

Double Modal Structures

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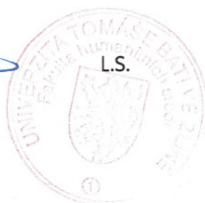
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ABSTRAKT

Cieľom tejto bakalárskej práce je popísať správanie a vlastností dvojitéch modálov vyskytujúcich sa v určitých anglických dialektoch a ich porovnanie s modálnymi slovesami používanými v štandardnej angličtine. Práca opisuje sémantické, morfológické a syntaktické vlastnosti oboch. Ďalej táto práca poskytuje prehľad súčasných teórií, ktoré sa týkajú správania dvojitéch modálov a vysvetľujú ich neštandardné používanie.

Kľúčové slová: Modálne slovesá, dvojité modály, kombinácie dvojitéch modálov, deontická modalita, epistemická modalita, negácia, inverzia, operátor, teória

ABSTRACT

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to describe behaviour and properties of double modals which occur in certain English dialects and their comparison with modal verbs used in the Standard English. The thesis describes semantic, morphological and syntactic properties of both of them. Then the thesis gives an overview of present theories that refer to the behaviour of double modals and explain its non-standard use.

Keywords: Modal verbs, double modals, double modal combinations, deontic modality, epistemic modality, negation, inversion, operator, theory

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INTRODUCTION

This thesis is called Double Modal Structures which means that there are two modals in the clause in contrast to the Standard English which allows only one modal to be involved in the clause. Modal verbs are always in the operator position, and they express both a modality and a tense. There is no option for them to occupy the V position. But, double modals are a special phenomenon which is defying the basics of English language. And there the question concerning their properties arises. Are they even grammatical in contrast to the Standard English modals? Another important issue concerning the syntax that would be discussed in this thesis is if there is only one operator in the double modal combination or both modals serve as an operator simultaneously. Last but not least, is it possible for modal in the combination to stand in V position? The main task of this thesis is to find out which properties are similar and to display how the behaviour of single modals in the Standard English may differ from the double modal combinations.

This thesis is divided into the three chapters. First part focuses on the behaviour of single modals which appear in the Standard English. Their morphological, semantic, and syntactic properties are presented in this chapter. The following two chapters are associated with the main topic of this thesis. Detailed analysis of the combinations of various English dialects will be provided in the second chapter together with semantic, morphological and mainly syntactic properties possessed by double modal combinations. Last but not least, the third chapter will be focused on main theories and analyses which had been done in connection with the structure of the double modal constructions. The thesis focuses on standard modal behaviour in contrast to non-standard double modal behaviour throughout the paper.

1 MODAL VERBS IN ENGLISH – STANDARD BEHAVIOUR

Verbs in English create a large group in terms of parts of speech. Group of Vs has its own syntactic, semantic and morphological properties. There are many divisions of verbs in the English language. Probably the best-known distribution by Quirk is divided into one open and two closed classes of verbs – LEXICAL (full) verbs (*speak*) belongs to the open class of verbs, and AUXILIARY (primary) verbs (*be, have, do*) with MODALS (*will, might*) belong to closed class¹ (Quirk et al. 1985, 96).

Verbs in auxiliary function (MODALS and AUXILIARIES) can also be called as “helping” verbs. As was mentioned, the first group of AUXILIARY verbs (AUXs) and second MODALS *can, may, will, shall, could, might, would, should, must* belong to this category. MODALS (MODs) are not capable of behaviour as a lexical verb with all properties which this group has, because they differ in some parts of their morphology, semantics, and syntax. They are called MODAL AUXILIARIES (MOD/AUX). On the other hand, AUXs can behave as LEXICAL (LEX) under some conditions (Quirk et al. 1985, 120).

Probably the best-known division of modal auxiliaries taken from Douglas Biber’s Grammar of Spoken and Written English (1999):

- **Central modals (auxiliaries)** – This group includes nine of them, and these are: *can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would*.
- **Marginal modals (auxiliaries)** – They can both operate as lexical verbs and modal verbs. This group contains: *dare (to), need (to), ought to* and also *used to*.
- **Semi-modals** – This group of multi-words is related to modal auxiliaries because of their meaning: *have to, be supposed to, be going to*.

(Biber et al. 1999, 73).

Semantic, morphological and also syntactic properties of central MODs, marginal MODs and also Semi-MODs differ from lexical verbs. The following subchapters will display and explain these differences (Machová 2013, 93-96).

¹ Quirk et al. (1985) states the name *MODAL verbs*, but in fact they are not MODAL VERBS at all (Quirk et al. 1985, 96).

1.1 Semantics of Modals

As was mentioned, semantic properties of MODs are not similar to LEX. Because MODs serve as “helping” grammatical words without lexical meaning (they have only grammatical meaning) - they do not assign semantic roles, and because of this fact, they cannot stay alone. They express modal meaning. At this point is essential to compare MOD with AUX only. AUXs do not assign semantic role because of deficiency of lexical meaning, but they can have many forms in the term of the verbal paradigm. MODs express only modality (Veselovská 2017, 104).

- (1) *Be – am, is, are* = Verbal paradigm of AUX “be”

In terms of semantic properties of MODs is necessary to look at the types of modality that exist among the modals. There are two types called DEONTIC and EPISTEMIC modality. Each MOD in English can express both modalities (Veselovská 2017, 104-105).

MODs are evaluated as “unmarked for tense” even though they and mainly their modality can be reflected in the grammar (Biber et al. 1999, 485; Veselovská 2017, 105). Comparing deontic and epistemic modality that occurs with MODs can be quite ambiguous in the present tense. On the other hand, past tense in cooperation with MODs provides proper distinction in the case of some MODs (Veselovská 2017, 105).

- (2) *She **must** be there.* - This example is ambiguous because of present tense.

1.1.1 Deontic Modality (Intrinsic)

This modality expresses a duty, obligation, permission, order, ability, prohibition even intention (Biber et al. 1999, 485-86).

Deontic modality refers to actions that are performed by people, and that’s why these actions can be controlled (Biber et al. 1999, 485).

- (3) *I **can’t** go there because of the traffic sign.* - Someone has no right to go somewhere because the law prohibits it.

Deontic modality expressed in grammar: (Veselovská 2017, 105).

- (4) *She **had** to be there yesterday.*

Deontic *must* should express the past tense, but there is a problem because *must* does not create its past form and that's why it has to be replaced as (4) shows. *Must* is replaced by AUX *have* and is followed by a to-infinitive (Veselovská 2017, 105)

1.1.2 Epistemic Modality (Extrinsic)

Probability, certainty, possibility, prediction and logical necessity can be expressed by epistemic modality (Biber et al. 1999, 485-86).

(5) *It must be 3 o'clock.* - It is sure that is exactly 3 o'clock.

Epistemic modality is used to refer to the logical status of states or events. These are very often connected with assessments of likelihood (Biber et al. 1999, 485).

Epistemic modality expressed in grammar:

(6) *She must have been there yesterday.*

(Veselovská 2017, 105).

As illustrated, epistemic *must* does not carry any tense feature. Perfect aspect is attached to the infinitive of the main verb in the sentence as the perfect infinitive (Veselovská 2017, 105). MODs can create pairs that are similar in the meaning, for example, *can, could*.²

Each MOD expresses a set of meanings. Each MOD can also express either deontic or epistemic modality. These will be shown on the examples with comments on them.

Can/Could

Expresses the ability, permission and possibility. In some cases, "can" may express future possibility (Quirk et al. 1985, 221-22).

