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Course Paper

**MODAL VERBS IN MODERN ENGLISH: SEMANTICS AND  
FUNCTIONING.**

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## INTRODUCTION

It can be stated with full conviction that modal verbs are one of the most important components of the English language. They allow you to express not only main thoughts and ideas, but also reasoning about possible scenarios and possible consequences. In addition, they have different grammar from basic verbs, namely they do not have an infinitive form, do not have endings for different persons and numbers, and are conjugated only by tenses and with auxiliary verbs. Each modal verb has its own semantics and usage, which varies depending on the context and the speaker's intention. Over time, their forms, meanings, usage, and number have changed and exist as we know them today.

**The relevance of the work** lies in several reasons. Firstly, modal verbs are an important part of the modern English language. Understanding their semantics and functioning is key to effective communication. Secondly, modal verbs have a complex semantics and can express different kinds of relations between the speaker and the message. The study of their semantics and functions will help to develop the theory of speech analysis and improve the quality of translation. Thirdly, the study of modal verbs can facilitate the process of learning and understanding of speech constructions using them.

**The theoretical significance** lies in the fact that the study of the semantics and functioning of modal verbs in modern English can help to expand our knowledge of the language and to understand their peculiarities more deeply. While **the practical significance** in the form of examples of the use of modal verbs in direct speech will give a clearer understanding of how they are used.

The **aim** of the paper is to identify the main meanings and functions of modal verbs and how they are used in different situations.

To achieve this goal, the following **tasks** were set:

1. To identify modal verbs in modern English;
2. To analyse their semantic characteristics and functions;
3. Use modal verbs in different contexts.

**The object** of the study is modal verbs in modern English.

**The subject** of the study is the semantics and functioning of modal verbs.

**The first chapter** explains what a modal verb is, what types of verbs there are, and how to use them.

**The second chapter** discusses the first type of modal verbs - full modal verbs - their meanings, functions, and examples of use.

**The third chapter** discusses the second type of modal verbs - semi-modal verbs - their meanings, functions, and examples of use.

**The fourth chapter** deals with the third type of modal verbs - verbs with modal meanings - their meanings, functions, and examples of use.

**General conclusions** summarise the main results of the study.

## **CHAPTER ONE. MODAL VERBS IN MODERN ENGLISH**

### **1.1. What are modal verbs in English?**

Modal verbs in English are auxiliary verbs. Syntactically, they are service verbs and cannot be used on their own. They are combined with an infinitive to form a complex modal clause (Рижкова, 2017, p. 312). Semantically, they do not express action or state. Unlike regular verbs, they express abstract modal values such as possibility, probability, necessity, surprise, doubt, expediency, desire, and various emotions. Also, their semantics can sometimes be difficult to understand, since most modal verbs have more than one meaning, their form does not necessarily indicate the tense of the sentence in which they are used, and verb phrases with a negative modality do not always express the opposite of the affirmative modality [Usmonova, 2021, p. 234].

According to Naremanova, modal verbs fall into several categories:

1. Fully modal verbs: can, could, should, must, will, would, may, might, shall.
2. Semi-modal verbs: dare, need, ought to, used to, had better.
3. Verbs with modal values (equivalents of modal verbs): have to, have got to, be to, be going to, be able to, be allowed to (Narimanova, 2022, p. 887).

Grammar and correct sentence construction are important in English, so it's necessary to remember how important the rules are for modal verbs: 1) Modal verbs are an exception to the rule that two verbs are preceded by to (except for phrases that already contain to - have to, be to, ought to, etc.); 2) A modal verb will always be followed by an action verb; 3) Modal verbs in English are used in the present tense, often even with a hint of the future. Modal verbs do not have the ending -ed in the past tense or the word "will" in the future tense. However, there are exceptions, where "will" is used to form the future tense, and the form of the verb changes for the past tense; 4) Modal verbs are used in the same form for any number and gender. The exceptions are the verbs "have to" and "have got to", "be to" and "be going to", "be able to" and "be allowed to", "be used to" (Гайда, 2020, p. 736).

