



THE PARTICULARITY OF MODAL VERBS IN FRENCH

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 8 th February 2022 Accepted: 6 th March 2022 Published: 20 th April 2022	This article focuses on important aspects to consider when using modal verbs in French. The influence of modal verbs on the meaning of a sentence and the peculiarities of modal verbs are also illustrated.
Keywords: Modality, auxiliary verb, infinitive form, ambiguity, semantic forms.	

The concept of modality is extremely widely used in modern linguistics and, as a semantic category, is very diverse in terms of the form of expression of certain expressions and the combination of different meanings. The term modality refers to a semantic category that expresses a speaker's attitude towards the state expressed in a sentence. Modality in linguistics and philosophy is a phenomenon in which language is used to discuss possible situations [2:68]. For example, a modal expression might indicate that something is probably wanted or allowed. Modal expressions par excellence include modal auxiliaries such as "pouvoir", "devoir" or "vouloir"; modal additions such as "probabilité" or "condition"; and modal adjectives such as "imaginable" or "probable".

Thinking about modality, I. P. Kasparov says that there is no category of modality as a category in the pure grammatical sense. According to him, it would be appropriate to speak of modal quality of speech, and not of category of modality. T. P. Lomtev expresses a similar opinion with regard to this category. According to him, a grammatical category of a modal nature constitutes a subject, and not a modal grammatical category. Such ideas about modality are certainly not accidental. However, modal components have been identified in the sense of a myriad of natural language expressions, which are counterfeit, propositional, argumentative, habitual, and general. Modality in grammar and semantics refers to linguistic devices that indicate the degree of possibility, probability, precision, permissibility or prohibition of an event. In French, these concepts are generally represented by modal auxiliaries such as *pouvoir*, *devoir*, *vouloir*.

Martin J. Endley puts it this way about modality: The simplest way to explain modality is to say that it relates to the attitude of the speaker toward the situation in which he is speaking. Modality belongs to the predicative and is one of the main characteristics of any sentence that makes it a syntactic category. The conceptual modality of V.V. Vinogradov, from the point of view of the narrator, refers to the relationship of the content of a story to

reality (its actual execution is reported). There is an objective-modal meaning of truth/reality, a subjective modal value of reliability/probability, a predicative of possibility, impossibility, etc.

In French, we use the modal verb "pouvoir" to express the possibility at any time. However, in some cases, we can use the modal verbs above replacing them with maybe, apparently or probably. For example:

Ils pourraient être là maintenant.

Ils sont peut-être encore là.

Probablement le prix est élevé au Texas.

Au Texas, les prix peuvent être élevés.

In French, modal verbs are a broad concept and are still being studied by researchers. However, there are many issues to discuss in this area. Modal verbs in French are a small group of auxiliary verbs often used to express modality. [4:37]. The main French modal verbs are *pouvoir*, *devoir*, *vouloir*. Some verbs are also classified as modal. Verbs do not reflect the properties of all major modal verbs, and they are sometimes called "semi-modal".

The independent verb after the modal verb is used directly in the infinitive. But unlike English, there are no exceptions in French. The modal verb *pouvoir* designates the action, the possibility, the ability to perform an action, and is used in the present and the future.

Je peux le faire maintenant. Il peut le faire maintenant.

2) You can also use "*être capable*" after the main verb instead of to be able. "*être capable*" is the equivalent of the modal verb *pouvoir*, which is used in the present, the past and the future.

Je peux le faire = je suis capable de le faire.

Je pouvais le faire = j'étais capable de le faire.

Pouvoir is used in the negative form when saying that something cannot happen. In other words, the negative form is created using the negative charge.

Vous avez seulement dîné. Vous ne pouvez pas avoir faim.



3) The verb *pouvoir* is also used in infinitive and interrogative sentences, and means that the action the interlocutor is talking about, which has actually taken place, cannot take place.

Il ne peut pas l'avoir fait.

Peut-il l'avoir fait?

4) *Pouvoir* + V represents the ability to perform an action in the past tense. He could swim very well when he was young.

5) *Pouvoir* is used in the following sentence of a preposition that is in the past tense of a preposition.

a) *Pouvoir* + V is used in the assimilation sentence when we convert the quote sentence used into an assimilation sentence. *Il a dit qu'il pouvait parler français.*

b) *Pouvoir* + have + P.P. when we convert a quote sentence used into an assimilation sentence, the assimilation sentence is *pouvoir* + *avoir* + P.P. used. *J'ai dit qu'il n'aurait pas pu le faire.*

The modal verb *devoir* represents a mixed assumption of responsibility, necessity, obligation, strict command, and trust under the influence of a particular force.

The equivalents of the modal verb *devoir* having the same meaning are *falloir, avoir besoin, être obligé*, which can be used instead of the modal verb *duty*. *Baring, à cause du genre de travail qu'il exerçait, avait été obligé d'oublier de se faire des amis. Je sentais qu'il fallait que j'aie l'air.*

1. *Devoir* - translated as necessary, means action in the present and the future. *Je dois le faire maintenant. Je dois y aller demain.*

2. *Avoir* + V also expresses the need for a certain force, but this combination is not used to express commands and advice. [1:28]

Je dois le faire maintenant = je suis obligé de le faire maintenant.

Il doit y aller demain = Il lui faut y aller demain.

Unlike English, the verbs and verbal devices mentioned above are used to express need in both past and future: *Je devais y aller. Je devrai le faire.*

4. *Devoir* is used to express an assumption that the speaker thinks is correct. *Vous devez le prendre lorsque le vendeur vous l'a donné.*

Devoir, falloir, être obligé are also used to express the hypothesis of the present and the past. *Il doit connaître son adresse. Il leur a fallu oublier de nous envoyer une copie du télégramme avec leur lettre.*

1. In addition, these modal verbs represent a moral *devoir* or advice in the present and the future. *Il devrait aider son ami. Tu devrais être plus prudent.*

2. It belongs to the past and is used in the sense of scolding and scolding when a person fails in his duty or behaves inappropriately: *Vous auriez dû le faire hier. Il aurait dû envoyer ce câble.*

3. The interrogative form of the modal verb *devoir* is also formed by bringing the modal verb *duty* before the possessive: *Dois-je y aller?*

4. The modal form of this modal verb is, as always, made with the preposition *ne... pas*: *Je ne dois pas y aller.*

5. The modal verb *devoir* can be used in modern French both as a modal verb function and as a non-modal direct verb function. This modal verb means necessary. It is mainly used for interrogation and denial. The synonym is to be necessary.

Ne pas avoir besoin is used in the past tense, but it is also used when there is no need to act. *Tu n'as pas besoin d'être venu si tôt.*

The verb *avoir besoin* can also be a basic verb, and it is translated as necessary and, like other basic verbs, is used in the present, past and future. *Vous avez besoin d'un long repos. Nous avons terriblement besoin du dictionnaire. J'aurai besoin de vos conseils.*

The verbs *avoir besoin, être obligé* are used as the main verb, followed by "de". *Mon ami a besoin d'apprendre l'espagnol.*

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