(7) *I can/could play on the piano very well.* - Ability

² Each of these pairs can be used (under certain circumstances) to sever between non-past time and past time. *Could, might, should, would* mostly refer to past tense while MODs such *can, may, shall, will* generally refer to non-past time. But, this is not the rule, it is possible to group them into these pairs with past or present referring. Example of not matching with past tense is MOD "could" that can be used for expressing politeness (Biber et al. 1999, 484-85).

- (8) *Yes, you **can** go there.* - Permission
 (9) *She **can/could** be there right now.* - Possibility

May/Might

Stand for possibility and permission. Possibility which can be expressed by the MOD “can” differ from the possibility that is expressed by the MOD “may”. In the case of permission “may” is more formal in contrast to “can”. “May” is related to the speaker’s permission. “Might” is considered to be a politer version of “may” (Quirk et al. 1985, 223-24).

- (10) *You **may** be wrong.* – Epistemic modality
 (11) *You **may** use my pen if you want.* – Deontic modality

Must

Expresses (logical) necessity. It can also be called “epistemic necessity”. Obligation is another meaning which can be expressed by MOD “must” (Quirk et al. 1985, 224-25).

- (12) *It **must** be 3 o’clock.* - Epistemic modality
 (13) *He **must** stay at home.* – Deontic modality

Need

AUX “need” is used in the negative form and also like the question form of the MOD “must” (Quirk et al. 1985, 226).

- (14) ***Needn’t** he stay in the hospital?* – Deontic modality

Ought to/ Should

Marginal MOD “ought to” can be used in the same way as central MOD “should”. They express tentative inference and obligation. “Should” can also be used in the case of the giving some advice. In general, both of them represent the authority of the speaker. “Ought to” can express both deontic and epistemic modality (Quirk et al. 1985, 227).

- (15) *You **ought to** stay with him.* – Deontic modality
 (16) *You **should** stay with him.* – Deontic modality
 (17) *The next city **should/ought to** be Bologna.* – Epistemic modality

Will/Would

They express prediction – present, future and habitual predictive meaning. They also stand for volition. This volition includes intention, willingness, and insistence (Quirk et al. 1985, 228-29).

- (18) *I **will** call as soon as possible.* – Epistemic modality
- (19) *I **will** take it if you need it.* – Deontic modality
- (20) *That **would** be her bag.* – Epistemic modality

Shall

It has only two uses. It serves as a prediction with the first-person subject only, and the same condition is valid for the second meaning - volition. In the formal style, “will” can be replaced by “shall”. In the case of questions containing this MOD, “shall” can express obligation or wishes of the addressee (Quirk et al. 1985, 229-30).³

- (21) *It looks like it will rain. **Shall** I take an umbrella with us?* – Deontic modality
- (22) *We **shall** never run away!* – Deontic meaning
- (23) *We **shall** listen to our president.* – Deontic meaning
- (24) *According to her opinion, I **shall** be the first.* - Epistemic modality (Machová 2015, 50)

1.2 Morphological Properties of Modals

Morphological properties of MODs differ from lexical verbs in all aspects (Machová 2013, 93-96).

Subject-Verb Agreement

Standard English uses morpheme –s that is attached to the verb as a suffix in the case of 3rd person singular. But this phenomenon is connected with LEX in the present tense. LEX agrees with the subject in the person and the number. MODs differ from LEX in their

³ Nowadays, “shall” is used marginally, only in the case of referring to the future or future predictions. In this case “shall” expresses epistemic modality (Machová 2015, 50).

absence of the morpheme *-s* in the third person singular. It means that there is lack of subject-verb agreement (Machová 2013, 93).

(25) *Naomi wants Ben as her boyfriend.*

(26) **Naomi want Ben as her boyfriend.* – The suffix *-s* is missing

As illustrated by the examples above, verb cannot be used without the suffix *-s* because the sentence would not be grammatical (26) (Machová 2013, 93). AUXs allow for agreement (Machová 2013, 95-96).

(27) *She does not need it.*

Subject agrees with AUX because the *subject-verb agreement* is presented.

As was mentioned this suffix cannot be used in case of MODs. Central and marginal MODs lack verbal morphology (28) (Veselovská 2017, 106).

(28) **Naomi cans/ musts/ wills swim.*

All options are incorrect because of the impossibility to attach *-s* to MODs.

MOD cannot be combined with tense as well as with any form of verbal paradigm (infinitive, past, past participle, present participle). This is a significant difference between MODs and LEX (29), (30) (Veselovská 2017, 106; Machová 2013, 94).

(29) **To must - *musted - *musten - *musting*

(30) *To go – went – gone – going*

(Machová 2013, 94).

But, there is a possibility of MODs to create the combinations with the verbs that follow after them. These verbs are marked for aspect and voice and it means that they are allowed to carry perfect aspect, progressive one as well as passive. Example (31) can prove this statement (Biber et al. 1999, 497).

(31) *It would have been better for us.*

This is the combination of MOD with the verb carrying perfect aspect.

In terms of AUX it is different because they have many forms which agree with the subject (Veselovská 2017, 106).

- (32) *Naomi is swimming.* – Subject agrees with the operator.

Tense

All the information provided about MODs in the present tense are the same in the case of MODs in the past tense. The suffix *-ed* referring to past tense cannot be attached to MOD, what is visible in the example (33). But, there are some of them that refer to the past by itself. For example, *could* or *would* (Veselovská 2017, 106).

- (33) **Naomi musted read a book.*
(34) *Naomi could/would stop with that.*

Some MODs are able to express either past or present tense without attaching of suffixes. Example (34) shows reference to the past. *Would/Could* may be predominantly used to express past tense, but this is not the rule. On the other hand, *can* or *will* are used in connection with present tense (Veselovská 2017, 106).

Aspect

In English, there are two of them, called: PROGRESSIVE and PERFECTIVE. The way how aspect works with LEX is apparent. Not only LEX but also AUXs allow both aspects. Aspect does not work only with MODs. None of the MODs has aspect either perfective or progressive (37) (Veselovská 2017, 106).

- (35) *Naomi has done it.* – Perfective aspect
(36) *They are swimming all the time.* – Progressive aspect
(37) **Naomi is canning swim.* – MOD does not have aspect.

Voice

There are two types of voice in English. Active and passive voice. Passivization is not possible with neither – MODs nor AUXs (Veselovská 2017, 106).

- (38) **Many cakes canned/ musted by several people.*

1.3 Syntactic Properties of Modals

In terms of syntax, it is necessary to mention that predicate in the English language is analytic. This term deals with how many elements (e.g., verbs) and also their types are part of the predicate. The maximum number of elements that may be involved in the predicate is five. But, these cannot be organized in any word order. They have their structure. This structure contains **operator position** that is the first position in the predicate, and other positions are called **V positions**. Up to four elements may stand in V position within the whole predicate plus one operator. So, this structure allows five verbal elements in the predicate in total. Quirk's Predicate model is composed of five elements – Modal, Perfect, Progressive, Passive and Lexical. This model is the morphological pattern (39) (Veselovská 2017, 108-10).

(39) *It MOD**will** PERFhave PASSbeen PROGbeing LEXdone.*

“**Will**” is in the operator position and other *verbs are in four possible V positions*.

There is a 2-slot Syntactic Predicate model based on NICE properties (from a syntactic point of view). It contains operator position and one or more AUXs or Vs (Veselovská 2017, 110).

(40) *It **will/can** have been being done.*

Operator Vs

Operator position is also known as **AUX/MOD position**. **Modals** (central, marginal) always appear in operator position. AUXs and Vs follow them in the clause. **Auxiliaries** (*do, be, have*) differ from MODs in terms of their ability to stand either in V position or in the operator position. **Lexical verbs** can only appear in V position in comparison with MODs that are always in operator position (Veselovská 2017, 108-11).

