

ARABIC EQUIVALENTS OF THE ENGLISH MODALITY

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Abstract:

The paper offers a general overview for the general linguistic category of modality. This is followed by a description of modal forms in Arabic and English by discussing the linguistic resources that each one of the two languages makes use of in the realisation of modal meanings by categorizing their modal markers into homogeneous groups on the basis of their morpho-syntactic properties and type modal marking. The model of analyzing modality in the two languages is that of van der Avera and Plungian (1998). Conclusions are then drawn about the most general characteristics of the modal markers in each language. Finally, the paper is rounded off with a comparative analysis of the points of convergence and divergence in the morpho-syntactic and semantic properties of modal markers of the two languages.

Key words: Epistemic, Deontic, Dynamic, Bouletic Modality, Standard Arabic.

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Introduction:

Many academic researchers wrote about modality in Arabic and English languages with great details; they contributed to the increasing investigation of modal verbs in translation; syntax; syntactico-semantic ground and other domains. Al Dulaimi et al. (2019) investigated some selected English sentences that are translated into Modern Standard Arabic. Their paper neglects the marginal or semi-modals in English; however, the paper concludes that Arabic does not possess an independent system corresponding to the English modal verbs as a unified subject.

In a similar way, Shahir El-Hassan (1990) investigated aspectuality and modality in English and Arabic modern short stories to examine the epistemic/deontic and perfective /imperfective occurrence in these stories.

The present study adopts van der Auwera and Plungian (1998) model as a comparative analysis of the points of convergence and divergence in the morpho-syntactic and semantic properties of modal markers of the standard Arabic and standard English. For English pronunciation of Arabic words and expressions, the researcher uses Mitchell and El Hassan (1989) for Arabic transliteration. The study attempts to show the grammaticalized expressions of modality with a semantic map for both languages.

Research Questions

To show the susceptibility of the problem of the present paper, the researcher tries to answer the following questions:

- 1- How can the approximation be made to find the equivalents of the English and Arabic modalities?
- 2- What are the morpho-syntactic properties of the modal markers in Arabic and English?
- 3- What are the essential assumed grammatical functions of the auxiliaries in Arabic and English?
- 4- What are the Points of convergence and divergence of the Arabic and English modal auxiliary verbs?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this research includes the following axes:

Modality in Language

The general term "modality" in English is derived from the word 'modus' in Latin, meaning 'measure' or 'manner', i.e., the way of doing something or evaluating it. In theoretical linguistics, this same term is vague and leaves open a number of definitions (Palmer, 1986: 2). As a semantic notion, modality refers to a wide range of meanings in relation to the speaker's attitude towards the factual content of her/his utterance, such as uncertainty, definiteness, vagueness, or possibility. Syntactically, the attitudinal contrasts above may be

signaled by alternative inflectional forms of the verb, or by using auxiliaries (Crystal, 2003: 299).

Rescher (1968: 24) maintains that when a proposition is made subject to some further qualification to the effect that the entire resulting complex is itself another proposition, then this qualification is said to represent a modality to which the original proposition is subjected to. For example, the proposition of "the king being dead" can be expressed in English as:

(1) The king is dead.

By adding a modal qualification to (1), one can get:

(2) The king must be dead. (Perkins, 1983: 15-6)

which is a modalized assertion, paraphraseable by:

(3) I (the speaker) am forced to conclude that the king is dead.

Thus, modality alters the neutral semantic quality of the original proposition by subjecting it to the language user's personal attitude (Shepherd, 1982: 326). Accordingly, modality describes the properties of language usage. As such, it can be looked at as one inherent feature of every linguistic fact since there is no dictum without modus (Pietrandrea, 2005: 6). In fact, Bally (1932: 31), cited in Cornillie, and Paola (2012), asserts that modality is the soul of the sentence since every linguistic representation remains virtual unless it is conceived as true, false, or possible by a thinking object.

Typically, modality functions on conceptual 'second order entities' such as events, processes, and states-of-affairs rather than on physical 'first order entities' such as persons, animals, and things, which are relatively constant as to their perceptual properties (Lyons, 1977: 422). However, the category of modality has no ontological counterpart since it describes the language, not the world.

Types of Modal Meaning

1. Epistemic Modality

The term 'epistemic' – derived from the Grecian word for knowledge: *epistēmē* – was first used by von Wright's (1951: 1-2) pioneering work on modal logic. This type of modality signifies the speaker's relative state of knowledge or belief about a situation (Nagle, 1989: 6). In other words, epistemic modal meaning is particularly related to the laws of human reasoning which provide a basis for the speaker's judgments about certain states of affairs, events, or actions (Perkins, 1983: 10).

(4) You may have a car. (Hoye, 1997: 42)

The epistemic interpretation of (4) is: "perhaps you have a car".

