

Occurrence and interpretation of modal verbs 'dever' and 'poder' in juridical context: contributions to an analysis in legal language

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Abstract:

This work aims to study the specific linguistic behavior, as well as to answer emerging questions related to the interpretation of the modal verbs 'poder' and 'dever' in the context of legal language, namely in legal and jurisprudential textual typologies. To achieve this goal, a research strategy was designed based on three distinct lines: 1) through the systematization of an historical perspective and keeping in mind the present state of the art, we've defined a methodological approach oriented into the applied studies of the modality, in European Portuguese; 2) interacting with the knowledge already acquired and relatively stabilized in other languages, namely English, French and Spanish, we sought points of contact or conceptual proximity with related phenomena identified in Portuguese legal language basis; 3), departing from emerging questions and specific problems triggered by this technical manifestation of Portuguese language (legal language), we sought to identify phenomena associated with the verbs 'poder' and 'dever' which could somehow be stabilized and brought to the context of present linguistic theory studies, especialy to the framework of modality studies.