MOD:

(41) *I **will** do this.* – Proper word order

(42) **I do **will** this.* – Operator (MOD) has to stand first in the predicate

(43) *The cake **will** be baked.* – “Will” is in the operator position.

(44) *The cake **should** be baked.*

AUX:

- (45) *The cake **has** been baked.*
 (46) *The cake **is** being baked.*
 (47) *She **does** bake the cake.*

The operator needs to be presented in each clause. But, not always the operator must be visible. Sometimes, the operator could be hidden or silent. This type of operator is called DUMMY DO. This phenomenon is also known as “*do-insertion, do-support*”. It is related to the AUX “*do*” in declarative sentences. In this case, operator is hidden, but it is still presented in the clause (Veselovská 2017, 108-109).

- (48) *I work in Bratislava.* – Operator is hidden, but it is still presented in the clause
 (49) *I **do** work in Bratislava.* – Operator is visible

1.3.1 NICE Properties

Presence of operator in each clause can be proved by NICE properties concerning elements in this position. Each letter represents one of them.

N = Negation

I = Inversion

C = Coda = question tags

E = Ellipsis = short answers

If the operator is silent as in the example (48) these properties can be used as proof that operator is still presented in the clause. It involves question tags, questions, negative sentences (Veselovská 2017, 110-11). LEX differ from MODs in all their syntactic properties for example, in subcategorization or in terms of operator (Machová 2013, 94).

- (50) *I **do** work in Bratislava.* – Emphatic function
 (51) *I **don't** work in Bratislava.* - Negation
 (52) *I work in Bratislava, **don't** I?* – Question tags
 (53) ***Do** I work in Bratislava?* – Inversion
 (54) ***Does** she work in Bratislava? Yes, she **does**.* – Short answers

1.3.1.1 Negation

Clausal negation is carried out by insertion of negative particle “**not**” in English. Negation of operator is performed by the negative particle “**not**” which follows the operator

or by its contracted form “-n’t” which is attached to the operator (55). Lexical verbs are negated differently. The negative particle is not attached to the verb. This negation would be considered ungrammatical because LEX itself cannot be negated. Negation of LEX is performed by using DUMMY DO. This is shown in the examples (56), (57) (Veselovská 2017, 109-11).

(55) *I should **not**/ **shouldn't** be there.*

(56) **I **work not/workn't** in Bratislava.* - Ungrammatical negation of LEX – negative particle *not* has to be attached to the operator, not to the LEX. The operator is hidden in this example.

(57) *I **do not/ don't** work in Bratislava.* - This is the case of the using DUMMY DO.

(Veselovská 2017, 109-11).

1.3.1.2 Inversion

Word order in English declarative sentence is strictly fixed. In case of creation questions, SUBJECT is inverted with the OPERATOR. In contrast to MODALS, lexical verbs could not be inverted in the questions. AUXILIARY verb “do” can be used in inversion because there is an option for that operator to be hidden (Veselovská 2017, 108-11).

(58) ***Should I** work in Bratislava?*

(59) ****Work I** in Bratislava?* - Ungrammatical inversion of LEX – LEX cannot undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion, the only operator can do that.

(60) ***Does she** work in Bratislava?* - Inversion with using dummy do - The operator is hidden and LEX itself cannot be inverted.

1.3.1.3 Coda

= question tags. MODs differ from LEX in this property as well. MODs and AUXs can appear in question tags, but when it comes to LEX, this is not possible for them (Veselovská 2017, 110-11).

(61) *She **can** work in Bratislava, **can't** she?*

(62) *She **has been** swimming, **hasn't** she?*

(63) **She **works** in Bratislava, **works she not**?*

1.3.1.4 Ellipsis

= short answers. Operator appears in short answers (MOD, AUX) but this cannot be applied to LEX (Veselovská 2017, 109).

- (64) *She **can** work in Bratislava. – Yes, **she can**.*
 (65) *She **has** been swimming. – Yes, **she has**.*
 (66) **She **works** in Bratislava. – Yes, **she works**.*

NICE properties show the difference between LEX and operator, as was demonstrated on the examples. These characteristics proved by NICE properties stated that MODs and AUXs create another special group within the group of verbs (Veselovská 2017, 109).

Operator is unique. It means that in one predicate, only one operator could appear (Veselovská 2017, 111).

- (67) **The cake **should may** be baked.*

The structure in (67) is ungrammatical. However, these structures appear in some dialects, and it is called Double Modal Structures. Double Modals will be discussed in this thesis later.

1.3.2 Subcategorization

Subcategorization is a selection of proper phrases in order to make clause grammatical. Difference between LEX and MODs can also be observed in the case of subcategorization. LEX can be combined with NP, VP, PP, AP and even with the clause. On the other hand, MODs allow the only combination with bare VP (Machová 2013, 94).

LEX:

- (68) ***NP:** I need _{NP} [the book].*
***VP:** I need _{VP} [to be there].*
***PP:** I go _{PP} [to my house].*
***AP:** You look _{AP} [pretty].*
***Clause:** I realise _{CL} [that she will be there].*

MOD:

- (69) **NP:** *I can_{NP} [the play] very soon.
VP: I should_{VP} [be there].
PP: *I should_{PP} [to my house].
AP: *I may_{AP} [happy].
Clause: *It might_{CL} [that she will be there].

(Machová 2013, 94).

Only bare infinitives appear in case of MODs (70). Example (71) shows the inability of MOD to be followed by to-infinitive (Veselovská 2017, 87-88).

- (70) *She can swim.* – Central MOD with the bare infinitive
 (71) **She can to swim.* - Central MOD with infinitive

All these morphological and syntactic characteristics show that in fact, MODs are not verbs at all. They create a separate group of parts of speech (Machová 2013, 95).

This chapter introduced main properties possessed by MODs, and it also demonstrates differences between MODs and LEX. MODs always serve as operator and cannot stand in V position. On the other hand, LEX show opposite properties. They are unable to stand as the operator. Proof that MODs behave as operator demonstrate NICE properties. In the case, the operator is hidden there is DUMMY DO which undergoes all processes on behalf of MOD like inversion or negation. LEX could not be negated, undergo subject-auxiliary inversion or appear in a question tag. Differences between MODs and LEX are visible in semantics and morphology as well. MODs are not marked for aspect, voice, and tense. Suffixes *-s*, *-ed* cannot be attached to MOD but only to LEX. MODs express either deontic or epistemic modality while LEX express none of these two but lexical meaning. To sum it all up, LEX differ from MODs in all their properties.

2 DOUBLE MODAL STRUCTURES

The previous chapter focused on MODs and their syntactic, semantic and morphological properties in English. The first part of this thesis also deals with specific features of MODs in contrast to LEX. As was said in the previous section, MODs serve as operator in any case and the operator is unique in the clause. But there are **Double Modals**.

(72) *I might could have done it.* – Double Modals

These are attested in non-standard English, for example in the Scottish or Afro-American English. There are many other regions where these DMCs are used. Scotland and North of England are the regions in the United Kingdom where this phenomenon is most wide-spread. This non-standard phenomenon frequently appears in Southern United States English (SUSE) as well. DMCs may differ according to these regions (Novich I Moré 2016, 6).

Some differences can be observed in Scottish English compared with dialects in the North of England. These differences in terms of location will be discussed in the following subchapters in details.

2.1 Double Modal Combinations

The double modal combination means that two MODs are placed side-by-side in one clause. They create the combination or a phenomenon that does not belong to the grammar of the Standard English. Combinations may vary according to the area of their usage (Batistella 1995, 20). Ellison (2007a) refers to Fennell and Butters (1996) who claim that there are four main varieties where the DMCs are used. These are: Scotland and Northern England, the SUSE, Atlantic Creoles and African American Vernacular English (Ellison 2007a, 56).

