

## Uses of Modal Auxiliaries of English Grammar and Their Importance in Language Learning

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### Abstract :-

*This study aims to describe the modal auxiliaries in English grammar with their importance in the language in terms of expressing the mood of the speaker. Grammar is one of the language components which is thought to be every language learner. It is as the basic knowledge and as an important role in understanding the English language. Each and every grammatical unit has equal importance in the language learning. One of the important grammatical units i.e. modal auxiliaries of English grammar which the learners need to be exercised and trained in order to have a good skill and competences in studying English. If their grammar is poor they are not able to make their progress in that language learning. Hence grammar is needed in the ability of the person to become a master in English. It is clear that grammar is one of the important things of language to study. So, the language learners or the students need to study grammar to know how to make the correct sentences or write a correct idea.*

*At school, students who learn a foreign language encounter with a number of problems, especially with grammar of the language which is complicated and which makes confusing. When the students learn English, they try to avoid grammar because it is confusing and difficult to understand. Actually, there are many aspects discussed in English grammar, one of them is modal auxiliaries. Modal auxiliaries are kinds or categories in grammar which function as showing the truth, prediction or possibility, permission or ability. Modal auxiliaries have many functions in the usage. The speakers or the writers use modals can choose by what they want to express in their talking or writing. Because modal auxiliaries are not only having different functions but also have the meanings.*

*Key words : Modal Auxiliaries, Importance language learning.*

### Introduction :-

It is true that English language has become an undetectable part of our Indian life in its all sectors. Still, the fact remains that it is a foreign language, a third language for us. In pre-independent India, English was at its supreme place as the language of administration. It was the mother tongue of British administrators in British rule. So, English was a compulsory subject at the school, colleges and at the university level. English still occupies an important place in our educational system as in our law, business, economic, media, transport and so many other areas in our society.

Being one of the educational subjects, English is being taught as a third language and somewhere as a second language in our educational system. It has been a very praise-worthy decision of our education policy makers to introduce the subject of English

language to the very initial primary level of schooling.

If anybody wants to acquire mastery in any language, he must know & understand the grammar of that language. Hence, English grammar plays a very important role in language learning. English grammar contains different units such as noun, pronoun, verb, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions and interjections etc. Each unit has its importance in the sentence formation.

Modal verbs are a special type of verbs present in English grammar. These verbs are used irregularly in English grammar. The uses of modal verbs in English grammar include providing extra information about the action of the main verb.

There are a wide variety of modal auxiliary verbs and their functions. In this paper, we will learn about the different uses of modal auxiliary verbs as well as their importance in language learning.

What are modal verbs ?

A modal verb is a type of auxiliary or helping verb that is used to express ability, possibility, permission, or obligation etc.

They are auxiliary verbs that provides additional and special meaning to the main verb of the sentence. Modal verbs are used to express certain hypothetical conditions, such as advise , capability or requests. They are used alongside a main verb to change its meaning slightly. Because, they are auxiliary verbs, they cant necessarily be used on their own.

Modal verbs are one of the most important sections of English grammar. That's because knowing the topic very well can help a lot in improving speaking skills and confidence while speaking. When a speaker is speaking about ability, or making requests, give advices. Wants give some suggestions need or obligations modal verbs are the most helpful thing. Modal verbs even help in making offers and asking for permissions. As these things are very important in making the speaker looks confident and making his attitude towards listeners clear and visible, every student must learn and study the modal auxiliaries from the secondary school.

The modal verbs are actually different from the normal verbs, that is because modal verbs are not be used separately. They also do not reflect a certain action or state. They are just used to reflect the modality of it. These facts make modal verbs extremely essential for students to learn it, it they want to learn speaking skills and improve their English speaking.

**Types and Examples of Auxiliaries and modal verbs :-**

An Auxiliary verb is called as a 'helping verb'. It helps the main verb in different tenses, voices and moods by placing before them. Auxiliary verbs are also called special verbs or anomalous verbs. There are twelve verbs i.e. be, do, have, can , may, shall, will, must, dare, used, need & dare.

Examples :

- 1) He is wearing a nice dress.
- 2) They were singing the National Anthem.
- 3) They have painted their old car.
- 4) Mahesh has been going to school

Links verbs or helping verbs help to turn active sentences into passive sentences (voice)

For eg.

- 1) They paint the house every year (Active)  
The house is painted every year by them ( passive)
- 2) The flood washed away the animals. ( Active) The animals were washes away by the flood.

**Kinds of Auxiliary verbs :-**

There are two types of auxiliary verbs in English grammar.

- 1) Primary Auxiliaries
- 2) Modal Auxiliaries

1) Primary Auxiliaries  
Primary Auxiliaries are use as main verbs to denote time (present, past and future)

Examples :

- 1) I am watching cricket on T.V.
- 2) His mother was cooking the delicious food everyday.

They are also used as main verb or linking verbs in sentences. They change their forms according to the numbers of the persons in the subject of a sentence.

Ex,

- 1) Shamal is a good singer It was a nice picnic.
- 2) Mahesh does his study regularly. She did the work yesterday.
- 3) The people are religious. The monks were vegetarians.
- 4) H have two sisters I had headache yesterday.

In the above sentences, the verbs like is, does, are, have, are used a linking/helping verbs. They perform the role of main verbs, although they are auxiliaries in origin.

The primary auxiliaries are : be , do and have.

