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Predicates of Personal Tastes with Epistemic Modals/Evidentials in Japanese Introduction. Predicates of Personal Taste (PPTs) in English such as *delicious* are incompatible with epistemic modals such as *must* and evidentials such as *apparently* when the experiencer is overtly specified as the speaker (Pearson 2013, Anand and Korotkova 2018 (A&K)) as in (1). The Japanese epistemic modal *nitigainai* and indirect evidential *yooda* can co-occur wih PPTs with no overt experiencer as in (2).

- (1) a. #The curry must be delicious to me.
- (2) Sono-karee-wa oisii

nitigainai/yooda.

b. #Apparently, this curry is delicious to me.

that-curry-TOP delicious must/seem 'That curry [must be/seems] delicious.'

Intuitively, the use of *nitigainai* conveys that the speaker simply infers that the curry is tasty, while the use of *yooda* conveys that the curry is tasty to someone other than the speaker. When the experiencer is overtly specified as the speaker, *nitigainai* can co-occur with PPTs in an appropriate context while *yooda* is not:

(3) (A friend is complaining about the curry that his wife often makes. He says that it tastes bad because

<u>A difference in the nature of the inference base.</u> 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 o cer 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)