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Asst. Prof. Dr. Israa B. Abdurrahman

Tikrit University, College of Education for Women

Asst. Lect. Zainab J. Abdulqadir

Tikrit University, College of Education for Women
zainabcew@tu.edu.iq

Zaman M. Erzooqi

Tikrit University, College of Education for Women
zaman.erzooqi@stu.edu.iq

* Corresponding author: E-mail :
israaburhan@tu.edu.iq

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E-mail t-jtuh@tu.edu.iq

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Exploring Modality Markers in Political Speeches and their Pedagogical Implications

A B S T R A C T

The variety of meaning and function of the modal auxiliaries lead to an issue in relation to many speeches especially the political ones. This research aims at highlighting the modal auxiliaries in English and show their usage in conveying meaning; checkout the applicability of Randolph Quirk and Green Baum's modal of modality to political speeches; and find out the main functions of the English modals (will and must) in relation to the occasion of political speeches and how to utilize these functions pedagogically.

This research hypothesizes that English modal auxiliaries (will and must) play an important role in carrying meaning in political speeches; and that Randolph Quirk Green Baum is an applicable model to political speeches in relation to modality. Finally, there is a significant pedagogical implication in raising the EFL Learners' awareness in relation to the usage of modal auxiliaries and their accurate manipulation.

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استكشاف علامات الأسلوبية في الخطابات السياسية وتطبيقاتها التربوية

١. م. د اسراء برهان الدين عبد الرحمن/ جامعة تكريت/ كلية التربية للبنات

٢. م. زينب جهاد عبد القادر/ جامعة تكريت/ كلية التربية للبنات

٣. زمن محمود رزوقي/ جامعة تكريت/ كلية التربية للبنات

الخلاصة:

يهدف هذا البحث إلى إبراز الأفعال المساعدة في اللغة الإنجليزية وإبراز استخدامها في التعبير عن

المعنى بالإضافة إلى التحقق من قابلية تطبيق طريقة راندولف كويرك وجرين بوم على الخطابات السياسية؛ ومعرفة الوظائف الرئيسة للأفعال المساعدة الإنكليزية (will and must) فيما يتعلق بالخطب السياسية وكيفية الاستفادة من هذه الوظائف في العملية التربوية التربوية. يفترض هذا البحث أن الأفعال المساعدة في اللغة الإنكليزية (will and must) تلعب دورًا مهمًا في نقل المعنى في الخطابات السياسية؛ وأن راندولف كويرك جرين باوم هو نموذج قابل للتطبيق على الخطابات السياسية فيما يتعلق بهذا المضمار. أخيرًا، هناك تأثير تربوي مهم في زيادة وعي متعلمي اللغة الإنكليزية بوصفها لغة أجنبية فيما يتعلق باستخدام الإضافات النمطية ومعالجتها بدقة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المشروطية، الانواع، الوظائف، الخطب السياسية، الآثار التربوية

1. Introduction

Modal auxiliaries are considered to be a form of auxiliary verb in the area of linguistics. They are put to use in order to demonstrate the speaker's attitude to the action or state that is being articulated. Modals also can be employed to indicate compulsion, necessity, and probability. Not to mention, modals can be used also to suggest capacity, permission, probability and obligation. Accordingly, modality is reflected in different modal verbs; these modals can be used with different functions in different situations, and this paper deals with two modal auxiliaries, namely, 'will' and 'must', e.g.

1-This medicine *will* cure her. (Power)

2- He *will* help you if you ask him. (Willingness)

The case is similar with 'must', which may convey multi-functions, e.g.

3-We *must* do something about it. (Future obligation)

4- you *mustn't* open the door. (Prohibition)

The different meanings which are created by different contexts may cause difficulty to uncover the real function of the modal auxiliary. That is, even if they are aware of alternate outcomes, EFL students might not always be able to recognize them. Although EFL learners have mastered the conceptual underpinnings of modal auxiliaries, they may struggle to map them onto modal vocabulary. The ability to compute conversational implicature may also present a challenge for EFL learners while learning epistemic modals (Choi, 2006); in

particular, they appear to approach sentences including such elements logically rather than pragmatically.

