



A difference in the nature of the inference base. What is crucial in explaining the contrast in (3) is the following contrast, which has not been discussed in the literature of epistemic modals and evidentials:

(8) (John is one of the suspects of a murder. A police officer detected a fingerprint at the crime scene.

Before identifying whether it is John's, she says to herself:)

Kore-ga Jon-no simon-nara Jon-ga han'nin nitigainai/#no-yooda.

this-NOM John-GEN fingerprint-if John-NOM criminal must/will/COP-seem

'If this fingerprint is John's, he [must/will/#seems to] be the criminal.'

In (8)