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MODALITY CATEGORY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Abstract: Language modality is relevant in modern linguistics. This phenomenon has its own specificity. The paper deals with modality category and the use of modal words which have specific functional features. The study aimed at investigating the use of modal verbs in permission, offer, obligation and possibility in English and Karakalpak languages. The research issue is relevant due to the need to clarify semantic possibilities of modal words of modern English and the origins of modality in Karakalpak languages. The features of modal words are clarified with examples.

Keywords: *modality, category, modal words, semantics, modal, can, may, must.*

Аннотация: Языковая модальность актуальна в современной сравнительной лингвистике. Это явление имеет свою специфику. В статье рассматривается категория модальности и употребление модальных слов, обладающих специфическими функциональными признаками. Исследование направлено на изучение употребления модальных глаголов в разрешении, предложении, обязательстве и возможности в английском и каракалпакском языках. Проблема исследования актуальна в связи с необходимостью уточнения семантических возможностей модальных слов современного английского языка и происхождения модальности в каракалпакских языках. Особенности модальных слов поясняются на примерах.

Ключевые слова: *модальность, категория, модальные слова, семантика, модальные, can, may, must.*

Аңдатпа: Қазіргі салыстырмалы тіл білімінде тілдік модальділік өзекті болып табылады. Бұл құбылыстың өзіндік ерекшелігі бар. Жұмыста модальділік категориясы және белгілі бір функционалдық ерекшеліктері бар модаль сөздердің қолданылуы қарастырылады. Зерттеу ағылшын және каракалпак тілдеріндегі рұқсат, ұсыныс, міндет және мүмкіншілік модаль етістіктерінің қолданылуын зерттеуге бағытталған. Зерттеу мәселесі қазіргі ағылшын тіліндегі модаль сөздердің семантикалық мүмкіндіктерін

және қарақалпақ тілдеріндегі модальділіктің шығу тегін нақтылау қажеттілігіне байланысты өзекті болып отыр. Модаль сөздердің ерекшеліктері мысалдар арқылы нақтыланады.

Түйін сөздер: *модальділік, категория, модаль сөздер, семантика, модаль, can, may, must.*

It is known, the English language today acts as a communicational bridge between peoples, nations. In the current era of globalization, the role of the English language has further increased in English-speaking and other nations. Also in the world of linguistics English plays a crucial role. World events, modality between things knowledge of relationships, substantiation of ideas in human daily life, and scientific research is one of the most important processes encountered in research. In this regard, identifying and analyzing the means of expressing modal relations in language and searching equivalents of modality in the Karakalpak language are very important for modern comparative linguistics.

The purpose of the paper is to study the semantics of modal words, identify main semantic, syntactic features, and the usage of modals in English and Karakalpak. The actuality of the topic:

- 1)The relevance of the topic is on the one hand the interest in foreign languages, on the other hand, modal relations in English and Karakalpak.
- 2)The study of the semantics of modal words of modern English is a relevant issue.

Methodological basis of research is Decrees of the President of Republic of Uzbekistan about development of languages, educations and sciences, the national program on a professional training, and also basic researches in the field of the theory of linguistics, in particular the books of Palmer, F. “Modality and the English modals”, V.L Kaushanskaya, B. Ilyish “The history of English”, and E.M Gordon “Modality in Modern English”, N. A. Baskakov, K. Ubaydullaev, M. Dáwletov, A. Bekbergenov, etc.

The subject of research is the means of expressing modal auxiliary verbs in modern English.

The study of the grammatical structure of the Karakalpak language has paid much attention. Among the problems is the category of grammatical modality, in particular, the question of modal words, which has not been studied enough yet.

“Each language has its own, only its inherent grammatical structure and vocabulary. However, families of related languages naturally have similar features. One of such similarities for Germanic languages is the presence in them of a small but characteristic group of words - modal verbs. Modal verbs draw

attention to themselves by the specifics of their semantics and grammatical use” [Долгополова З.К.:1961:17].

Scientific research in the Karakalpak language began much later than in other Turkic languages. This is due to the lack of materials on Turkology in the Karakalpak language [Насыров Д.С., 1971:14]. The beginning of a special type of scientific research of the Karakalpak language dates back to the 30s of the XX century. The first researchers of the Karakalpak language were N. A. Baskakov, S.E.Malov, E.D.Porlivanov. Then K.Ubaydullaev, A.Esemuratov, M.Dáwletov, E.Dáwenov, A.Dáwletov, H.Hamidov, O.Dospanov, A.Najimov, A.Bekbergenov, B.Qutlimuratov and other scientists have risen.

In Karakalpak language, there is a group of distinct words that do not include meaningful words or auxiliary words [Бекбергенев А., 1987: 49-56], [Қутлымуратов Б. 1965: 79-84].

