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ВЫРАЖЕНИЕ ПРЕДПОЛОЖЕНИЯ В РАЗГОВОРНОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ

В статье представлен сравнительный анализ средств выражения модального значения предположения на английском языке. Предположение представляет собой эпистемическую модальность, которая является одним из наиболее распространенных модальных значений в языках, включая

английский, где оно реализуется различными способами: модальные глаголы (модальные вспомогательные глаголы), модальные наречия, глаголы и конструкции сообщения, модальные парентетические выражения и лексические выражения предположения.

Модальность понимается как широкая языковая категория, которая отражает сложные взаимодействия между коммуникантами, пропозициональное содержание при этом передается в высказывании и реальности. В лингвистической литературе обычно описываются три основных типа модальных значений: эпистемический, деонтический и динамический, хотя подходы к модальности, а также классификации модальных значений сильно различаются.

Существует много споров о том, какие средства обычно используются для выражения предположений. Недавние исследования по этой проблеме дали противоречивые результаты из-за отсутствия статистических данных о региональной и дискурсивной изменчивости, наблюдаемой при использовании средств, выражающих предположение. В статье приводится статистика частотности пяти вышеупомянутых средств, используемых в разговорной речи в двух разновидностях английского языка - британском и американском.

Ключевые слова: модальность, эпистемическая модальность, предположение, модальные глаголы, модальные наречия, глаголы сообщения, модальные парентетические выражения, лексические выражения предположения, разговорный язык, британский английский, американский английский.

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EXPRESSION OF SUPPOSITION IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

The paper presents a comparative analysis of means expressing the modal meaning of supposition in English. Supposition represents epistemic modality, which is one of the most common modal meanings

in world languages, including the English language, where it is realized through different means: modal verbs (modal auxiliaries), modal adverbs, reporting verbs and expressions, modal parenthetical expressions and lexical expressions of supposition. Modality is understood as a broad linguistic category which reflects complex interactions between the communicants, the propositional content which is conveyed in the utterance and reality. Three major types of modal meanings are generally described in linguistic literature: epistemic, deontic and dynamic, although approaches to modality as well as classifications of modal meanings differ a lot. There is much controversy as to which means are commonly used to express supposition. Recent research into the issue has yielded controversial results due to lack of statistics on regional and discourse-type variability observed in the use of means expressing supposition. The paper provides statistics on the frequency of the five above-mentioned means used in spoken language in the two varieties of English – British and American.

Keywords: modality, epistemic modality, supposition, modal verbs, modal adverbs, reporting verbs, modal parenthetical expressions, lexical expressions of supposition, spoken language, British English, American English

Introduction

The study of the category of modality gives vast opportunities for researchers as it reflects complex interactions between the communicants, the propositional content conveyed in the utterance and reality. The modal system of the English language as an area of grammar has been widely researched by different scholars who approached the issue from different perspectives and brought up different aspects of modality. The concept of modality was introduced by Charles Bally (1965) who for the first time in linguistic literature brought up a distinction between *dictum* – the propositional content/the message conveyed in the utterance and *modus* understood as the speaker's attitude to the utterance. Since then the issue has been given close attention and has been widely discussed in linguistic literature (Zolotova, 1962; Greenbaum, 1969; Vinogradov, 1975; Galperin, 1977; Panfilov, 1977; Lyons, 1977; Yermolaeva, 1978; Perkins, 1983; Huddleston, 1984; Quirk et al., 1985; Palmer, 1990, 2001; Kiefer,

1994; Coates, 1995; Bybee et al., 1994; Biber et al., 1999; Nuyts, 2001; Swan, 2005).

Materials and methods

The study presents an account of the relative frequency of the modal means used to express the epistemic meaning of supposition in present-day spoken British English. A comparative analysis has been conducted on the materials of The British National Corpus (BYU-BNC), The Corpus of Contemporary American (COCA); samples of spoken discourse obtained from British and American films (The Iron Lady, 2011; Inception, 2010; Pirates of the Caribbean, 2003; Dead Man's Chest, 2006; Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince, 2008; Avatar, 2009; The Theory of Everything, 2015; The Avengers, 2012; Star Wars, Episode 3, 2003; Doctor Who series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1), as well as fiction of British and American authors of the past two decades (D. Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas", 2004; T. Fisher "Good to be God", 2008; S. Barry "The Secret Scripture", 2008; J. Barnes "The Sense of an Ending", 2011; DBC Pierre "Vernon God Little", 2003; F. Abagnale and S. Redding "Catch me if you can", 2002, R. Bradbury "Farewell Summer", 2006; G. Wolfe "In Greens Jungles", 2001; J. Locke "Now & Then", 2010; Ph. Roth "The Dying Animal", 2001; J. Krakauer "Under the Banner of Heaven", 2003). To control the frequency variable the occurrence of each means expressing supposition was counted for 20, 000 words.

