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SOME QUESTIONS OF MODALITY IN MODERN ENGLISH

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According to Huffman (1996), people use language as a means of communicating with each other and expressing their desires, emotions, thoughts, attitudes and needs. Communication is formed by people everywhere and at any time. However, although people constantly practice communication, misunderstandings still happen all the time, especially when people have different cultures. Communication between people is always influenced by differences in culture, including background, communication habits and languages, and all these factors cause misunderstandings. Unfortunately, misunderstandings are common - the listener or reader sometimes does not understand what is said or written. Before writing, people used pictures (cave paintings) that turned into verbal symbols. When people are going to speak or write, they shape their thoughts in such a way that they fit the context or situation. But in reality, the desires do not match the result. The meaning of words or sentences sometimes differs from the form of words.

Modality is a subject of study by many linguists, which is based on the achievements of logic, semiotics and psychology. Due to its specificity, modality has not yet been fully explained. Modal verbs are used to indicate different meanings or actions, such as request, obligation, command, permission, etc. With all the different shades of meaning, the use of modal verbs presents a huge challenge for students. If students use modal language incorrectly, it will change the intended intention or tone of their statement, making them seem rude or unsure. It is important to remember that many of the ways in which modal verbs are used also depend on the culture in which they are spoken. The use of modal verbs is one of the most problematic areas in English grammar. Modal verbs have multiple meanings, and there are many ways to use them. In addition, the meanings of modal verbs can be expressed in many different ways by using other grammatical and lexical elements. There are certain differences between native English speakers in the correct use of modal verbs.

In linguistics, there are two main approaches to the category of modality - broad and narrow modality. Modality in a broad sense is interpreted as a category of a sentence that expresses the speaker's attitude to events. This approach to modality is typical in Russian studies and can be seen in the works of V.V. Vinogradov and his supporters. Emotions can be expressed and described, but modality cannot be conveyed descriptively [2].

Modality is expressed by grammatical and lexical means (mood forms, modal words and particles, intonation). As is known, there are different principles for dividing modality, but the traditional division of modality into three types is objective, subjective and derivative modality. Objective modality is an expression of an attitude communicated to reality. The grammatical means of expressing objective modality are the category of mood, the category of time, and various types of intonation.

In addition, linguists distinguish subjective modality: expression of the speaker's attitude to the reported (confidence or uncertainty, agreement or disagreement, expressive assessment). The linguistic means of expressing subjective modality are word order, intonation, lexical repetitions, modal words and particles, interjections, introductory words and phrases, introductory sentences.

There are the following types of modality:

1. Modality expressing reality - the speaker's statement corresponds to objective reality. The subject perceives the statement as a true and real fact.

2. Modality expressing unreality - this information or the specified content is the opposite of objective reality. The subject considers it unreal, possible or impossible, desirable, unrealized or assumed. In turn, M. V. Zainullin divides modality-reflecting unreality into the following subgroups:

1. modality denoting importance and necessity (Debitival);
2. modality denoting possibility and impossibility (Potensial);
3. modality of assumptions and doubts (Hipotetik);
4. modality denoting a command (Imperativ);
5. modality expressing intention (Intensional);
6. modality expressing desire (Optative) [3];

In his research work, F.F. Dzhakhangirov distinguishes the following types of modality:

- affirmative or negative modality;
- objective or subjective modality;
- true or false modality;
- real or unreal modality;
- desirable or undesirable modality;
- possible or unpredictable modality;

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- necessary or unnecessary modality;
- important or unimportant modality;
- temporal modality; [6.11]

A.A. Khudyakov gave the following classification of modality categories: objective modality - alethic and deontic; subjective modality - epistemic and axiological. According to A.A. Khudyakov, a person may or may not be inherent in the sign and quality of an object. For example, in the sentences: *Alex is a talented student; The weather is good; The bus goes away;* the subject and object are marked by the qualities and characteristics they possess. The modality of such judgments is called assertoric modality [5].

Apodictic (a Greek word meaning logical meaning, irrefutable) and assertive (a Latin word for assertion) can be combined if they reflect objective reality and do not depend on subjective factors. Apodeictic and assertive modality are subtypes of objective modality. Another type of objective modality is called deontic. Deontic modality (a Greek word derived from deontology, meaning the science of duty) - consists of norms determined by society, social groups. Such norms can be of two types: legal and ethical. Chronologically, they arise after the first (legal) and second (ethical), that is, after the creation of the state, legal norms are established. The following sentences can be given as an example of deontic modality:

Man must be honest.

Everyone should be honest.

Children ought to respect their parents.

An analysis of these two types of objective modality shows that the alethic modality, based on the laws of nature and objective reality, is fundamentally different from the deontic modality, which consists of norms developed and observed by people and society. In the deontic modality, norms and laws are created and regulated by people and society, while in the alethic modality only objective reality is perceived [6]. The second type of modality is the subjective modality. Subjective modality refers to the speaker's attitude toward the expressed thought or statement. Subjective modality has epistemic and axiological subtypes.

