

THE STUDY OF MODALITY IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. *This article examines the category of modality in linguistics, focusing on its theoretical development and research perspectives at the global level, in CIS countries, and in Uzbekistan. Modality is analyzed as a complex linguistic phenomenon expressing the speaker’s attitude toward reality. The study explores semantic, grammatical, and pragmatic aspects of modality, highlighting differences and similarities across linguistic traditions. Special attention is given to the contributions of Uzbek linguistics to modality studies.*

Keywords: *modality, linguistics, epistemic modality, deontic modality, pragmatics, Uzbek linguistics, CIS linguistics*

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается категория модальности в лингвистике с акцентом на её изучение в мировом масштабе, в странах СНГ и в Узбекистане. Модальность анализируется как сложное языковое явление, выражающее отношение говорящего к действительности. Освещаются семантические, грамматические и прагматические аспекты модальности, а также выявляются сходства и различия в различных лингвистических традициях. Особое внимание уделяется вкладу узбекских учёных в изучение модальности.

Ключевые слова: *модальность, лингвистика, эпистемическая модальность, деонтическая модальность, прагматика, узбекская лингвистика, СНГ*

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada tilshunoslikda modallik kategoriyasining o‘rganilishi jahon, MDH davlatlari va O‘zbekiston miqyosida tahlil qilinadi. Modallik nutq egasining voqelikka munosabatini ifodalovchi murakkab til hodisasi sifatida ko‘rib chiqiladi. Maqolada modallikning semantik, grammatik va pragmatik jihatlari yoritilib, turli lingvistik maktablar o‘rtasidagi o‘xshash va farqli tomonlar tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, o‘zbek tilshunosligining ushbu sohadagi hissasi alohida ta’kidlanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: *modallik, tilshunoslik, epistematik modallik, deontik modallik, pragmatika, o‘zbek tilshunosligi, MDH*

Introduction

Modality is one of the most complex and widely discussed categories in modern linguistics. It reflects the speaker’s attitude toward the proposition expressed in an utterance, including notions such as possibility, necessity, obligation, and certainty. The study of modality intersects with various branches of linguistics, including semantics, syntax, and pragmatics.

The concept of modality has been explored differently across linguistic traditions. Western linguistics often emphasizes formal and functional approaches, while CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) linguistics traditionally focuses on semantic

and grammatical classifications. Uzbek linguistics, in turn, integrates both approaches while also considering the specific features of the Uzbek language.

Discussion

Modality is generally divided into several main types:

- Epistemic modality - which expresses the speaker's degree of certainty or belief (e.g., *must, might*).
- Deontic modality - which relates to obligation, permission, or necessity (e.g., *should, have to*).
- Dynamic modality - which refers to ability or willingness.

From a semantic perspective, modality is linked to truth conditions and possible worlds. From a grammatical point of view, it is expressed through modal verbs, particles, intonation, and other linguistic means. Pragmatically, modality reflects the speaker's communicative intention and interaction with the listener

Modality in Global Linguistics

In global linguistics, modality has been studied extensively within functional and cognitive frameworks. Scholars have analyzed modality as part of broader theories such as speech act theory and discourse analysis. The functional approach views modality as a tool for expressing interpersonal meanings in communication.

Cognitive linguistics, on the other hand, interprets modality as a reflection of mental processes and conceptualization. It emphasizes how speakers perceive and evaluate reality. These approaches highlight the flexibility and context-dependence of modality.

Modality in CIS Linguistics

In CIS linguistics, modality has traditionally been studied within structural and semantic frameworks. Researchers have focused on the classification of modal meanings and their grammatical expression.

A key feature of CIS studies is the distinction between *objective modality* (related to the reality of the situation) and *subjective modality* (related to the speaker's attitude). This distinction has played a central role in analyzing modal expressions in Russian and other regional languages.

CIS linguists have also contributed to the study of modality through detailed analyses of modal particles, verb forms, and syntactic constructions.

Results and Analysis

Uzbek linguistics has developed its own approach to modality, combining elements of both global and CIS traditions. Modality in the Uzbek language is expressed through:

- Modal words and particles
- Verb forms and affixes
- Intonation and context

Uzbek scholars have emphasized the importance of context in interpreting modal meanings. They have also studied the interaction between modality and other linguistic categories, such as tense and aspect.

One of the distinctive features of Uzbek modality is the rich system of auxiliary elements that convey subtle shades of meaning, including doubt, assumption, and obligation.

Comparative Analysis

A comparison of global, CIS, and Uzbek approaches reveals several key points:

- Global linguistics focuses more on functional and cognitive aspects.
- CIS linguistics emphasizes structural and semantic classification.
- Uzbek linguistics integrates these approaches while adapting them to the specific features of the Uzbek language.

Despite these differences, all traditions recognize modality as a central category in understanding human communication.

Conclusion

The category of modality remains a vital area of research in linguistics. Its study provides insights into how language expresses human thought, attitude, and interaction. The comparison of global, CIS, and Uzbek perspectives shows that modality is a universal phenomenon with language-specific realizations. Further research in this field can contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-linguistic differences and the role of modality in communication.

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