Theoretical background

Approaches to modality

V. V. Vinogradov (1975) regards modality as a major language category, an indispensable feature of any utterance and, therefore, of the text: *Every sentence includes a modal meaning as its significant constituent i.e. contains reference to reality. Any coherent expression of thought or feeling reflecting reality is produced with one of the existent intonation patterns and contains one of those means which together signify the category of modality* (1975, pp.53-87). Although V.V. Vinogradov (1975) described modality in the Russian language, his definition equally applies to the study of English. Another Russian linguist I. R. Galperin (1977) for the first time presented modality as an essentially objective textual category possessing semantic and functional character rather than grammatical. Modality is found in different parts of the text and is dependent on some extra-linguistic

factors such as the object of discourse, the communicants' personalities, their perceptions of the world, etc.). V. Z. Panfilov (1977) distinguishes two types of modality: objective and subjective modality. Objective modality reflects the objective connections, which can be observed in this or that situation (1977, pp. 37-48). Subjective modality expresses the speaker's evaluation of the degree of knowledge of these connections (1977, pp. 37-48). L. S. Yermolaeva (1978) distinguishes two major modality types – internal and external. Internal modality describes the speaker's attitude to the propositional content of the utterance, whereas external modality characterises the relationship between the propositional content and reality. The Russian scholar I. P. Krylova gives a definition of modality: "Modality is a very wide category inherent in any sentence showing the relation between the action expressed by the predicate verb and reality. This relation is established by the speaker" (Krylova, 2002, p. 7).

According to J. Lyons (1977), "the sincerity conditions that are asserted or questioned in the performance of indirect illocutionary acts all have to do with the knowledge, beliefs, will and abilities of the participants; and these are the factors which are involved in epistemic and deontic modality" (Lyons, 1977, pp. 787). J. Lyons (1977) draws a distinction between "epistemic logic" and "epistemology" both derived from the Greek "to know". Epistemic logic deals with the logical structure of statements which assert or imply that a particular proposition, or set of propositions, is known or believed, whereas epistemology is concerned with the nature and source of knowledge (Lyons, 1977, p.793). R. Huddleston (1984) sees two central branches in modal logic: possibility and necessity which correspond to epistemic and deontic types. R. Quirk et al. (1985) define modality as the manner in which the meaning of a clause is qualified so as to reflect the speaker's judgment of the likelihood of the proposition. They bring up the notions of intrinsic modal meanings such as obligation, permission and volition as a certain degree of human control is imposed upon the qualified events, and extrinsic modal meanings such as possibility, necessity, and prediction since they chiefly concern human judgment on the likelihood of the situations taking place (1985:219). A similar approach to modality is found in D. Biber et al. (1999) who also distinguish between extrinsic and intrinsic modalities. A different treatment of modality is provided by Perkins (1983) who describes

