

# Forms of knowledge and assessment practice in the field of social work education



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Through discourse analysis and text analysis the intention is to analyse



- **Written and spoken texts as a construction of reality**
- **The picture of this construction**
- **And the context of this construction**

# Transitivity



- Deals with processes; how are events and processes connected to subjects or objects
- Deals with nominalization; transforming processes into nominal's (nouns)
- Deals with metaphors; transforming action processes into entities ( pictures, symbols for instance)

# Modality



- Deals with the speakers affinity (connection) to the statements in the clause:
  - It is cold
  - I think it is cold
  - May be it is a little bit cold
- Modality can express:
  - The truth
  - Hesitation or uncertainty
  - Permission
  - Etc.
- Different discourses are using different modalities:
  - The mass media are producing knowledge and interpretations as facts by using categorical modalities which facilitate and reflect authority. They are using:
    - ✦ objective modalities; *it is dangerous* instead of
    - ✦ subjective modalities; *we believe it is dangerous*

# About the use of transitivity



- Omitting the agents
- Omitting the actions processes
- Omitting the goal or the object/subject for the goal

And nominalizations are replacing agents with non-human nominals:

- “The purpose has to be clear” (no agent, no actionprocess, non-human nominal)
- “The assessment tools have to fit into each work place” (no agent, no actionprocess, non-human nominal)

# About the use of Modalities



Assessment is described as

- something you have to do
- something that should be useful to others

Work places are described as:

- a place to which the assessment tools have to fit

The assessment tools are described as:

- something that have to fit into the workplaces

the consequences of this representation:  
the amount of information are not expanding



**work places**  
a place to which the  
assessment tools  
have to fit

**the assessment  
tools**  
something that have  
to fit into the work  
places

# The amount of information are expanding

