



Modality and Modal Verbs in German

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the features of modality in German. The meanings and uses of modal verbs, modal words, and conjunctives denoting modality are discussed.

Keywords:

Modal verbs, auxiliary verbs, modality, interjection, modal particles

I. Introduction

Modal verbs are called auxiliary verbs in German. They differ from other verbs in that they are polysemantic and can have different kinds of coloring, which is especially important in the way of utterance. The class features of modal verbs primarily include multifunctionality in accordance with the contrast between the conditioned and the epistemic interpretation of the text.

Gunnar Bech assigns different main meanings to modal verbs, which are reflected in different secondary meanings as a variant of the main meaning. He analyzes the main meanings of modal verbs in several poles: 1) the difference between volition (wollen, sollen dürfen), emotiveness (mögen) and causality (müssen, können); 2) the difference between active and passive modality (sollen/dürfen and müssen/können-contrast). The latter is explained by Bech with the concept of "modal field" (the opposition of possibility and necessity). Epistemic interpretation of the text, according to Bech, refers to the secondary meanings of modal verbs.

II. Literature review

The semantic criteria of modal verbs include the possibility of expressing the real or unreal (unreal) and their possible opposition.

Another linguist Kratzer prefers to give each modal verb its original meaning, i.e., a state of affairs is designated as necessary if it follows logically from the speaker's assumptions (the verb "müssen") and as possible if it is logically compatible with the speaker's assumptions (the verb "können").

In this example, the modal verb changes the meaning of the full-valued verb "besprechen" and gives the meaning of necessity based on inner conviction. Also, the modal verb "müssen" can express a need, an obligation or requirement associated with someone else's will, which, regardless of desire, must be fulfilled: "Ich muss um 8 Uhr im Büro sein".

Or: "Peter, muss man dich wieder übergehen, wie immer...", (J. Spyri Heidi tom S.) in which the state of affairs is assessed by the speaker as something necessary, thereby expressing a sense of obligation to perform an action.

Necessity associated with someone else's will, as well as the requirement of another person, which may not be fulfilled due to lack of conviction, expresses the verb "sollen": "Sie sollen zum Arzt gehen".

The verb "können" indicates the possibility, the physical ability of the speaker to perform a certain action. It expresses the state of the speaker in performing an action, about the availability of opportunities based on the corresponding abilities.

- "Ich kann es!"

- "Was kannst du, Peterli?" fragte erwartungsvoll die Mutter

- "Das Lesen", antwortete er. (J. Spyri Heidi tom S.)

Also, the verb "können" has the meaning of permission, in which it can be compared with the verb "dürfen".

„Du kannst einmal wieder mitkommen heute“, war seine etwas störrige Anrede“.

In response to this remark, one can trace the expression of the speaker's state regarding the statement: "" Nein, das kann ich nicht, Peter", entgegnete das Heidi".

The verb "können" is used to indicate that a certain state of affairs exists or may arise, as in the example: "Das Paket kann verloren gegangen sein; der Arzt kann jeden Augenblick kommen“.

I. Discussion

Modality is also conveyed through the verb "dürfen", which means to have permission, to be in the right to perform some action. Expresses the desire, the request of the speaker in relation to the state of affairs. At the same time, the semantic meaning of the verb remains in its original meaning - an expression of the possibility in relation to the state of affairs.

The verbs "mögen" "wollen" meaning "to love", "to have a disposition", "to want" in their direct meaning express the desire, the intention of the speaker to do something. But they can also have other meanings of expressing conviction, reality (unreality) (the verb „mögen“). The meaning of the verb "mögen" is explained as being able to express unwillingness: "Ich mag nicht weggehen".

The formal qualities of modal verbs that have been discussed above are different and should be separate from the functional class qualities (modal meaning/epistemic polyfunctionality), which will be discussed later when analyzing the epistemic possibilities of expressing modality.

Modal particles are most often used in oral speech and are no longer, as they used to be, complementary words. They express in various ways the opinion, assessment and expectations of the speaker in relation to the statement, and partially the expectations of the listener. Modal particles refer to the whole sentence. Syntactically, they are aimed at the central part of the sentence and for this reason they always stand before the rheme. Basically, modal particles are unstressed (er kann ja nicht alles wissen). But in some imperative sentences, they are still emphasized. (mach ja! Bloß keinen Unfug!) The most commonly used particles are the following: ja, denn, wohl, doch, nur, halt, eben, mal, schon, auch, bloß, eigentlich, etwa, nicht, vielleicht, ruhig. It often happens that the same particles have different meanings depending on the function of the sentence.

„Mein lieber Sesemann, wie kommst du mir **denn** vor?“ entgegnete der Angekommene, indem er sich zu seinem Freunde hinsetzte“ - where the modal particle enhances the speaker's state of surprise in relation to what is happening. Or in an example like this: „ .. und nun soll ich dem guten Kinde, das ja sonst schon so vieles entbehren muss, die langgenährte Hoffnung mit einemmal wieder durchstreichen-das ist mir fast nicht möglich.“- The speaker gives, as it were, a signal to the interlocutor that he knows how much the child has lost and that the speaker is not able to awaken hope in him again. The use of two particles at the same time ("ja" and "schon") gives more and more emotionality to the statement.

Modal particles, as mentioned above, are associated with certain functions of the sentence: declarative, imperative, interrogative and sentences expressing wishes: « **Aber es war auch hart, dass nun alles aus sein sollte, und den ganzen Sommer hindurch war die Aussicht auf**

die Reise zum Heidi ihre einzige Freude und Trost gewesen...“

"Auch" expresses annoyance in this statement, increases emotionality in relation to the state of affairs.

In sentences expressing the speaker's desire, modal particles convey a strong desire, hope in relation to the statement: "wenn es bloß besser würde! Wenn nur der Frühling bald käme!"

In imperative sentences, modal particles can express a demand, dissatisfaction, an enthusiastic state and give expressiveness to the statement.

"Das ist aber wirklich wunderbar!" or "Mach doch keinen Vorwurf!", "Das ist ja Unverschämtheit!"

Interjections are mainly used in oral speech and serve to convey spontaneous, reactive emotions or assessments in relation to the state of affairs. Interjections are expressive, like: au, ach, igitt, etc. and are called primitives. They can be conveyed both verbally and non-verbally. Non-primitives include the so-called Appellinterjektionen, which call for a certain course of action, like "pst", which means to keep calm. Interjections, like other types of particles, are autonomous, i.e. they can form a whole sentence that ends with an exclamation point: (Pfui!). They can stand both at the beginning and at the end of a whole sentence without violating their syntactic structure.

«O! wie schön! O! wie schön! Guten Tag, Großvater», rief das Heidi heranspringend.

The repeated use of the same expression gives expressiveness and expresses the speaker's attitude towards the statement - joy, an enthusiastic state. Or: « *Oh, es währt gewiß nicht lange, bis es wieder Frühling wird und dann kommen sie ja bestimmt* ».

An interjection conveys the emotional state of the speaker to the position of the utterance. They are between the emotional reaction to the statement and its evaluation.

II. Conclusion

There are simple and complex interjections. The above interjections are classified as simple interjections, as they bear no resemblance to other words. Complex interjections have several clear lexical

structures: *Oh Gott! Mein Gott! Um Himmels willen!; Mann!, Verdammt!; Ach du meine Güte!*

Interjections have a wide range of positive and negative expression of emotions and assessment of the state of affairs.

Modality as a mandatory feature of any statement; one of the categories that formulates a sentence. Objective modality depicts the position of the reported relative to reality on the basis of reality or unreality.

The main means of expressing objective modality in German is the category of mood.

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