In the modern Karakalpak language, such a group of words includes: *демек, дазый заттан, мүмкин, балким, менимше, керек etc.* - concepts of possibility or necessity, impossibility or unnecessity, contingency or incontingency, probability or improbability and their degrees — as well as presence or absence

These words are distinguished from other groups of words in their semantic and grammatical features. They do not mean the name of the object or phenomenon that stands in front of them, in other words, they are used in relation with them, giving them all sorts of modal colors, in a figurative sense.

The word modal is derived from the Latin word *modus*, which means “measure”, “method” in Karakalpak. Although modal words in the modern Karakalpak language are a few, their meaning and function have their own peculiarities. In terms of its lexical and grammatical features, it is associated with other words. Many of them change with the suffixes, sometimes accept affixes, and they serve in the sentence as introductory words.

Modal words are by semantic neither numeral, nor adjective, nor verb, nor adverb, nor auxiliary words, that is, they do not have the same meaning as any other parts of speech. They mean that they can justify the speaker's point of view in the statement of participation in the truth. When a speaker expresses his opinion to a listener about any real truth, he should state it with purpose, condition, instruction, clarity, trust or suspicion, prediction, confirmation or presumption they can be expressed on the basis of developed views.

For example:

Демек, жау өзінен де күшті (К. Мәмбетов).
(So, the enemy is much stronger than himself).

Ысмайыл сұлтан олардың болашағын болжаса керек (К. Мәмбетов).
(Ismail sultan must have predicted their future).

Бұдан, бәлкім, қағаз жүзінде дұрыс болса, іс жүзінде дұрыс екенін үйренішті жасадайды аңғаруға болады (Т. Қайыпбергенов).

(From this, perhaps, we can see the usual situation is correct on paper that it is correct in practice).

Рас, сіз талантты және батыл әйелсіз (Ж. Аймырзаев).

(It's true, you are talented and brave woman).

Аузінде сөз тұрмайтын адам оның міндетті түрде құпия етпейтін екеніне сенімді (Т. Қайыпбергенов).

A person who does not keep a secret it is certain that he will give away.

Thus, in karakalpak language the word group expresses speaker's objectivity to truth, accuracy, doubt, confess, conceal, necessity and obligation of the comment he is trying to make is called modal words.

Becoming as a part of speech of modal words their semantic feature serves a crucial role. Some words spoil their original meaning in sentences but are used in modal meanings (clarity of opinion, convenience, trustfulness, doubt, acceptance, etc.) For example:

1. *Шалды4 талабы дұрыс (Т. Қайыпбергенов).*

(The action of the old man is true).

2. *Дұрыс, үйдегі даналыққа сүйену керек (Т. Қайыпбергенов).*

(It is true, you need to rely on household wisdom).

In the first example, the meaning of “дұрыс” is used in its original meaning while in the second example it is used as modal and gives the meaning of trustfulness of the speaker. As the result, modal words may change its position in a sentence and can give the meaning which is assumed by the context of the sentence.

As K.N.Kachalova and E.E.Izailevich point out, “modal verbs denote the possibility, ability, probability, necessity of committing an action expressed by semantic verbs. The combination of modal verbs with the infinitive semantic verb performs in the sentence the function of a compound verb predicate” [Качалова К.Н., Изаилевич Е.Е.:2001:91].

Gordon E.M., Ganshina M, Barabash T.A. give a similar definition of modal verbs. They indicate: “In terms of meaning, modal verbs are distinguished by the fact that they, unlike ordinary verbs, mean not an action, but only abstract modal meanings of necessity, expediency, possibility, probability” [Гордон Е.М., Крылова Н.Р.: 1977:15, Ganshina M.A., Vasilevskaya N.M.: 1964:78; Barabash T.A.:1975:105].

In Present day English, there are nine central modal verbs, according to Biber etc.al. [Biber:1999: 483]: *can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would* and *must*. A further group of modals is the group of peripheral modals

or marginal modals, also called semi-modals: *need (to)*, *ought to*, *dare (to)* and *used to*. Modal verbs themselves are not used independently. They are like auxiliary verbs which stands in front of a main verb and they represent the action of the main verb with ability, probability, necessity, possibility. Modal verbs are used in the tuning process. In Old English they are in the author's speech we can meet. The only exceptions are the past tense of modal verbs forms *could*, *would*, *had*, *might*, etc. in storytelling and tuning when not in use. Palmer (1986) remarks that modal verbs are *can/could*, *may/might*, *shall/should*, *will/would*, *must*, *ought*, *dare* and *need* etc. Modal verbs help the main verb in the sentence to add more information on the different levels of necessity and possibility. Modal verbs that are related to the obligation, requirement or no choice etc. are *must*, *need*, *have (got) to*. *Should* and *ought to* are generally related to the recommendation to the hearer. *Can* and its past form *could* (without relationship with tense) are connected with possibility. Options, choices and permissions are to be expressed via modal verbs *may* and *might*.

