

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE WAYS OF EXPRESSING NECESSITY AND SUPPOSITION IN ENGLISH, GERMAN AND RUSSIAN

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Modalitatea reprezintă un concept complex și pune numeroase întrebări în ceea ce privește diferitele moduri de exprimare a unor astfel de situații modale precum necesitatea și supoziția.

Studiul face o tentativă de comparație a mijloacelor de exprimare a acestor două categorii în limbile engleză, germană și rusă prin intermediul cuvintelor și expresiilor modale, al verbelor și particulelor modale, precum și cu ajutorul modurilor.

Astfel, în engleză, cele mai frecvente mijloace de exprimare a supoziției și a necesității sunt verbele *can, may, could, might* și, respectiv, *must, have to, will* și *would*.

În germană se observă utilizarea frecventă a verbelor *müssen* și *wollen* pentru denotarea necesității și a verbelor *mögen, dürfen* și *müssen* pentru exprimarea supoziției.

În rusă verbele modale din limbile engleză și germană sunt adesea redată de expresii cu verbe modale, precum *должно быть, судя по всему, очевидно* și altele.

Verbele modale sunt cele mai utile mijloace de exprimare a necesității și supoziției în toate cele trei limbi. Împreună cu modurile, ele exprimă cele mai variate nuanțe ale atitudinii vorbitorului față de realitate și enunț.

Modality has always remained a disputable subject among the linguists. Many scholars have exerted great efforts to determine the notion, the number and the type of modalities through different approaches. Thus, B.A. Ilish: states that modality is expressed by modal words and verbs; modal intonation; moods of verb [1; 19]. E.A. Beliaeva in her turn paying more attention in her research to the group of modal words adds to the classification by B.A. Ilish modal particles, phrases, and constructions [2; 129]. Another question of general concern in modern linguistics still remains the problem of the semantics of the words expressing modality and the correlation between their semantic and grammatical features. Raphael Salkie in his work “Probability and necessity in English and German” writes that “These two questions are connected, since analysts who argue that modals are monosemous typically give a greater burden to pragmatic factors” and supposes that contrastive studies of modality in two or more languages can help to solve many problems concerning it and will enable the linguists “to propose a framework for modality which combines the detailed empirical coverage of monolingual analyses with the cross-linguistic validity of broader studies” [3; 11].

Necessity and suppositions being among the main meanings of the modal verbs are in this respect of great interest as to the peculiarities of their expression in English, German and Russian. In our research we try to compare such means of expressing these two categories as modal words, phrases, particles, verbs and moods.

Modal words represent a group of words whose function is to characterize the contents of the sentence as fact, potentiality or urge without actually being part of that sentence. Not all the linguists pick out modal words into separate grammatical category. Some relate modal words to adverbs of mood in the English language [4; 18]. The meaning of these words often depends not only on the denotation but also on their position within a sentence. Being placed at the beginning of the sentence the modal word renders positive appreciation by the speaker of the information stated in it, but used at the end of the sentence the modal word gives final appraisal of the expression.

Modal words of supposition in the English language are ‘*probably*’, ‘*perhaps*’, ‘*maybe*’, and ‘*possibly*’. ‘*Probably*’ and ‘*perhaps*’ are similar in meaning, but they are used in different parts of the sentence: the first one is used at the beginning of the sentence before notion verbs or between auxiliary verb/ modal verb and notion verb, but 90% of the latter is used in the middle of the sentence [5; 31]. ‘*Maybe*’ is placed at the beginning as well as in the middle of the sentence. It is similar to “*perhaps*”, but it has a lower frequency in speech. ‘*Possibly*’ can be used as a modal word in the middle and at the beginning of a sentence, but also it can serve as a modal particle, which intensifies the meaning of supposition. Speaking about *modal words of necessity*, we can notice that “*naturally*” may take any position in the sentence and sometimes it is used as an affirmative answer. ‘*Evidently*’ expresses logical conclusion, which is based on the observation of a fact’s manifestation, but ‘*obviously*’ expresses logical conclusion, which is based on past experience, and appears before verb.