modality as a system where modal meanings can be classified in terms of general principles or laws. He believes that epistemic modality is related to the laws of reason or to rational laws (which pertain to the notions of inference and deduction), whereas deontic modality is related to the laws of society or to social laws (rules of behaviour set for a certain social group). J. Coates (1995) identifies two types of modality: epistemic and non-epistemic. According to J. Coates (1995) modality reflects “the speaker’s assumptions or assessment of possibilities” (1995, pp. 55-66) and “indicates the speaker’s confidence (or lack of confidence) in the truth of the proposition expressed” (1995, pp.55-66). In her opinion epistemic modality is more subjective, focusing on the speaker’s attitude or opinion rather than the truth value of the proposition. Non-epistemic modality or “root modality” is too broad a notion “difficult to characterize” (Coates 1995, pp.55-66). F. Kiefer (1994) identifies five types of modality: 1) epistemic, 2) deontic, 3) circumstantial, 4) dispositional and 5) boulomaic. To the types of modality traditionally found in linguistic literature F. Kiefer (1994) adds circumstantial modality which is described as the possibility or necessity of a “state of affairs” based on the circumstances (Kiefer 1994:2516); dispositional modality described as possibility based on the disposition of the agent and boulomaic modality which expresses the speaker’s desires and wishes (Kiefer 1994, pp.2516). However, although providing a more comprehensive description, F. Kiefer fails to draw connections between related types of modality such as the relationship between deontic and boulomaic modalities. Bybee et al. (1994) identify four types of modality: 1) epistemic, 2) agent-oriented, 3) speaker-oriented and 4) subordinating. Agent-oriented and speaker-oriented modalities in Bybee et al.’s (1994) significantly diverge from historical descriptions of modality and remain rather unclear as well as the notion of subordinating modality. E. Swanson (2008) singles out five modalities: a) logical possibility corresponding to the laws of logic, b) deontic possibility (rules of behaviour), c) nomological possibility (laws of nature), d) bouletic possibility (a person’s desires), a) epistemic possibility (what is known or believed). F. R. Palmer (2001) distinguishes two types of modality: propositional modality and event modality. Propositional modality focuses on the subjective attitude of the speaker about the truth-value or factual status of the proposition, whereas, event modality focuses on the speaker’s subjective attitude to

potential but not actualized performances. Propositional modality extends to the entire proposition while event modality characterises states, actions or events. F. R. Palmer (2001) gives a comprehensive classification of modality types where *propositional* modality encompasses epistemic modality (the speakers express their judgments about the factual status of the proposition) which includes speculative (expresses uncertainty), deductive (expresses inferences from observable data) and assumptive (expresses inferences from what is generally known) modality types; and evidential modality (the speakers give evidence for the factual status of the proposition, including reported (evidence gathered from others) and sensory (evidence gathered through sense perception) modality types. *Event* modality in F. R. Palmer's (2001) classification falls into deontic (speakers express conditioning factors that are external to the relevant individual) where we observe three modality types permissive (giving permission), obligative (obligation laid upon the addressee) and commissive (the speaker commits themselves to doing something); and dynamic (conditioning factors that are internal to the relevant individual) including abilitive (the ability to do something) and volitive (expresses willingness to perform an action) modality types.

Epistemic supposition and means of its expression

Supposition is a modal meaning which represents epistemic¹ modality and lies on the “scale of certainty” or the “scale of likelihood” (Leech & Svartvik, 1994) which is a continuum of possible expressions of supposition ranging from 0% to 100%.

Supposition can be expressed by different means:

¹ “Epistemic modality has to do with the possibility or necessity of the truth of propositions and is thus involved with knowledge and belief” (Lyons 1977, p.793). According to R. Huddleston (1984, p.167), “epistemic modality is concerned with the truth status of the proposition in the light of what the speaker knows. Epistemic modality is orientated towards the speaker – it is subjective.” Palmer (1986) regards epistemic modality as a certain degree of the speaker's commitment (or lack of it) to the truth value of the proposition expressed. D. Biber et al. use the term *extrinsic* to characterise this type of modality and describe it as “referring to the logical status of events or states, usually relating to assessments of likelihood: possibility, necessity, or prediction” (1999, p.485).

1. Modal verbs

M. Vince and P. Emmerson (2003) arrange the modal verbs which express supposition in English on the “scale of probability” as they call it.

certainty	<i>will</i>	100%
deduction	<i>must, can't</i>	95% - 100%
expectation	<i>should</i>	80%
uncertainty	<i>may, might, could</i>	30% - 70%

M. Swan (2005, p.359) suggests another scale which expresses “degrees of certainty”:

- a) complete certainty (positive or negative): *shall, will, must, can't*
- b) probability (deduction; saying, that something is logical or normal): *should, ought to*
- c) possibility (talking about the chances that something is true or will happen): *may*
- d) weak possibility: *might, could*

Modal verbs are in no way the only means to express supposition in the English language. Different degrees of certainty can also be expressed by modal adverbs, reporting verbs, modal parenthetical expressions and modal idiomatic expressions.