## **CHAPTER TWO. CHARACTERISTICS OF FULLY MODAL VERBS**

The fully modal verbs "can", "could", "may", "might", "must", "shall", "should", "will", "would" function as purely auxiliary verbs that cannot be used on their own as a

simple verb, i.e. they cannot have the Infinitive, Gerund, Participle or second form (Past Simple, Past Particular) in an indefinite form. They must be combined with other verbs to form complex modal forms. However, they can be used as an independent clause in interrogative or negative sentences to express negation or to ask about possibility, permission, obligation, and other modalities [Aaltonen, 2021, p. 82].

## 2.1. «Can and could»

Since modal verbs do not have endings added to them when they are used in the past tense, the modal verb "can" has its own past form - "could". "Can" cannot form the future tense, so in such cases the equivalent modal verb "be able to" is used in the future tense form - "will be able to".

In modern English, these two modal verbs have various meanings. As a rule, they express the ability to perform actions that could or might happen in the present or future. They are used to denote: **a) physical ability:** «I *can* see what are you doing, young man»; «I *can* lift that heavy box by myself»; «He *could* run faster when he was younger»; «They *could* barely walk after running a marathon»; **b) mental capacity:** «I *can't* remember where I put my keys this morning»; «She *can't* speak in public without getting nervous»; «"Tom *could* not bear it. He got out his worldly wealth and examined it - bits of toys, marbles, and trash; enough to buy an exchange of work, maybe, but not half enough to buy so much as half an hour of pure freedom [Mark Twain, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"]»; «They *could* understand the concept after the teacher explained it thoroughly»; **c) ability, depending on the circumstances:** «I *can* eat spicy food, but not too much, otherwise, my stomach hurts»; «She *can* drive in the city, but not on the highway because she gets anxious»; «He *could* study better if he had a quiet place to concentrate»; «They *could* finish the project on time if they work together efficiently»; **d) doubt, uncertainty:** «*Can't* be that you actually bought into his ploy»; «*Can* we trust him to keep our secret?»; «*Could* he really be the one who stole my wallet?»; «It *could* be that we missed our flight»; **e) permission:** «OK, you *can* go to Jessica's party, just do your homework first»; «I *can* go with the flow. Don't you believe that? I mean -- not now, but when I'm all set, I'm gonna go like hell, you know? I mean

it. You guys are gonna have trouble keeping up with me. I'm gonna be a terrific artist and give exhibitions all over the place (J.D. Salinger, "The Catcher in the Rye")); «*Could* I borrow your pen for a moment, please?»; «You *couldn't* smoke in this area before, but now it's allowed»; **f) an action to be taken in the future:** «I *can* visit you next week if I have time»; «We *can* have lunch together on Saturday if you're free»; «*Could* you come to the meeting tomorrow afternoon?»; «If everything goes well, we *could* finish the project by the end of the month»; **g) answers to questions:** «*Can* you pass me the salt, please?»; «*Can* we start the meeting now?»; «*Could* you tell me the way to the nearest post office?»; «*Could* you please repeat what you just said?» (Nedobylová, 2017, pp. 75-87).

## 2.2. «May and might»

The modal verb "may", like "can", has a past form, "might". They do not have a future tense, so they are replaced by the equivalent modal verb "to be allowed to" in the future tense form "will be allowed to". Also, "might" is a more polite form of "may" and, for the most part, they can freely substitute for each other.

The modal verbs "may" and "might" have the basic meaning of probability or permission and are used to express: **a) permission (or, in the negative form, prohibition), request:** «"May I come to your next party?" demanded Daisy [F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"]»; «You *may* not leave the premises without permission»; «*Might* I ask you a question, please?»; «You *might* not want to touch that, it's hot»; **b) the absence of an obstacle to the performance of an action:** «If we leave early, we *may* catch the train»; «You *may* find some interesting books at the library»; «I *might* be able to join you for dinner tonight»; «She *might* be willing to help you with your project»; **c) assumption or doubt:** «He *may* be running late for the meeting»; «They *may* not have received the email yet»; «The package *may* arrive tomorrow»; «I had to have some light to see how to put on the brown paper. Jim he allowed they was made, but I allowed they *might* be [Mark Twain, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"]»; **d) reproach (only with the modal verb "might"):** «You *might* have at least let me know you wouldn't be coming to the meeting»; «I can't believe you left without



telling anyone. You *might* have at least said goodbye!»; «You might have let me know that you had other plans»; **e) congratulations and wishes (only with the modal verb "may")**: «*May* you have a long and happy marriage together!»; «*May* you have a safe journey and return home soon»; «*May* you have success in all of your endeavors» [Carrió Pastor, 2014, pp. 49-52].

