

Article

Study and Importance of Modality Category in World Linguistics

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Abstract: Modality has been a topic of linguistic study since ancient times. This article explores the theories of early linguists on the modality category, while also addressing its various types, features, and meanings. In modern linguistics, the modality category has expanded to include cognitive and cultural functions, which are central to this study. The research aims to clarify the evolution of these functions, addressing a gap in understanding their broader implications in language. Using a comparative analysis of ancient and modern linguistic theories, the results highlight the significant role of modality in shaping both cognition and culture. These findings have implications for further studies in semantics and pragmatics.

Keywords: Explicit meaning, Implicit meaning, Semantic operators, Linguistic modality, Logical modality, Levels of language.

1. Introduction

Every language production is subjective in one way or another because it is achieved through the direct intervention of a speaker who uses the language on his own to express oneself, to communicate, or to influence such. To do this, he uses several strategies based on different tools and methods that illustrate his attitude towards his interlocutor and towards his statement. Through language, the speaker constructs a self-image and takes a position which is carried out explicitly or implicitly in his word.

In this case, as a linguistic tool of subjectivization, the modality is at the service of the speaker and allows him to mark his presence in such a way as to mark his attitude in his statement. The notion of modality was studied, first by logic, philosophy, grammar and then, from the 1970s, as part of work on enunciation and pragmatic. Studied by several fields whose points of view are different (and/or complementary) with regard to the categorization, definition and functioning of this phenomenon, modality is an increasingly important notion in the analysis subjectivity and discourse.

Literature review. As Meunier explains, "the term [modality] is saturated with interpretations that emerge explicitly or not, according to linguists who use it, logic, semantics, psychology, syntax, pragmatics or the theory of enunciation".

Sh. Balli defines the category of modality as follows: "Modality is the soul, the heart of the sentence." He includes "various subtleties of judgement", "intuition and desire" as part of modal meanings: "Modal verbs, inclinations, intonation, question and command forms: modal action (gesture), exclamations, fire and eye expressed in a number of ways" [1].

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The category of modality is one of the language phenomena closely related to the logical construction of thought, and this category is the object of investigation of both linguistics and logic at the same time. In the first, modality is considered the most important sign of the sentence, and in the second, it is considered as an important sign of judgment in the form of a thought form.

V. G. Gak bases the generalization of the relationship between the speaker and the informant on the type of modality. According to V. Gak, "modality is divided into 3 stages: 1) according to the nature of reporting - declarative (I say that Peter will come) and performative (I command Peter to come) modality; 2) according to the nature of knowing reality - reliability (I know) and probability (I guess); 3) according to the nature of the relationship - desire (I want him to come) and dissatisfaction (I don't want) are related to the expression of the subject's feelings." [2].

"Objective modality refers to the relation of the expressed thought to reality (such as real and unreal, possibility and impossibility, necessity and probability) and is expressed using grammatical and lexical means (inclination, modal word, loading, intonation). Subjective modality shows the attitude of the speaker to the expressed opinion (trust or distrust, agreement or disagreement, expressive evaluation) and includes word order, intonation, lexical repetition, modal word, loading, exclamation, introductory word, word "z" is represented by the combination and sentences [3].

Aristotle defined the types of modality categories such as affirmation, negation, possible (probably), necessary, and laid the foundation for the development of these modality categories. In the East, Abu Nasr Farabi studied the science of logic and its categories and deeply analyzed the category of modality. In the Middle Ages, modal constructions played an important role in the development of logical modality. Logical grammar emerged during the Renaissance. And Leibniz founded an independent mathematical logic [4]. His scientific thoughts on the principles of logic and categories of modality, mathematical logic serve as an important basis for researching problems related to the category of modality in modern logic. By the present time, modality has become one of the most relevant and comprehensive concepts of cognitive linguistics.

2. Materials and Methods

Modal meaning is a meaning that expresses the attitude of the speaker to the thought he is expressing. For example, the meaning of truth or skepticism of an opinion, regret, satisfaction, meaningfulness are considered modal meanings. Modal meaning is expressed using lexemes and morphemes. A modal word and a modal form arise from a modal meaning. A modal word is a word that expresses a different attitude of the speaker to the thought he is expressing: really, certainly, approximately, actually, etc. A modal form is a form of a word expressing a modal meaning [5].

In modern linguistics, the concept of modality is extremely widely used, and as a semantic category, it is very diverse according to its categorial form and the nature of the combined expression of different meanings. Even about the content of the modality category and its size, there is no consensus. This is expressed in the fact that the linguistic modality and the logical modality do not fully correspond to each other. Based on this characteristic of modality, V. Z. Panfilov recommends to study logical modality by connecting it with linguistic modality. Under modality, different meanings of the sentence related to the subject are understood. The concept of modality entered the science of logic from linguistics, and it is analyzed how this category is represented by various conditional signs and semantic operators (probably, necessary, conditional, possible) in the science of logic. N.K. Dmitriyev used the word "modalnost" in relation to the complex form of the adjective in his work "Gagauz etudes" published in 1939 [6].

3. Results and Discussion

It is clear from the above that some aspects of modality are studied in relation to morphological categories. Some linguists understood the concept of modality as a syntactic category and tried to explain it by linking it to sentence content, sentence structure, and sentence forms.

For example: N.I. Koprud in his book "Literary Language Syntax of the Japanese Language" (M. 1987) divided sentences into four modality types. N. F. Yakovlev and D. Nihanov in their book "Language and Grammar of Literary Literature" published in 1941 (1948) divided sentences into seven types according to their modality [7].

N. F. Yakovlev in his book "Kabardin-Cherkasian Literary Language Grammar" (1948) distinguished sentences according to their modality into eleven types: real affirmation, real negation, simple question, suspicious question, negative question, affirmative interrogative, affirmative exclamatory sentence, wishful sentence, probability (suspect), command sentence, etc. It is known that the initial views about the category of modality are in two different directions: a) morphological direction: question of modality learning by linking words and word forms: b) syntactic direction: learning by linking modality to sentence structure [8].

In general, modality occurs in the realization and passage of thought and is manifested at all levels of language. Therefore, in order to determine the category of modality deeply and comprehensively, it is necessary to study the sound pronunciation laws, intonation structure, lexical-semantic system, morphology, syntactic system and methodological aspects of each language. Early research on modality focused more on its aspects of logic related to language and thought, discussion, unity phenomena, reality and unreality, and aspects related to affirmation and negation. After the 50s of the last century, its linguistic aspects began to be studied in Turkish and Russian linguistics. It began to be studied in English as a separate word group [9].

Morphological, lexical-semantic and syntactic features specific to the modality category were studied. In particular, the first article on Uzbek linguistics "Modal words" Sh. It was published by Rahmatullayev in 1957. After that, "Modal words" were included in the textbooks, and several scientific researches were published about them. In these scientific works, the concept of modality is widely discussed and it is defined as follows: "Modality is a grammatical category that shows the relation of thought to reality." Although this definition is not perfect for modern linguistics, it is short for its time and it was considered popular.

4. Conclusion

Summarizing the above points, the concept of modality is a comprehensive concept, and its study into objective and subjective types and groups is of great importance in linguistics. Therefore, in the next sections of our work, we will focus on the theoretical views on the category of modality in English and Uzbek languages. In the example of both languages, we repeatedly refer to the concept of modality, category of modality.

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