
Judgement Modality In The Editorials Of The Epoch Times Newspaper

Suci Sam¹, Dahlia D. Moelier², Sudirman Maca²

¹English Literature Departement, Letters Faculty

²English Program, Postgraduated Universitas Bosowa

*Email: sucisam25@gmail.com

Accepted: 11 September 2021 / Approved 10 December 2021

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the type of epistemic modality most frequently used and also to determine the speaker's attitude towards his editorial. The level of editorial confidence in the written editorial can be seen by looking at the use of verb modals which is epistemic modality. The writer assesses modality based on qualitatif method to describe the speaker's attitude and quantitative to determine the type of modality that is the most often used. The data collection procedure was sourced from newspaper and used 43 editorial texts as the research sample. The results of this study found that the type of epistemic modality most often used was the assumptive type which reached 61,8%. The second is the speculative type with a percentage of 26,4%. The third is deductive type with a percentage of 8,9%. And the fourth is concessive type with a percentage of 2,9%. Apart from that, this study also found that the speaker's attitude was doubtful about his proposition when based only on possible conclusions. The speaker's attitude is confident in his proposition when it is based on a sound conclusion. The speaker's attitude of being confident and believing what is necessity to do is based on the only possible conclusion. And the speaker predicts something to be true when the speaker has evidence that contrasts with the proposition.

Keywords: Modal Verbs, Modality, Epistemic Modality



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 CC-BY International license

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is created by human. Human meets language in every daily activities such as talking to someone, reading a newspaper, listening to songs, watching a movie and many others. Finegan (2014) stated that language is often viewed as a means of thought, an expression system that mediator the transfer of thought from one person to another. Palmer (1981) stated that the study used to identify linguistic signification is semantic. Saeed (2016) stated that semantic is the study of meaning that is communicated through language.

One part of the semantic that will be used in this research is modality. Downing and Locke (2006) stated that modality must be understood as a semantic category that includes ideas such as probability, possibility, necessity, will, obligation and permit. Palmer (2001) stated that modality is related to the proposition's status that describes the event or situation that is notified by utterance. Finegan (2014) states that modality is a type in which speakers can express their attitude towards truth. Palmer (2001) stated that there are three types of judgments that are common in language, one that states uncertainty, one that shows the inference from observable evidence, and one that shows inference from what is generally known.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting this research, the writer used some previous studies as references and to support the research. The writer also utilized some other sources such as articles and books

that related to this study.

Nugraha (2018). The result of the analysis based on Syntactic is show that the mode of 'must' is actualized in modal forms (modals/modal auxiliaries) refers to the rules for modal verbs. Hardjanto (2019). The results show that the markers found in the three speeches are of five different types, there are lexical verbs, modal adjectives, modal adverbs, modal auxiliary verbs, and modal nouns, with meanings ranging from possibility, probability, to certainty. Jinghua (2019). The results of this research is modality deals with necessity and possibility. Faisal (2019). The finding revealed that there are two types of deontic modality in utterances performed by the cast of The Maze Runner (The Death Cure) movie namely obligation and permission. Richmond (2017). The results show considerable differences in the use of epistemic modal verbs between the two groups of scholars across the disciplines studies. From previous research, what distinguishes this research is the object of research with the theory used. The object of the research is editorial text from the epoch times newspaper and this study uses the theory of Palmer (2001). The purpose of this study was to determine the type of epistemic modality most frequently used and also to determine the speaker's attitude towards his editorial.

3. METHOD

The research applied qualitative and quantitative method. This research analyzed the epistemic modality and the speaker attitude. The source of data is the editorials of the epoch times newspaper from January 01 until January 15, 2020. The writer took several steps to do this research. The first step is the writer reads carefully the editorial text. The second step is the writer marking sentences that have modality. The third step is the author collects all sentences that have modality and then arrange them according to the type of epistemic modality. The last step is the writer started to do judgement on any type of epistemic modality.

The data obtained were converted by using the percentage (Arikunto, 2010:81) form below:

$$P = f/n \times 100$$

Where :

f = Quantity

n= Total

P= Percentage of the quantity compared to the total

P is the result of the percentage obtained, while n is the total of all data and f is the amount of data obtained by type. The formula for getting the percentage is P equals, f divided by n, then multiply by 100.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Speculative

Speculative is when the speaker's attitude is doubtful about the possibility of his proposition based only on a possible conclusion. The speculative types consists of two, namely using modal verbs may and might.

