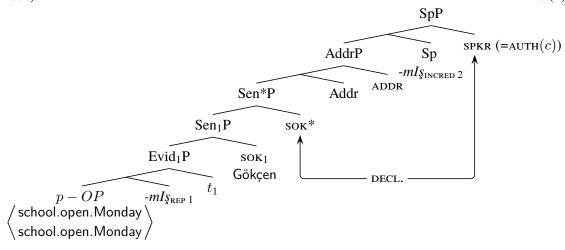
- In the pragmatics, (a chain of) third-person attitude ascriptions will not necessarily commit the SPKR to the root proposition.
 →variable discourse commitment
- Note that 3REP - mI_{\S} - mI_{\S} , like any other evidential, is interpreted below the locus of the matrix sok*, which hosts the evidence holder.
 - Thus, under the 3REP version of $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$, the evidence holder is subject to Interrogative Flip exactly as expected from the differential binding of sok* as in (17). \rightarrow Interrogative Flip

4.4 Incredulity over 2nd-hand report = a reportative evidential + a subjective attitude marker

• In addition to $-mI_{\S_{\text{REP}}}$, we propose a distinct $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$, which encodes a subjective attitude over the at-issue proposition p. This is shown in (20).

- Thus, we analyze incredulity over 2nd-hand report $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$ as $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$ embedding a $-mI_{\S_{\text{REP}}}$. An illustrative example is given in (21a-21b).
- Unlike $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$, we analyze $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$ as a higher Sp head: this guarantees that the judge argument of $-mI_{\S_{\text{INCRED}}}$ in (20) will always be saturated by the matrix SPKR.
 - This accounts for the fact that the perspective center (attitude holder) of the INCRED attitude is rigidly anchored to the matrix SPKR.

 no Interrogative Flip of INCRED attitude
 - Unlike the evidence holder of the inner reportative $-mI_{\S_{REP} 1}$ (=sok*), which remains subject to differential binding by SPKR and ADDR! **Interrogative Flip of 2nd-hand REP**
- Since $-mI_{S_{\text{INCRED}}}$ lexically encodes a SPKR-oriented attitude of incredulity, it commits the SPKR to having that attitude over p. \rightarrow lack of SPKR commitment
- (21) Syntactic-compositional structure for incredulity over 2rd-hand report -mIş-mIş
 - a. 'The school is going to reopen on Monday (SPKR heard from Gökçen, and SPKR thinks it's ridiculous).'



b. Semantic derivation for incredulity over 2nd-hand report -mIş-mIş

$$\begin{split} \llbracket \mathrm{Sen_1P} \rrbracket &= \lambda w \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{school.open.Monday} \\ \forall \langle w',t',j' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t_1,\mathsf{G\"{o}k\'{c}en}}[\mathrm{school.open.Monday}(w')(t')(j')] \right\rangle \\ \llbracket \mathrm{SpP} \rrbracket &= \llbracket -mI \S_{\mathrm{INCRED}} 2 \rrbracket (\llbracket \mathrm{Sen_1P} \rrbracket)(t_2) (\mathrm{Spkr=Auth}(c)) \\ &= \lambda w \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{school.open.Monday} \\ \forall \langle w',t',j' \rangle \in EPIST_{w,t_1,\mathsf{G\"{o}k\'{c}en}}[\mathrm{school.open.Monday}(w')(t')(j')] \wedge \\ \mathrm{Auth}(c) \mathrm{thinks\ that} \\ \end{array} \right\rangle \\ &= \lambda u \mathsf{Th}(c) \mathsf{thinks\ that} \\ \end{split}$$

Paraphrase of evidential-attitudinal component: for all that Gökçen knows in w at t_1 , school will open on Monday, *and* SPKR finds it ridiculous that school will open on Monday.

5 Summary: internal and cross-linguistic motivations

- We have identified two homophonous -mIş suffixes for Turkish: one with **evidential** semantics, one with **attitudinal** semantics.
- We have shown that an evidential $-mI_{\S}$ and an attitudinal $-mI_{\S}$ can derive the two interpretations of $-mI_{\S}-mI_{\S}$ in a straightforwardly compositional way.
- Motivations for positing evidential-attitudinal homophony:

• Language-internally:

- Enables *compositional* analysis of 3REP and INCRED-over-2nd-hand-report...
- ... without the need for an (implausible) pragmatic account of how a reportative evidential might sometimes lose its evidential restriction altogether, only retaining an attitudinal meaning.