2. Modal adverbs

According to M. Perkins (1983, p.89) the class of modal adverbs includes such adverbs as *allegedly, apparently, arguably, certainly, clearly, conceivably, evidently, hopefully, most/quite likely, necessarily, obviously, possibly, presumably, probably, purportedly, reportedly, reputedly, seemingly, supposedly and surely*. They express the speaker's attitude towards the truth value of the proposition. S. Greenbaum (1969) classifies modal adverbs into: 1. adverbs that express shades of doubt or certainty:

- a. the adverbs *certainly* and *surely* that express certainty
- b. the adverbs *arguably, conceivably, possibly, presumably, probably, allegedly, reportedly, reputedly, purportedly, supposedly, likely, maybe* and *perhaps* that express doubt; and 2. adverbs that express shades of doubt or certainty and in addition they refer to the observation or perception of a state of affairs:
 - a. the adverbs *clearly, evidently* and *obviously* that express certainty
 - b. the adverbs *apparently* and *seemingly* that express doubt.

3. Reporting verbs and expressions

To this class belong such verbs as *believe, doubt, guess, know, suppose, think, expect, hope, infer, conclude* etc. They are used explicitly to mark a proposition as the speaker's opinion, or to convey some level of personal doubt or certainty. When these expressions are integrated into the clause structure, they usually occur as a main clause taking a that-complement clause, e.g. *I think/believe (that) they have run out of fuel.* (Nuyts 2001, p.117). Quirk et al. (1985) observe that many of reporting verbs and expressions perform the hedging function in the utterance and make a distinction between (1) Hedging expressions: *I believe, I guess, I think, I expect, I feel, I hear, I hope, I presume, I assume, I understand, I suppose, I consider, I suspect, I'm told, I have read, I have heard, I have heard tell, I can see, I may assume, I dare say, I venture to say, one hears, they tell me, they allege, they say, it is said, it is reported, it is claimed, it is rumoured, it has been claimed, it seems, it appears* and (2) Expressions of certainty: *I know, I claim, I see, I remember, I agree, I admit, I'm sure, I'm convinced, I have no doubt, it's true, it transpires, there's no doubt, it is clear, it is certain, I must say, I must admit, I must tell you, I have to say, it is probable, it is likely, it is apparent* (Quirk et al. 1985:1114).

4. Modal parenthetical expressions

Modal parenthetical expressions are semantically connected with the sentence and are generally used to show the speaker's attitude towards the proposition contained in the utterance². To this class belong *for sure, sure, no doubt, surely, maybe, perhaps*.

5. Lexical expressions of supposition *to be likely to, to be bound to, to be certain, to be supposed to, to be impossible to/that, to be sure to/that*.

Study and results

British English

Modal auxiliaries (43%)

In the analyzed corpus the epistemic meaning of supposition was expressed by modal auxiliaries in 43% of cases. Among them the most common is the modal verb *might* which is used to express uncertainty. *Might* was found in 38% of the occurrences of modal verbs in the corpus, for example:

² Modal adverbs (see 2) also serve as parenthesis in the sentence.

*'I'm having some alterations done,' says Sixto. 'Are you around during the day? You **might** find it disturbing.'* (Tibor Fisher "Good to be God")

*I abhor illegality in all its forms and I'm not just saying that because someone **might** be listening to this conversation.* (Tibor Fisher "Good to be God")

*But these days he **might** be reading items in the paper curiously connected to himself, or at least on one occasion, because I heard his little gasp, and looked up at him immersed in the paper.* (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas")

Other modals expressing uncertainty are *may* (19.6%) and *can/could* (9.2%), e.g.:

*Easier written than done, for had I slipped & plunged anew from those vertiginous walls my luck **may** not have softened my fall a second time, but foot holes had been hewn into the rock & by God's grace I gained the crater's lip with no mishap.* (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas")

*I asked first. – I thought – and it **may** not have been a gallant reaction – is this why you started letting me put my hand down your pants?* (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending")

The modal verb *can/could* was epistemic primarily in interrogative sentences where it expressed a high degree of surprise.

