Міністерство освіти і науки України Сумський державний університет Шосткинський інститут Сумського державного університету Управління освіти Шосткинської міської ради Виконавчий комітет Шосткинської міської ради

ОСВІТА, НАУКА ТА ВИРОБНИЦТВО: РОЗВИТОК І ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

МАТЕРІАЛИ

I Всеукраїнської науково-методичної конференції,

присвяченої 15-й річниці заснування Шосткинського інституту Сумського державного університету

(Шостка, 21 квітня 2016 року)



Суми Сумський державний університет UDC 811.111

CATEGORY OF MODALITY IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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The aim is research modality, its formation and difficulties connected with their usage. Also, to show the peculiarities of modal verbs, how modal verbs can be used, translate, in what case we need to use one or the other modal verbs and why.

The object is investigation of modality and its main types.

In the investigation is used descriptive method.

Modality is the grammaticalized expression of the subjective attitudes and opinions of the speaker including possibility, probability, necessity, obligation, permissibility, ability, desire, and contingency.

As a semantic-grammatical category concerned with the status of the proposition that describes the event expressed by an utterance, modality might also be construed as the relativization of the validity of sentence meanings to a set of possible worlds or ways in which people could conceive the world to be different. In other words, modality allows language users to express what is, what would be, what may be, and what should be [4].

The basic provisions, defining the essence of the category of modality are stated in V. V. Vinogradov's work: About the category of modality and modal words. The linguist characterizes this concept: "Each sentence includes modal meaning as an essential constructive sign, i.e. comprises the indication on the relation to reality" [5].

Bybee Joan and in accordance with it modality expresses 2 types of relations and includes 2 levels. That's why the linguists usually differentiate between 2 types of modality: objective (or primary) and subjective (or secondary). Bybee Joan considered that each utterance consists of two parts, the part which presents information (he called it 'dictum') and the part which presents the speaker's evaluation of this information (he called it 'modus') [1].

We find the following modal verbs in English: can, may, must, should, could, would and might. Besides, to have and to be in some of their uses are also classed among modal verbs. A modal verb in combination with the infinitive forms a modal compound predicate [3].

"I do not know what mercy I can show you."[2]

"I can use this boat, when I have mended it, to call on my friends."[2]

"The prisoners in the cave could not hear, and those with us dared not answer."[2]

"You should ask god to forgive you everything."[2]

"We must first get your ship back."[2]

"I may describe to you at some future date."[2]

Also, there are a lot of words in English that express modality. They are: possible, probable, certain, sure, likely, unlikely, definite, clear, obvious.

The problem of modality as a whole is very difficult. There are various means of expressing modality - modal words, modal verbs and the category of mood. Since two of them or even all three may be used simultaneously, it is evident that there may be several layers of modality in a sentence. A great variety of combinations is possible here.