In the German language *necessity* can be expressed by such modal words as: ‘*natürlich*’, ‘*selbstverständlich*’, ‘*zweifello*’s, ‘*wahrlich*’ (to assert necessity); ‘*unbedingt*’, ‘*jedenfalls*’, ‘*bestimmt*’, ‘*sicher*’, ‘*tatsächlich*’, ‘*gewiß*’ (to reinforce the necessity); ‘*gar*’, ‘*überhaupt*’, ‘*keinesfalls*’, ‘*keineswegs*’ (to negate necessity); ‘*vielleicht*’, ‘*wohl*’ (to soften and the slacken necessity). There are more ways of expressing the supposition by modal words than the necessity in the German language: ‘*wenig*’; ‘*kaum*’; ‘*wahrscheinlich*’; ‘*schwerlich*’; ‘*mittelmäßig*’; ‘*möglicherweise*’; ‘*vielleicht*’, ‘*mutmaßig*’; ‘*sehr wahrscheinlich*’; ‘*vermutlich*’, ‘*wohl*’, ‘*sicher*’, ‘*höchstwahrscheinlich*’, ‘*allerdingst*’, ‘*bestimmt*’, ‘*gewiß*’, ‘*natürlich*’, ‘*unbedingt*’, ‘*zweifellos*’, ‘*unzweifelhaft*’ e.t.c.

E.I.Beliaeva gives the following Russian equivalents of modal words expressing necessity: ‘*должно быть*’, ‘*по всей видимости*’, ‘*судя по всему*’, ‘*как видно*’, ‘*очевидно*’ – and supposition: ‘*наверное*’, ‘*может быть*’, ‘*вероятно*’, ‘*видно*’, ‘*по-видимому*’, ‘*поди*’, ‘*очевидно*’, ‘*глядишь*’, ‘*возможно*’, ‘*пожалуй*’, ‘*пожалуй что*’. [6; 57].

Thus we may state that there is a great variety of modal words expressing supposition and necessity in German and Russian which is much broader than in English. The use of these words depends on the context and communicative situation.

Modal verbs that express supposition in English are ‘*can*’, ‘*may*’, ‘*could*’ and ‘*might*’. Modal verb ‘*may*’ expresses factual possibility that is possibility of realization of connections whereas ‘*can*’ expresses theoretical possibility. Verbs ‘*could*’ and ‘*might*’ express a less degree of the speaker’s confidence. Also “*could*” and “*might*” are used to form Subjective mood. Negative forms of ‘*can*’ and ‘*may*’ express different meanings. Negative ‘*can*’ expresses negative possibility of an event, while ‘*may*’ expresses supposition.

The equivalents in of these modal verbs in Russian are: ‘cannot’- ‘*не может быть, чтобы*’; ‘could not’- ‘*едва ли*’, ‘*не мог бы*’, ‘*не мог*’; ‘may’- ‘*может быть*’, ‘*возможно*’ (if the sentence is interrogative we can find ‘*интересно*’); ‘might’- ‘*как будто (бы)*’; ‘*можно подумать*’; ‘*можно было бы подумать, что*’.

But Zvereva E.A. claims that verbs ‘*must*’, ‘*should*’, ‘*ought*’, ‘*will/would*’, ‘*need*’ can also express different shades of supposition, moreover these verbs express attitude of speaker to the matter of supposition in general [7; 235]. ‘*Should*’ and ‘*ought*’ can express supposition, which is based on facts. These verbs are similar to ‘*must*’ in their meaning, but are used far rarer than ‘*must*’ in the meaning of supposition. The verb ‘*ought*’ is met in the belles-letters. Verbs ‘*ought*’ and ‘*should*’ in the meaning of supposition can be used not only in the affirmative sentence, but also in the negative ones where it is not the point of the sentence that is negated, but the action (or state) itself. The equivalents of these words in the Russian language would be: “*вероятно*”, “*должно быть*”. ‘*Will/Would*’ can express supposition, which is based not on the facts, but on the subjective opinion of the speaker. The verb ‘*will*’ is often used with such verbs as ‘to suppose’, ‘to expect’. The verbs ‘*will*’ and ‘*would*’ are used in the meaning of supposition in the affirmative sentences in the belles-letter style. The Russian equivalents of these words are: “*конечно*”, “*непреречно*”. ‘*Need*’ also has the modal meaning of supposition, but very rarely; it is used in the belles-letters and scientific literature. Its equivalents in Russian are: ‘*не обязательно*’, ‘*не обязательно должно*’.