Many authors examined the DMCs. Each of them provides approximately similar combinations of DMs, but the authors found out some differences among these combinations with respect to the area of their usage. These authors are: Di Paolo (1989), Boertien (1986), Mishoe and Montgomery (1994), Whitley (1975), Feagin (1979), Butters (1973), Pampell (1975), Coleman (1975), Hasty (2011) and others (Batistella 1995, 20; Hasty 2012, 1717). This list is created according to the first element in the DM combination.

Might - *Might could, might should, might would, might can, might ought, might will, might should ought, might had ought, might oughta, might better, might had better, might supposed to, might've used to, might woulda had oughta*

Must – *Must can, must could, must ought, must would, musta coulda*

May – *May can, may could, may will, may should, may ought, may would, may supposed to, may used to, may need to*

Should – *Should ought, should might*

Could might, can might, would might, ought to might, ought to should, better can, would better, might may.

(Batistella 1995, 20-21; Hasty 2012, 1717; Ellison 2007a, 57)

- (73) *I **might can** the next summer.*
- (74) *Those animals **must can** feel cold.*
- (75) *July said it **may can** snow.*
- (76) *I **should ought** to come right after that.*

2.1.1 Dialectal Differences

Concerning the differences in the location or dialects, combinations may vary in their structures. Not all MODs can stand as the second MOD in North of England English. The pattern of combination strictly used in these dialects is MOD + could/can (77). Scottish English allows for other MOD to appear as the second MOD in the combination. For instance, *would* or *should* (79) (Novich I Moré 2016, 7).

- (77) *He **might can** do it.* – MODAL + can/could = in North of England English
- (78) **He **can might** do it.* – Can/could + MODAL = not used in N. of England E.
- (79) *He **might should** do it.* – Pattern allowed in Scottish English

On the other hand, SUSE allows more DMCs which are not acceptable in the Scottish English or North of England (Novich I Moré 2016, 9).

- (80) *I **may should** do it.* – Combination used only in the SUSE.

(Novich I Moré 2016, 10)

Might could is the most frequent combination in SUSE as well as in the Scottish and the Northern English. There is also combination *will can* that is considered to be archaic, and this one cannot be found in the SUSE (Novich I Moré 2016, 9). However, the occurrence of mentioned DMCs is not limited only to the SUSE. The north and the west of the United States are other areas where the speakers use them (Batistella 1995, 20).

(81) *I might could go there.* – The most frequent DMC in all dialects.

(82) *I will could go there.* – Combination used only in Scottish and Northern English.

(Novich I Moré 2016, 10)

2.2 Double Modal Constructions

The origin and development of DMCs are unclear. Hasty (2012) in his re-analysis picks over an approach taken from Montgomery and Nagle (1993) and Nagle (1994) regarding the history of DMCs. It says that the DMCs came with Scottish people (Hasty 2012, 1717). His publication also states the pragmatics of DMCs that was analysed in Mishoe and Montgomery (1994). These authors claim that DMCs are used for “hedging, politeness, being noncommittal, and expressing certainty without wanting to show certainty.” (Hasty 2012, 1717). Batistella (1995) in his work refers to Mishoe and Montgomery (1994) who noted that the DMCs are mostly used in the case of negotiation and the situations when people need to maintain their “positive face” (Batistella 1995, 21-22).

The DMCs are considered to be language of the poor or working class (Novich I Moré 2016, 5). Hasty (2011) states some differences which concern the age and level of education in his research. It is said that DMCs are used by people from lower spheres, and more importantly that this phenomenon is mainly used and accepted by the retired people and the younger respondents. The middle-aged respondents showed “very low acceptance of double modals.” The higher the education, the lower frequency of usage the DMCs (Hasty 2011, 97).

2.2.1 Semantics and Modality

Question concerning the hierarchy of a deontic and epistemic modal arises when the DMCs appear. According to the position in the DM construction, MOD which stands as the first in the combination is EPISTEMIC (possibility, probability, certainty) and the second

MOD is claimed to be DEONTIC (ability, volition, advisability). Deontic meaning is also known as “root” meaning (Dubinsky, Elsmann 2009, 99).

(83) *She **might can** go.* – epistemic (possibility) + deontic (ability)

Epistemic MODs are *might, may, must*, and these always have to stay in the first position in DM combination, and they are always EPISTEMIC. Deontic MODs are *could, would, should, will, and can* and these MODs as the second in the DMC are always DEONTIC (Dubinsky, Elsmann 2009, 102).

(84) *Mary **may could** take her out.* – epistemic + deontic

MODs in combination are arranged according to the pattern – EPISTEMIC + DEONTIC modality. This arrangement suggests that epistemic MOD is taking scope over deontic MOD (Ellison 2007a, 87).

English does not allow the combination epistemic + epistemic MOD. This combination would not be grammatical (85) (Novich I Moré 2016, 4).

(85) **Mary **must might** take her out.* – epistemic + epistemic

(86) *Mary **might can** take her out.* – epistemic + deontic

The semantic interpretation would be: “It is *possible* that Mary *is able* to take her out” (Dubinsky, Elsmann 2009, 99).

(87) *I **should ought to** bring it to her.* – deontic + deontic

Semantic interpretation is: “I feel quite obligated to bring it to her” (Ellison 2007a, 59).

(88) *Mary **might could** run as a jaguar.* – epistemic + deontic

Might expresses weak probability it means that there is very low probability of doing this action. *Could* expresses the sense of ability. Semantic interpretation is: “It is *possible* that Mary *would be able* to run as a jaguar” (Bour 2015, 45-46).

(89) *Mary **must wouldn't** take her out.* – epistemic + deontic + negation

The semantic interpretation would be: “**Surely** Mary does not **have the intention/inclination** to take her out (Dubinsky, Elsmann 2009, 99).

(90) *Could you **might** get closer to her?*

Semantic interpretation of this sentence is: “It is *possible* (might) that you *will be able* (could) to get closer to her?” (Bour 2015, 49).

(91) *She **may not even can** get closer to her.* – epistemic + deontic

There are two semantic interpretations for this sentence because of the negation:

“It is *possible* that she is *even unable* to get closer to her.”

“It is *possible* that she *will even be unable* to get closer to her.”

(Bour 2015, 48).

It was said, that the combination of two epistemic MODs is ungrammatical (92). But, there is combination *might may* in the Southern US variety that is not considered to be ungrammatical (Ellison 2007a, 58).

(92) *She **might may** go with me.* – epistemic + epistemic

The semantic interpretation would be: “I guess that it is possible that she will go with me.” (Ellison 2007a, 58).

Bour (2015) in his paper speaks about the order of MODs in the combination: “It depends on the social and cultural contexts in which a modal combination is used.” (Bour 2015, 46). It means that there is no strict pattern for MODs used in the combination. Some possible inversions in terms of switching the MODs in combination instead of using them in their usual arrangement are stated there. He refers to the examples presented by Butters (1996) and Coleman (1975), who claim that dialectal interpretation can be broader because of these semantic orderings. It means that one semantic combination can possess more than one fixed order (Bour 2015, 46). Ellison (2007a) has also mentioned this particular phenomenon with respect to Coleman (1975) who found some different arrangement of DM constructions of some North Carolina speakers. These unordinary arrangements are: *can might*, *could might*, *ought to might*, *should might*, *would might*. In terms of the order, it means that epistemic MOD is exchanged with deontic MOD in combination (Ellison 2007a, 59). The example (94) shows how the obligation is stressed.