Using von Wright's terms, Lyons (1977: 797) makes a distinction between two types of epistemic modality: subjective and objective. The first suggests the speaker's opinion, hearsay, or tentative inference. The second shows that the speaker is committed to the factuality of

her/his proposition while performing the act of telling (ibid. 799). Another subdivision is between epistemic necessity (deduction), and epistemic possibility (speculation) (Egan, 2005). Because the epistemic uses of modality are particularly related to the speaker's attitude towards the content of the proposition, then one may conclude that this type of modality is always a hedge (Coates, 1983: 18, 49).

2. Deontic Modality

The term 'deontic' is derived from the Greek word *dēon*, meaning 'that which is binding' (SOD, 2003). Deontic modality is concerned with the possibility or necessity of acts in terms of which the speaker gives permission or lays an obligation for the performance of some future action. Unlike epistemic modality, it refers to acts, not propositions.

(5) a. You may open the door. (I hereby permit you to open the door.)

b. You must open the door. (I hereby impose upon you the obligation to open the door.)
(Lyons, 1977: 832, 840).

Deontic modality is characterized by cause and futurity. Cause is related to the speaker, whereas futurity involves a reference to some future world-state (ibid. 824). In addition to permission and obligation, deontic modality is also concerned with volition (intention, desire, and will) in such sentences as (he won't go) (Dury, 2006: 3).

3. Dynamic Modality

The term 'dynamic modality', first introduced by von Wright (1951: 28), refers to the ascription of some kind of capacity and/or ability to the subject-participant in that she/he is shown to be able to perform the action expressed.

(6) a. John can cook fabulously.

b. John is able to come to the party tomorrow after all.

c. The table has been dismantled so that it can be transported easily.

The ability in (a) above is inherent to the participant, in (b) it is a capacity of that participant as determined by the circumstances, in (c) the capacity is contextually implicit (Nuyts, 2005: 7). Palmer (2001: 10) points out that dynamic modality refers to events that have not taken place, but are potential.

4. Bouletic Modality

The term 'bouletic' (Palmer, 1986, Matthews, 1991), or 'boulemaic' (Rescher, 1968) – also derived from Greek – is related to volition or will. All utterances expressing the illocutionary force of commands, wishes, desires, intentions, hopes, plans, fears, etc. involve some kind of individual or social volition (Matthews, 1991: 155).

Nuyts (2005: 24) classifies bouletic, epistemic, and deontic modalities under the rubric of 'attitudinal categories' since they all explicitly mark a specific commitment to the state of affairs, including the expression of will and liking or disliking.

- (7) a. It is great that you are coming to my party tonight.
 b. Unfortunately, I cannot come to your party tonight.
 c. I hate it that I cannot come to your party tonight.

This type of modality is subsumable within the category of deontic modality. This is because the weak deontic notion of acceptability is metaphorically applicable to the weak bouletic notion of agreeability (Nuyts, 2005: 25).

5. Other Modalities

Modal markers in language can be classified in different ways by different scholars. Hence, the wide range of describing the minutes of all the different approaches to modality falls beyond the scope of this study. Indeed, Perkins (1983: 9-10) correctly argues that "the number of modalities one decides upon is to some extent a matter of different ways of slicing the same cake". To offer a wider overview to the types of modality already discussed, the following paragraphs briefly describes three important but different approaches to modality in chronological order.

Jespersen (1924: 313) roughly distinguishes between deontic and epistemic modalities - without actually using these terms - by taking the element of will as a differential criterion in his classification of the categories of notional moods. His taxonomy offers two main categories: the one that contains some element of will (i.e. deontic modality); the other contains no element of will (i.e. epistemic modality). Then, the first category is subdivided into eleven subcategories (jussive, compulsive, obligative, advisory, precative, hortative, permissive, promissive, optative, desiderative, and intentional), whereas the second is subdivided into nine subtypes (apodictive, necessitative, assertive, presumptive, dubitative, potential, conditional, hypothetical, and concessional) (Jespersen, 1924: 320). He was also the first scholar to distinguish between mood as a strictly syntactic category and modality (notional mood) as a semantic category. In addition, his bipolarity of with will/without will is semantically subsumed under the modern notion of intrinsic/extrinsic modality (cf. Quirk et al, 1985: 219).

Von Wright (1951; 1-2) recognizes four 'modes': the first is related to truth (alethic modes); the second to knowledge (epistemic modes); the third to obligation (deontic modes); the fourth to existence (existential modes).

Van der Awera and Plungian (1998: 80-1) subcategorize modality into four types: participant internal, participant external, deontic, and epistemic modalities. The basic division they make is that between epistemic and non-epistemic modalities. Within non-

epistemic modality are participant-internal and participant external. The latter category is subdivided into deontic and non-deontic subcategories.

Modality in Standard Arabic

This section offers an outline of the general semantic notion of modality in Standard Arabic, together with its lexico-grammatical realisations in the language, and their types and morphosyntactic properties.

