

The Meanings of Obligation and Assumption in the Semantic Structure of the Modal Verb *Should*

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Abstract: This article is devoted to the study of the semantic structure of the modal verb *should*, one of the most commonly used modal verbs in modern English. In this scientific article the heterogeneity of "expectation" in the values of obligation and assumption is explained and analyzed by the difference in its causers.

Key words: obligation, assumption, semantic structure, interrelation, independence, heterogeneity, expectation.

Introduction. This article is devoted to the study of the semantic structure of the modal verb *should*, one of the most commonly used modal verbs in modern English.

The analysis of the meanings of the verb *should* is carried out in the works of many authors Dolgoplov Z.K., Zvereva E.A., Ehrman M.E., Lyons J., Coates J., Palmer F.R. and others.

Most researchers distinguish two main meanings of the modal verb *should*: the meaning of necessity or ought and the meaning of assumption. The other meanings of this verb are defined, considered, classified by linguists in different ways. In the dictionary entries devoted to the verb *should*, there is heterogeneity of the allocation, definition and arrangement of the meanings of the specified modal verb.

Grammarians also disagree about the semantic content of the modal verb *should* in such contexts, when the modal meaning is expressed not only by the modal verb, but also by words/expressions of limited semantics, for which compatibility with the verb *should* is typical.

The relevance of the work is determined by the need for further research of the semantic structure of the modal verb *should* due to the lack of a consensus in the linguistic literature on its quantitative and qualitative composition.

Consideration of this problem from the point of view of component analysis of the meanings of the modal verb *should* - in order to identify common semantic components that determine the existence of relationships of interrelation and interdependence between these meanings - is an attempt to avoid fragmentation in the representation of the semantic structure of the modal verb *should* and to show the presence of systemic semantic links between the meanings of this verb.

Main part. In the semantic structure of the modal verb *should*, the meaning of obligation and assumption are combined under a more general content - the concept of "expectation".

For the both values, "expectation" means "it is expected that an event/action has/will take place".

The meaning of an obligation arises on the basis of "expectation" for moral reasons (contextual meaning "moral obligation") or personal interest of the subject (contextual meaning), but in each of these meanings, as a result of the subject's performance of an action, a certain goal (of society or his personal goal) is achieved. Purposefulness, therefore, is the main characteristic of an obligation.

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The value of the assumption arises on the basis of a slightly different "expectation". The "expected" event is considered by the speaker as a consequence of the natural course of events and does not require the active activity of the subject for its implementation.

The heterogeneity of "expectation" in the values of obligation and assumption is explained by the difference in its causers. The causer of "expectation" with the meaning of obligation is the moral attitudes or personal interest of the subject, which implies the existence of a goal for which the subject needs to perform an action. The causer of "expectation" with the meaning of the assumption - "the natural course of things" - implies the presence of some event.

In statements with *should* with a perfect infinitive, there is a convergence of the values of ought and assumption, because for each of these

The "expectation" component, which manifests itself in these values in statements with *should* with a perfect infinitive, acquires a new quality of "unfulfilled expectation".

"Unsatisfied expectation" as a negative result of "expectation" is manifested in the meaning of the modal verb *should* in rhetorical questions introduced by the pronominal adverb *why*. *Should* in these contexts has a weakened meaning and expresses "the expectation/expectation in the past of what *should* arise in the future."

Should in subordinate clauses of the condition, purpose, concessionary has the meaning of improbability, random possibility, expressed presuppositionally.

Emphatic utterances with *should* like "Who should come to the door but the girl!, With all his money he should worry about a little thing like £5", are distinguished by a high degree of emotional saturation!

Similarly to rhetorical questions with *why*, the "expectation" component in such statements manifests itself in the meaning of the modal verb *should* as "it was expected in the past that a different state of things would arise in the future".

Should in these emphatic cases of use has the value of the event's improbability.

Results. Thus, the common component "expectation" manifests itself in the meanings of the modal verb *should* in different ways. In statements with *should* with a non-perfect infinitive in the values of the ought, the assumption of heterogeneity of "expectation" arises due to differences in causers that cause it. But for both meanings in the contexts under consideration, "expectation" is an unfinished process that has no result at the time of uttering the utterance.

In statements with *should* with a perfect infinitive in the meaning of obligation and assumption, as well as in rhetorical questions with *why* and emphatic uses of the type "Who should come to the door but the girl!, With all his money he should worry about a little thing like £5!" the "expectation" component in the meaning of the verb *should* acquires a new quality of "unfulfilled expectation", i.e. "surprise", implying a negative result of the completed process - "expectation", the reason for such a transformation of the "expectation" component is the negative result of resolving the contradiction between the expected occurrence of a different state of things in the future in the past" and the actual event.

All these cases of using the modal verb *should* are emotionally colored, since the component "expectation", manifested in the meaning of the modal verb *should* in these contexts as a negative result of "expectation" ("unfulfilled expectation"), is the cause of contextual emotional meanings, such as surprise, bewilderment, regret, indignation, indignation, etc.

The semantic emptiness of the modal verb *should* is characterized by the use of this verb in nominal subordinate clauses defined by modal expressions of limited semantics. These are such types of expressions as modal expressions with the meaning of obligation, "estimates of the probability of an event", which themselves convey a modal value (obligation, assumptions/probabilities), so that there is

no modality left for the modal verb. The only type of words/expressions defining nominal subordinate clauses that "leaves" the verb *should* be able to express modal meanings are expressions of "emotional evaluation" (It's strange/surprising, etc.).

Should in these contexts has the meaning of "improbability" of the event. The "expectation" component manifests itself in the meaning of *should* as "the occurrence of a different state of things in the future was expected in the past", i.e. as "unfulfilled expectation"/lack of expectation.

Conclusion. The research conducted in the article on the semantic structure of the modal verb *should* should allow us to summarize some results, as we know, modal verbs serve as a means of expressing modal meanings.

In modern research, two main directions in the study of modality can be distinguished: a broad understanding of modality with the inclusion of emotional meanings, communicative purposefulness of utterance and denial in its framework and a narrow interpretation of modality, whose supporters limit the semantic scope of the category of modality, considering one or more types of modal relations.

Researchers also disagree on such issues as the categorical status of modality, the ratio of negation and the category of modality. Some linguists express the opinion that modality is not a single grammatical category, but a set of grammatical categories of a sentence.

It seems to us expedient to include in the circle of modal meanings such as the communicative function of utterance and negation. Expressive-emotional meanings, in our opinion, do not belong to the category of modal.

The study of the meanings of the modal verb *should* is based on the theory of V.V.Gurevich about the relationship of semantic derivation between different modal meanings.

Most researchers distinguish two main meanings of the modal verb *should*: obligation and assumption. The remaining values are determined, considered, and classified by scientists in different ways.

Some linguists see the presence of subjective and objective elements in the meaning of the obligation on the basis of the presence/absence of the speaker's will, i.e. his personal interest in having the obligation fulfilled.

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