

Abstract

Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper

(Bachelor's degree)

Title: Means of expression of modality in the Modern English language.

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Information about the organization-customer: Pyatigorsk state linguistic university.

Topical Importance: This diploma is devoted to the study of different types of modality and means of their expression in the English language. This theme is rather interesting and topical, because many different kinds of modal interpretations have been observed and studied, resulting in a variety of opinion. Being the grammatical category, linguistic modality covers expressions of how the world might be and should be. This includes expressions of necessity, permissibility and probability, believability, obligatoriness, desirability, or reality.

Goals: The main goal of the diploma paper is to study the main means of expression of modality taking into account different types of this category.

Tasks: On the base of the study of the modality in linguistics to find out the content of this category, to define the main types of modal meanings and ways of expressing them in the English language.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: Different approaches to modality usually favour a slightly wider definition of modality. Many types of modality have been classified. This work tries to fill the gaps in describing this linguistic category and to give a more detailed account of modality in the English Grammar.

Results: In linguistics, modality is what allows speakers to attach expressions of belief, attitude and obligation to statements. We can distinguish alethic, deontic, epistemic and axiological modalities. Alethic modality is modality that connotes the speaker's estimation of the logical necessity or possibility of the proposition expressed by his utterance. Epistemic modality is used to indicate the possibility or necessity of some piece of knowledge and connotes how much certainty or evidence a speaker has for the proposition expressed by his or her utterance. Deontic modality is concerned with possibility and necessity in terms of freedom

to act including ability, permission, and duty. Axiological modality is a highly subjective category which transforms the world's entities into values and disvalues as seen by a social group, a culture, or a historical period. Each type of modality can be expressed by a variety of means, such as auxiliary verbs, verbal morphology (mood), modal verbs, modal words or adverbs.

Implementation advice: the theoretical material of the diploma thesis can be applied while studying or teaching different courses of linguistics, in special courses on grammar study and the study of the category of modality.