THE SEMANTIC AND MODAL FUNCTIONS OF MOTION VERBS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

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Abstract: The article deals with the modality features and functions of verbs expressing *to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come* and etc. in Modern English.

In the English linguistics study of modality of verbs, including modal words on which a number of scientific works have been written, have always been in the focus of attention of the scholars.

Keywords: linguistic, modality, verbs, the English language, meaning, express.

INTRODUCTION

In the dictionary of linguistic terminology modality has been given as the attitude of the speaker towards the expressed thought, as grammatical semantic category expressing the attitude of the objective reality towards the thought which is expressed. Some linguists have studied modality functions of a number of verbs, existing in the English language. In spite of the fact that a number of scientific works have been devoted to the study of ***to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come*** as the modality of verbs in linguistics, this problem is still causing the subject of dispute among the linguists. Though ***to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come*** are not accepted as modality by the logical semantics, a number of scholars have assumed ***to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come*** as the meaning of modality and have made attempts to prove this problem.

Some of these authors determine modality parameters as a theoretical basis for their classification and each of which plays a certain role in determining modality. It includes, for example, the attitude of the speaker to the situation (assessment), the status of the situation directed to real attitude (irreality) etc. The second model appeared on the boundaries of diachronic morphology theory being one of the functional theories. In this case wish is affirmed. It often exists in association with diachronic modality. Though they belong ***to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come*** to modality.

But Huddleston R., Pullum, G.K. suppose that one structure of the verbs denoting ***to start, to leave, to sail, to return, to arrive, to go, to come*** express modality but the others' don't.

Some scholars evaluate modality of the verbs expressing modality as something emerging from the meaning of "obligation". Ch. Fillmore notes that modality in the English grammar expresses possibility and obligation.

It is considered that the verbs denoting the meaning of ***to start and to leave***, during their syntactic-semantic analysis in the sentence, important categories associated with the conception of wish driven from the contents must be taken into consideration. As to Huddleston R., it is necessary to take into consideration different colorings characteristics for each type of ***to start and to leave***, to determine the character of the attitudes between the modality of ***to start and to leave*** with the category of affirmation or (negation), to study the circle of impact of the meaning of ***to start and to leave*** within the text, to make clear in which attitudes can the sentences with the verbs denoting ***to start and to leave*** can be in relations with other sentences within the contents.

M. Keto's thoughts on the modality of verbs expressing ***to start and to leave*** are also of interest. The investigator in his research work called "Semantic field of verbs denoting to start and to leave" in the modern English language" while analyzing the agreement of verbs expressing modality, speaks of valency of verbs on certain language, more exactly speaking, lexis conception.

M. Keto determines two semi-groups in the composition of group of verbs denoting ***to start and to leave*** on the basis of the analyzed words:

1) verbs denoting ***to start and to leave*** which have tendency to modality;

2) verbs denoting ***to start and to leave*** which have no tendency to modality.

Verbs agreeing only with nouns within the construction are included into the list of the verbs of ***to start and to leave*** having tendency to modality. These are "to sail", "to return", "to arrive", "to go", "to come" and other verbs.

But the verbs agreeing only with nouns but also with infinitive within the construction are expressed with the verbs of ***to start and to leave*** which have more tendencies to modality. It includes verbs such as "to desire", "to want", "to wish", "to long for", "to hunger for/after", "to die for", "to pine for", "to yearn for", "to emulate".

Levin B. has investigated intentional conceptions and means of their expressions in English directed to modality. Expression of speaker's '***to come'*** in the process of communication is one of the important forms of manifestations of modality. Levin B. discriminates directive expression of '***to come'*** from the form of

'come' expressions denoting non-directive expressions of subjective thirst for and he includes into the circle of influence of '***to come'*** expressing of both,

addressed (aim-denoting).

Levin B. has introduced '***to come'*** expressing modality in objective optative modality in the widest form.

1) The author includes into the first group the verbs denoting passionate, strong ***to come.***

2) The verb '***to come'*** is included into the second group. The willfulness expressed by these verbs is weaker in comparison with the verbs mentioned in the first group.

3) Into this group are included such verbs and verbal constructions expressing '***to come'***. The following verb is included into this group: ***"to be going" + infinitive, "have to go", "to be in a mood***.

Jackendoff R. in his investigations has touched upon the problem of modality of the verb '***to return'***. The author notes that '***to return'*** not depending on whether it is real or unreal always bears potential contents. The characterization of obligatory modality between the object and its features is taking place in a certain time (past, present, or future tenses). Verbal predicate of present tense expresses modal attitude towards the reality. But those which express past tense states suspicious attitude to the reality or to its realization.

Petrov N. in her investigations notes that the concept of modality exists in narrow and wider senses. The wider understanding of modality is based upon any evaluative attitude of the person towards the reality and at this time thought, emotion, understanding notions may be completely valued as lawful representation

of modality.

Verbs '**to come'** and '**to go'** as to their features often do not differ from the verbs expressing emotion, thought, and understanding which makes it possible to belong them to a proper group. Verbs '**to come'** and '**to go'** in most languages of the world never join the modal verbs. Hereon we may come to the conclusion that Petrov N. too affirms the modality of verbs expressing '**to come'** and '**to go'**.

Besides that, Rudnev A.G. stresses the fact of belonging of the expression of contents of the subjective modality to the different language levels. (lexic, morphological, and syntactic levels). To the lexic level belongs such language units, in which content of '**to come'** and '**to go'** are expressed by nuclear of these units.

Rudnev A.G. pays special attention to the subjective contents of '**to come'** and '**to go'** and stresses the fact of much dependence of this factor on the communicative focus of the expression.. In this case taking the degree of highness of the expression

of '**to come'** and '**to go'** are taken into consideration in the choice of this or that verb which is the main factor. For example:

1) He is to come at 6:00 a.m.; 2) They are to go at 7:00 p.m.

This section aims to investigate the modality features of verbs expressing '**to come'** and '**to go'** in Modern English. The study attempts to address the following two questions:

1) Do '**to come'** and '**to go'** have modality features in English?

2) How do they express modality in different contexts?

CONCLUSIONS

Taking all above-mentioned into consideration, we come to the conclusion that the verbs '**to come'** and '**to go'** can express the modality. They have modality,

but not strongly expressed and their modality can only be observed in context.

Summing up of all what has just been said we can conclude that this short summary of the characteristics of motion verbs is by no means comprehensible, but it was meant to be of a brief introduction into this subject.

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