### 2.3. «Must»

The modal verb "must" is used only in the present tense form and only to indicate an action in the present tense. For the past and future, the forms of the verb with the modal meaning "have to" are used - "had to" and "will have to", which can completely replace the modal "must" (Goddard, 2014, p. 91).

"Must" expresses a commitment or certainty relating to the present and past tense and is used to denote: **a) obligation, burden, duty, necessity**: «As a doctor, I *must* ensure that my patients receive the best possible care»; «You *must* attend all of the meetings if you want to be part of the committee»; «The captain of the ship *must* make tough decisions to ensure the safety of everyone onboard»; «We *must* act quickly to address climate change before it's too late»; **b) prohibition**: «Students *must* not cheat on exams»; «Visitors *must* not enter the restricted area»; «Why, Huck! You *mustn't* talk like that. You *must* be a good child, and not think of sayin' such things. Do you know it ain't right to talk and tell about things that ain't your business? [Mark Twain, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"]»; **c) a confident assumption**: «She *must* be busy with her work, so she didn't attend the party»; «He *must* have forgotten his keys at home»; **d) strong advice**: «You *must* exercise daily for a healthy body»; «Students *must* study regularly for good grades»; **e) an uncertain (unfortunate) accident**: «She *must* have missed the train»; «He *must* have had an accident on his way to work»; **f) undesirable action**: «We *must* not discriminate against anyone based on their race or religion»; «The doctor said I *must* not eat sugar anymore. It's bad for my health»; **g) assumption (only in affirmative sentences)**: «The movie *must* be interesting»; «The food *must* be delicious»; **h) an unrealised opportunity (with simple infinitive - for the present; with perfect infinitive - for the past)**: «It *must be* magic to see a real

hummingbird. What do you think?»; «Her beautiful thick eyelashes *must have been striking* men, but in her case they only made her look frightened» (Libertin, 2008, pp. 123-132).

#### 2.4. «Shall»

The modal verb "shall" is used only in the present and future tenses without changing its form. It is used to express the speaker's will towards someone. "Shall" in the sense of a modal verb is used only in combination with the nonperfect infinitive form and can express: **a) resolution, confidence:** «I *shall* visit my grandparents this weekend»; «The train *shall* arrive at the station at 2 PM sharp»; **b) warning, order, command:** «You *shall* not speak to me like that!»; «All visitors *shall* leave the building immediately»; **c) promise, guarantee, assurance:** «I *shall* finish the project before the deadline»; «The company *shall* provide a full refund for the faulty product»; «It is well for you that you have got out of it, Miss Eyre, that you are now living elsewhere, and can see plainly the absurdity of your caprice, and its probable results: but don't you think that I shall hedge up my way lest I should again mistake? [Charlotte Bronte, "Jane Eyre"]»; **d) a request for consent:** «*Shall* we go to the cinema tonight?»; «*Shall* I call you back later?» [Krapivkina, 2017, p. 317].

In modern English, "shall" is not very popular, but it remains an important modal verb in fiction because it is the more emotive of all the other modal verbs.

#### 2.5. «Should»

The modal verb "should" has only one form for expressing tenses. Depending on the tense, "should" can be used with verbs in all forms of the infinitive: Simple Infinitive, Continuous Infinitive, Perfect Infinitive, Perfect Continuous Infinitive.