The category of necessity can be expressed by such modal verbs as ‘*must*’, ‘*have to*’, ‘*will*’, ‘*would*’, ‘*ought*’ and ‘*should*’. ‘*Must*’ and ‘*have to*’ are used less frequently than other verbs, which express necessity in the British variant, but Americans use them very often. The difference between ‘*must*’ and ‘*have to*’ is considered the difference between “factual” necessity and “theoretical” necessity. But this difference is neutralized in the scientific speech. The Russian equivalents of these verbs are: ‘*must*’- ‘*обязательно; должен; обязательно должен; непременно; вынужден; приходится; нужно; следует*’; ‘*have to*’- ‘*приходится; вынужден; должен; нужно (было); необходимо (было)*’. ‘*Will*’ expresses a conclusion, which is based on competence of the speaker. Also it expresses “prognostication”. ‘*Will*’ is used for designation of habitual events. The difference between ‘*must*’ and ‘*will*’ is in the source and on the ground of conclusion. ‘*Must*’ expresses conclusion from observing facts and phenomena. ‘*Will*’ expresses conclusion from speaker’s own information and knowledge. ‘*Would*’ expresses necessity and can also express prediction in the present. Also we can see that “*would*” can be the past form of the verb “*will*”. ‘*Ought*’ or ‘*should*’ express the logical meaning of necessity in weak forms and the opinion of the speaker can be wrong. The equivalents of these verbs in Russian are: ‘*should*’ – ‘*следует*’; ‘*обязан*’; ‘*должен*’; ‘*следовало (бы)*’; ‘*должен (был)*’; ‘*должен был бы*’; ‘*не следовало (бы)*’; ‘*не должен был (бы)*’; ‘*ought to*’ – ‘*мой (его, её) долг*’; ‘*хорошо бы*’; ‘*должен*’; ‘*следовало бы*’; ‘*желательно*’; ‘*обязан*’; ‘*стоит (стоило бы)*’; ‘*нужно было бы*’; ‘*следует*’; ‘*нужно*’; ‘*не стоит*’. The verb ‘*need*’ also can express necessity. It is used in negative and interrogative sentences mostly and has only present tense form. Its Russian equivalents are “*нужно*” and “*необходимо*”.

Such German linguists as *Drushinina V.V. and Keler L.* say that necessity has the following shades of meaning: *urgent cause, external compulsion, responsibility and inevitability* [8; 241]. They think that the verb 'müssen' can express necessity. 'Müssen + Infinitiv (II)' is used when the person is interested in this or that thing. 'Müssen + nicht + Infinitiv' as well as 'brauchen + nicht + zu + Infinitiv' and 'wollen + Infinitiv' also express necessity. Buscha J., Heinrich G. and Zoch J. agree with Drushinina V.V. and Keler on the point that the modal verb 'müssen' expresses necessity; but add that modal verb 'sollen' may also be used in this function although it sounds vulgar [9; 132]. The verb 'wollen' as Drushinina V.V. and Keler say also has the meaning of necessity and is a stylistic variant of 'müssen'. Sherbkov thinks that the modal verb 'sollen' can be used not only in vulgar context, but in some situations it will be normal and used to emphasize the necessity. Drushinina V.V. and Keler L. think that supposition is expressed by the verbs 'können', 'mögen', 'dürfen', and 'müssen'. The same idea is pronounced in the works by Buscha J., Heinrich G. and Zoch J.

Thus modal verbs are the most frequently used means of expression supposition and necessity in English, German and Russian. Being extremely numerous and very often interchangeable they can render all the shades of these categories in all communicative situations.

Not all the linguists mark out the particles as the way of expressing modality. Belieaeva E.I. offers her classification of modal particles, which express supposition in the translating from English into Russian: 'как раз', 'а что если', 'а вдруг' which can be found only in interrogative sentences; and 'ещё как', 'а то нет', 'а как же' in exclamatory sentences [2; 157]. But Belieaeva E.I. does not include the particles into the classification of modal means of expressing necessity.

German linguists, on the contrary, find modal particles frequently used. So, Prorokova in her work "К вопросу о семантике модальных частиц в современном немецком языке" [9; 176] says that modal particles are very often met in the oral speech. They are: 'aber', 'denn', 'doch', 'etwa', 'ja', 'wohl', 'nur' etc. In the German language modal particles impart emotional shade to the speaker's attitude and are used for expressing subjective modality that is the transmission of feelings, thoughts, moods and wishes of the speaker. Modal particles do not have unique term in the Germanic Philology. They are called either *Füllwörter*, *Abtönungspartikeln* or *Satzpartikeln* or *Modalpartikeln*.

Necessity is expressed in the German language by the following modal particles: 'eben', 'also', 'nun', 'nun also', 'aber', 'aber auch ja', 'ja aber auch', 'aber auch', 'gar', 'mal', 'doch mal', 'eben mal', 'wohl' etc. Modal particles which express supposition are: 'aber', 'aber auch', 'doch', 'durchaus', 'eben', 'etwa', 'gar', 'ja', 'nun', 'nun mal', 'nur', 'wohl', 'schon' etc.