-The Language and Examples

Standard Arabic (henceforth: SA) (العربية الفصحى = Eloquent Arabic) is that variety of modern Arabic, uniformly used in formal spoken and written discourse all over the Arabic-speaking world, whether in the mass media, lectures, sermons; or in literature, books, articles, official texts, business and personal letters, etc. Other similar terms include Modern Standard Arabic, and Modern Literary Arabic (Holes, 2004: 5). SA maintains all the structural characteristics of Classical Arabic, which is the revered language of the Glorious Quran, pre-Islamic and post-Islamic literature, books, and speech; and there is no clear-cut frame of contrast between the two varieties other than that of language change through time. Indeed, the language of the Glorious Quran has served the purpose of preserving the phonology, morphology, and syntax of SA to a remarkable degree up to the present time.

The researcher, being a native speaker of SA, will intuitively provide exemplifications of SA modal structures. Each example will be given in its orthographic SA form, followed by its grammatical description, then by its translation into English and Latin transliteration.

Word-Forms and Clauses in SA

Grammarians of SA divide word-forms of the language into three broad categories: i. nouns (الأسماء : 'asmā'), ii. verbs (الأفعال : 'af'āl), and iii. particles (الحروف : ḥurūf), purely on formal bases as shown in the following extract from The Book (الكتاب : al-Kitāb) of Sībawaihi (ca. 793: I. 12), which is the oldest grammar book of SA that has passed down to us.

Structured words are the noun, the verb, and the particle that conveys a [grammatical] function, which is neither a noun nor a verb. (Examples of) the noun are (رجلٌ) [man+NOM], (فرسٌ) [mare+NOM], and (حائطٌ) [wall+NOM]. As for verbs, these are derivatives taken from the sounds of the infinitival happenings, and are then structured to what had passed; what may occur, but has not (yet); and what has taken place, but has not discontinued. Examples of structuring to what had passed are: (سمع) [heard (he)], (مكث) [stayed (he)], and (حمد) [acquired (he) good fame]. Examples of structuring to what has not taken place (yet) are your saying in the directive: (أذهب) [go], (أقتل) [kill], and (أضرب) [strike]; and when you inform [in the declarative]: (يقتل) [kills], (يذهب) [goes], (يضرب) [strikes], (يقتل) [is killed], and (يضرب) [is struck]. So is the

structuring of what has not discontinued after its occurrence when you [use the last five verbs to] inform. These are the derivatives taken from the sounds of the infinitival nouns denoting happenings, and they have many paradigms, which we shall present by Allah's will. As for the infinitival happenings, these are exemplified by [such nouns as]: (الضربُ) [the striking+NOM], (القتلُ) [the killing+NOM], and (الحمدُ) [the praising+NOM]. As for those [parts of speech] that come to convey a [grammatical] function, and are neither noun nor verb, these are exemplified by (ثم) [then], (واو القسم) [jurative waw], (لام الإضافة) [annexation lām], and the like (al-Kitāb: I. 12).

The adjectives and adverbial nouns are categorized as nominals, whereas the particles include all the uninflected structural elements in the language: the articles, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections (Wright, 2005: xii-xiv). Each one of the three word groups above has a set membership of elements that can serve to express the semantic function of modality. In addition, modality is expressible via PPs. Accordingly, modal expressions in SA can be classified into four word-form groups: i. modal articles, ii. modal verbs, iii. modal nouns, and iv. modal PPs.

Before proceeding with the description of each group of modal markers above, a word about the structure of SA clause seems pertinent here. While the simple, indicative clause in English has the uniform structure of VP NP, the structure of the simple, indicative clause in SA can assume two distinctive structures: VP NP (الجملة الفعلية : Verbal Clause); NP NP (الجملة الاسمية : Nominal Clause) (Alosh, 2005: 238, 247):

(8) a. جاء الربيعُ . (Verbal Clause)

jā'al-rabī'u

VP NP

Came the spring

Spring came.

b. المعلمُ قادمٌ . (Nominal Clause. Attributive)

'almu'allimu qādimun

NP NP

The teacher coming

The teacher is coming.

c. عليٌّ طالبٌ . (Nominal Clause, Equative)

'alliyyun ṭālibun

NP NP

Ali a student

Ali is a student.

The main reason for the possibility of the clausal structure NP NP in SA is due to the fact the be-auxiliaries are not required in attributive and equative (predicative) clauses as shown in (8, b- c) above.

One special type of the nominal clause in SA is the adverbial clause (الجملة الظرفية : Adverbial or Circumstantial Clause), which has the structure of PP VP (Wright, 2005: II. 261). This type of clause has a special affinity with clause-initial modalized PP as will be described in (2.3.3.4).

في الدار رجلٌ .

Fiddāri rajulun

PP NP

In the house a man

There is a man in the house.

