

SEMANTIC FUNCTIONS OF MODAL WORDS IN THE UTTERANCE

Mukhamedova Nigora Abdulkhayevna

Kattabayeva Dilrabo Kattabayevna

USWLU English language faculty -3

Teaching English Methodology Department

Annotation

The given article is dedicated to the semantic functions of modal words in the utterance. The semantic functions of modal words are directly determined by their lexical meaning and represent the implementation of systemic meaning in a specific communicative act.

Keywords: modal words, utterance, semantic functions, communicative act.

In a statement, modal words occur in both simple and complex sentences. At the same time, differences in syntactic function are possible: if in a simple sentence modal words perform exclusively the function of an introductory word then in a complex sentence it can participate in the formation of syntactic connections between predicative parts introducing certain semantic nuances into the statement. Let us first consider the use of MW, regardless of sentence structure. The main semantic function of MS in monologue speech is the speaker's assessment of the proposition as the only option for the "state of affairs." The same 'no alternative' forms the core of the actual meaning in all contexts, regardless of the nature of the speech situation.

E.g, My God, I suddenly thought, feeling a coldness in my heart, because this, of course, is my last library! I won't have any more libraries. It's too late (A. and B. Strugatsky. Lame fate.

For some time I thought about reworking the story, about what to correct in it, and even in the event of various, undoubtedly, upcoming explanations on this matter, I formulated some more or less coherent <...> chain of critical comments, < ...> but in fact I couldn't think about it anymore (K. Simonov. Through the eyes of a man of my generation.

Our mother raised us - she beat us and kissed us, but she still didn't do much. She wrote, was absorbed in creativity, dad hovered somewhere in the heights of authority, sat in meetings. Naturally, I had a vague idea of what he was doing, and I vaguely remember the time (A. Konchalovsky. Low truths).

In all examples, the modal word realizes the meaning: "I have grounds to assert that it cannot be otherwise, all other options are excluded." It is lost when modal word is eliminated, cf.: ♦ <...> dad hovered somewhere in the heights of command, held meetings. ...I vaguely imagined what he was doing, and I vaguely remember the time.

Along with the seme ‘no alternative’, the semes ‘confirmation’ and ‘consent’ are additionally implemented in monologue speech. They form the periphery of actual meaning:

One of the ways to fix intonation in writing is, as you know, punctuation marks. In addition, non-punctuation ways of indicating intonation have also been identified in the Russian written text. Of course, not all features and nuances of intonation are recorded in written speech (N. Cheremisina. Russian intonation: poetry, prose).

The last sentence is framed as a response to the intended objection: “*Writing cannot record all the features of intonation.*” The speaker agrees with this: I agree / I confirm that not all features and nuances of intonation are recorded in written speech.

Thanks to the actualization of these semes in utterance, internal dialogism arises (see [Vasilenko 1984, 1985]). An utterance is a hidden argument in which the speaker considers certain opinions and agrees with them.

It is no coincidence that M.V. Lyapon notes that the semantic structure of relational units “in general imitates a collapsed inference” [Lyapon 19886: 82].

Various speech situations are possible modal word is more often used as a means of confirming a non-verbalized thesis that constitutes the content of the implicature of an utterance. Much less often the confirmed thesis is explicated in the previous phrase. It can represent either the opinion of the subject of speech himself, or “someone else’s word.” The latter can belong to both the real interlocutor and the potential, supposed one. In the second case, someone else's opinion is “modeled” by the speaker himself. By using modal word, the speaker expresses agreement with the interlocutor's unspoken, implied assessment: “My work is more important.” Meanwhile, the relationships between the characters make it clear that the husband does not at all believe that his wife’s work is more important. He models her point of view and demonstrates outward agreement with her, confirms her correctness. In fact, this is not complete agreement, as evidenced by at least the following clarification: In any case, it is more visual and the impact is more tangible.

Thus, in addition to the external dialogue, a hidden dialogue is formed in the text at the subtext level. When eliminating the modal word (... Your work is more important), internal dialogicity disappears, the assessment is perceived as belonging to the speaker himself modal word, of course, realizes the meaning of ‘no alternative’ and additionally expresses the meaning of ‘agreement/confirmation of the correctness of the interlocutor’s opinion’, in this case assumed, predicted by the speaker himself based on his knowledge: Cinema was invented by the Lumière brothers. - Yes, I confirm / I agree, Lumières.

The particle yes is a direct means of expressing confirmation. Of course, it enhances confirmation by introducing a subjective element: “I agree,” “I share this opinion.” So, when using modal word in monologue speech, not only the seme ‘no

alternative' is realized, but also the senses 'confirmation' and 'agreement', forming the periphery of the actual meaning. Consequently, the main semantic function is to evaluate the content of the statement as non-alternative, and the additional one is to express confirmation/agreement with the explicit or implicit thesis.

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