The use of modals verb may is a speculative type. In epistemic modality means that the speaker is expressing his doubts about the possibility.

"They may have been indoctrinated by Sanders and others with a form of class vengeance that makes logic, or even self-interest, irrelevant."

The proof of the speaker's doubt was based on the sentence in the editorial:

"People wondering if the crowd of Bernie supporters saw all this, and if they did, would they come along."

That's the reason the speakers wrote that they may have been indoctrinated by Sanders and others with forms of class retaliation that make logic, or even self-interest, irrelevant.

Might is a past tense form of may. The use of might also shows the doubts of the speaker.

"He imagine tents in hospital parking lots, which might have especially big drawbacks in February given our climate."

The attitude of the speaker here was that he was not sure whether the tents in the hospital parking lot suffered heavy losses in February due to our climate. Possible conclusion comes from the speaker's doubt based on his imagination only because it has not happened yet.

4.2 Deductive

Deductive is when the speaker believes in the certainty of his proposition based on the only possible conclusion. The deductive type consists of two, namely using modal verbs must and should.

The verb must based on evidence or the only possible conclusion. This is a type of deductive.

"If FBI special agents are to maintain their special position as the world's elite law enforces, the blame for these recent bad acts must be clearly and publicly placed at the feet of the culpable parties."

The conclusions drawn by the speaker were based on the evidence contained in the editorial. The speaker knows about.

"A careful analysis of IG Michael Horowitz's report and relevant congressional testimony reveals that the FBI's upper management bypassed the field so as to commit the fraud upon the FISA Court".

Because this knowledge was what causes the speaker to determine the only possible conclusion and what is necessary to do.

The use of modals verb should where this is the modals verb which is equivalent to must. The use of the modals verb should show a conclusion from observable evidence so that it becomes the only possible conclusion.

"Bernie Sanders has likened drug company CEOs to murderers and says when they raise prices too much, we should "put them in jail."

Using the modals verb "should" was the modals of epistemic necessity. The proposition of the sentence was that we must "put them in prison". According to the speaker, raising drug prices too high was a crime equivalent to murder. Then it was a necessity to put him in prison. There was a time statement that was "when they increase the price". Speaker's attitude based on the speaker knowledge that there was an increase in the price of drugs by drugs company. The speaker was very confident and sure about what should be done.

4.3 Assumptive

Assumptive is when the speaker believes in the probability of his proposition based on a reasonable proposition. The assumptive type consists of two, namely using modal will and would.

The modal verbs "will" shows a reasonable conclusion, namely showing a conclusion

about what is usually known.

“Nevertheless, those determined to be ill-disposed toward the film will miss the important lessons it holds in regard to human nature.”

The speaker tells a reasonable conclusion that the human nature has always been an important lesson in film. The attitude of the speaker who believes in this probability must have come from his knowledge which can be found in the editorial. Evidence that the speaker was convinced of that probability was:

“there are film critics who say the film is nothing more than tantrums and twists and some call it just a drama supporting Trump's incitement”.

This was what convinces the speaker of the probability that those who commit to being insolent to the film will miss the important lesson it has regarding human nature.

Would is modified form of will, which shows the speaker's attitude about the probability. *“The letter claimed that without cleansing, the classroom and even the furniture would harbour negative “energy”.*

The speaker uses modals verb “would” which was a characteristic of assumptive. This proposition was indeed a reasonable conclusion that any place that was not cleaned will give off a negative energy. This was common knowledge. So that the speaker was confident about this probability.

4.4 Concessive

Concessive is when the speaker is not doubt about the proposition but accept it as a true. The concessive types using modal verbs may.

May was used as a concessive, in the sense of 'although'. With a concessive clause the speaker does not indicate doubt about the proposition but rather accepts it as a true, in order to contrast one state of affairs with another.

“Dave Chappelle may be controversial, but he's an important part of the very American genre of stand-up comedy.”

The evidence that the speaker points to because:

“Dave Chappelle says it is, without hesitation, and that courage has helped show Americans what is good and bad about trends and ideas in this country”.