The English translation of (9) clearly shows that the adverbial clause of SA can only be properly translated into English by using the existential there–clause structure, hence the pertinence of the term "adverbial clause".

Modal Markers in SA

In the following subsections the description of modal markers in SA begins with the specialized frozen modal functors to the lexical inflected verbal and nominal ones. As will be shown hereunder, the first group of modal markers are central, while the inflected lexical items are marginal. All these markers are always mutually exclusive.

Modal Particles

These include ten uninflected particles that have evolved to function as specialized modal functors, tabulated hereunder.

Table (1) Modal Particles in SA

| No | Modal Functor | Transliteration | Modal Equivalent | Following Structure | Verb Aspect | Example | Transliteration and Translation |
|----|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | قد | qad | may, might | V NP | imperfect | قد ينزل المطر اليوم. | qad yanzilul-maṭaru alyawma Rain may fall today. |
| 2 | س | sa | will | V NP | imperfect | سينزل المطر اليوم | Sa yanzilul- maṭaru Alyawma Rain will fall today. |
| 3 | سوف | sawfa | will, would | V NP | imperfect | سوف ينزل المطر اليوم | sawfa yanzilu-lmaṭaru alyawma |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | Rain will fall today |
| 4 | لعل | la'alla | might, perhaps | NP VP | imperfect | لعل المطر ينزل اليوم . | la'alla-lmaṭaru yanzilu alyawma Rain may fall today. |
| 5 | ربما | rubbamā | perhaps | NP VP | imperfect | ربما المطر ينزل اليوم . | rubbamā-lmaṭaru yanzilu- lyawma Perhaps rain falls today. |
| 6 | ربّ | rubba | perhaps | N NP | imperfect | ربّ ضارة نافعة . | Rubba dhāratin nāfi'atin Perhaps a woe is useful. |
| 7 | عسى | 'asā | might | NP VP | imperfect | عسى المطر ينزل اليوم | 'asā-lmaṭaru yanzilu Alyawma Rain might fall today. |
| 8 | ليت | laita | may | NP VP | imperfect | ليت المطر ينزل اليوم . | laital- maṭaru yanzilu alyawma May rain fall today! |
| 9 | على | 'lā | must | NP NP | imperfect | عليه المجيء الآن . | 'lāhil-majī'u ḥālan He must come now. |
| 10 | ل | li | can, may | NP NP | imperfect | له المغادرة الآن . | Lahul-mughādaratu ḥālan He may leave now. |

Table (1) above shows that the first three modals function as part of the VP, whereas the next five are followed by an NP VP clause. The last two functors are actually modal prepositions that require to be immediately followed by an NP. Significantly, all the following V elements are aspectually imperfective.

It is important to point out here that the first two specialized functors (سأ sa, سوف sawfa) also signify futurity in SA, while the third (قد qad) signifies perfect aspect.

a. سأعود غداً .

sa'a'ūdu ghadan.

VP (NP) Adv

shall return (I) tomorrow

I shall return tomorrow.

b. سوف أعود غداً .

Sawfa 'a'ūdu ghadan.

VP (NP) Adv

shall return (I) tomorrow

I shall return tomorrow.

c. . قد أعود غداً .

qad 'a'ūdu ghadan.

VP (NP) Adv

may/might return (I) tomorrow

I may/might return tomorrow.

Another, relevant observation is that the modal (ربّما : rubbamā) admits a VP NP, an NP VP, or an NP NP subsequent clause.

a. . ربّما يقولُ الحقّ .

rubbamā yaqūlu-lḥaqa

may/might VP (NP)

may/might say (he) the truth

b. . ربّما المطرُ ينزلُ اليومَ .

rubbamā-lmaṭaru yanzilu-lyawma

may/might NP VP adv.

may/might the rain falls today

Perhaps the rain falls today.

c. . ربّما المطرُ نازلٌ اليومَ .

rubbamā-lmaṭaru nāzilun alyawma

may/might NP NP adv.

may/might the rain falling today

Perhaps the rain (will be) falling today.

Modal Verbs

These are full lexical verbs that are followed by a VP NP complement clause invariably preceded by the infinitival article (أن: an), with the verb in the imperfective form, or are followed by an NP.