This research aims to: Highlight the modal auxiliaries in English and show their usage in conveying meaning; check out the applicability of Randolph Quirk and Green Baum's modal of modality to political speeches; and find Out the main functions of the English modals (will and must) in relation to the Occasion of political speeches and how to utilize these functions pedagogically.

Accordingly, this research hypothesizes that English modal auxiliaries (will and must) play an important role in carrying meaning in political speeches; and that Randolph Quirk Green Baum is an applicable model to political speeches in relation to modality. Finally, there is a significant pedagogical implication in raising the EFL Learners' awareness in relation to the usage of modal auxiliaries and their accurate manipulation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definitions of Modality

Palmer (1986) states that modality is used in a very broad sense, viz to refer to any kind of speaker modification of a state of affairs, even including dimensions such as tense and aspect. Whereas, Hodge and Kress (1988) state that modality refers to the attitude of the speaker or writers on making the representation, the degree of their 'closeness' to each other.

Modality involves many ways in which attitudes can be expressed correctly using reference contend, prediction of speech, signaling factuality, the degree of certainty or doubt, uncertainty, possibility, necessity and even permission or obligations (Verschueren, 1990). Halliday (1994) comments that modality is the speaker's judgment of the probability, or obligations involved in what s/he was saying. To make it simpler, modality is the facilitation of speakers to provide an assessment about his s/her statement.

Modality can be viewed as the semantic domain pertaining to addition of a supplement or overlay of meaning to the most neutral semantic value of the proposition of an utterance (Bee and Fleischman, 1995). According to the Oxford Reference Grammar, modality is a grammatical category that deals with two types of judgement:

A) Referring to the factuality of what is said (its certainty, probability or possibility).

B) Referring to human control over the situation (ability, permission, intention, obligation) (Greenbaum and Weiner, 2000).

2.2 Types of Modality

There are three types of modality:

1- Epistemic Modality from Greek 'skill' or 'knowledge' involves the speaker's (or someone else's) estimation of terms of likelihood. This traditional definition is fairly non-controversial (Linden, 1982).

While El-Hassan (1990, 151) defines it as "subjective, meaning that epistemic modals do not express objective, known reality but the inferential judgment of the speaker as in for meal by circumstantial evidence and / or experience". According to epistemic modality shows about factual condition assessment when speaker argues, while the signal reflects the evidence of modalities (Putri, 2013).

2- Dynamic Modality can express various modality states, such as ability at the present of future time, or general/ theoretical possibility in addition to requests, offers, suggestions, invitations, implied commands and others (Quirk et al, 1973).

Dynamic modality is taken from Greek 'power' or 'strength' that traditionally involves ascribing an ability or capacity to the subject participant of a clause (Linden, 1982).

While Putri (2013) states that dynamic modality does not express the speaker's opinion or the speaker's affects the situation.

3- Denotic Modality as Lyons (1977) remarks is concerned with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents. Thus, they are used to express desires, wants, commands, obligation, necessity, under taking and permission.

But Linden (1982) says that denotic modality (from Greek / the things that are fitting, proper, needful) has traditionally been as so cited with the notions of permission and obligation. And Putri (2013) defines denotic modality as a linguistic modality that indicates how the world ought to be when a modal verb is used to affect a situation, by giving permission.

2.3 Mood & Modality

Every English sentence has its own mood. *Mood* is a morphological expression of modality in which there is a marking of the clause of its being indicative, subjunctive, imperative, etc.; whereas *modality* refers to the speaker's commitment with respect to the factual status of what he is saying (his emphatic certainty, his uncertainty or doubt, etc.) (Palmer, 2001).

2.4 Modal Auxiliaries in English

Modal auxiliaries are sometimes followed by one or more primary aux verbs and a main verb except in the case of inversion. Unlike the primary auxiliaries (be, have, and do), which mainly have a grammatical function, the modal auxiliaries carry meaning (Quirk, et. al. 1973).