That is the reason why speakers admit that Dave Chappelle may be controversial, but that he is an important part of the very American genre of stand-up comedy.

The following are the results of research found from text editorials based on the types of epistemic modality by using the percentage form.

Table 1. Percentage of the Use of Epistemic Modality

No.	Types of Epistemic Modality	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Speculative	18	26,4%
2	Deductive	6	8,9%
3	Assumptive	42	61,8%
4	Concessive	2	2,9%
Total		68	100%

5. DISCUSSION

The writer found four types of epistemic modality based on Frank Palmer's (2001) theory, namely speculative (may, might), deductive (must, should), assumptive (will), and concessive (may) types, which are the speaker's attitude about possibility, necessity, probability and

presupposed.

The results of the percentage of use of epistemic modality for speculative types with the use of modals verb may and might. Found 18 times of use with a percentage reaching 26,4% of the total.

The results of the percentage use of deductive type epistemic modality with the use of modals verb must and should. It was found 6 times of use with a percentage reaching 8,9% of the total. The results of the percentage of concessive type epistemic modality use with the use of modals verb may. It was found 2 times of use with a percentage reaching 2.9% of the total.

The assumptive type got the highest percentage. It was found 42 times of use which reached 61.8%. This shows that the editor's knowledge in writing the editor is quite extensive and based on reasonable evidence. This research also found the attitudes of the speaker and the evidence contained in the editorial text itself. This research found that the speaker's attitude was always related to the speaker's knowledge. The speaker doubts the possibility of the proposition if the speaker has a lack of knowledge or does not have hard evidence.

The speaker, on the other hand, is convinced of the probability of the proposition when speaker knows what is generally known, is a recurring occurrence and also makes a reasonable conclusion to proposition. In addition, the speaker is convinced of what is necessity to do if the speaker has assertive evidence which underlie the proposition and finds the only possible conclusion. And finally, the speaker predicts something to be true when speaker has evidence that contrasts with the proposition.

6. CONCLUSIONS

There are four types of epistemic modality, namely: 1) Speculative, 2) Deductive, 3) Assumptive, and 4) Concessive. The most common type is assumptive reaching 61,8%. This research also found that the speaker's attitude was always related to the knowledge the speaker had. The speaker doubts the possibility of the proposition if the speaker has a lack of knowledge. The speaker is convinced of the probability of the proposition when \speaker knows what is generally known. In addition, the speaker is convinced of what is necessity to do if the speaker has assertive evidence. And finally, the speaker predicts something to be true when speaker has evidence that contrasts with the proposition.

REFERENCES

- Arikunto, Suharsimi. (2010). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta
- Bogdan, R. & Biklen, S. (1992). *Qualitative Research For Education*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Downing, A. And Locke, P. (2006). *English Grammar*. Abingdon: Taylor & Francis e-Library.
- Faisal, Muhammad and Syahri, Chaidir. (2019). Using Deontic Modality in Maze Runner (The Death Cure) Movie. *Professional Journal of English Education*, 02(04), 771-775
- Finegan, E. (2014). *Language: Its Structure and Use, fifth edition*. United States: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Hardjanto, T.D., and Nala Mazia. (2019). "We believe in democracy...": Epistemic Modality in Justin Trudeau's Political Speeches. *Jurnal UGM*. 31(2), 130-141.
- Jinghua, Zhang. (2019). A Semantic Approach to the English Modality. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 10(04), 879-855.
- Nugraha, D.N.S, Cece Sobarna, Sutiono Mahdi and Nani Darmayanti. (2018). The Mode of 'Must' in the Modality of Necessity in English and Its Equivalents in Indonesian: A Syntactic and Semantic Analysis. *Journal Sampurasun*, 04(02), 82-94.
- Palmer, F.R. (1981). *Semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Palmer, F.R. (2001). *Mood and Modality, second edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Richmond, Sadic. (2017). Epistemic Modal Verbs in Research Articles Written By Ghanaian and

- International Scholars: A Corpus-Based Study of Three Disciplines. *Brno Studies in English*, 43(02), 5-27.
- Saeed, I.J. (2016). *Semantics, Fourth Edition*. Hoboken: Blackwell Publisher.
- Sugiyono. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kuantitatif, dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Sweet, Henry. (1990). *The History of Language*. London: The Macmillan Company.