Table (2) Modal Verbs in SA

| N o | Modal Verb | Translite ration | Modal Equival ent | Follow ing Struct ure | Verb Aspe ct | Example | Transliteration |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | يمكن | yumkinu | may can | VP NP | impe rfect | يمكن أن يذهب الآن يمكن الذهاب الآن He can go now | yumkinu 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 2 | يجب | yajibu | must should | VP NP | impe rfect | يجب أن يذهب الآن He should go now | yajibu 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 3 | يحتمل | yuḥtamalu | might | VP NP | impe rfect | يحتمل أن يذهب الآن He might go now | yuḥtamalu 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 4 | ينبغي | yanbaghī | ought to | VP NP | impe rfect | ينبغي أن يذهب الآن He ought to go now | yanbaghī 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 5 | يستطيع | yastaṭī'u | can | VP NP | impe rfect | يستطيع أن يذهب الآن He can go now | yastaṭī'u 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 6 | يقدر | yaqdiru | can | VP NP | impe rfect | يقدر أن يذهب الآن He can go now | yaqdiru 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 7 | يلزم | yalzamu | must have to | VP NP | impe rfect | يلزم أن يذهب الآن He has to go now | yalzamu 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 8 | يجوز | yajuzu | can may | VP NP | impe rfect | يجوز أن يذهب الآن He can go now | yajuzu 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |

While the counterpart English translations are all simple sentences, all the uses of modal full verbs in SA require complex sentences, with the modal verb in the matrix sentence and the propositional verb in the complement subordinate clause .

يجوزُ أن يُسدَدَ نقداً.

yajūzu an yusaddida naqdan.

VP (NP) that VP (NP) NP

May (he) that pay (he) in cash

He is permitted to pay in cash.

It is worth mentioning here that SA is that it is a pro-drop language in that the "understood" subject of the sentence are normally dropped. This is one manifestation of the working of the law of "the least effort" in SA (Ziff: 1960). Still a third syntactic feature is that the verbal sentence in (2.10) could be nominalized by turning the verb into a nominal element, and passivizing it.

الدفْعُ النقديُّ جائزٌ.

'addaf'ul-nnaqdiyyu jā'izun

NP NP NP

Payment cash permitted

Cash payment (is) permitted.

Two of the modal verbs are frozen in that they do not allow imperative forms to be derived from them, nor non-finite or nominal forms. These are (**ينبغي ، يمكن**). All the others are inflected members.

Modal Nominals

The twelve members of this group behave just like the modal verbs in the previous group, except that the matrix sentence modal verb is nominalized. They have the structure of NP that VP (NP) (Adv).

Table (3) Modal Nominals in SA

| N | Modal Verb | Transliteration | Modal Equivalent | Following Structure | Verb Aspect | Example | Transliteration |
|---|------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | ممكِنٌ | mumkinun | may can | VP NP | imperfect | ممكِنُ أن يذهب الآن He can go now | mumkinun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 2 | واجِبٌ | wājibun | must should | VP NP | imperfect | واجِبُ أن يذهب الآن He should go now | wājibun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | محتمل | muḥtamalun | might | VP NP | imperfect | محتمل أن يذهب الآن He might go now | muḥtamalun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 4 | مفروض | mafrūdhun | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | مفروض أن يذهب الآن He ought to go now | mafrūdhun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 5 | لا بد | lābudda | must | VP NP | imperfect | لا بد أن يذهب الآن He can go now | lābudda 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 6 | لا مُحالة | lāmuḥāla | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | لا مُحالة أن يذهب الآن | lāmuḥāla 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 7 | لا جرم | lājarama | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | لا جرم أن يذهب الآن | lājarama 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 8 | لا مناص | lāmanaṣa | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | لا مناص أن يذهب الآن | lāmanaṣa 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 9 | لا ريب | lāraiba | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | لا ريب أن يذهب الآن | lāraiba 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 10 | جائز | jā'izun | can | VP NP | imperfect | جائز أن يذهب الآن He can go now | ja'izun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 11 | لازم | lāzimun | must have to | VP NP | imperfect | لازم أن يذهب الآن He has to go now | lāzimun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 12 | ضروري | dharūriyyun | must | VP NP | imperfect | ضروري أن يذهب الآن He can go now | dharūriyyun 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |

Five of the members of this group have acquired a frozen negative structure. These are (لا مُحالة ، لا بد ، لا جرم ، لا مناص ، لا ريب), all denoting certainty and necessity.

Modal PPs

Members of this last group, with eleven memberships, behave syntactically just like the last two previous groups, except that the initial V or N element is replaced by a PP. All of these constructions are inflected.

