

Modality in Linguistics and Its Use in Communication

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Annotation: This article provides a definition of the concept of modality, briefly addresses thoughts and perspectives on modality in linguistics, and presents some ideas on the use of modality in communication.

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Introduction

Modality is a functional-semantic category that expresses the various appearances of the relationship of an idea to reality, as well as the subjective classification of what is being expressed. Modality is often a concept used mainly in logic and psychology and is one of the topics that has not yet been deeply studied in linguistics. The essence of modality was something that Aristotle dealt with in the 4th century BC, and he is recognized as the person who introduced the concept of modality to the field. Aristotle's disciples and commentators like Theophrastus and Eudemus of Rhodes studied the differences between judgments according to modality. In modern logic and philosophy, the classification of judgments proposed by I. Kant is widely used. According to this classification, judgments are divided into assertoric (discussion of reality), apodictic (discussion of necessity), and problematic (discussion of possibility) types. Modality can be absolute (original) and relative (conditional). Judgments of "true" and "false," "provable" and "unproven," or "refutable" are also included in the scope of modality in the sciences of logic and logical semantics. The term "modality" is used to express phenomena that are varied in terms of their semantic scope, grammatical features, and the degree to which they are formed at different levels of language structure. Originally, the word modal is derived from the Latin word "modus," which means "measure, manner." From the Metzler dictionary, the most common and simplest description of the concept of modality is: "Modality describes a semantic-pragmatic category, which refers to the manner of the speaker's statement to the validity of the state of affairs denoted in an utterance." Modality is a semantic-pragmatic category that expresses the speaker's view of a particular situation, representing an attitude.

In philosophy, there is a discussion about ontological modality, that is, the state and manner of an event (Detsch 1994). In logic, the concept of modality expresses the degree of clarity of an idea through possibility, necessity, and conjecture. The difficulties in providing a clear definition for the concept of modality may seem to leave an impression of "chaos." It seems not easy to provide a general understanding of modality in a particular field, here in linguistics. We also see a definition instead of a clear concept in "Vater." It considers the following two points recognized in linguistics:

- Modality is not part of the state of affairs described in a sentence, but something that is expressed in addition to this state of affairs.



• Modality unfolds in content into various types of modality, and it is expressed through various grammatical categories, namely modes of the verb, modal verbs, modal adjectives, and modal adverbs. The renowned German scholar Ahrenholz has observed that there are few works dedicated to issues of modality when German is being learned as a foreign language. Buscha (1965) has studied the errors in the application of modal verbs. A series of perspectives dedicated to the field of modality have been published in the "German as a Foreign Language" journal, but unfortunately, they do not address how these methods can be applied in language learning. Germer (1980) suggests introducing the objective use of modal verbs schematically into lessons as a guide. Research on the similarities and differences of modality in German and other foreign languages demonstrates the foundations of the difficulties of learning German as a foreign language. Grepl and Masarik (1974) compare German and Czech modal categories. Kiliari (1989) conducts a study on German modal verbs and their New Greek equivalents [3,58]. This indicates that there is still no clear conclusion regarding the concept of modality in linguistics. Linguists (Saidov 1973, Mirsoatov 1980) have expressed their views on the category of modality being expressed morphologically, syntactically, lexico-grammatically, and lexically. Benyaminov (1995) shows that modality can be expressed through three methods: lexical, grammatical, and syntactical. Yoqubov (2005) also indicates morphological, lexical, and syntactical methods of expression.

Now let's touch upon the use of modality in communication. The meaning of modality is observed at various levels of the language system. The means by which it is expressed are diverse as well. A. Ahmedov notes that modality is a very broad and complicated concept that needs to be studied on three planes:

- a) the plane of the relation of sentence content to reality;
- b) the plane of the speaker's attitude towards the sentence content;
- c) the plane of the relationship between the subject-marker and the owner of the mark.

These tools all display their function within the sentence (at the sentence level). This marker, the syntactic marker, has to some extent become the basis for unifying the aforementioned means. Accordingly, the means of modality can also be divided into: constructive syntactic; morphological-syntactic; and intonation-syntactic groups. One of the main features of a sentence is its predicativity. Modality is the expression of the sentence content's relation to existence. Through the sentence, the speaker expresses relationships to the existence of an event, phenomenon, or attribute, such as its occurrence or reality in a given time, or its non-reality, desire, or displeasure. While a sentence represents a certain idea, it also reflects the speaker's attitude towards this idea. The meaning expressing the speaker's attitude to their own idea is called modal meaning. Here, the clarity, truth, and conditionality of the expressed idea are objectively assessed compared to the reality. Accordingly, modality expresses the speaker's subjective-objective attitude towards reality. Modal meanings are expressed through morphological, syntactic, and lexical methods, which are closely interconnected. A sentence contains a relatively complete idea; therefore, modality is relatively complete in it.

In a sentence, modality appears as a grammatical-semantic category because grammatical relations operate within the sentence. At the same time, pragmatic relations also emerge parallel to the grammatical relations, leading to the expression of modality. Under the concept of modality, the speaker's objective and subjective attitude towards reality becomes apparent. Objective modality is necessary for any sentence. Subjective modality is considered as an addition to objective modality. Furthermore, the speaker's attitude towards their own idea is also a form of modality, often expressed using grammatical means.

Recognizing the existence of an attitude under the concept of modality, the diversity of objects towards which this attitude is directed causes modality to be divided into objective and subjective types. The



importance of modality in communication is very significant as it expresses the speaker's personal attitude, intention, and viewpoints towards the content of the statement. Modality enables the speaker to demonstrate the following:

1. **Possibility and Necessity:** The speaker expresses their viewpoint regarding the likelihood or necessity of certain events.
2. **Personal Attitudes:** Desires, wishes, demands, and approval/disapproval are articulated through modality.
3. **Pragmatic Relations:** The speaker adjusts their words according to the context, which helps the listener to correctly understand the text.
4. **Social Relations:** Modality is also used to express relationships between people at different social levels, such as commands or requests.
5. **Degree of Clarity in Communication:** By indicating the level of certainty, possible conclusions or conditions formulated in the statement, the efficacy of communication is improved. Through this, modality plays a crucial role in making communication clear and effective, and it is worthy of recognition as a rich expressive function of language. Modality can be understood as the method by which the speaker assesses the reality of the sentence content.

In summary, the term modality refers to indicating the speaker's thought and attitude towards the content of the spoken sentence, and it manifests through various means such as lexical, grammatical, and phonological. It exists in all languages and is implemented with the help of various language-specific means of expression. In expressing their thoughts, the speaker uses modality to convey reality and unreality, certainty and ambiguity, presumption, conditionality, requirement, possibility and impossibility, obligation, command, competence, desire, and necessity.

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