As a modal verb, "should" implies a duty or recommendation and is used to indicate: **a) advice, recommendations, wishes, exhortations:** «You *should* study hard if you want to pass the exam»; «I think you *should* apologize to her for what you said»; «Mr. Bennet was among the earliest of those who waited on Mr. Bingley. He had always intended to visit him, though to the last always assuring his wife that he *should*

not go; and till the evening after the visit was paid she had no knowledge of it [Jane Austen, "Pride and Prejudice"]»; **b) reproach, regret**: «You *shouldn't* have said that to him, it was really hurtful»; «I *should* have listened to my parents when they warned me about that person»; **c) necessity**: «You *should* wear a helmet while riding a bike»; «If you want to stay healthy, you *should* eat a balanced diet»; **d) probabilities (emotional "should")**: «He's been working really hard, so he *should* pass the exam»; «She's a great athlete, so she *should* win the competition» [Facchinetti, 2003, pp. 170-175].

"Should" with the perfect infinitive expresses: **a) an action that should have taken place but did not**: «I *should have finished* my work yesterday, but I didn't have enough time»; «You *should have told* me about the change of plans earlier»; **b) an action that should not have taken place but did**: «You *shouldn't have eaten* so much cake, now you feel sick»; «He *shouldn't have said* that, it only made things worse».

"Should" has an equivalent modal verb "ought to" and they can freely replace each other. However, in modern English, "should" is more commonly used, as it is more universal in meaning and usage [Zhang, 2019, p. 883]

## 2.6. «Will and would»

The modal verb "will" is used to indicate the present and future tense, and "would" is used to indicate the past tense. They are used to express the speaker's will, intention or persistence. They combine their modal meaning with the function of auxiliary verbs to form the future tense ("will") and the sequence of tenses ("would"). Most often, however, these modal verbs are used with a first-person subject to express the speaker's intention or desire, or with a second-person subject to form polite questions or suggestions.

The modal verbs "will" and "would" are used to indicate: **a) ordinary, habitual or repetitive actions**: «He *will* always have coffee for breakfast»; «They *will* usually finish their work before lunch»; «She *would* often take a walk in the park in the morning»; «We *would* often play chess together in the evenings»; **b) refusal to perform any action**: «I *will* not tolerate any more misbehavior from you»; «They *will* not accept anything less than the full payment»; «He *would* never agree to work for that

company again»; «She *would* not come to the party if he is there»; **c) refusal of an object to perform its natural function:** «The car *will* not start this morning»; «The door *will* not close properly»; «The computer *would* not turn on despite several attempts»; «The printer *would* not print the document»; **d) will, intent and determination (used in the first person):** «I *will* not give up until I succeed»; «I *will* never forget the kindness shown to them»; «I *would* always go the extra mile to make his customers happy»; «I *would* do whatever it takes to achieve her dreams»; «I *would* have the world believe that I was born on the steps of a palace, and that I might have had millions and been a party to everything that went on in the world from the beginning, but I didn't [F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"]»; **e) a polite request or polite question (used with the second person):** «*Will* you kindly close the window?»; «*Will* you help me to do my school project?»; «Elon, *would* you please just let me be the parent for a minute here»; «*Would* you mind telling me your name?» [Герцовська, 2017, pp. 82-87].

### CHAPTER THREE. SEMI-MODAL VERBS AND THEIR PECULIARITIES

Semi-modal verbs such as "have to", "need", "ought to", "used to", "be used to", "dare", "had better" function like modal verbs in certain contexts, but they have some peculiarities in their usage. The main function of semi-modal verbs is to express necessity, duty, advice, habit, permission, courage and possibility, just like modal verbs. However, they can also act as regular verbs with the meaning of "have", "use", "be used to", "dare", "have better" depending on the context. However, it should be noted that they are not full verbs, as they cannot express a full form of action without the help of other verbs. Additionally, semi-modal verbs have a wider range of tense forms that can be used compared to regular modal verbs. [Klein, 2009, pp. 245-262]

#### 3.1. «Dare»

The modal verb "dare" has only its present form and the past form "dared". To create the future tense, "dare" is replaced by the semantic verb "dare to", to which the auxiliary "will" is added.