Modal particles have a weak lexical meaning, but they characterize certain style of speech, and may be polysemantic (*wohl* and *ja*) or get into synonymic relations (*bloß* and *nur*). The lexical meaning of modal particles, which originate from adverbs in fact, distinguishes them from the latter in the result of unique semantic situation. Modal particle "mal" is used in narrative, interrogative and stimulating sentences. It gives the shade of confidence and even intimacy to the utterance. The semantics of the modal particle "eben" we can distinguish as the understanding of inevitability (some fact of reality) which we must accept. In the South of Germany the modal particle "halt" is more often met in that meaning. "Eben" and "halt" are used in declarative sentences. In the author's speech besides these modal particles we can find such words as "trübe", "traurig", "seufzend" etc. The modal particle "wohl" is not monosemantic. Being mostly used in the meaning of necessity, in the declarative and interrogative sentences it expresses the supposition, which is near to the confidence. Modal particle "etwa", is used for the expressing supposition too. When the speaker uses "etwa" in interrogative sentences, he shows that he expects the negative answer from the interlocutor. The modal particle "ja" takes its origin from the word "ja" which is used in answers. Modal particle "ja" is placed in the middle of the sentence, and never at the beginning of it. Being used use it shows that the speaker does not want to tell some new information, or anything unexpected. The modal particle "doch" appeared on the bases of the conjunction "doch" with the meaning of contrasting. First, the phrase "Komm doch!" meant demand. But now it means the motive to the action, supposition etc. This particle can be found in the declarative, interrogative and negative sentences.

So, modal particles are very important in German speech. They realize two main functions: express the subjunctive modality and give to the sentence the emotional shade. The same can be said about the particles in English and Russian, although there they play a less significant role.

As it has been mentioned above, modality can be expressed not only by separate words but also by the whole phrases. The English language is noted by the existence of the following phrases expressing suppose-

tion: 'I suppose'; 'To be possible'; 'In my opinion'; 'It looks like' + gerund; 'There is a possibility'; 'Supposing that'. The modal phrases 'I assume', 'I presume', 'I gather' are used nowadays in official style and the speech of older generation. The most frequently used is "I think". It can be at the beginning of the affirmative and negative sentence or any place in declarative sentences. "I guess" is used at the beginning and at the end of the sentence, but this phrase has a shade of familiarity.

Necessity can be expressed in English by the following modal construction: *It is + modal word*. For example: *It is obvious, it is evident* etc. But these modal phrases are used mainly in the scientific speech and the author narration.

German linguists Drushinina V.V. and Keler L [8; 239] do not describe the modal phrases of necessity but they analyze the modal phrases of supposition. They use the term "phraseological construction", in this respect. These phrases are numerous and 'Ich halte es für (durchaus) möglich'; 'Ich halte es durchaus möglich'; 'Es ist denkbar'; 'Ich halte es nicht für ausgeschlossen'; 'Es ist möglich; Ich glaube' are just several examples of them.

Modal constructions in English are very close in their form and function to modal phrases. The structural difference between them is in the absence of the subject and predicate elements in the constructions under consideration. Supposition is expressed in English by such modal constructions as: *to be /not to be likely*, which is the part of Nominate + Infinitive constructions. It is used in the official and scientific style. Necessity in its turn is expressed by the construction: *to be bound + Infinitive*, which expresses logical conclusion. It also can be rendered by "to bound to", which means logical supposition about an event in the Future. This construction is used in the author narration and in the scientific speech. Also the necessity can be expressed in the German language by such modal constructions as: *Haben + zu + Infinitiv; Sein + zu + Infinitive*. These constructions express the objective attitude of necessity. The constructions „*es bleibt + zu + Infinitive*“; and „*es gibt + zu + Infinitive*“ are synonymous to the verb „*müssen*“ and are frequently used in modern spoken German..

Thus modal phrases and modal constructions not being always ascribed to a separate category prove to be really useful in expressing necessity and supposition, especially in the German language.

Finally we can make a conclusion that the most successful means of expressing supposition in English are: modal phrases "I think", and "I suppose"; modal words "perhaps" and "probably" and modal verb "may". The equivalents of these words in Russian are: 'может быть'; 'возможно'; 'не исключено, что'; 'можно предположить, что'; 'можно думать, что'; 'мне думается, что'; 'как представляется' etc.

In conclusion it can be noted that the most useful means of expressing supposition and necessity in all three languages are modal words and modal verbs. Alongside with the moods they serve to express all shades of the speaker's attitude towards reality and the utterance. At the same time in the German language one of the leading roles is played by the modal particles which attribute a certain expressive character to speech. In the Russian and English languages modal particles although being described as a special group of words have not received a deep and thorough treatment from the part of the scholars who just mention that their role is not so significant in comparison with the other means. As to the modal phrases and constructions, they are not so frequently met as modal words and verbs in the English and Russian languages, but are of great usage in German.

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