



THE USE OF MODAL VERBS IN THE NOVEL “JANE EYRE” BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE

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Abstract: *This article explores the use of modal verbs in the literary text written by English Novelist Charlotte Bronte. It is crucial to recognize the basic concepts of modal verbs as it will allow us to reveal the correct use in order to eliminate the misunderstandings.*

Keys words: *Modal verbs, literary text, can, may, must.*

Абстрактный: *В данной статье исследуется использование модальных глаголов в художественном тексте английской писательницы Шарлотта Бронте. Крайне важно знать основные понятия модальных глаголов, поскольку это позволит выявить правильное их употребление и исключить недоразумения.*

Ключевые слова: *Модальные глаголы, художественный текст, можно, необходимо.*

People use language to communicate with other people and they express emotions, attitudes and thoughts. In this way, if they misunderstand the use of modal verbs, it leads to uncertain situations and rudeness.

The use of modal verbs is one of the most problematic areas of English grammar. Because they have more than one meaning and may be expressed in a number of different ways.

According to Halliday definition, modality is the intermediate degrees between the positive and negative poles that lies between yes and no [1,185p] Leech (1987) characterize modal auxiliaries in terms of frequency into three classes: [2,38p]

1. Very frequent modal verbs. They are will, would, can and could.
2. Quite frequent modal auxiliaries: must, should, may, might, have to.
3. Infrequent modal verbs: shall, ought to, need.

He also points out the basic meanings of modals can, may and must. I have tried to show this cases by taking examples from Charlotte Bronte’s most favourable and world-renown book “Jane Eyre”

- A) The modal “can” is used to express possibility, ability and permission, as in;
“It is not my house, sir and Abbot says I have less right to be here than servant”
“Pooh! You can’t be silly enough to with to leave such a splendid place?”

In this sentence, the modal verb can not is used in the meaning of possibility negative meaning.



In the following example, it is given as a meaning of ability which is almost different from the first possibility one.

For example:

I can not endure it let me be punished some other way.

I can never get away from Yateshead till I am a woman.

In the next example can is used to express permission:

Can you tell me what the writing on that stone over the door means? What is Lowood Institution?

B) The modal verb may is used to express possibility, permission and an exclamatory with, as in:

May I go up and speak to her?

"Oh no, child".

The meaning is expressed permission.

"And so may you" I that.

It is used in the meaning exclamatory with.

But I tell you- and you may more my words-you will come some day to a craggy pass in the channel, where the whole of life's stream will be broken up into whore and tumult...

It is used in the meaning of possibility.

C) The modal verb must is used to express obligation and logical necessity as in:

"I am very happy, Jane; and when you her that I am dead, you must be sure and not grieve: there is noting to grieve about,. We almost die one day, and the illness which is removing me is not painful; it is gentle and gradual: my mind is at rest"

In the first must, it is used as a meaning of obligation and in the second it expresses Logical Necessity.

"All men must die", said a voice quite close at hand; but all are not incapable now of deriving from any occurrence a hope of aid.

In this sentence, must is used as an obligatory meaning by the author.

The paper primarily examined the use of modal verbs which has been used in the novel "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte. Understanding the way modals express could lead to better appreciation of literary texts and the author talent to use them indicative.

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