The forms of word 'be' can be written as am, is, are, was, were. After 'be' auxiliary to forms of verbs are possible. They are present participle-being and past participle – been am/ is / are/ was/ were + present participle ( v + ing)

Ex.

- 1) The poems were written by her.
- 2) The parents were looked after by him.
- 3) The novel 'Macbeth' is written by William Shakespeare. The forms of 'do' can be written as : do, does, did

'Do' is used in an emphatic case in a positive sentence.

It also forms the interrogative for the simple present tense and simple past tense.

‘Do’ is used in order to make a request.

Do, does and did are used in simple present or simple past tenses in negative sentences.

Examples :

- 1) I do visit that place every Monday. ( do is used in emphatic case)
- 2) I don't like sweets ( do is used in negative sentence)
- 3) Do you have a pen? ( do is used as an interrogative word)
- 4) Please do come for the Diwali ( used as making a request)

The forms of word ‘have’ can be written as have, has and had. The perfect form all the tenses and times (present, past, future) are built with the help of have, has, had as per the following structure.

Have / Has/ Had + past participle of the main verb is used in a sentence.

Examples :

- 1) I have talked to the principal twice over the issue.
- 2) He has given us permission to organize a conference.
- 3) She had given these sweets to me before.

**2. Modal Auxiliaries :**

Modal Auxiliaries play a very meaningful role in a grammatically correct sentence. Modal auxiliaries denote certain feelings. Moods and possibilities.

Unlike be, do and have modal auxiliaries can not function as main verbs except in a few cases.

The modal auxiliaries are can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, used to and dare to etc.

Examples :

- 1) You can use my laptop  
( the underlined modal verb denotes possibility)
- 2) It may rain today.  
( the underlined modal auxiliary denotes possibility)
- 3) You shall complete the task tomorrow.  
( the underlined aux, denote command or order)
- 4) My grandfather used to have a scooter.  
( the underlined model auxiliary denote past habit)
- 5) I must go home now.  
( the underlined modal auxiliary denote necessity)
- 6) She must study ( denotes strong obligation)

7) We should have gone the other way.  
( recommendation)

8) He could play football in his youth. ( ability in the past)

**USES OF MODAL AUXILIARIES**

Modal Auxiliary	Uses	Examples
<b>Can</b>	Ability permission ( informal possibility)	<b>Monika can play cricket</b> <b>Can I take your pen.</b> <b>The plate can handle with care</b>
<b>May</b>	1. Possibility 2. Permission (formal)	<b>Shivani may come to my home Friday.</b> <b>May I come in sir.</b>
<b>Will</b>	1) Future action 2) Intention 3) Request 4) promise	<b>I will decorate the house for Diwali.</b> <b>I will complete this painting by tomorrow.</b> <b>Will you please lend me this book.</b> <b>I will meet him tomorrow</b>
<b>Shall</b>	Suggestion (only with I & we)	<b>We shall go with our friends at the theatre.</b>
<b>Might</b>	Possibility (weaker than may)	<b>My uncle might visit us during the weekend.</b>

<b>Could</b>	1) ability ( in past) 2) Request	When I was a little boy I could draw well. Could you please open the window?
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<b>Dare to</b>	1) Boldness 2) Courage 3) challenge	I dare not to go in the dark. How dare you to enter in my room. I dare not ask her.
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<b>Would</b>	1) Request / 2) Past habit.	Would your like to join us for the movie? As a boy, my father would often swim in the village pond.
<b>Should</b>	1) Advice 2) Obligation/duty	You should respect your elders You should stand in a queue at the bank
<b>Must</b>	1) Necessity 2) Strong possibility	Nidhi must work hard for the competition Aditya must have ldfit the bag in car.
<b>Ought to</b>	1) Duty 2) Necessity 3) Moral obligation	We ought to help the needy We ought to hier the furniture for the party I ought to submit may assignment on time.
<b>Used to</b>	1) Past habit 2) Formal action 3) previously	My grandmother used to walk for long hours when she was young. I used to live in Mumbai.
<b>Need to</b>	1) necessity 2) moral obligation	I need to buy a pocket of milk. We need to keep our environment clean.

This table shows different uses of modal auxiliaries with the help of different examples which helps us to understand what is the mood of the speaker/ writer behind speaking the sentences.

**Conclusion :-**

This study aims at investigating the importance of modal auxiliaries in English language learning in the schools where English is tough as a second or third language. After getting a close look towards this topic, the researcher comes to the point that, modal auxiliaries are very important and essential part of the English grammar which expresses different types of moods of the speakers when they speak or write the sentences.

Hence it must be said that with the help of modal auxiliaries the speaker or the writer is able to convey the right meaning of the sentences to the reader and hence they can get the clear idea about the mood of the speaker behind speaking or writing that sentence. So , modal auxiliaries are very important part of the English grammar which convey the clear meaning of the sentence to the reader or the learner of the language.

**Recommendations for future Research :-**

- 1) more research is needed to investigate students ability in using modal verbs.
- 2) Teachers and curriculum designers should raise students awareness to the importance and negative results of misusing modals.
- 3) More weitage should be given to the modal auxiliaries in textbooks as well as in the paper pattern s.
- 4) Introducing more courses that deal with modal verbs and focus on the teaching them in English grammar books.
- 5) Textbook writer need to be in line with the English language syllabus so that the necessary modals will be stated in the syllabus.
- 6) Teachers must emphasize modal auxiliary verbs in order to develop better comprehension and understanding among students to use modals appropriately and know the importance of modal auxiliaries in English language easily.

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