[# INCRED-over-**3rd**-hand-report]

- Allows for a straightforward account of the different behavior of the attitudinal marker in questions. [According to *your* 2nd-hand report which # *you* find ridiculous, ...?]
- Enables a cleaner, more parsimonious morphosyntactic analysis: no "reduplication" of evidential morphemes (*pace* Şener 2011)

• Cross-linguistically:

- Attitudinal markers with a reportative evidential etymology are commonly attested.
- Zhuang (in prep): Shanghai Wu counterexpectational (mirative) attitude marker *ghikaon* < speech report parenthetical *ghi kaon* 渠講 '3sg-say'
- (22) Context: The weather forecast last night said it would be sunny all day today. You wake up, walk out of your windowless bedroom and see it's raining. You say:

lahlah loh yu **ghikaon**.

辣辣 落 雨 渠講

PROG fall rain MIR

'It's raining, gosh (I didn't expect that).'

Shanghai Wu, Sinitic

- Cantonese "novelty/noteworthiness" attitude marker wo3 ($\neq wo5$ 'reportative marker') < waa 話 'say'
- baa⁴baa¹ giu³ nei⁵ zik¹hak¹ heoi³ wo³. 爸爸 叫 你 即刻 去 喝³ father ask 2sg immediately go NOTEWORTHY

'Father asked you to go immediately, it turns out!'

Cantonese, Sinitic (Leung 2011:p. 35, slightly adapted)

- Bulgarian "double evidential": dismissive attitude over 2nd-hand report (Simeonova 2021, cf. Sauerland and Schenner 2007)
- (24) Ali bi-l proče-l kniga.

A. COP-ATT read.PFV-REP book

'Ali read a book, I heard from Burak—as if!'

Bulgarian, South Slavic (Simeonova 2021:ex. 2a, slightly adapted)

- Interestingly: the Bulgarian "double evidential," while a clear morphosyntactic parallel of Turkish -mIş-mIş, does not (=no longer) attests a 3rd-hand reportative meaning.
- Zhuang and Ótott-Kovács (2022) propose a diachronic renalysis process of reportativity markers to markers of SPKR-oriented attitude.
- In sum: positing a synchronically distinct attitudinal marker -mIş is well-motivated.

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A Incredulity -mIş-mIş under attitude embedding

- The evidential origo can shift (from the SPKR to the SUBJECT of the matrix clause) (Sener 2011)
- The attitude holder can also shift under verbs of saying
 - In (26a)-(26b) the attitude holder is shifted (it is the SUBJECT)
- (25) Merve, who was introduced to Gökçen just last week, confesses her love to him. **Gökçen believes** her.

Gökçen then talks to a friend of Merve's, and tells the friend that Merve told him that she loved him. This friend does not believe that Merve loves Gökçen.

The friend then says to another person:

- a. Gökçen_i, Merve onu_i sev-iyor-muş-muş dedi.
 Gökçen_i Merve 3sg.Acc_i love-prgr-rep-incred said
 'Gökçen said that Merve loves him. (Gökçen believes it, spkr doesn't believe it.)'
- b. #Gökçen_i, Merve beni_i sev-iyor-muş-muş dedi.
 Gökçen_i Merve 1sG.ACC_i love-prgr-rep-incred said
 'Gökçen said that Merve loves him. (Gökçen believes it, spkr doesn't believe it.)'
- (26) Merve, who was introduced to Gökçen just last week, confesses her love to him. **Gökçen doesn't** believe her.

Gökçen then talks to a friend of Merve's, and tells the friend that Merve told him that she loved him. **This friend believes that Merve loves Gökçen.**

The friend then says to another person:

- a. Gökçen_i, Merve onu_i sev-iyor-muş-muş dedi.
 Gökçen_i Merve 3sg.Acc_i love-prgr-rep-incred said
 'Gökçen said that Merve loves him. (Gökçen doesn't believe it, spkr believes it.)'
- b. Gökçen_i, Merve beni_i sev-iyor-muş-muş dedi.
 Gökçen_i Merve 1sg.Acc_i love-prgr-rep-incred said
 'Gökçen said that Merve loves him. (Gökçen doesn't believe it, spkr believes it.)'