The modal verb **can** in modern English.

In modern English, the verb **can** is one of the main lexical means of expressing possibility. Consider its formation, value and main cases of use:

1. The modal verb *can* has two forms:

Can - for the present;

Could - for past tense;

To be able to - is equivalent to a modal verb.

2. The meaning of the modal verb *can*:

1) The verb *can* is very common in the meaning of "to have the ability, to be able (to do something), to be able". In this sense, *can* indicates the ability to perform an action according to physical, mental, knowledge, ability, talent, personal qualities, etc.

You can't take away the knowledge you gave me (Shaw, *Pygmalion*, p.105)

It can be a lot of people (Shaw, *Pygmalion*, p.150)

In all these cases, **can** expresses the possibility (and in a negative form, the impossibility) to perform an action, and this possibility depends on personal ability, physical or mental, ability, skill, personal qualities, etc.

In English, **can** in this sense is close in meaning to the combinations.

2) In addition to the expression of personal ability to the number of basic values of the verb **can** in modern English, the value of objective possibility should be attributed [Долгополова З.К.:1961:23].

In the affirmative sentences, *can* expresses a real-life possibility whenever it is not a personal ability to carry out an action, but the presence of such objective conditions under which the action can be easily carried out. This value

naturally appears most clearly if the subject of action is passive.

E.g. It is quite fine now. Clara, we can walk to a motorbus (Shaw, Pygmalion, p.20)

Negative sentences reject the possibility of performing an action or state due to certain external reasons, certain circumstances.

E.g. I love you (Shaw, Pygmalion, p.120)

If the probability of an event in the past is denied, then the verb *can* is used with a perfect infinitive:

E.g. He can't have it taken upstairs, this morning (Galsworthy. The Silver Box, p.7)

When denying the likelihood of action in the past *can* can be used not only the form of the indicative mood *can*, but also the form of the subjunctive mood *could*.

E.g. He can't have said such a thing.

He couldn't have said such a thing

The translation in both cases will be the same: "It cannot be that he says such a thing."

3. It should also be noted that the use of the verb in interrogative sentences expressing doubt in the likelihood or validity of the action or state, bewilderment, surprise, etc.

The form of an interrogative sentence is often used not in order to clarify one or another connection that exists in reality, but in order to express the attitude of the speaker to a fact or phenomenon, its assessment.

Question questions expressing doubt very often include the verb *can*. The modal color of the sentence is made up of the interaction of the semantics of the question and intonation with the lexical meaning of the modal verb.

Significant doubts are amplified if the verb *can* is in the subjunctive mood.

E.g. Could you believe us? (Shaw, Pygmalion, p.24)

Such questions are close in their general meaning to sentences that deny the possibility or probability of action, as the concepts of negation, probability and doubt are close.

4. The verb **can**, like the verb **may**, can express resolution. The verb **can** had no meaning before; it acquired it only in modern English.

E.g. Daddy, can I go down and see? (Galsworthy, Plays, The roof, p.137)

The lexical content of the verb *can* is the concept of possibility. Thus, the verb *can* has a number of meanings from "can" in the sense of "I can". In the light of these considerations, the formation of a **suppletive(supple)** series **can-be able to** seems unlikely.

Thus, as a result of analyzing the modal verb *can*, we came to the following conclusions:

The modal verb **can** expresses:

A) physical or mental ability;

B) permission, permission;

C) the possibility of committing an action according to the circumstance;

D) uncertainty, doubt;

D) uncertainty.

The modal verb **may**

The modal verb **may** has two forms:

1. **May** is the present tense form.

2. **Might** is a past tense form.

The equivalent **to be allowed to** for the expression of present, past and future tenses.

The modal verb **may** expresses [Ильин Б.А.:1948:189]:

1. If the statement is problematic, conjectural, it, as a rule, includes the verb **may**.

E.g. He **may** be or he **may** not be. (Dickens. *Dickci* VI, p.420)

2. In English, **may** matches in similar modal words perhaps, **may** be.

Often, on the spot **may**, a form of indicative mood is used **might** - a form of the subjunctive mood. In this case, the problematic element is enhanced.

E.g. *I think we could be great friends* (Wilde, L.W's. F, p.16)

If a proposal is made regarding events in the past, then **may** is used in the perfect infinitive form.

E.g. *That may have been all right for the last generation* (Galsworthy, p.146)

Assumption can express not only affirmative sentences. But negative:

E.g. *They may not have returned yet.*

3. The verb **may** is very common when expressing a request. E.g. *You may wait in the kitchen* (Shaw, *Pygmalion*, p.65).