***Could** food react chemically with other food, double its destiny and volume, and solidify into every heavier and denser hard fat?* (Bridget Jones's diary by Helen Fielding)

*How **can** you have lost it?* ("Doctor Who" series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1)

The modal verb *can't/couldn't*³ (10.3%) expresses a high degree of certainty, expresses disbelief and is found in negative sentences, e.g.:

*It **can't** have been a random act because It would need to have been planned. The thieves obviously knew what they wanted.* ("Doctor Who" series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1)

*No. No. No. No, I **can't** be six months late. I said five minutes. I*

³ *Can't* and *couldn't* are used interchangeably in Present-time situations. *Couldn't* sounds less certain than *can't*. In past-time situations the only possible form is *couldn't* which is used due to the rules of the Sequence of tenses.

promised. What happened to her? ("Doctor Who" series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1)

*Unless Prisoner Zero escaped through here. But he **couldn't** have. We'd know. ("Doctor Who" series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1)*

*There is no possibility that you **could** have seen them wandering about the village. ("Doctor Who" series (2005 - ...), season 5, episode 1)*

The modal verb *must* (9.5%) expresses the speaker's certainty about the proposition, e.g.:

*My father, Fr Gaunt and I reared back against the wall as one, and the bullets that went into the two lads **must** have made queer tracks through them, because I saw sudden exploding pocks in the plaster of the old wall beside me. (Sebastian Barry "The Secret Scripture").*

*I suppose she **must** have been in her early forties, though of course she appeared to me deep into middle age, as did her husband. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending")*

*'Wow, Nancie **must've** bought a new fridge,' says Leona as I reach the hall. She's good that way, Leona, how she keeps things moving along. (DBC Pierre "Vernon God Little").*

The modal verbs *should* and *ought to* (6.9%) express approximately 70% of certainty resulting from the speaker's experience, e.g.:

*Adrian was the only person we knew who came from one. This **ought to** have given him a whole store tank of existential rage, but somehow it didn't; he said he loved his mother and respected his father. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending")*

*Hey, I've read all about your accident. That much gamma exposure **should** have killed you. (The Avengers)*

The epistemic meaning of *will* (6.5%) shows a high degree of the speaker's confidence in the truth of the proposition. It is found in both positive and negative sentences, e.g.:

*I bought it on our honeymoon in Cairo, when he was your age now. He **won't** be wearing it again. (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas")*

*And I hope that when you break up, as you inevitably **will** – I give you six months, which your shared pride will extend to a year, all the better for fucking you up, says I – you are left with a lifetime of bitterness that will poison your subsequent relationships. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending").*

Lexical expressions of supposition (24%)

The most frequently used modal expression in English is *to be sure to/that* (49%), which expresses a high degree of certainty, e.g.:

***I am sure**, when they heard the firemen give the all clear, they snuck back in in the new darkness.* (Sebastian Barry “The Secret Scripture”)

***I'm sure** we are all in agreement that we must do nothing for the moment that will further inflame the current situation.* (*The Iron Lady*, 2011)

*“And **I'm sure** you've heard many other names.” I've never understood why heavy drinking or methodically doping yourself is so attractive.* (Tibor Fisher “Good to be God”)

Both *to be sure/certain* and *to feel sure/certain* indicate strong supposition (80 - 90%). However, *to be certain to* was rarely found in the corpus (5.5%).

*What **is certain is that**, after centuries or millennia of living in isolation, the Moriori lived as primitive a life as their woebegone cousins of Van Diemen's Land.* (David Mitchell “Cloudless Atlas”)

*I know I am as afraid of having done nothing for the inmates here, of sentimentalising them and thereby failing them, I am as afraid of that as **I am certain that** I have ruined Bet's life.* (Sebastian Barry “The Secret Scripture”)

The other three expressions, such as *to be bound to* (4%), *to be (un)likely to* (18%) and *to be supposed to* (15%) express something that is alleged or assumed and indicate a medium degree of certainty.

*If she hadn't felt contempt for me before, she'd **have been bound to** after Adrian showed her my words.* (Julian Barnes “The Sense of an Ending”)

*But she's travelling first class. This is what is so unfair. She may die alone and miserable, but **it's unlikely**.* (Tibor Fisher “Good to be God”)

*I did not confess my true motives, viz., the fuller his stomach, **the less likely he was to** consume me, but instead asked him why, during his flogging, he had smiled at me.* (David Mitchell “Cloudless Atlas”)

*We live in time, it bounds us and defines us, and time **is supposed to** measure history, isn't it?* (Julian Barnes “The Sense of an Ending”)

*I need to do what a gambler on a bad run **is supposed to** do. Double up. Lose, then double up.* (Tibor Fisher “Good to be God”)

The modal expression *to be (im)possible to* (6.5%) indicates a low degree of certainty.