(93) *Of course, she **ought to might** take her out.* – deontic + epistemic

- (94) A) *We **might ought to** run.* - B) *Yes, we **ought to might** run now.* (Ellison 2007a, 59)

There are many fixed combinations of DMs used in dialects. Generally, most combinations are created from epistemic + deontic MODs. But, some of them also allow special combinations that are not ordinary. Two epistemic or two deontic MODs in the combination can be also found here. Moreover, some speakers allow opposite arrangement (deontic + epistemic) of MODs in combination (Ellison 2007a, 59).

2.2.2 Morphology

In terms of morphology, DMC is basically the same as in the case of single MOD construction. None of the sources indicates the option that verb after the DMs can be marked by 3rd person singular in the sentence (97). However, it is possible to attach *have* in its contracted form to some second MODs (could) in order to create present perfect tense. This is not allowed in the case of some MODs like *can*. This attachment is called “aspectual agreement” or “aspectual affixation” (Dubinsky, Elsmann 2009, 100).

- (95) *She **might could've** been done.*
 (96) **She **might can've** been done.*
 (97) **She **might could** sings.*

The rule described above is applicable for the expressing of tenses. The suffix *-ed* that is used to express past tense is not allowed to be attached either to MOD or LEX (Ellison 2007a, 84).

- (98) **She **might can** played the game.*

2.3 The Syntax of Double Modals

As far as syntax is concerned, syntactic properties of DMCs may be the best demonstrated on the combination *might could*. This is the best known and the most general combination of all the possible variations. This part of chapter 2 will focus on inversion, negation, question tag, tenses and placement of adverbs (Batistella 1995, 22-23).

2.3.1 Subject-auxiliary Inversion

Concerning the inversion in questions, in contrast to MODs in the Standard English, DMCs are allowed to be inverted in questions in two possible ways (Hasty 2012, 1718).

Firstly, subject-auxiliary inversion is allowed only for the second MOD in the combination (100) (Hasty 2012, 1718).

(99) *You **might could** do this for me.*

(100) ***Could** you **might** do this for me?*

Secondly, both MODs in the combination can be inverted together (without changing the order of MODs in combination) in order to create a question (Hasty 2012, 1718).

(101) ***Might could** you do this for me?*

The first MOD in the DMC cannot be inverted in any way in the SUSE dialect. This kind of inversion will be considered as ungrammatical (Hasty 2012, 1718).

(102) ****Might** you **could** do this for me?*

The behaviour of DMCs in the WH questions is similar to the behaviour of yes/no questions. Only the second MOD can be inverted in question. The first MOD is not capable of the inversion in questions at all. There are no data collected about the inversion of both MODs together in the subject-auxiliary inversion concerning the WH questions (Hasty 2012, 1719).

(103) *How **could** you **might** say that?*

(104) **How **might** you **could** say that?*

(105) *?How **might could** you say that?*

In terms of inversion, some MODs in the DMCs can be considered as the preferred ones in the process of subject-auxiliary inversion. As illustrated by the examples above, *could* is more often inverted in question instead of both MODs together in the combination *might could* (103). These preferences depend on dialects in which the DMCs are used. Ellison (2007a) refers to Close's research (2004) in Tennessee. This research proved that there is the

opportunity for the first modal to undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion. Although the meaning of the sentence varies according to which MOD participates in the subject-auxiliary inversion (Ellison 2007a, 60).

(106) *What **might** we **could** do today?* – The semantic interpretation of this sentence is: “What should we do today?”

(107) *What **could** we **might** do today?* – The semantic interpretation of this sentence is: “Should we do something this day? If so, what?”

When it comes to the combination *might would*, the second MOD *would* is more likely to be inverted in subject-auxiliary inversion (Battistella 1995, 24). Acceptance of the inversion both MODs together in question is very low (Ellison 2007a, 61).

(108) ***Would** you **might** do this for me?*

Might should is inverted in questions in according to the second option that is allowed for DMCs. It means that both MODs are inverted together (Battistella 1995, 24).

(109) ***Might should** you do this for me?*

Inversion of both MODs together in the *might ought to* is not accepted by most respondents. Only the inversion of the second MOD is allowed (Ellison 2007a, 61).

(110) ***Might she ought to** do this for me?*

(111) ***Might ought** you to do that?* (Ellison 2007a, 61).

2.3.2 Question Tags

The second MOD in the DMC is used for formation of question tags. This is the only possible way how to create the question tag. Neither the first MOD nor both of them together cannot be used for this process (Battistella 1995, 23-24).

(112) *You might could do this for me, **couldn't** you?*

(113) **You might could do this for me, **mightn't** you?*

(114) **You might could do this for me, **might couldn't** you?*

2.3.3 Negation

As it was in the case of subject-auxiliary inversions, there are also two types of negation used for the DMCs. The negative particle *not* can either follow the second MOD, or it can be placed between the two MODs in DMC. The contracted form *-n't* can be attached only to the second MOD (Battistella 1995, 25). Negation in which both MODs are preceded by *not* is wholly excluded (Ellison 2007a, 61).

- (115) *You **might could not** do this for me.*
 (116) *You **might not could** do this for me.*
 (117) *You **might couldn't** do this for me.*
 (118) **You **mightn't could** do this for me.*
 (119) **You **not might could** do this for me.*

Negation as part of the NICE properties is a matter of strict rules in the Standard English. But, in the dialects in which the DMCs occur, it depends on the individual speaker. The type of negation used to negate the DMC usually depends on the specific combination (Ellison 2007a, 59).

Particular combinations may have some preferences in terms of their negation. In the combination “might would,” *not* is preferentially placed between the MODs. The contracted form of *not* (*n't*) cannot be attached to the second MOD at all. This is the significant difference between negation of *might could* and *might would* (Ellison 2007a, 61).

- (120) *He **might not would** go to the shop.*
 (121) **He **might wouldn't** go to the shop.*

This is the same in the case of *might ought to*. The preferred form of negation is *not* between the MODs, but *not* following the second MOD is not excluded. The contracted form *n't* is only allowed for the first MOD (Ellison 2007a, 61).

- (122) **I **might oughtn't** to go to the shop.*

Might should serves different properties. The contracted negative particle *n't* is usually attached to the second MOD, and its uncontracted form *not* mostly follows the second MOD as well (Ellison 2007a, 61).

(123) *I **might should not** go to the shop.*

(124) *I **might shouldn't** go to the shop.*

Moreover, dialect called Hawick Scots English uses particle *-nae* that is attached only to the first MOD in the combination. Standard English does not allow this type of negation. An equivalent used in the Standard English is *-n't* (Ellison 2007a, 59-60).

(125) *He **mightnae could** go to the shop.*

The second type of negative particle used in this dialect is *no*. An equivalent used in the Standard English is *not*. Ellison (2007a) refers to the Brown (1991) who says that *no* can be either between the two MODs or it may follow the second one. But it is important to mention that insertion of *no* “in each case taking scope over an appropriate part of the proposition” (Ellison 2007a, 60).

(126) *He **might no could** go to the shop.*

(127) *He **might could no** go to the shop.*

(128) *I **might shouldn't** worry about it, but I do.* (Bour 2015, 48)

a. Perhaps it is not necessary that I worry about it, but I do.

b. Perhaps I shouldn't worry about it, but I do.

(Bour 2015, 48)

The negative particle is never inverted in subject-auxiliary inversion together with the MOD. This is the same as in the Standard English that allows only one MOD per clause (Ellison 2007a, 62).