The modal verb "dare" usually expresses determination and courage, and is used with the same intentions: a) **to dare, to venture, to decide**: «I don't know if I *dare* to ask for a raise, but I really need one»; «She *dared* to walk alone in the dark alley, despite her fear of muggers; «He *dared* to challenge the status quo and propose a radical solution to the problem»; «"I *dare* say you are clever, though," continued Bessie, by way of solace. "What can you do? Can you play on the piano?" [Charlotte Bronte, "Jane Eyre"]»; «We didn't *dare* to try the local delicacy because it looked too strange to us» [Garashova, 2008, p. 421]

### 3.2. «Need»

As a modal verb, "need" is used without the particle "to". However, to form sentences in the past and future tense, this verb is replaced by the semantic verb "need to", i.e. this particle is added.

The modal verb "need" is used to express the necessity to perform an action. It is used to indicate: a) **the necessity to do something**: «I *need to* finish this report by tomorrow»; «You *need to* exercise regularly to stay healthy»; «They *need to* apply for a visa to enter the country»; b) **needs**: «He *needs* help with his homework»; «She *needs* a cup of coffee to wake up in the morning»; «We *need to* buy some groceries for the party»; c) **the immediate absence of a need for something**: «I don't *need* any help, thank you»; «They don't *need to* worry about the deadline anymore»; «She doesn't *need to* take a taxi because she can walk home»; «I don't ask you to love me," Daisy replied. "I don't ask you to do anything. Just be different. That's all. I know I'm not very clever, but I have a sense of humor. I'm charming. And I love you. You don't have to be a genius to figure that out. I'll wait for you. You *needn't* worry about me (Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby")».

If we use this modal verb with the Perfect Infinitive without the particle "to", it will indicate **an action that has already been performed in the past, but it made no sense and time was wasted**, and this construction is used in the negative form: «I *needn't have tried* so hard to make that bouquet for nothing. She didn't even accept it»; «I think you *needn't have enrolled* in that course. You didn't even go there»; «She

*needn't have brought* her own laptop, as the office provided her with one». (Aaltonen, 2021, p. 82)

### 3.3. «Ought to»

The modal verb "ought to" itself does not change to form the past and future tenses, but depending on the characteristics and time of the action, verbs in all forms of the infinitive are used after "ought to", as well as after the modal verb "should": Simple Infinitive, Continuous Infinitive, Perfect Infinitive, Perfect Continuous Infinitive.

"Ought to" expresses the same meaning as the modal verb "should" - a duty, recommendation or assumption. In speech and texts, it is used to mean: **a) obligation to be, expediency, desirability**: «You *ought to* finish your homework before watching TV»; «We *ought to* be more environmentally conscious and reduce our carbon footprint»; **b) assumptions with a high degree of probability**: «She *ought to* be arriving soon, based on the flight schedule»; «They *ought to* have finished the project by now, considering the deadline»; **c) condemnation, reproach, regret (mostly with the perfect infinitive, which indicates that the expression refers to the past tense)**: «He *ought to have apologized* for his behavior, but he didn't»; «They *ought not to have taken* the shortcut, as it was dangerous»; «"I *ought to have gone* to Mr. Elton, if I could," said she, "and given him notice, and my dear, dear Jane, I am afraid I have not treated her with such gentleness and attention as she deserved. My own spirits were sorry enough, but still I *ought to have made* allowances for you and forgiven you more readily, had you consulted my comfort more" [Jane Austen's, "Emma"]»; **d) admiration, pleasure**: «She sings beautifully. She *ought to* consider taking up singing professionally»; «You *ought to* try the pizza at that new restaurant; it's amazing» (Cappelle, 2010, pp. 147-154)

As already noted, "ought to" and "should" are practically indistinguishable, although "should" is used more often because of its universality. "Ought to" appeals more to the rules of ethics and moral duty, while "should" appeals to common sense.

### 3.4. «Used to and be used to»

The modal verb "used to" can only be used in the past tense. "Used to" means that an action has been done before and is used to refer: a) **past habits or states that are no longer true or don't exist anymore**: «I *used to* live in Paris, but now I live in London»; «"I *used to* know a Bill Mulready from Tucson," he said to the policeman [F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"]»; «She used to be a smoker, but she quit last year»; b) **repetitive or habitual actions or events in the past that are no longer happening**: «They *used to* go to the beach every summer, but they haven't been in years»; «We *used to* have a weekly movie night, but everyone's schedule got too busy»; c) **things that were once familiar or customary in the past but are now unfamiliar or unknown**: «My grandparents *used to* tell me stories about their childhood, but I never heard this one before»; «I *used to* know this neighborhood like the back of my hand, but now I'm lost»; d) **describing a contrast between past and present situations or conditions**: «It *used to* be so quiet here, but now there's always construction noise»; «He used to be a picky eater, but now he'll try anything» (Swan, 2016, pp. 140-141).