***It's almost possible** to be brave in here, if you add up your Nikes,*

your Calvin Kleins, your youth, and your actual innocence. (DBC Pierre “Vernon God Little”)

*How wonderful, how vibrant, how ridiculous. But it was a state I would give the world to retrieve. I know **it's not possible**. But still.* (Sebastian Barry “The Secret Scripture”)

*A minor chord in her tone suggested she was with him. **Not impossible**.* (David Mitchell “Cloudless Atlas”)

Reporting verbs and expressions (16%)

The reporting verbs observed in the data were *think* (38.2%), *know* (16.5%), *hope* (7.3%), *believe* (2.57%), *suspect* (1.83%), *suppose* (18.38%), *doubt* (4.04%), *guess* (9.19%), *figure* (0%). Negative and past forms (e.g.: *I don't think*) were also included in the analysis.

***I think** my wife was wrong. I think I was right; but I've noticed that being right doesn't do you much good.* (Tibor Fisher “Good to be God”).

*'Look,' said Fr Gaunt. 'I believe – **I believe** these men have no bullets. Just everyone does nothing for a moment!'* (Sebastian Barry “The Secret Scripture”).

*The youngest dendroglyph is, **I suppose**, ten years old, but the elders, grown distended as the trees matured, were incised by heathens whose very ghosts are long defunct.* (David Mitchell “Cloudless Atlas”)

'This we read in Horace,' he said. 'Batchelors Beans?'

***I suppose** not.'* (Sebastian Barry “The Secret Scripture”)

*The judge appointed him. **I guess** nobody else works Sundays around here.* (DBC Pierre “Vernon God Little”)

Modal parenthetical expressions (9%)

Modal parenthetical expressions *for sure* (10%), *no doubt* (7%) and the adverbs *maybe* (38%) and *perhaps* (45%) indicate different degrees of certainty and may take different positions in the sentence. With regard to position, they are very flexible and occur frequently in the initial, medial and terminal positions. They can equally be used as independent units of speech in replies, e.g.:

***Maybe** longer, who knows? But you must accept a small salary.”* (David Mitchell “Cloudless Atlas”)

***Maybe** I'm not a failure; perhaps I'm viewed as a failure by many, but to the contrary, I have triumphed over several realms of adversity.* (Tibor Fisher “Good to be God”)

***Maybe** Microsoft decided, given that at the time the decision was*

made the Windows Mobile dead horse wasn't fully flogged, that it was best not to encourage Android users and to stick to the John Hurt thing instead. (The Inquirer)

- **Perhaps** I didn't want to.

- **Perhaps** you didn't want to because you didn't need to. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending")

*You'll meet her again in future letters, **no doubt**. (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas")*

*In the time of that war there were **no doubt** many deaths, and many deaths that were no better than murder. (Sebastian Barry "The Secret Scripture")*

*To regular observers of Tyndale Corbett there's **no doubt** he's cracking up. (Tibor Fisher "Good to be God").*

Modal adverbs (8%)

Modal adverbs are infrequent in spoken language, some of them were not observed in the corpus at all. The most common adverb used was *probably* (46.8%), less frequent were *certainly* (18.7%), *surely* (11.7%), *possibly* (7.3%), *doubtless* (6.2%), *apparently* (4.6%), *obviously* (4.6%), *absolutely* (0%), *undoubtedly* (0%), for example:

*It breeds in the stinking canals of Batavia, **doubtless** the port of my own infection. Ingested, it voyages through the host's blood vessels to the brain's cerebellum anterior. (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas").*

*It occurs to me that probably many others have been on the beseeching trail; **surely** if prayer had any effect we'd have noticed? (Tibor Fisher "Good to be God").*

*Since it was all her mother's doing, it was **obviously** all her father's fault. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending").*

*Whoever opined "Money can't buy you happiness" **obviously** had far too much of the stuff. (David Mitchell "Cloudless Atlas")*

*There was, **apparently**, some secret masculine code, handed down from suave twenty-year-olds to tremulous eighteen-year-olds, which, once mastered, enabled you to 'pick up' girls and, in certain circumstances, 'get off' with them. But I never learnt or understood it, and probably still don't. (Julian Barnes "The Sense of an Ending")*

*She was in there all day having tests, and in the evening one of the doctors innocently phoned me to come and get her. He **probably** thought I knew she was there. (Sebastian Barry "The Secret Scripture").*

Which means everyone, even you, will now have to tip their drivers.