Table (4) Modal PPs in SA

| N o | Modal PP | Transliteration | Modal Equivalent | Following Structure | Verb Aspect | Example | Transliteration |
|--------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | من الممكن | minal- mumkini | may can | VP NP | imperfect | من الممكن أن يذهب الآن He can go now | minal -mumkin 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 2 | بالإمكان | bil'imkani | can | VP NP | imperfect | بالإمكان أن يذهب الآن He can go now | bil'imkani 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 3 | من الواجب | minal- wājibi | ought to | VP NP | imperfect | من الواجب أن يذهب الآن He ought to go now | minal-wājibi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 4 | من المحتمل | minal- muḥtamali | might | VP NP | imperfect | من المحتمل أن يذهب الآن He might go now | minal-muḥtamali 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 5 | من الضروري | minal dharūriyi | should | VP NP | imperfect | من الضروري من أن يذهب الآن He should go now | minal dharūriyi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 6 | من اللازم | minal- lāzimi | must | VP NP | imperfect | من اللازم أن يذهب الآن He must go now | minal-lāzimi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 7 | من الجائز | minal- jā'izi | can may | VP NP | imperfect | من الجائز أن يذهب الآن He may go now | minal-jā'izi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 8 | من المؤكد | minal- mu'akkadi | It is certain | VP NP | imperfect | من المؤكد أن يذهب الآن | minal-mu'akkadi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 9 | من المفروض | minal- mafrūdhī | must | VP NP | imperfect | من المفروض أن يذهب الآن | minal-mafrūdhī 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 10 | من المسموح | minal- masmūḥi | can | VP NP | imperfect | من المسموح أن يذهب الآن | minal- masmūḥi 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |
| 11 | بالمستطاع | bilmustaṭā' i | could | VP NP | imperfect | بالمستطاع أن يذهب الآن | bilmustaṭā'i 'an yaḏhaba al'āna |

The nearest equivalent English sentence pattern to this type is that of the frame: it is necessary/obligatory/possible/certain... that NP VP. The syntactic structure where these modals occur is that of the Adverbial Sentence described in (2.3.2).

In their modal use, the initial modal PP requires a complement that-clause, introduced by the SA (?an) complementizer.

a. من الواجب أن تجيبَ عن كلِّ الأسئلةِ .

minal-wājibi 'an tujība 'an kullil-'s'ilati

PP that VP (NP) PP

It is obligatory that answer (you) for all the questions.

It is obligatory that you answer all the questions.

b. من الواجب الإجابة عن كل الأسئلة

minal-wājibil- 'ijābatu 'an kullil-'s'ilati

PP NP PP

It is obligatory answering all the questions.

However, the occurrence of the 'an complemental clause is by no means mandatory in such constructions since it is always replaceable by the simpler, verbless NP NP , or NP PP clause as shown in (2.1b) above. In such cases, the dropping of the hearer renders the doentic modal marker non-deontic.

Other Lexical Items Denoting Modal Meanings

The lexicon of SA is rich with many other polysemous particles, nouns, verbs, and adverbs that can convey evidentiality, non-evidentiality, bouletic, volition, etc., mainly by virtue of their pure semantic properties rather than because of their particular morpho-syntactic behavior. Among these lexical items are:

إِنَّ ، حَبْدًا ، قَلَمًا ، يَصِحُّ ، يُسْتَحْسَنُ ، يُفْضَلُ ، يُسْمَحُ ، يَتَوَجَّبُ ، من الواضح ،
 من البين ، يُفْتَرَضُ ، يُظَنُّ ، يُشَكُّ ، أَكِيدُ ، من غير المشكوك فيه ، لا شك ،
 مستحيلٌ ، أكيداً ، جبراً ، حتماً ، قطعاً ، فرضاً ، وجوباً ، جوازاً ، من الأرجح ،
 من المستحيل ، من المُفْتَرَضِ ، يوسع ، من المَشْكُوكِ ، من المَقْبُولِ ، من المظنون ،

These require a special investigation into the distinctive features of their semantic field, and fall beyond the scope of the present study.

Types of Modal Signaling

- Epistemic Modality and Probability

Epistemic probability means "It is necessary that...", or "The only possible conclusion is that" (Palmer, 1990: 50, 53). Eleven modal markers can express this type of epistemic modality. These are:

لعل ، قد ، ربما ، رب ، عسى ، يمكن ، يحتمل ، يجوز ، جائز ، من الجائز ، من الممكن .

In below, the uses of some of the modal markers above in expressing this type of modality are exemplified. Members that are unexemplified act just like the members of the last two examples.

a. . قد ينجح الطالب .

qad yanjaḥul-tālibu

The student may pass.

b.. لعل الطالب ينجحُ

la'allal-tāliba yanjaḥu

The student may pass.

c. . ربما الطالبُ ينجحُ .

rubbamal-tālibu yanjaḥu

The student may pass.

d. . رب طالبٍ ينجحُ .

rubba tālibin yanjaḥu

The student may pass.

e. . عسى الطالبُ أن ينجح .

'asal-tālibu

The student may pass.

f. . يمكن أن ينجح الطالب .

yumkinu 'an yanjaḥal-tālibu

The student may pass.

g. . يحتمل أن ينجح الطالب .

yuḥtamalu 'an yanjaḥal-tālibu

The student may pass.