The verb **may**, in the sense of resolution, resolution is used more in interrogative sentences. The opposite meaning, the value of the prohibition, is expressed by the verb **must**[1. 1961, c.26].

E.g. *You must have seen her again* (Wilde, L.W's. F, p.111)

4. **May** in the sense of objective possibility.

The verb **may** **may(can)** also express (like the verb **can**) a real-life possibility, but it is difficult to limit it from the meaning of conjecture. It appears most clearly in combination with **may** verbs of perception (to see, to hear).

E.g. *"He might be seen in the club"* (Galsworthy, p.617)

The verb **may** with the meaning of objective possibility is used in affirmative assumptions.

5. **May** in emotional speech [Долгополова 3.К.:1961:26]:

F.g. *Really mamma, you might have spared that* (Shaw, *Pygmalion*, p.9).

6. **May** in the weakened value.

Unlike the verb **can**, which always retains a distinct lexical meaning, the verb **may may(can)** appear in a weakened meaning. Analyzing the semantics of the verb **may** there are two of its basic meanings in modern English: resolution and perceived possibility. The first is most clearly seen when expressing a request and permission:

E.g. *May he come too? You may stay, if you like.*

I may come tonight, **main't(mayn't) I?**

This meaning becomes more generalized in introductory sentences.

E.g. It was, we may say, \ an argument of cogency.

In the meaning of conjecture, problematic at the most semantic richness, the verb may corresponds to the modal words may and be perhaps, but it can also come up with a weakening of the lexical meaning. This is usually the case when **the modal may** is not the only suggestion in the means of expressing suspicion or problematic nature. If may alone defines the modal color of a sentence, then its lexical meaning is always distinct.

E.g. This may be the reason.

As already noted, the verb may indicates a real occurrence. Including the value of "**the modal verb may**" is close within the meaning of the combination is it possible?

"**The verb may**" has the following meanings:

A) assumption with a tinge of uncertainty;

B) the possibility of committing an action according to the circumstance;

B) permission, permissions

D) disapproval and reproach

Comparing the use of the modal verbs can and may we see that they have common meanings:

1. The ability to perform an action under certain conditions. But the verb can expresses a real-life possibility, and the verb may be a possibility assumed.

E.g. Harry: Perhaps we might write it together.

Harry: But you can write that letter.

2. Both verbs express resolved. In that case, the difference is that the verb may be more formal than can. The verb can is used colloquially:

E.g. Can you help me? Yes I can.

3. The infinitive following these verbs is used without the "to" particle.

4. In the third person singular of the present tense, the modal verbs have no ending - s.

E.g. "She can afford to dress well", - thought Carrie (Th.Dreiser, Sister Carrie, p.55).

5. The interrogative form is formed without the auxiliary verb "to do", and the modal verb is placed before the subject.

The modal verb **must** in modern English.

It should be noted that the modal verb must has only one constant form and two equivalents.

1. To have to - to express the past, the present.

2. To be to - future tense.

"I had to switch the front lights off" (G. Steinbeck, The winter of our Discontent, p.103)

To be to - indicates a previously agreed and planned action.

Consider the meaning and main cases of the use of the modal verb must.

1. The common meaning of the verb must in modern English is the expression of necessity. Must has the following semantic shades:

A) the necessary nature of the action.

E.g. "I know it must be so; it even would be" (Dickens, *Dick*, p.167)

B) the need for force circumstances, these conditions:

E.g. "We must leave this place directly" - said Mr. Pickwick, as he **rebolded (refolded)** the note (Dickens, p.199)

C) the certainty or inevitability of future action

E.g. What does it need to be colder soon? (Galsworthy, *In Chancery*, p.211)

2. The verb must is also widely used in the expression of a must. With the help of the verb must, the imperative is often expressed or a solution is formulated, both for other people and the speaker himself.

E.g. *You must be reasonable, Mr. Higgins, you must.* (Shaw, *Pygmalion*, p.42)

3. The must verb can also convey the value of probability or assumption bordering on confidence. In this sense, it is most often found with infinitive combinations containing the verb to be.

E.g. *He must be quite middle-aged by dreaming.*

The assumption about the past action is expressed by the combination of the verb must with the perfect infinitive form.

E.g. *You must have frightened her.*

4. In conjunction with the perfect infinitive, "the verb must" **must(can)** appear in the sense of obligation. In such cases, the combination with must has a conditional value like combinations with the forms ought or should.

Thus, there is a lot of information related to the modal category in English and Karakalpak languages. As we have seen a range of features of Modality in these languages, we must come to the conclusion through investigating modality in both languages, the usage of modality differentiate from each other but they have similarities in semantic features. What is more, in both languages modality reflects the speaker's attitude toward the situation being described.

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