Forever. **Probably** in cash, since there's no way to do it in the app. (theverge.com)

- Are you saying you can link a second gun to these crimes?
- Very **possibly**, ma'am. (DBC Pierre "Vernon God Little").

American English

Modal auxiliaries (53%)

In the American variety of the English language modal verbs also turned out to be the most common means expressing supposition (53%). However, in the course of the analysis certain differences concerning their relevant frequencies were observed. In the American corpus the most common modal verb in the meaning of supposition was *will* (32.2%) which was used to express a high degree of certainty, e.g.:

*Something must be done! - Life **will** do it.* (Ray Bradbury "Farewell Summer")

*She wanted the offer, but she **won't** use it.* (Philip Roth "The Dying Animal")

Might which was most common in the British corpus ranked second in American English (23.6%), e.g.:

*"As soon as the party's over, let's all go skinny-dipping out at Apple Crick. **Might** be our last chance before it gets too cold. Summer's gone."* (Ray Bradbury "Farewell Summer")

*They all looked and it **might have** been another animal, a squirrel or a monkey - sure, a monkey-but with transparent skin and a strange sorrowful expression.* (Ray Bradbury "Farewell Summer")

*I know that **might** sound a little gory or something, but it feels like the right interpretation to me.* (Jon Krakauer "Under the Banner of Heaven")

The modal verb *may* was three times less common than *might*, e.g.:

*"I found a fascinating story about pirates in St. Alban's, and how a girl named Abby Winter **may have** saved the town. The story was attributed to Jack Hawley."* (John Locke "Now & Then")

*My father, my mother, or my brother **may have** been consulting him in secret.* (Gene Wolfe "In Greens Jungles")

The epistemic use of *can/could* was found in 17.9% of occurrences of modal verbs. In positive sentences *could* was followed by the notional *be*, e.g.:

*He **could** be a kind of roving honorary consul, a backup for the local man in big cities, a troubleshooter in smaller ones.* (Julian Barnes

“The Sense of an Ending”)

In questions *can* and *could* were interchangeable, where *can* was far less common than *could*.

The negative *can't/couldn't* used to express improbability was used in 8.5% of the “Modal verbs” corpus.

The modal verb *must* which expresses supposition implying a high degree of certainty was used in 8.7% of all occurrences of modal verbs in the corpus, for example:

*One night I found her name in a new Manhattan phone book, the address of an apartment her father **must have** bought for her on the Upper East Side. But going back was a bad idea and I didn't try.* (Philip Roth “The Dying Animal”)

*He **must have been** reeling from the effect of the drugs they'd given him to have considered drinking this red concoction in the first place.* (John Locke “Now & Then”)

Instances of the epistemic use of *should* were scarce (1.8%), e.g.:

- *Is that a local saying?*

- *It **should** be. A few years back I found a corn snake wrapped around my bedroom doorknob.* (John Locke “Now & Then”)

No occurrences of *ought to* were found in the American corpus.

Modal parenthetical expressions (24%)

Modal parenthetical expressions are rather common in American English, the most frequent of them are *perhaps* and *maybe*, for example:

***Perhaps** dear old Jack is not serving your best interests as captain?* (Pirates of the Caribbean, Dead Man's Chest, 2006)

*“**Maybe**,” said Doug slowly, “**maybe** they're afraid to tell, or can't tell, or won't.”* (Ray Bradbury “Farewell Summer”)

No doubt is the least common parenthetical expression in the corpus.

*It assured the hostelryes of at least a minimum rate of occupancy, and **no doubt** most of the operators felt the presence of the pilots and stewardesses would attract other travelers seeking lodging.* (Frank Abagnale “Catch me if you can”)

Reporting verbs and expressions (16%)

Among the most common reporting verbs are *I think* (used both in positive and negative sentences) and *I know*, e.g.:

***I think** they'd find a way to make it work in your case.* (Inception, 2010)

***I didn't think** he was an alcoholic, but he was a two-fisted drinker and I worried that he had a drinking problem.* (Frank Abagnale "Catch Me If You Can").