Although it is an overtly strong statement of function you may also interpret modal as conveying the mood or opinion of the speaker, e.g. expressing ability, obligation, advice, possibility, etc. According to Quirk, et al (1973), the modal auxiliaries in English are as follows: can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, ought to, must, used to, need, and dare.

2.4.1 Position and Function

Concerning the position of modal auxiliaries, it can be clearly observed that modal auxiliaries come after the subject, as shown in the examples below:

e.g. You must keep to the rules.

e.g. She can sing well.

Modal auxiliaries in English seem to the reader to have one function. In fact, they can fulfill many functions and according to the intention of the speaker/ writer. Since this paper deals with **must** and **will**, their functions are illustrated below in detail with examples according to Quirk, et al (1973).

2.4.2 Will

Willingness / Example: He will help you if you ask him.

Intention / Example: I'll write as soon as I can.

Insistence / Example: He will do it.

Prediction / Example: The game will be finished by now.

2.4.3 Must

Obligation / Example: You must be back by 12 o'clock.

Necessity / Example: There must be a mistake.

It can be seen that these two modal auxiliaries may fulfill the slots of multiple function.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Model

Different models have been presented to deal with modality; however, Palmer's (2001) seems the best to be applied to political speeches since it offers many dimensions of meaning for every modal auxiliary. In other words, it widens the horizons of modals' usage in relation to the speaker's intention. Palmer provides multi functions for each modal auxiliary in relation to 'will' and 'must', as shown below:

3.1.1 'will'

No.	Function	Example
1.	Future prediction	"If it rains, the trip will be cancelled."
2.	Intention	"I will see my aunt tomorrow."
3.	Conjectural future event	"He will be arrived by tomorrow."
4.	Willingness	"He will help you if you ask him."
5.	Reasonable inference	"That will be the postman at the door."
6.	Timeless truth	"Wood will float on water."
7.	Promise/threat	"You will be rewarded /punished for this".
8.	Future iteration	"This will happen several times."
9.	Volition	"If only people will vote in sufficient nun to back the government policies."
10.	Insistence	"I will do whatever you say."

11.	Persistence/Insistence	"She will stay at home."
12.	Power	"This medicine will cure her."
13.	Command	"(mom to Jane) Jane will go to bed now."
14.	Habit	"She will sit in the balcony for hours watching the traffic."
15.	Request	"Will you show me the way to the post office?"

3.1.2 'must'

No.	Function	Example
1.	Present obligation	"I must stay here. The doctor is got to operate on her."
2.	Future obligation	"We must do something about it."
3.	Strong dynamic necessity	"I must have a visa to France I've got to be there."
4.	Habitual characteristic activity in the future	"He must cycle to his walk every day."
5.	Present logical conclusion	"When you called he must have been still out of town."
6.	Past logical conclusion	"You must find it difficult living alone."
7.	Verge necessity	"You must go see the doctor."
8.	Request / Invitation	"You must say what you want for a present."
9.	Logical judgment	"He must have arrived by now."
10.	Prohibition	"You mustn't open the door."

The above functions of both modals provide rich inferences and create a workable for application to political speeches.

This study is limited to the English modal auxiliaries 'will' and 'must' and their usage; two political speeches: Obama's (2008) Victory Speech and Trump's (2017) Nomination Acceptance Speech. The syntactic modal adopted

in analysis of Quirk and Baum's, whereas the pragmatic model is Palmer (2001).

3.2 Data Analysis

In this paper the researcher tries to apply the models to two speeches of two American presidents, namely, Obama and Trump. The purpose behind choosing political speech as the data of analysis lies behind the fact that they constitute a fertile area of research.

3.2.1 Obama's speech 2008 (Victory Speech)

The Speaker of this speech is Obama, 2008. He presents this speech when he becomes the president.

3.2.1.1 Will

1- But above all, I *will* never forget how this victory truly belongs to - it belongs to you.

Function: Insistence

Discussion: here the president insists that the victory belongs to his people because they elected him; i.e. his victory is theirs.

2- The road *will* be long.

Function: Reasonable inference & Conjectural future event

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating his opinion about the leadership and he thinks that the road might be long and difficult.