This construction, which refers to repeated actions in the past, should not be confused with "be used to". "Be used to" indicates an action that is habitual or normal. It can be used in all tense forms: «She *was used to* a fairly small cocklebur crop, but last year the scratchy, sprawling vines were replaced with wattles, clusters of tiny yellow flowers that he called Old Man's beard [Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird"]»; «*I'm used to* seeing scuffles like this every day»; «He said he *was used to* this kind of behavior»; «*I'll never be used to* that kind of luxury» (Tirkashevna, 2022, pp. 663-665])

### 3.5. «Had better»

The modal verb "had better" has only one form, which can be used to indicate both present and future action. For the past tense, we use "should" or "ought to".

The meaning of "had better" is to express stern advice. It is used to give: a) **strong advice or warning**: «You *had better* not drive in this weather condition, it's very dangerous»; «He *had better* start studying for the exam now, it's only a week away»; «She *had better* not forget your passport if you want to travel abroad»; b)

**suggestion or recommendation:** «You *had better* take an umbrella with you, it might rain later»; «You had better see a doctor if your headache doesn't go away»; «They *had better* try this new restaurant, the food is amazing»; «George's voice became deeper. "You *had better* not come in the bunkhouse" [John Steinbeck, "Of Mice and Men"]»; c) **implication of negative consequences:** «If you don't hand in your assignment on time, you *had better* be prepared for a low grade»; «If you don't apologize to your friend, you *had better* be ready to lose their friendship»; «If you don't take care of your health, you *had better* expect to get sick»; d) **imminent necessity or obligation:** «She *had better* hurry up, the train is leaving in 5 minutes»; «You *had better* get your passport renewed soon, it's expiring next month»; «You *had better* finish your work before you leave for the weekend». (Palmer, 2003, pp. 1-20)

## CHAPTER FOUR. SPECIFICS AND FEATURES OF VERBS WITH A MODAL MEANING

Verbs with modal meanings, or equivalents of modal verbs, are not modals but have similar or identical meanings and functions to modal verbs. They can be used as independent verbs, as well as as part of more complex verb forms. In addition, they can replace some fully modal verbs. (Olimova, 2021, p. 223)

### 4.1. «Have to and have got to»

The modal verb "have to" has grammatical forms of the past tense "had to" and the future tense "will have to".

The modal verb "have to" expresses the meaning of obligation or necessity due to circumstances. It is used to denote: **a) a circumstance that must be obeyed:** «I *have to* pay my bills on time to avoid penalties»; «Passengers *have to* fasten their seatbelts during takeoff and landing»; «We *have to* follow the traffic rules to prevent accidents»; «"However," she said, "we have a guest this afternoon. A lady arrived and asked me to take her place. I'll be back soon as I can. Until then, you will just *have to* try and make out as best you can. You *have to* learn to write in ink, " she said, pointing with her ruler at various items on the wall." (Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird"]»; **b) an order**



**(requirement) from another person to which you must obey:** «My friend asked me if I *have to* leave early and I said no»; «The doctor said I *have to* take my medication twice a day»; «The manager instructed the employees they *have to* finish the project by the deadline» (Smith, 2003, pp. 241-266).

The construction "have to" also expresses confidence in something. Thus, it is used only in the present tense (in the forms "have/has to be") and can be replaced by the modal verb "must". For example: «I *have to be* carefull = I *must be* careful».

Often, instead of the modal verb "have to", you can find the construction "have got to". There is almost no difference between them and they can be used interchangeably. The only difference is that "have to" indicates a repetitive action, while "have got to" indicates a specific one: «Michaela *has got to* go right now»; «This time we *have got to be* ready if we want to win» (Goddard, 2014, pp. 91-118)

#### 4.2. «Be to and be going to»

The modal construction "be to" has forms in the present tense "am/is/are to" and in the past "was/were to". To form the future form, this verb is replaced by "have to" in the future tense form "will have to".