*"It just gives me a sense of peace, and **I know** it's true," and it becomes a part of his own unique*

article of faith. That is not a product of a schizophrenic, broken brain." (Jon Krakauer "Under the Banner of Heaven")

"I know life is (...) crazy, but I'm here to tell you there's a purpose behind it." (Jon Krakauer "Under the Banner of Heaven")

I figure is the least common in the corpus, e.g.:

***I figured**, he's twenty-one, at long last we can talk.* (Philip Roth "The Dying Animal")

Modal adverbs (5%)

Among the most common modal adverbs in the corpus are *probably*, *certainly* and *obviously*.

*You're **probably** aware that relations between the Council and the Chancellor are stressed.* (Star Wars Episode 3, 2003)

*It was such a small-town production, and Libby, while **certainly** adequate for this role, was an unlikely candidate for Broadway stardom.* (John Locke "Now & Then")

*I figured if Rachel was calling for drinks instead of sending Tracy to the kitchen for them, both girls were **obviously** needed on the beach to tend to our demanding guests.* (John Locke "Now & Then")

The least common was *undoubtedly*. No instances of *doubtless* were found.

Lexical expressions of supposition (2%)

Lexical expressions of supposition are the least common means expressing supposition in American English. Among them the most common is *I'm sure*, for example:

***I'm sure** we can, Captain, but I must get the manager to approve a check this large," she said.* (Frank Abagnale "Catch me if you can")

*Dusk had become night, and though I couldn't see it, **I'm sure** she smiled.* (John Locke "Now & Then").

Other lexical expressions of supposition (*I feel sure*, *be bound to*, *be likely to*, *be supposed to*, *it's possible that*) are less common, e.g.:

*Look, **you're supposed to** be winning the hearts and minds of the natives.* (Avatar, 2009)

*- Fava will try to dissuade you, **I feel sure**.* (Gene Wolfe "In Greens

Jungles”)

*“Well, I don't know much more than what **you're likely to** have heard.”* (John Locke “Now & Then”).

The least common is *be bound to*, e.g.:

*“But some girls can run faster than the others, so **they're bound to** win. Don't you see how unfair that must seem to the losers?”* (Gene Wolfe “In Greens Jungles”).

Conclusion

The conducted analysis shows that in spoken English modal verbs remain by far the most common means of expressing epistemic supposition in the two varieties of the English language: British and American. In American English they are even more frequent than in British English (53% and 43% correspondingly).

The figures obtained in the course of the analysis concerning the frequency of the other four means expressing supposition show considerable differences in the two varieties. In British English lexical expressions of supposition rank second, which points to their relative frequency; whereas in American English they are the least common. Modal adverbs are the least common in the British variety and equally uncommon in American English. However, the results obtained in the course of the present analysis do not suggest that this is true for all discourse types.

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МЕТАФОРИЧЕСКИЙ ПЕРЕНОС В СОВРЕМЕННОМ ДИСКУРСЕ МАСС-МЕДИА

Актуальность данного исследования состоит в том, что оно связано с новыми научными направлениями в корпусной лингвистике и лингвостилистике. Ученые не достигли единодушия в том, как именно метафорический перенос функционирует в современных средствах массовой информации и как актуализируется метафора, таким образом, исследования все еще продолжаются. Авторы исследуют стилистические средства в рамках современного дискурса СМИ. В работе применяется корпусный подход к исследованию функционирования в средствах массовой информации стилистических приемов со значением формы или пространства.

Предмет исследования - использование метафор со значением формы в средствах массовой информации. Объектом является тринадцать стилистических приемов с метафорическим переносом, основанным на сходстве с геометрическими фигурами в предложениях, взятых из периодических изданий. В эмпирическом исследовании использовался корпусный подход, частотный анализ и качественный анализ. Следующие результаты были получены по вопросам этого исследования. Наиболее часто упоминаемыми графическими элементами были "точка", "квадрат" и "сектор". Тем не менее, "точка" встречалась наиболее часто в журналах и газетах. Наименее часто слово "граница" встречалось в журналах и газетах. Кроме того, "сегмент" был наименее частым в журналах, а "сфера" в газетах. В ходе анализа выяснилось, что наиболее часто используемый элемент из примеров - метафора, а наименее -