3- Our Climb *will* be steep.

Function: Reasonable inference & Conjectural future event.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating his opinion about the leadership by describing the future situation with the metaphor of climbing vertically.

4- We as a people *will* be getting there.

Function: promise.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is promising his people to reach to the utmost, i.e. the top.

5- We *will* defeat you.

Function: Insistence, power, threat.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is utilizing this modal auxiliary to prove to his people his insistence and his power and domination to control any danger of terrorism. At the same time 'will' is used as a threat to the terrorists not to approach his country.

3.2.1.2 *Must*

1- Many for the first time in their lives, because they believed that this time *must* be different.

Function: present obligation strong dynamic necessity and verge.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is the old period of the previous reign. He thinks that this time it ought to be different.

2- It *must* not break our bonds of affection.

Function: Present logical conclusion/ Invitation/ Prohibition.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is picturing the relationship between the government and the American people like a contract between two contractors in commerce. He also seems to propose an invitation for his people to be in bond with him as long as he is their president in a way that reflects their loyalty.

3- And all what we have already achieved gives us hope for what we came and *must* achieve tomorrow.

Function: Future obligation / Strong dynamic necessity.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating his opinion about the future of his nation; he obliges himself to serve his people in a way that achieves success and flourish. This, in turn, needs a strong quick move towards many projects that ought to be achieved.

3.2.2 *Trump's speech 2017 (Nomination Acceptance Speech)*

The speaker of this speech is Trump in 2017. He presents this speech when he got the presidency of the United States.

3.2.2.1 Will

1. "We *will* lead our party back to the white house."

Function: Willingness, Promise, Persistence, Insistence, Threat.

Discussion: In this extract, Trump is showing his willingness in achieving future plans by promising his followers to bring back his party to the white house. This also reflects his insistence/ persistence as features of his personality and symbolizes a threat for the other competitor parties.

2. "Beginning on January 20th 2017 safety *will* be restored."

Function: Promise, Conjectural future event, Power, Threat.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is promising his followers in special and the USA people in general that safety is going to be restored. He let his nation indulge with the fact that peace is correlative and inseparable with his victory. This all reflects his power, authority, and potency. It also stands as a threat to whoever tries to create any kind of riot or violence in the world.

3. "I will present the facts plainly and honestly."

Function: power, promise, insistence.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating his opinion about the presidency and he thinks that they might be present the facts.

4. The American people *will* come first once.

Function: Promise, Power.

Discussion: Trump is promising his nation that if he wins, he will be so generous to the American people as he considers them to be of the first class or rank in comparison to other nationalities that live in America. It also reflects his power and ability in controlling matters.

5. This *will* charge when I take office.

Function: Promise, Power, Insistence, Conjectural future event.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating that if his party wins the election, he will make his promises come true. This also reflects his insistency to win, his power, and domination because he considers this promise is going to be met beyond dispute.

3.2.2.2 *Must*

1. "We *must* also address the growing threat; we face from outside the country."

Function: Strong dynamic necessity, Conjectural future event, Present Obligation.

Discussion: In this extract, Trump is addressing his nation that should take immediate solutions in accordance with the growing threat in order to avoid any future terrorist movements outside USA that might tie up any peace endeavors.

2. "We *must* have the best intelligence go the ring operation in the world."

Function: Logical judgment, Strong dynamic necessity, Request.

Discussion: In this extract, Trump is requesting his nation and his allies to find out the intelligent solutions; and highlights the necessity of getting the best intelligence go the ring operation in the world. This reflects his way of handling political issues and how he uses his logical judgement in critical situations.

3. "We *must* work with all of our allies who share our goal of destroying ISIS and stamping our Islamic terror."

Function: External obligation, Strong dynamic necessity, Verge necessity, Invitation.

Discussion: In this extract, there's a vivid invitation for Trump's allies to share USA the means of defeating ISIS. He thinks that there is an urgent need for a strong dynamic necessity and obligation to work together against any form of terrorism.

4. "We *must* band on the failed policy of nation building and regime change that Hillary Clinton pushed in Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Syria."

