



SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF MODAL WORDS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: In this article, we examined the intricate and comprehensive category of modality in both the Uzbek and English languages, delving into its unique features and functions. Modality, a linguistic concept that conveys the speaker's attitude towards the likelihood, necessity, permission, or ability related to an action or state, is manifested differently in these two languages.

Key words: modal, affirmative, independent clauses, undoubtedly, conditional, syntactically, categories.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada modallikning o'zbek va ingliz tillaridagi murakkab va keng qamrovli kategoriyasini ko'rib chiqdik, uning o'ziga xos xususiyatlari va funksiyalarini chuqurroq o'rgandik. Modallik, so'zlovchining biror-bir harakat yoki holat bilan bog'liq bo'lgan ehtimollik, zarurat, ruxsat yoki qobiliyatga munosabatini bildiruvchi lingvistik tushuncha bo'lib, bu ikki tilda turlicha namoyon bo'ladi.



Kalit soʻzlar: modallik, tasdiqlov, mustaqil gaplar, shubha, shart mayli, sintaktik, kategoriyalar.

Modal words are terms that convey the speaker's attitude towards the certainty, doubt, emotion, or logical conclusion of a statement. These words are usually set off by commas in a sentence. They do not denote objects, actions, or symbols, nor do they act as independent clauses. Instead, they provide a nuanced meaning that reflects the speaker's perspective. Modal verbs, on the other hand, are auxiliary verbs used to express necessity, possibility, permission, or ability. In English, they include verbs like "can," "could," "may," "might," "must," "shall," "should," "will," and "would." Unlike modal words, modal verbs are syntactically tied to the main verb of the sentence and modify its meaning.

In English, the modal verbs "can" and "could" express doubt and uncertainty when used in questions, adding an emotive layer to the inquiry. These verbs translate to "boʻlishi mumkinmi, chindan ham, nahotki" in Uzbek, indicating a sense of disbelief or questioning reality.

English: Could this old man be her dad?

Uzbek: Nahotki shu keksa erkak uning otasi boʻlsa?

Action on the Verge of Accomplishment

The phrase "sal qoldi" in Uzbek translates to an action that was almost accomplished, often expressed in English using the modal verb "might" with a perfect infinitive.

English: Don't walk alone. Yesterday, I might have not found my way.

Uzbek: Yolgʻiz yurmang. Kecha sal qoldi yoʻlimni topa olmay qolishimga.

According to Uzbek linguists, modal words in Uzbek are categorized based on the speaker's relationship to the information conveyed:



Trust (Ishonch): albatta (certainly), shaksiz (undoubtedly), so‘zsiz (without a doubt), shubhasiz (unquestionably).

Suspicion (Shubha): ehtimol (possibly), balki (maybe), chamasi (approximately), shekili (it seems), aftidan (apparently).

Confirmation (Tasdiq): darhaqiqat (indeed), haqiqatan (truly).

Summary (Xulosa): xullas (in short), demak (thus), umuman (generally).

Order of Thought (Fikr Tartibi): avvalo (firstly), avvalambor (first and foremost).

Proof (Dalil): masalan (for example), jumladan (including).

Pity (Achinish): attang (alas), afsus (unfortunately).

Joy (Quvonch): xayriyat (fortunately).

These words provide context and emotion but are not grammatically connected to the main clause.

Modal words can function as introductory elements in a sentence, setting the stage for the main idea. For instance:

Uzbek: Demak, ovqatlansak bo‘ladi. (Thus, we can eat.)

Uzbek: Ehtimol, bozorga borarmiz. (Maybe, we will go to the market.)

Modality can be represented through various grammatical structures, including:

Inclination: Reflecting the speaker’s intent or willingness.

Negation: Indicating the absence of necessity or permission.

Conjunctions: Connecting clauses to express conditions or contrasts.

Special Words: Specific modal words or tone that convey the speaker’s attitude.

In English, modality is expressed using modal verbs that convey different shades of meaning related to necessity, possibility, permission, and ability:

Can: Indicates ability or possibility.

Example: I can swim. / She can speak Italian.

May: Expresses permission.

Example: You may take my phone.



Must: Conveys a command or necessity.

Example: You must go to the office.

Need: Expresses necessity, often used in the negative form to indicate a lack of necessity.

Example: You needn't come home.

These modal verbs are always used with the base form of the main verb, forming a complete predicate:

Example: She can cook the cake.

Example: This work ought to be done at once.

Example: You needn't do it.

Comparative Analysis of Modal Words in Uzbek and in English:

Reflect the speaker's emotional or logical stance.

- Provide context without being grammatically tied to the main verb.

Examples: "albatta" (certainly), "ehtimol" (possibly), "xullas" (in short).

- Modify the meaning of the main verb, expressing necessity, possibility, permission, or ability.

Always used with the main verb to form a complete idea.

Examples: "can" (ability), "may" (permission), "must" (necessity).

Function: Modal words in Uzbek are more about expressing the speaker's attitude, while English modal verbs directly modify the action expressed by the main verb.

Syntax: Uzbek modal words are not syntactically tied to the main clause, whereas English modal verbs are integral to the sentence structure.

Usage: Modal verbs in English can stand alone with the main verb to convey a complete thought, but modal words in Uzbek serve as supplementary expressions.

Understanding the distinctions between modal words and verbs in English and Uzbek is crucial for accurate translation and effective communication. While English relies on modal verbs to express necessity, possibility, and permission directly, Uzbek uses modal words to convey the speaker's stance towards the information. Recognizing these differences helps in



grasping the subtleties of both languages and enhances linguistic competence.

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