

## SUBJECTIVE MODALITY IN LITERARY TEXTS

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**Abstract:** The characteristics of modality in literary text is being observed in the following article. The aim of the research is to determine specific peculiarities of modality as it shows the attitude of writer to the situation and modal markers, types of modal meanings and its usage in context. The types of modality are overviewed with the help of analytical and descriptive methods by analysis of the novel “David Copperfield” by Ch. Dickens. The results of the analysis indicate that modality can be expressed with different modal markers like: modal verbs, adjectives while author describes the action or hero, stylistic devices, with hidden or direct definitions. All in all, the usage of the types of modality: subjective and objective, explicit and implicit, epistemic, dynamic and others are explored deeply in given context.

**Keywords:** modality, modal verbs, epistemic, dynamic, fictional text, subjective, modal device, literary text, author’s attitude

**Introduction**

The analysis of modality in language and texts continues to hold significance in contemporary linguistics. Due to its complex and multifaceted nature, modality can be interpreted in numerous ways, offering diverse viewpoints on the phenomenon. It appears that no other linguistic category generates such a wide range of conflicting ideas.

From a formal standpoint, particularly within classical logic, modality provides either explicit or implicit information about the logical status of statements, their connection to real-world events, and aspects of evaluation and judgment. This framework serves as the foundation for a broad understanding of the concept.

**Methods and materials**

The methodological basis is based on the principles of exploring theoretical background of the research topic and investigate it into practice. After All, the analysis is done by looking into the literary texts.

**Results and Discussions**

Initially, the novel “David Copperfield” by Charles Dickens is analyzed and explored the usage of modality. As it was stated above, fictional texts include subjective modality which is defined by descriptive content. The analysis proved that the description of the heroes draws their portrait precisely and indicates author’s attitude completely.

David lived in several places, worked after mother's death and searched for her aunt Betsy Trotwood after all. When he came to her house, and the view is told by him as follows:

"We were soon walking on soft grass. Then I saw a pretty little house, with a garden in front of it."

The boy is describing aunt's house with the phrase pretty, little, with a garden represents the image of small and cozy home from the eyes of the boy. The author revealed his attitude with **subjective modality** to indicate how the boy feels to be there.

Moreover, the reader can feel the author and his image in this novel as the author speaks with the boy's words. This very fact, makes the author be in the center of the events.

David stayed in that little pleasant house with her aunt from father's side. He didn't sleep in peace for the last few years and the first night at that house is described as follows :

"I was feeling very sleepy now. Someone put me on a coach very gently and covered me with a shawl. As I closed my eyes, I heard my aunt's voice.

'Poor boy, poor little boy', she said.

Warm and happy, I was soon asleep "

This text activates the inner position of the hero with the explicit definition. Poor little Davy had to work after his mother's death and never felt happy again. Author's attitude can be obviously seen from the words happy and warm and activates subjective modality in this passage.

My aunt turned her head away. 'I remember your father saying the same about your dear, silly mother,' she said quietly.

As it is mentioned above, the author represents Dora in comparison with David's mom. Aunt Betsy considered that she looks like his mother saying the words the same silly as your dear mother. Furthermore, this **subjective modality** reveals the characteristics of Dora totally. Even though the author is not telling it explicitly, the reader can understand from the aunt's words that she is weak, helpless and too young like David's mother.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we found that literary works may include different types of the modality to reveal author's attitude. Modality in text can be expressed by modal verbs, lexical, phonetical and grammatical units. It is important to determine the specific words, phrases and implicit information which the writer represents by.

The finding of the analysis shows the writer's perception of the world and its reflection on his literary works by several modal markers. Author's modality in a literary text is considered main categories of the text linguistics.

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