The main meaning of the modal verb "be to" is the meaning of a preliminary mutual agreement on the need to perform an action. It expresses the same possibilities as the modal verb "have to": a) **the circumstances (rule, law) that must be obeyed:** «All employees *are to* wear a safety helmet on the construction site»; «The participants *are to* arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes before the event»; «Students *are to* refrain from using their phones during the exam»; b) **an order (requirement) from another person to which you must obey:** «The captain told the crew they *were to* disembark immediately»; «"You *are to* report to the Miniluv for reintegration," said the voice [George Orwell, "1984"]»; «The teacher told the students they *were to* stay in their seats until the bell rang»; «The police officer told the driver he *was to* pull over to the side of the road» (Maslova, 2019, p. 36).

The modal construction "be going to" is used only in the past tense in the form "was/were going to" and in the present tense in the form "am/is/are going to". It

expresses intention, plan, and agreement and is used to: **a) plan for action:** «*I am going to study for my exams next month*»; «*We are going to celebrate our anniversary by going on a cruise*»; «*"Jordan's going to play in the tournament tomorrow," explained Daisy, "over at Westchester."* (F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby")»; «*She is going to visit his grandparents in the countryside this weekend*»; «*I'm going to the Grange, and if any one asks for me, tell them they may wait till to-morrow morning* [Emily Bronte, "Wuthering Heights"]»; **b) the possibility or probability of something:** «*Look at those dark clouds! It's going to rain soon*»; «*She is going to be a great athlete someday*»; «*He was going to win the race with his skills and determination*»; **c) an order:** «*You are going to clean your room before you go out*»; «*She is going to finish her work by the end of the day*»; «*They are going to behave properly at the party tonight*» (Nicolle, 1997, pp. 355-360).

The modal verb "be to" in the sense of intention, plan, agreement can be freely replaced by the construction "be going to", as in this case "be to" is a contraction of "be going to": «*This year we are to go to visit Ukraine = This year we are going to visit Ukraine*».

#### 4.3. «Be able to»

The modal verb "be able to" in the present tense is "am/is/are able to", in the past "was/were able to", and in the future "will be able to".

The modal verb "be able to" expresses the ability to do something and is used to indicate: a) **ability or capacity:** «*After months of practice, she was finally able to play the piano piece perfectly*»; «*I'm not able to lift this heavy box alone*»; b) **possibility or potential:** «*With his talent and hard work, he might be able to become a successful writer*»; «*There is a chance that we might be able to finish the project before the deadline*»; c) **permission or authorization:** «*You are able to leave the office early today if you finish your work on time*»; «*The security guard said we were not able to enter the building without proper identification*»; d) **polite request or suggestion:** «*Would you be able to help me move this furniture to the other room, please?*»; «*Do you think you might be able to give me a ride to the airport tomorrow?*»;

e) **hypothetical situations**: «If I *were able to* travel back in time, I would visit ancient Rome»; «If we *were able to* raise more funds, we could expand the business»; «If you kept your head down and your mouth shut, if you did as you were told, you *were able to* stay alive [George Orwell, "1984"]»; f) **uncertainty or doubt**: «I'm not sure if I *will be able to* attend the meeting tomorrow due to a personal matter»; «The weather forecast says there may be rain tomorrow, but *we'll be able to* see for ourselves in the morning» (Facchinetti, 2000, pp. 117-130).

The present and past forms of this verb can be equivalent to the modal verbs "can" and "could", so they can be interchanged. However, there is a difference between them: "be able to" expresses the ability to perform an action in a particular case, not the physical or mental ability of a person (Whitty, 2017, p. 65).

#### 4.4. «Be allowed to»

The modal construction "be allowed to" has the present form "am/is/are allowed to", the past form "was/were allowed to" and the future form "will be allowed to". Its future tense form is used to form the future tense of the modal verb "may" and can also replace it.