2.3.4 Tenses

As was said in the previous chapter, MOD can be used to express tenses. Each MOD can express morphological tense. For example, *could* can be used to express past tense. However, MODs in the DMC can be either “tense-mixed” or express precisely the past or the present tense. *Might could* is the combination that carries the past tense and *may can* carries the present tense. There are also combinations within those the present and the past tense are combined, for instance, *may could*. *May* usually expresses the present tense and *could* can be used as a representation of the past tense. The DMC with both MODs

expressing either the past or the present tense is more allowable in English, for instance, *might could* (Battistella 1995, 25-26).

- (129) *I **might could** do this.* – past + past = match
 (130) *I **may can** think about it.* – present + present = match
 (131) *I **may could** think about it.* – present + past = mixed

2.3.5 Placement of Adverbs and Quantifiers

It is said that adverbs or quantifiers can be inserted between the MODs in combination. First MOD in the DMC can be followed by sentential adverbs such as: *possibly, probably*. But these adverbs could also intervene after both MODs in combination (Dubinsky, Elsman 2009, 100).

- (132) *I **might possibly could** do that.*
 (133) *I **might could possibly** do that.*

It is not only the case of sentential adverbs. *Just, still* and others can also be inserted between two MODs (Battistella 1995, 24).

- (134) *I **may still could** do that.*
 (135) *I **might just couldn't** hear you.*

There are three options for placing quantifier *all* in the sentence. *All* can be placed between MODs in combination before both MODs in combination and also after them (Hasty 2012, 1728).

- (136) *We **might all could** do it.*
 (137) *We **all might could** do it.*
 (138) *We **might could all** do it.*

The second chapter solely focused on double modal combinations and their properties. These are similar to the single modal constructions with respect to morphology, syntax and semantics. Two MODs in the combination are presented in the clause, and each of them

expresses modality as it was in the case of single MODs. In general, first MOD in DMC expresses epistemic modality and the second one deontic. However, there are some exceptions described in this chapter.

In terms of negation, there are two ways of negation. The negative particle can be inserted between MODs in the combination, or it can follow the second MOD. Subject-auxiliary inversion is possible for both MODs together or only for second MOD. There are also some exceptions and preferences regarding inversion and negation.

3 ANALYSES AND THEORIES OF THE DOUBLE MODAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Many theories concerning the Double Modal Combinations were proposed. Each theory investigated double modals from a different point of view. Authors came up with many approaches that will be expressed in this chapter. Theories proposed for DMCs deal mainly with their syntactic properties from which authors drew possible conclusions concern the nature of Double Modals.

The basis of the first theory is the assumption that first MOD in the combination is an ADVERB. The second theory states the approach that the DMC is IDIOMATIC LEXICAL COMPOUND. The last approach will treat each MOD as an INDIVIDUAL AUXILIARY in the combination. This theory is the most recent one (Ellison 2007a, 64).

Novich I Moré (2016) refers to other authors who researched this topic: Nagle (1997), and Hasty (2012) (Novich I Moré 1016,12-14). Hasty in his paper (2012) discusses the theory established by Boertien (1986) which is also included in this chapter (Hasty 2012, 1721).

3.1 Approach I.

Battistella (1995) came up with the theory that MODs in the DMC are either “*spurious*” or “*true*”⁴. He claims that the first MOD is *spurious* (false, fake, deficient) and the second one is *true* (“true operator”, right). Meaning of the true MOD is “in construction with TENSE.” *Could* is supposed to be the true MOD in the DMC *might could* (Battistella 1995, 26).

However, there are the statements which deal with the syntactic behaviour of each MOD in the DMC. This can be considered as an idea that both of them are the operators = true MOD.

Could behave like a MOD in terms of inversion, question tag.

Might does not behave like a MOD in terms of inversion, question tag.

Might behave like a MOD in terms of negation.

Might could does not behave like a single lexical item modal regarding the adverbs, question tags, inversion (Battistella 1995, 25-26).

⁴ Terms coined by Battistella (1995) (Battistella 1995, 26).

He tries to explain his approach towards true and spurious MOD that *could* (considered as true MOD) undergoes subject-auxiliary inversion and it can also appear in question tag (Battistella 1995, 26).

Battistella (1995) states an approach that the first MOD in the combination is an ADVERB. Combination pattern for this type of theory is ADVERB + MODAL. The basis of this theory is the statement that the adverb can replace the first MOD in the combination. Many authors claim that the first MOD is only the adverb. Ellison (2007a) mentioned Labov (1972) who defended this approach and it is said that Labov (1972) was the first who introduced this idea (Ellison 2007a, 64; Peters 2016, 4).

This replacement of the first MOD in the combination was compared to the Standard English, where an adverb is allowed to precede the MOD (139) (Battistella 1995, 26).

(139) *I possibly could do this for you.* – Standard English

There is the combination *might could* in which the *might* matches the meaning of the adverb *maybe* (Novich I Moré 2016, 11).

(140) *I might could do this for you.*

(141) *I maybe/possibly could do this for you.*

However, this theory is struggling with its main problem regarding negation. In the DMC, the negative particle *not* is mostly inserted between the MODs (142) (Battistella 1995, 26). But in the case of example (143), *not* cannot precede the second MOD or even be attached to the adverb which should represent the first MOD in the combination (144). This issue is also connected with the Standard English because there is no possibility of placing the negative particle *not* before the MOD otherwise it will be an ungrammatical sentence (145). Example (146) shows the proper order of participants in the clause concerning the rules of the Standard English (Hasty 2014, 277).

(142) *I might not could do this.*

(143) **I maybe not could do this.*

(144) **I mayben't could do this.*

(145) **I not could do this.*

(146) *I really could not do this.*

Furthermore, some DMCs allow the subject-auxiliary inversion of the first MOD in the combination. If the first MOD in DMC was the adverb, it would not be even possible. An adverb cannot undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion. This is also another disadvantage of the theory treating the first MOD as an adverb. Ellison (2007a, 64) refers to the Boertien (1986) who stated the approach that the MODs in the DMC have to be auxiliaries. Firstly, this approach means that adverb cannot stand in operator position and secondly, the first MOD is not an adverb because it has to be AUX (Ellison 2007a, 64).

(147) **Probably* you ought to do that? (Ellison 2007a, 64)

3.2 Approach II.

The basis of this theory is the assumption that the DMC is only a lexical item or a compound. The author of this theory is Marianna Di Paolo (1989). Di Paolo (1989) compared the DMCs to idioms. Main arguments against this theory are based on the fact that idioms possess some fixed structure, and that's why there is an expectation that the MODs in the combination will be strictly held together (Hasty 2012, 1724). The DMC can be disjointed by adverbs and the quantifiers. According to the basic rule of DM negation, the negative particle *not* is also inserted between the MODs in combination. These separations of MODs show how improbable this theory, in fact, is (Ellison 2007a, 65).

(148) *We might all could do it.* – separated by quantifier

(149) *We might possibly could do it.* – separated by adverb

(150) *We might not could do it.* – separated by negative particle *not*

Hasty (2012) refers to Battistella (1995) who added the claim concerning the phrasal expressions and Di Paolo's comparing the DMC to the idioms. Battistella (1995) stated the example of "have to" construction, which cannot be divided into the two separated parts by adverb or the quantifiers (Hasty 2012, 1724).

(151) *We all have to eat.*

(152) **We have all to eat.*

Insertion of adverbs, quantifiers, and negative particles is not the only way how to separate the MODs in the DMC. The subject-auxiliary inversion is another way of their splitting (Ellison 2007a, 65).

