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The Interface Between Semantics and Discourse Functions: Exploring the Adjective *Possibile* in a Corpus of Italian Financial News

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| pp 391–413 | [Cite this chapter](#)

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(conversational backgrounds) which is saturated in the situational or discourse context of utterance focusing on the different roles played by its predicative and attributive constructions. It has turned out that the two constructions impose different constraints on the saturation of the conversational backgrounds.

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2. The ample gamut of discourse analytical works broadly based on Systemic-Functional Linguistic are the typical example of this paradigm-based strategy, a very successful illustration being Martin and White's ([2005](#)) Appraisal Theory. While these works can still provide valuable insights for understanding communicative strategies in discourse, we believe that they suffer, in terms of depth and precision, because of the lack of consideration for the contextual processes of meaning construction that bridges the gulf between linguistic meanings and discourse representations. Such a limitation seems to be inherent to the design of these studies.
3. On the corpus annotation of modal conversational backgrounds see Rubinstein et al. ([2013](#)).

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6. Financial news reports are, for the most part, written in what Martin and White (2005: 168–169) call a *reporter voice*: that is they do not contain explicit judgment, unless this judgment is attributed to external sources. Financial news articles are not strictly speaking, *news reports*, as they routinely exhibit the kind of complex argumentative structures we have exemplified in Fig. 1 in Sect. 4.3 in order to support evaluative and predictive opinions (cf. Miecznikowski et al. 2011). Yet, they sharply differ from *editorials* and other opinion pieces characterized by a *commentator voice* (Martin and White 2005: 173) because financial reporters never take explicit and full responsibility for the opinions being upheld nor for the arguments upholding them, attributing them instead to expert sources, to insiders, to the common *doxa* of investors, or to the unfathomable hive-mind of The Market.

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