- Uncertainty

Twelve modal markers can impart this type of epistemic modality, which is paraphrasable by "It is possible that ...". These are :

لعل ، قد ، ربما ، رب ، عسى ، من غير المؤكد ، يجوز ، جائز ، من الجائز ، ممكن ، من الممكن ، يحتمل

In below, the use of some of the modal markers is exemplified:

a. . لعله مريض .

la'allahu marīdhun

He may be ill.

b. . قد يكون مريضاً .

qad yakuna marīdhan

He might be ill.

c. ربما هو مريض .

rubbama huwa marīdhun

He might be ill.

d. ربه مريض .

rubbahu marīdhun

He may be ill.

e. عساه مريضاً .

'asāhu marīdhan

He may be ill.

f. يحتمل (من الجائز / ممكن / من الممكن) أن يكون مريضاً .

yuḥtamalu 'an yakuna marīdhan

He might be ill.

g. من غير المؤكد (/ يجوز / جائز) أنه مريض .

Minghairil-mu'akkadi 'annahu marīdhun.

He might be ill.

The modal marker (من المؤكد = certain) of the clause in (2.17g) above appears in the negative form (من غير المؤكد = uncertain). As shown in the latter structure, negation in SA simply consists in the placement of the negating particle – here it is (غير : ghair) – immediately before the noun or the verb without any further syntactic change. In contrast with the singular (not/n't) negation particle in English, SA has at least five negation particles (لا ، غير ، ما ، ليس) (، لن) that can serve the function of verbal and nominal negative marking.

Non- Epistemic Modality

- Participant-Internal Modality

In this type of non-epistemic modality, the possibility or certainty expressed is internal to the participant involved in the state of affairs. In possibility, the concern is with the participant's ability; in necessity, the concern is with the participant's need (van der Awera and Plungian, 1998: 80).

1- Ability

In the expression of ability, a certain entity is shown to be able, or has the power to do something. Five modal markers can convey such meaning. These are (مَنْ الْمُمْكِنُ ، يَقْدِرُ ، يَسْتَطِيعُ) ، (مُمْكِنٌ).

a.. يستطيعُ الطلابُ تسلقَ الجبلِ .

yaṣṭī'ul-ṭullābu tasaluqal-jabali

The pupils can climb the mountain.

b. . يَقْدِرُ الطلابُ تسلقَ الجبلِ .

yaṣṭī'ul-ṭullābu tasaluqal-jabali

The pupils can climb the mountain.

c.. يُمَكِّنُ للطلابِ تسلقَ الجبلِ .

yumkiū lilṭullābi tasaluqal-jabali

The pupils can climb the mountain.

d.. مَنْ الْمُمْكِنُ /مُمْكِنٌ للطلابِ تسلقَ الجبلِ .

minalmumkini / mumkinun lilṭullābi tasaluqal-jabali

The pupils can climb the mountain.

2- Need

Need refers to a personal compulsion to do something, or maintain a state. Two SA modals (من اللازم ، يلزم) can convey this type of modality.

a. . من اللازم شراء حقيبة سفر كبيرة .

Minal-azimi shira'u ḥaqībata safarin kabīratin

b. يلزم أن أشتري حقيبة سفر كبيرة .

yalzamu shirā'u ḥaqībata safarin kabīratin

- Participant External Modality

1- Deontic Permission

Deontic permission occurs when the speaker permits the hearer to do some act. Twelve SA modals can realize this meaning.

ل ، يمكن ، يستطيع ، يقدر ، يجوز ، ممكن ، جائز ،

من الجائز ، بالإمكان ، من الممكن ، من المسموح ، بالمستطاع .

Typically, these modals fill the M slot of the frame: M (N) 'an VP, as shown in the following two examples.

a. له أن يزورنا .

Lahu 'an yazūrana.

M N 'an VP

He may visit us.

b. يمكن أن يزورنا .

Lahu 'an yazūrana.

M N 'an VP

He may visit us.

- Non-Deontic Possibility

In this type of modality, the possibility is due to the circumstances other than those related to the speaker/hearer. Fifteen SA modals can realize this meaning.

س ، سوف ، ربّما ، لعل ، عسى ، ل ، يمكن ، يحتمل ، يجوز

محتملٌ ، ممكنٌ ، جائزٌ ، من الجائز ، من الممكن ، من المحتمل

Since these modal markers, have similar meanings, and are substitutive in their slots, only two variant examples will be given to represent their use.

a. ربما يقترضُ من المصرفِ .

rubbamā yaqtaridhu minal-maṣrifī

He may take a loan from the bank.

b. عسى أن يقترضَ من المصرفِ .

'asā 'an yaqtaridha minal-maṣrifī

He might take a loan from the bank.

- Obligation/ Necessity

Necessity is related to neutral modality, meaning "it is necessary for ... to...". When this necessity is made by the speaker to require the performance of some action, then it turns into obligation. In SA, there are sixteen modals that can express deontic necessity.

على ، يجب ، ينبغي ، يلزم ، مفروضٌ ، لا مُحالة ، لا بدُّ ، لا جَرَمَ ، لا مناص ، لازمٌ ،

ضروريٌّ ، واجبٌ ، من اللازم ، من الواجب ، من الضروري ، من المفروض .