(153) *Could you might do this for me?*

Hasty (2012) mentioned that Di Paolo (1989) had provided evidence concerning the structure of the combination which in fact should be correct in an explanation of the distribution of the DMC, it means referring to the sequences of tenses. Di Paolo (1989) stated an approach that the MODs in the combination should represent the same morphological tense. For instance, *might would* is the combination in which both MODs express only past tense and *may could* represents both the present (may) and also the past tense (could) in one combination. Di Paolo (1989) held the opinion that the combinations in which tenses are not the same should be considerate as ungrammatical. This claim is contradictory to the speakers' confirmation of their possible usage. The evidence provided shows incorrectness in her assumption that the MODs in the combinations are not idioms at all (Hasty 2012, 1724; Battistella 1995, 25).

3.3 Approach III.

Novich I Moré (2016) in her paper mentioned other theories and analyses of the DMC. Firstly, there is the theory from Nagle (1997) in which he mainly speaks about modality, negation and subject-auxiliary inversion of the DMCs (Novich I Moré 2016, 12).

He supports the idea, that MODs have to be organized in a particular way. The first MOD has to express epistemic modality and the second one deontic modality. It follows that combination pattern is supposed to be EPISTEMIC + DEONTIC modal.

According to Nagle (1997), both MODs in the DMC could be negated. The main idea introduced by this theory is that the meaning of the sentence will not be changed under no circumstances. Placing of the negative particle *not* either between the MODs or after the second one is not a reason for the possible change of meaning of the whole clause. The meaning should remain the same in both cases (154), (155) (Novich I Moré 2016, 12).

(154) *I **might couldn't** do this horrible homework.*

(155) *I **might not could** do this horrible homework.*

However, as was previously mentioned in this thesis, this is not the case of subject-auxiliary inversion. Meaning of the clause depends on which MOD in the DMC undergo this inversion (Ellison 2007a, 60).

Nagle (1997) analysed the process of subject-auxiliary inversion. He came up with the statement that only the second MOD is supposed to undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion. However, this statement failed because of evidence that both MODs can be inverted in subject-auxiliary inversion (Novich I Moré 2016, 12-13).

(156) *Could you might do this homework for me?*

(157) *Might could you do this homework for me?*

3.4 Approach IV.

This theory was discussed in Hasty (2012). Boertien's main idea (1986) is that there are two types of structure concerning the DMCs. More precisely, it means that:

1. STRUCTURE

1. Modal →	T position (operator)
2. Modal →	VP

Table 1 First Structure proposed for DMCs = Two Different Verbs (Hasty 2012, 1721)

Table 1 shows that one combination can have the first MOD in T position (operator) and the second one should occur as a VP. It follows that DMC should contain two different verbs. The first MOD is allowed to undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion (158), and also there is a possibility to attach negative particle on it (159) (Hasty 2012, 1721).

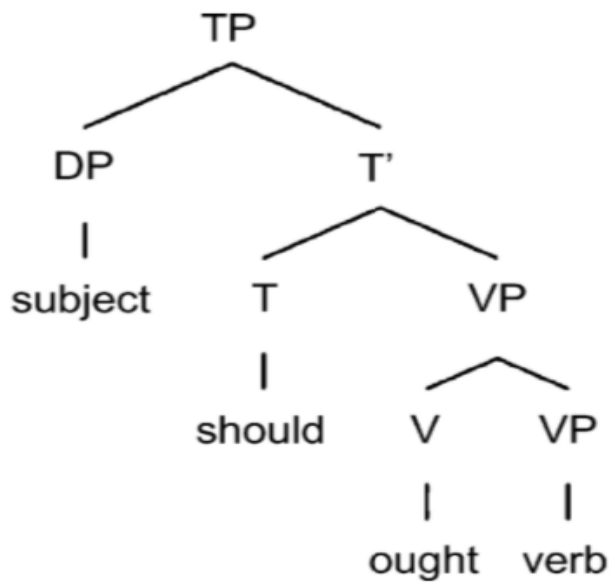


Figure 1 First Type of Clausal Structure (Hasty 2012, 1721)

(158) ***Should** you **oughta** do this for me?*

(159) *I **shouldn't** **oughta** do this for you.*

(Hasty 2012, 1721)

2. STRUCTURE

1. Modal	→	Under T position
2. Modal	→	Under T position

Table 2 The Second Structure proposed for DMCs = Single Verb (Hasty 2012, 1721)

Table 2 shows that both MODs can be under T position in the clause. It follows that DMC behaves as a single verb. The second type allows both MODs in the DMC to undergo subject-auxiliary inversion (160), but there is no possibility to attach negation to the first MOD (161) (Hasty 2012, 1721).

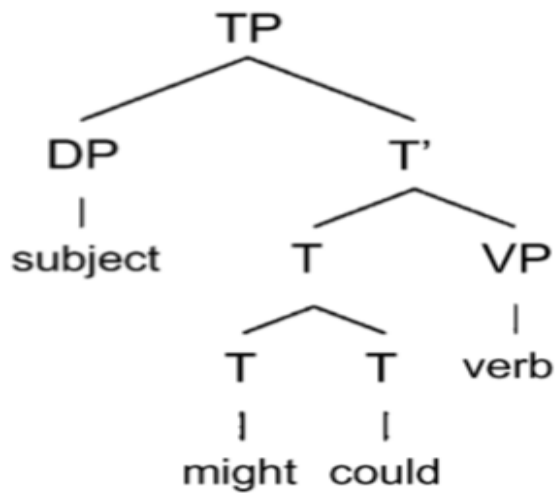


Figure 2 Second Type of Clausal Structure (Hasty 2012, 1721)

- (160) ***Might could** you do this for me?*
 (161) **I **mightn't** could do this for you.*

However, there are shortcomings concerning this theory. Firstly, how it is possible to introduce two structures for the DMC. It is needed to propose only one structure because of their similar syntactic properties. “An additional concern is with the economy of two different proposed structures for what is supposed to be the same construction.” (Hasty 2012, 1721). The second problem is the idea of both MOD being on the same level. The reason is that according to Standard English, there is only one operator per clause (Hasty 2012, 1721).

3.5 Approach V.

This theory treats each MOD in the DMC as a single auxiliary. Ellison (2007a) refers to the author Coleman (1975) who is supposed to be the first author who proposed this analysing of MODs in the DMC (Ellison 2007a, 65). Other authors tried to explain the behaviour of each MOD based on the assumption that these are the separate auxiliaries. Hasty (2012) tried to describe many theories and one of these is the Battistella’s theory (1991), (1995). This theory treats each MOD as the auxiliary and Hasty (2012) supports it with addition of his new ideas (Hasty 2012, 1725).

Battistella in his paper (1995) came up with the idea that MODs in the DMC are either *true* or *spurious*. *True* MOD is supposed to be the second one because of its ability to undergo the subject-auxiliary inversion and its participation as an element in the creation of

question tag (163) (Battistella 1995, 25-26). This MOD is located in T position in the clause (Hasty 2012, 1722). The *spurious* MOD is supposed to be the first MOD because of its inability to undergo subject-auxiliary inversion and appears in the question tag (164) (Battistella 1995, 25-26).

(162) *I **might could** do this.*

“*Spurious*” / “*True*” MOD

(163) ***Could** you **might** do this?* – The ability of second MOD to undergo inversion

(164) ****Might** you **could** do this?* – The inability of first MOD to undergo inversion

Just like previous theories, this theory is also problematic in some parts. In this case it is because of the issue concerning the placement of negative particle *not*, which may be inserted between the MODs in the DMC (165). But Battistella’s theory (1995) about *true* and *spurious* MODs presupposes that the second MOD is the *true* one and that’s why negation should be placed after the second MOD in the DMC (166). Battistella (1995, 25-26) assumes that, both MODs are capable of carrying the tense in some way and that the first MOD carries the morphological tense.

