LEXICO-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF MODAL VERBS IN FAIRY-TALES

(ON THE EXAMPLE OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK FAIRY-TALES)

Ahadova Hulkaroy Zarifxon qizi
EFL Teacher UzSWLU, Department of Applied Sciences №2

Abstract
The current paper discusses the lexico-semantic peculiarities of modal verbs by the analysis of fairy tales in Uzbek and English languages. The aim of the research is to determine the semantic features of modal verbs in written discourse through overview of the fairy tale collections in both languages. Literature review encompasses theories and ideas of the scientists that are investigated on the lexico-semantic variety of modal verbs as Palmer, Kratzer and so on. The analysis is based on descriptive method which activates the types of modality according to the usage of modal verbs and grammatical structures of verbs, word combinations in Uzbek language which represents modal meaning. The results of the research indicate that one modal verb must expresses several meanings in context and it conveys different type of modality. It brings out the polysemy of the modal verbs in different written discourse.

Keywords: modality, fairy tales, modal verbs, lexico-semantic features, polysemy, epistemic, root, deontic, dynamic.

Introduction
Lexico-semantic classification of modal verbs is grouped into root and epistemic modalities according to the meaning which they convey to express writer's attitude to the events and situations (Palmer, 2003). Root and Epistemic modalities form polysemy of the modal verbs as one modal can convey different meanings according to the situation and position of speaker. For example,
a. All must be home. He's not in the office. epistemic
b. All must pay a fine. He parked illegally. deontic
c. You must go to the party with me! Please! bouletic (Hacquard, New York)
Here one modal must express different meaning in each sentence. The first statement belongs to epistemic modality by virtue of conveying the sense of possibility; The second one activates the meaning of obligation. The last sentence represents request and it is called bouletic modality, sometimes boulomaic modality, activates the heroes' desire and will.
The first modal meaning is epistemic modality which reveal's author's feelings on the level of proportion. Along with that, epistemic modal meaning includes possibility of the actions from the perspective of belief, suppose or prediction. For example, It is ten o'clock, Bob **must** be at the airport now. His flight was arranged on 10:30. Here the speaker tells the possibility of the event by predicting the flight time.

The other meaning of modal verbs are expressed by root modality. Root modal meaning involves duty, confidence and obligatory sense of the actions. For instance, You may **leave** tomorrow. (speaker is granting the permission)[1].

Root modality is also called non-epistemic differs from epistemic one with the interpretation of auxiliaries. The root modal verbs are deontic and dynamic modalities. Deontic modality activates necessity of obligation in the context. For example, Tom **must** pay a fine. He parked illegally. The meaning of the statement indicates obligation of doing the action. Dynamic modality expresses willingness and ability of doing actions. Mostly, the auxiliary verbs will and can are utilized to show dynamic modal meaning. For example,

Ann **will** drive you to work if you want. (the meaning of willingness);

I **can** help with your homework. (the meaning of ability)

Among the modal verbs mentioned, 'must' signifies strong necessity or inference, 'may' and 'might' indicate possibility or permission, 'can' and 'could' express ability, 'should' conveys advice or expectation, while 'shall/will' and 'would' are utilized for future intentions, promises, or hypothetical situations. Furthermore, 'ought to' implies a sense of obligation or duty. The study of English modal verbs is considered one of the most well-documented areas of research on modality due to the intricate nuances and varied functions each of these verbs serves in communication. Researchers have devoted considerable effort to analyzing how these modal verbs contribute to conveying attitudes, beliefs, and perspectives, thereby enriching the understanding of language use and expression among speakers. Therefore, the examination of English modal verbs continues to be a prominent focus in linguistic studies, shedding light on the complexities of linguistic modality.

Literature Review

The fact is that both root and epistemic modalities are inclined to be activated by the same modal verbs. The claim we are referring to highlights the significant attention given to the set of English modal verbs, which are extensively explored in linguistic research, with a notable overview provided by Palmer in 1990. This set includes modal verbs such as 'must, may, might, can, could, should, shall/will, would, ought to,' which play a pivotal role in expressing various modal meanings within the English language. The analysis of semantic view of modal verbs are conducted in two main ways: One approach suggests that modal verbs are ambiguous between root and epistemic meanings (Palmer 1990, Coates 1983); another approach determines the pragmatic development of the united semantics into epistemic and root expositions in the process of utterance comprehension (Kratzer 1977, 1981, Papafragou 1997). The last approach is named a purely ambiguous approach which is considered weak to motivate a connection between root and epistemic modalities as a reason of a lack of machinery.