In the case of epistemic modality (a Greek word meaning the science of perception), the speaker expresses his or her thoughts about speech. In this case, the following expressions are used, for example: *I know that..., I believe that..., I am sure that..., etc.*

It should be noted that the second subtype of subjective modality is axiological modality (axiology is a Greek word meaning the science of values). In this case, the speaker uses the predicates good and bad. The means of expressing subjective modality are rich. Subjective modality can be expressed by intonation, word order, syntactic repetitions, constructions denoting intensity and continuity, habits, modal words, interjections, and sentences [6, p. 11].

The position of linguists regarding the means of expressing modality varies. Some linguists note that the means of expressing modality refers only to the lexical category, and therefore is expressed lexically. Others consider modality to be a grammatical category and express it grammatically.

In sentences, modal words can perform various syntactic functions:

- act as an intermediate word in a sentence;
- work in dialogue speech as a sentence;
- serve to link independent clauses in a text.

“Modality, which is a parameter of the content of a sentence, is expressed through various systematic linguistic levels. These linguistic levels are sometimes called modes. These include verb mood forms, modal and modalized verbs, modal words, and even intonation.” [5, 66]

Modes are divided into two groups:

1. **de re** (from Latin "about the thing");
2. **de dicto** (Latin "about what is said");

The objective modality is realized with the help of the first, and the subjective epistemic modality is expressed with the help of the second.

The grammatical structure of **de re** modes is simpler, because they do not require the presence of **de dicto** modes. However, the structures of **de dicto** modes are more complex, because they necessarily require the presence of **de re** modes. And this is logical: epistemic modality includes not only the object and its sign, the relation between them (objective modality), but also the subject evaluating this objective-modal relation. [5, 66]

I think that he is brave, where I think **de dicto** is the main part of complex sentences used to make judgments about types, because it expresses the author's attitude to the idea (**de re** mode).

From the above, it is clear that the same linguistic units **can** act both **de dicto** and **de re**. Thus, the modal verb **can** usually act as an apodictic subtype of alethic modality (Alex must go), as a deontic modality (Everyone must follow etiquette).

In the same situation, the modal verb **can** act as a deontic subtype of alethic modality, for example:

Alex can write. – Alex can write. (an asertory subtype of alethic modality).

In other words, the modal verb **can** act as a **de re** modes, expressing subject modality. The modal verb **can** also act as a **de dicto** modes, reflecting epistemic modality, for example:

Alex can be writing a letter now. – Maybe Alex is writing a letter now.

Having considered these examples, we can conclude that modality is expressed through **de dicto** modes, because the means of expressing modality, in these sentences, show the speaker's point of view. For example:

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Alex looks excited = Alex is excited = I think that Alex is excited [5, p.67].

Thus, in modern English modality has different means of expression at the grammatical, lexical and intonational level. It can be expressed by verb forms, modal verbs (can, may, must, etc.), modal words (perhaps, surely, certainly), phonetic means (intonation and stress).

In modern English, modal words expressing a subjective attitude to reality are mainly divided into four groups:

1. Modal words expressing doubt and suspicion, for example:

maybe, perhaps, probably, possibly, evidently, presumably, obviously, apparently;

Perhaps we will go to the movie.

We may possibly run into them at the concert.

Maybe, we will meet them at the concert.

2. Modal words expressing likes and dislikes, for example: *fortunately, unfortunately, luckily, unluckily, happily, unhappily;*

Unfortunately, the trip to dreamland was short.

3. Modal words that serve to intensify the meaning, for example: *really;*

You know, the sheep is really big.

4. Modal words expressing confidence, for example: *of course, surely, to be sure, sure enough, obviously, no doubt, naturally, really, certainly, undoubtedly, decidedly, in fact, indeed;*

Reduction of inflation is of course a high policy priority.

They are indeed key to ending conflicts and to stabilizing war-torn countries.

Although modal words are close in meaning, each of them has a certain shade of meaning. In modern English, suffixes meaning reduction and decrease can belong to morphological means of expressing modality, for example: *-let, -ule, -ette, -kin, -ock, -ling, -y.*

Some suffixes that are added to nouns are stylistically neutral, also denoting small size or weight. For example,

Let (ise - island; book - booklet), -kin (lambkin - lamb; boykin - boy), -ule (spherule - small spherical body, animacule - animal), -ette- (kitchenette - small kitchen, balconette - small balcony), -ock (hillock - hill, paddock - pen, bullock - wolf cub).

Suffixes that impart positive or negative stylistic meaning. For example,

- *ling* is added to nouns that are used in a diminutive sense, (*catling - kitty, firstling - firstborn*).

- *ling* can also be used in a negative sense (disrespect, insult), (*weaking - weak, snakeling - snake (evil-tongued)*).



Summarizing the above, we can come to the conclusion that modality has not yet received a full explanation due to its multifaceted nature, specificity of linguistic expression and functional features.

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