(165) *I **might not could** do this.* – Negation placed between MODs

(166) *I **might could not** do this.* – Negation placed after MODs

Hasty (2012) has stated that according to Battistella (1995) the first MOD is located above T position and what is the most important, this MOD creates its phrase, namely modal phrase (MP) that is inserted inside the TP. This MP is used to alter the whole T position.

This theory has many problematic parts and Battistella’s explanation (1995) of the DMs can be easily considered as similar to Labov’s idea (1972) that the first MOD is adverb (167) even though Battistella (1995) defends the idea that behaviour of the first MOD can be evaluated more like the behaviour of MOD instead of adverb (Hasty 2012, 1722-23).

(167) *I **might could** do this.* – The theory (see 3.1) that defends the idea of first MOD being ADVERB.

(168) *I **maybe could** do this.* – The same theory

Hasty (2012) was forced to continue with his research because of shortcomings of this theory. He extended and slightly changed this theory and shed light on some unexplained findings (Hasty 2012, 1723-24).

3.6 Approach VI.

English differs from many languages in its properties. The most visible differences are associated with morphology and order of elements in the clause (Hasty 2014, 282). Standard English allows only one MOD per clause, and this MOD is capable of expressing both the tense and the modality (Ellison 2007b, 3). It was said, that each MOD in the DMC expresses either epistemic or deontic modality, but some exceptions can also be found in these dialects where DMs appear, for instance, two deontic or two epistemic MODs together in the combination. However, there are theories which presuppose that one MOD in the DMC carries either modality or tense (tensed MOD) and the second MOD is supposed to carry also either modality or tense. Both the modality and the tense cannot be carried by one single MOD. Simply said each MOD in the combination expresses only one of them. It depends on which position they occupied (Hasty 2014, 278).

I might could do that.

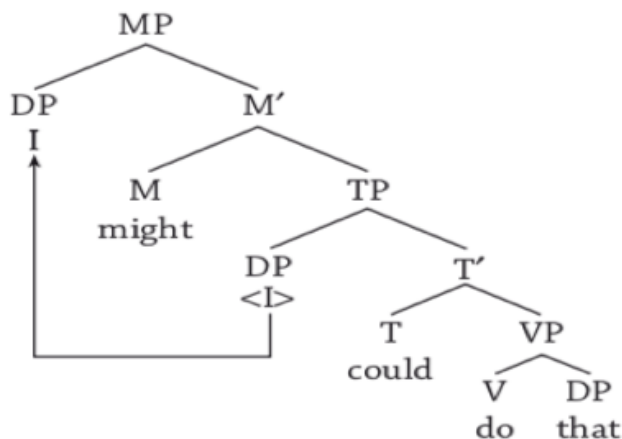


Figure 3 The Graphic Structure of Phrases Inside the Clause (Hasty 2014, 279)

Hasty (2014, 278) has released the theory called “The Merged MP Analysis” which differs from the previous one in an approach concerning the placement of MP.

Hasty (2012) mentioned in his paper Battistela’s idea (1995) that MP is inserted into the TP (Hasty 2012, 1722). However, he partially does not agree with this statement because he

tries to explain DMs based on the assumption that they are “separate heads with the first modal heading a Modal Phrase (MP) merged above the TP and the second modal located in T.” (Hasty 2014, 274). The new structure of phrases within the clause was proposed by him. According to Hasty (2012, 1728), the first MOD should serve “as a separate functional head above TP”.

As far as this theory is concerned, first MOD is viewed as “the head of a Modal Phrase” (Hasty 2014, 278). This statement is associated with the idea that MP can express modality, namely the epistemic one and that the MP “is merged with TP.” According to Hasty (2014, 278-80), the first MOD does not carry the tense in a proper sense and that’s why it is located higher in this structure (above TP) and because of it negation can be placed between MODs (169). Moreover, Hasty (2014, 278-80) claims that the second MOD is the head of the TP which carries the tense, and this is the reason for its possible inversion in questions (170). The first MOD is not supposed to be in the construction with syntactic tense because it is not placed in the operator position (Hasty 2014, 278-80).

(169) *I **might not could** do this.* – Negation can be placed between MODs

(170) ***Could** you **might** do this?* - Second MOD can undergo subject-auxiliary inversion.

However, Hasty (2012) claims that MODs can express tenses by themselves because of their structure. For example, MOD *might* is usually used in the sentences expressing past tense (Nowich I Moré 2016, 14). Peters (2016) refers to Hasty’s idea (2012) that the second MOD in the combination is the one which determines the tense (Peters 2016, 13).

There are other languages which are similar to the DMCs by its structure and way of expressing modality and tense. It means that the order is the same in the case of the DMC. For instance, Korean language allows modality to be expressed in first place in the clause and then, expressing of tense follows. Based on the evidence from another language, it can be considered as the possibility for MOD, namely epistemic one to stand higher in the structure of the clause, e.g., above the TP (Hasty 2014, 282-83; Hasty 2012, 1727).

This analysis is apparently an explanation of negation placed between MODs in the DMC, and also it has explained insertion of quantifier *all* between them (Hasty 2012, 1727-28).

CONCLUSION

The main aim of my bachelor thesis was to display morphological, syntactic and semantic properties of the modal verbs in the Standard English and the same properties of the double modal combinations used mainly in the southern United States, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These combinations vary according to dialects.

This thesis compared all properties of single and double modals. Syntactic properties of the double modals are similar to single modals. Modals are inverted in questions, either the second modal or both modals together. Negation is placed between the modals, or it may directly follow the second modal. Regarding the semantics, single modal may express either epistemic or deontic modality. Double modals can also express both, but the first one mostly expresses epistemic modality. Morphology of the single modals is entirely the same in the case of the double modals.

As far as the operator is concerned, in the English language is only one modal that serves as an operator which carries the tense and expresses the modality. Many theories were proposed for double modals. These mainly deal with syntactic properties of these structures and with the determination of the position of the operator in the clause. Double modals cannot be treated as single lexical items or idioms and also the first modal in the combination is not an adverb. Based on the evidence, a theory proposed by Battistella (1995) and developed by Hasty (2012) is the most recent one and it introduced the most likely explanation of double modals. This analysis explains most of the syntactic problems and has determined that true modal is the second one in the combination. The first modal is considered spurious. When it comes to double modals, the operator is supposed to have two parts. The first modal stands for the first part and expresses modality, namely the epistemic modality. The second part on behalf of the second modal carries the tense (agreement). There are many arguments which support the statement that the second modal is a true modal in the combination. The operator could undergo subject-auxiliary inversion, be negated and be used in question tags. The second modal in the double modal combination possesses the same properties as an operator in Standard English. None of the modals in the combination stand in the V position.

Lastly, double modals are grammatical in some dialects, but the Standard English does not allow this type of structures. Double modals are unacceptable for the speakers of the Standard English who consider it ungrammatical.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MOD	Modal Verb
MODs	Modal Verbs
LEX	Lexical Verbs
MOD/AUX	Modal-Auxiliary Verb
AUX	Auxiliary Verb
AUXs	Auxiliary Verbs
DM	Double Modal Verb
DMs	Double Modal Verbs
DMC	Double Modal Construction
DMCs	Double Modal Constructions
VP	Verb Phrase
PP	Prepositional Phrase
NP	Noun Phrase
AP	Adjective Phrase
CL	Clause
SUSE	Southern United States English
PERF	Perfective Aspect
PROG	Progressive Aspect
PASS	Passive
T	Operator/Tense
TP	Operator Phrase/Tense Phrase
MP	Modal Phrase

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