Function: Future obligation, Verge necessity, Request / Invitation.

Discussion: In this extract, Trump is requesting (in the form of invitation) his allies to the necessity of rehabilitation in the above extract. He considers that it would be one of his future obligations to reform the political corruption in these countries.

5. "We *must* immediately suspend immigration from any nation that has been comprised by terrorism until such time as proven vetting mechanism have been put in place."

Function: Request / Invitation, Present Obligation.

Discussion: In this extract, the president is stating his opinion about immigration. He believes that it is one of his responsibilities to suspend immigration from any nation that has been comprised by terrorism.

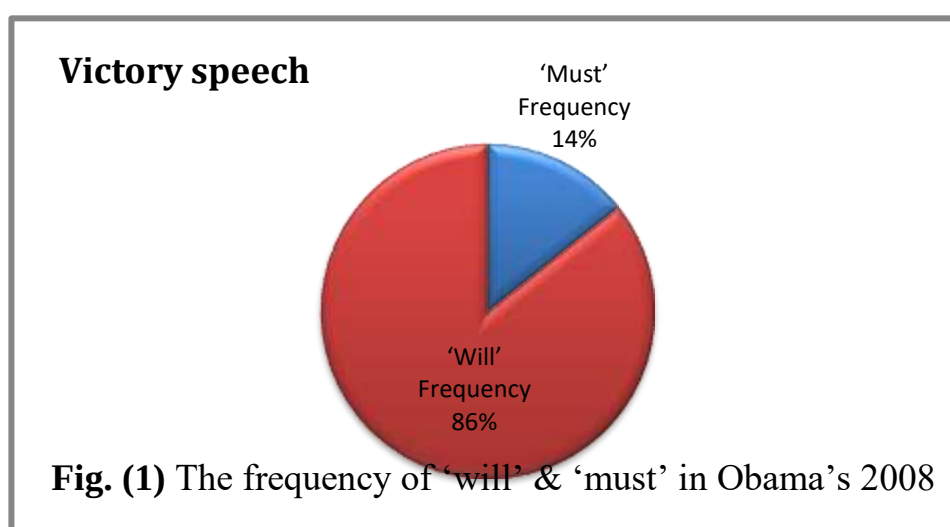
3.3 Analysis of Results and Discussion

3.3.1 Obama's 2008 Victory Speech

Obama's Speech of victory shows that Obama has made use of modal auxiliaries to deliver his message to his people. The high percentage of 'will' (85.71%) shows not only futurity, but also it hints at the sense of promise. These actions the newly elected president tries to do in future are interconnected with his promising phrases included in the highly accurate usage of will. However, in order to achieve these promises, power and insistence are demanded. Power is represented in the figure of the president himself and insistence is initiated from the the idea of a prosperous future and the cooperation of people to achieve these aspirations.

Table (1) The frequency of 'will' & 'must' in Obama's 2008

Speech Title	'Will' Frequency	%	'Must' Frequency	%
Victory speech	18	85.71%	3	14.29%



On the other hand, the usage of ‘must’ comes next to ‘will’ with the percentage of (14.29%). Must is the auxiliary verb that needs strength and sincerity. President Obama uses ‘must’ less than will because the occasion demands do not recommend too much obligation and necessity from the public. However, Obama still exploit ‘must’ to imply the soul of maintaining unity and express a glimpse of invitation and request which are the lightest degrees of inevitability of this auxiliary verb.

The frequent usage of will and the gentle manipulation of must reflect the smooth personality of the president in dealing with his people and even reflects his way of handling future issues.