The construction means that someone has permission. It is used in situations where: **a) there is permission to do something**: «I *am allowed to* bring my own food into the cinema»; «You *were allowed to* live because you were worth something to the Party [George Orwell, "1984"]»; «The children *are allowed to* play outside until 8pm»; «You are allowed to take photos in this museum»; «The guests *are allowed to* use the hotel pool at any time»; **b) there is no permission to do something**: «You *are not allowed to* smoke in this restaurant»; «Students *were not allowed to* leave that classroom during exams»; «We *will not be allowed to* take any bags into the concert hall»; «Dogs *are not allowed to be* on the beach during the summer season» (Alex, 2009, p. 34).

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Modal verbs in Modern English are auxiliary verbs that are functional in function, modal in meaning, and insufficient or defective in form. Modal verbs are an exception when there are two verbs before "to", other than those that already contain this particle. They are always followed by an action verb. They are used in the present tense and change their form to form the future and past tenses, although there are exceptions to this rule when the ending *-ed* is added to form the past tense and the auxiliary *will* is added to form the future tense. They are used in the same form for any number and gender, except for the equivalents of the modal verb and some the semi-modal verbs. Modal verbs are divided into fully modal verbs, semi-modal verbs, and verbs with modal meaning or equivalents of modal verbs.

Fully modal verbs include *can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would*. *Can* and *could* express the ability to perform actions that could or might happen in the present or future. *May* and *might* have the meaning of probability or permission. *Must* expresses a commitment or certainty relating to the present and past tense. *Shall* expresses the speaker's will towards someone. *Should* implies a duty or recommendation. *Will* and *would* express the speaker's will, intention or persistence. Fully modal verbs cannot be used as simple verbs on their own, but must be combined with other verbs to form complex modal forms. They can be used as an independent clause member in interrogative or negative sentences to express negation or to ask about possibility, permission, obligation, and other modal forms.

Semi-modal verbs include *dare, need, ought to, used to, be used to, had better*. *Dare* usually expresses determination and courage. *Need* is used to express the necessity to perform an action. *Ought to* expresses duty, recommendation or assumption. *Used to* means that an action has been done before. *Be used to* indicates an action that is habitual or normal and should not be confused with *used to*. *Had better* expresses stern advice. Semi-modal verbs function like modal verbs in certain contexts. They express necessity, duty, advice, habit, permission, courage and possibility. Can also act as regular verbs depending on the context. They cannot express a full form of

action without the help of other verbs and have a wider range of tense forms that can be used compared to fully modal verbs

Verbs with modal meaning include *have to*, *have got to*, *be to*, *be going to*, *be able to*, *be allowed to*. *Have to* expresses the meaning of obligation or necessity due to circumstances. *Have to* and *have got to* have almost no difference and they can be used interchangeably. *Be to* means of a preliminary mutual agreement on the need to perform an action. *Be going to* expresses intention, plan, and agreement. *Be able to* expresses the ability to do something. *Be allowed to* means that someone has permission. Verbs with modal meanings or equivalents of modal verbs have similar or identical meanings and functions to modal verbs. They can be used independently as well as part of more complex verb forms. And they can replace some fully modal verbs.

## RÉSUMÉ

Курсова робота на тему: «Модальні дієслова в сучасній англійській мові: семантика та функціонування».

Виконала – Борисенко Валерія Сергіївна.

Курсова робота складається зі вступу, чотирьох розділів, висновку та списку використаних джерел. У першому розділі «Модальні дієслова в сучасній англійській мові» надано інформацію про те, що таке модальне дієслово, які є типи та правило їх використання. У другому розділі «Повністю модальні дієслова. Їх семантика та функціонування» розглядаються такі модальні дієслова, як: can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would. У третьому розділі «Напівмодальні дієслова. Їх семантика та функціонування» розглядаються такі модальні дієслова, як: dare, need, ought to, used to, be used to, had better. У четвертому розділі «Дієслова з модальними значеннями. Їх семантика та функціонування» розглядаються такі модальні дієслова як: have to, have got to, be to, be going to, be able to, be allowed to.

У даній курсовій роботі всього:

Сторінок – 26;

Список використаних джерел: 27.

Список ілюстрованих матеріалів: 11.

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3. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain
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7. "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte
8. "Emma" by Jane Austen
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