The polysemy exhibited by grammatical modals poses an additional learning challenge for language learners, distinct from the typical difficulties encountered when learning abstract concepts and vocabulary. In the case of modal verbs, learners must not only grasp the abstract concepts related to modality but also comprehend the diverse meanings that a single modal verb can convey across different contexts.

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[1] Renaat Declerck (2011) The definition of modality, p.39

Methods and Materials

The current research involves literature review and lexico-semantic analysis of the English and Uzbek fairy tales to explore the polysemy of modal verbs and its types. The world which is described in fairy tales are considered non-real world as it is based on imaginary and magic events. In the literature review part different sources, theories and scientists' ideas are overviewed. The scientists as Palmer, Papafragou, Kratzer and other defined the classification of modal verbs by semantic features. The used materials encompass "English Fairy Tales" collected by Jacobs, Grimm's fairy tales and Uzbek fairy tale collection which is named "Uch og'a-ini botirlar".

Results and Discussion

The expression of modal meaning in fairy tales are mostly revealed in dialogues and the speech of the heroes. The lexico-semantic features of modal verbs are explored by the overview of Uzbek and English fairy tales. In fact, modal verbs are revealed with auxiliary verbs or modal verbs as: mumkin, kerak, zarur, shart, -sa and so on. As mentioned above, the several types of modal verbs according to semantic classification represents writer's perception on the situation. So one evening she had gone down to draw the beer, and she happened to look up at the ceiling while she was drawing, and she saw a mallet stuck in one of the beams. It **must have been** there a long, long time, but somehow or other she had never noticed it before, and she began a-thinking. (The three sillies) The current passage is taken from national English fairy tale "The three silles" (English fairy tales, collected by R. Jacobson) and the modal expression: It must have been, conveys the meaning of possibility. The author indicates the possible or probable predictions of the situation. So, this modal expression belongs to **epistemic** meaning of modality.

Modal verb **must** is expressed in Uzbek language differently according to the type of modal meaning. For instance, when it demonstrates possibility, it is expressed with auxiliary words: mumkin, bo'lishi mumkin, bo'lsa kerak; while modal verb must convey obligation, it is represented with the words: shart, zarur and suffixes of obligation and condition -sa, -san, -sang… Meanwhile **must** comes in the position of request, will of the speaker, it is activated with words as kerak, -shing kerak.

Baroqvoy bilan menga o'xshab soddaroq, oddiyroq bo'lasan. ("Uch og'a ini-botirlar", Uzbek National Fairy tales) -You **must be** naive and modest like me and Barokvoy. The contextual meaning of the modal verb must reveals obligation and condition by the speaker. It is described with **the suffix –sa(n)**, it is added to the verb: bo'lasan and represented **obligatory condition** told by the speaker. So it defines the obligation which is considered **deontic modality**.

The other example for semantic classification of modal verbs is **boulomaic** modality which conveys request of the speaker. The following statement is taken from English fairy tales collection, called 'How Jack went to seek his fortune":

"May I go with you?"- the modal verb may is utilized to represent the speaker's request to go with his/her partner.

Qancha suv kerak bolsa, olaver, - deyishibdi. (You may take as much water as you need." The current sentence is from Uzbek fairy tale collection, "Halol mehnat". The modal meaning of

permission is expressed with the verb "olaver" – may take, "kerak bo'sa" – need. The expressions of permission belong to **root** modality.

Recommendations

Modality is considered one of the main terms of Text Linguistics which activates the attitude, hidden facts, hints told by author to the readers. Modality can be expressed with different modal markers: modal verbs, descriptive words, with adjectives, stylistic devices and so on. We overviewed the lexico-semantic features of modal verbs in the analysis of fairy tales. Grammatical and stylistic features remained without analysis.

Conclusion

In general, modal verbs may convey different meaning according to the situation. The semantic features of modal verbs reveal their polysemy and it is investigated by different scientists as Papafragou, Palmer, Kratzer and so on. Finding of the current research indicates that modals in both Uzbek and English fairy tales express obligation, possibility, desire, permission and will by representing author's attitude to the events. All in all, epistemic modality is mostly addressed and the polysemy of the modals must and may (kerak, bo'lishi mumkin) is analyzed in context.

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