All these modal markers can fill the M slot in the following clausal frame: M (N) 'an VP as shown in the following two example:

a. عليك أن تغادر الآن .

'alaka 'an tughādira al'āna

M N that VP

يجب أن تغادر الآن b..

yajibu 'an tughādira al'āna

M that VP

Modal Operators in SA: Overview

The above taxonomy of the realization of modal operators in the lexis-grammar of SA allows drawing the following conclusions:

1. There are forty-one modal markers in SA, seventeen of which have frozen forms, and twenty-four have inflected forms as shown in Table (5) below.

Table (5) Frozen and Inflected Modal Markers

| Categories of Modals | Frozen Members | Inflected Members |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Particles | قد ، سـ ، سوف ، لعل ، ربما ، ربّ ، عسى ، ليت ، على ، ل | |
| Verbs | يمكن ، ينبغي | يجب ، يحتمل ، يستطيع ، يقدر ، يلزم ، يجوز |
| Nominals | لا مُحالة ، لا بدّ ، لا جَرَمَ ، لا مناص ، لا ريب | محتملٌ ، ممكنٌ ، مفروضٌ ، جائزٌ ، لازمٌ ، ضروريٌ ، واجبٌ |
| PPS | ----- | من الجائز ، بالأمكان ، من المؤكد ، من اللازم ، من الممكن ، من الواجب ، من المحتمل ، من الضروري ، من المفروض ، من المسموح ، بالمستطاع |

2. These modal markers comprise a heterogeneous functional category, with a membership ranging from specialized modal particles, to verbs, nouns, and prepositional phrases.
3. Some of modality markers are central in that they behave like auxiliary verbs, others are marginal.
4. The three specialized modal articles (قدّ qad , سوف sawfa , سـ sa) require the main verbs that they modalize to be imperfective. Hence, they act as auxiliary verbs. Interestingly, these operators also signal tense and aspect in the language.
5. The main verb of the propositional clause can always occur in a complement that-clause introduced with (أن 'an) when the preceding modal operator is a verb, noun, or a PP.

English Modal Verbs: Conclusions

1. Modal verbs in English constitute a grammatical category that belongs to the auxiliary verbs.
2. English Modal verbs constitute a closed set whose members share a number of morpho-syntactic features such as non-cooccurrence and being followed by the bare infinitive.
3. The grammatical category of modal verbs is fuzzy; some verbs are central, others are marginal.
4. All the English modals conform to the construction: subject+modal verb+infinitive.
5. There is just one negative marker (not) for all the modal verbs, which is placed between the modal auxiliary and the main verb, and there are clitical constructions such as can't.

6. When the English modal verbs are interrogated, they undergo subject-verb inversion.
7. English modal verbs can express all epistemic and non-epistemic types of modality.

Modals in Arabic and English: Contrastive Analysis

- Points of Convergence

1. Modal markers in both languages perform the same semantic functions of expressing all the required epistemic and non-epistemic modal meanings.
2. Both languages have their own lexical means of expressing all shades of modality.
3. Modal markers in both languages constitute a heterogeneous set of lexical items; some central, others are marginal; some specialized, others are not; some are auxiliary verbs, others are not.
4. Modals in the two languages share the morpho-syntactic properties of occupying clause-initial position, obligatorily followed by infinitival forms, and having no imperative derivatives. In addition, the basic finite/nonfinite contrast obtains in the two languages.
5. The rule that prohibits the co-occurrence of modal operators obtains in the two languages in that these operators are always mutually exclusive.
6. Modals are voice-neutral in both languages.
7. The function of code obtains in all the modal markers in the two languages.
8. In addition to the formalized set of modal markers, each language has extra lexical resources for the expression of different types of modality.
9. The central members of the set of modal operators in the two languages also function as tense and aspect indicators.
10. Some modal operators in the two languages do not have morphologically distinct present and past forms, other do.

- Points of Divergence

1. There are forty-one modal markers in SA belonging to four grammatical categories (N, V, Art, PP) against just one set of nine verbs in English.
2. Three of the four NICE (negation, inversion, code, emphasis) properties that characterize English modal markers do not obtain in SA. These are the properties of functioning as negative operators, inversion, and the occurrence in emphatic structures. These differences stem from the fact that the systems of negation, interrogation, and emphasis are entirely different in the two languages.
3. English and SA modals do not exhibit the same grammatical features regarding time reference.
4. The basic grammatical 'helping' functions that modal auxiliaries assume in English are irrelevant in SA. In addition, the VP component, obligatory to all English clauses, is not required in SA Nominal Clause. This means that in SA it is possible to modalize a clause without the need of the VP element. This is impossible in English whose central modal

operators belong to the verb category. This shows that contrasts in mood are by no way restricted to the V category.

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