3.3.2 Trump’s 2017 Nomination Acceptance Speech

Table (2) The frequency of ‘will’ & ‘must’ in Trump’s 2017

Speech Title	‘Will’ Frequency	%	‘Must’ Frequency	%
Nomination Acceptance Speech	88	94.62%	5	5.38%

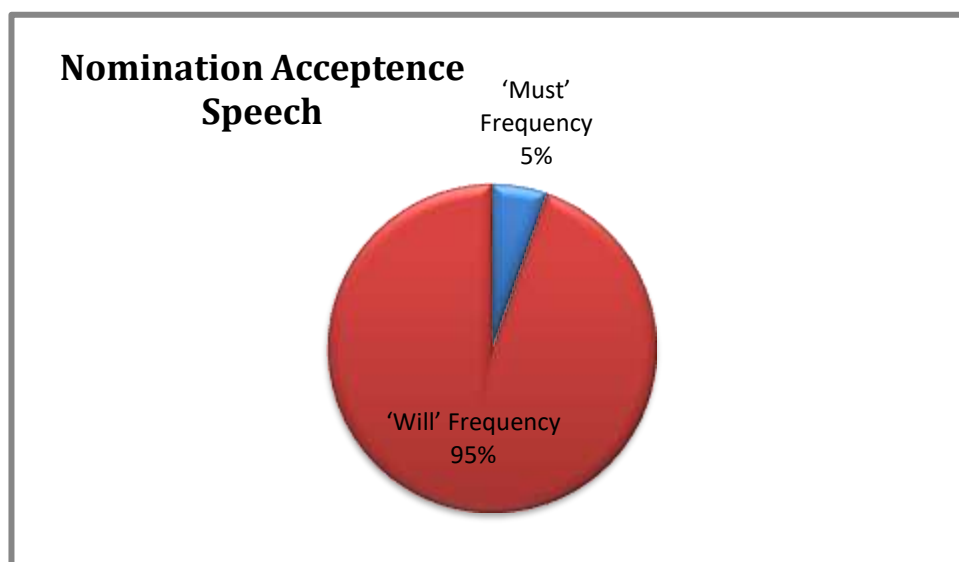


Fig. (2) The Frequency of ‘will’ & ‘must’ in Trump’s 2017

The same thing to be said about Trump’s Nomination Acceptance Speech. It is a fact that these speeches are designed and prepared by speech specialists. That’s why the usage of ‘will’ and ‘must’ are approximately similar to Obama’s. however, the usage of futurity and promises constitute a higher rate

which reflects Trump's power and ability to fulfill what he promises his people.

According to the analysis above, it can be clearly observed that modal verbs in English should be tackled with more care in our speeches and conversations since they are flexible to the degree that they can be exploited in speech to convey more than one message; they are used with a high degree of pragmaticity. The political characters make well usage of the modal auxiliaries 'will' and 'must' to deliver their endeavors and future intentions explicitly and implicitly.

This variety of usage should lead to some pedagogical implications. It is proposed that practical teaching and learning activities should pay close attention to at least two areas in regard to modality: The first task is a careful inspection and analysis of the manner in which the linguistic characteristics of the items of epistemic modality respond to the interactional requirements of the conversation participants. By considering the interactional features, this can be done and resulted in the grammatical or structural semantic description of the modality objects. Focusing on the acquisition of epistemic modality by English language learners (ELL), particularly at the tertiary level, is the second teaching and learning activity that needs to be carried out in this context. Because the epistemic modality elements are primarily concerned with the realm of knowledge and reasoning, doing this is crucial.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This research concludes that Modality is an important issue to be tackled in researches since it offers a fertile area of investigation in relation to political speeches or any other type of texts. It also concludes that modal auxiliaries in English show a variety of usages in a way that meets the need of the speaker to use them artfully.

In relation to political speeches, it can be noticed that political figures exploit modal auxiliaries to achieve their endeavors and they affect by that on the people's emotions and ambitions.

This research recommends that EFL learners should be aware enough and well acquainted about the multi-usages of modal auxiliaries in English. If they were aware about them, it would be easier to use them in different situations to achieve many purposes, on one hand; and to understand the native speaker and interpret his intentions, on the other hand.

Conducting workshops that may be structured to draw conclusions from linguistic models and incorporate activities of the same kind when constructing any language session is one technique to convey the teaching of the elements of modality through political discourses. On the speaker's style and the way he or she uses language to convey different levels of meaning, more in-depth and targeted dialogue can be encouraged. In conclusion, there may be reciprocal benefits from combining language and discourse analysis.

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