NLP AND USE OF MODAL VERBS

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Abstract:
Difficulties with the usage of Modal verbs – in particular, perfect forms of them – as well as clear solutions to overcome them are shown in this article. Two of the most effective NLP strategies (grouping, native language translation) can help English language learners to use Modal verbs in their daily speech easily.

Keywords: verb forms, NLP, semi-modal verbs, negative and positive forms.

I. Introduction

Modal verbs can be regarded as the easiest topics on the list. But it is totally wrong because it is not about only must, can, should or may. While one is learning this topic, he/she has to pay attention to its functions first, meaning that how many usages of only MUST has in Grammar: 1) must – obligation. We must obey the rule; 2) must – probability. They must have sold their house. No one in; 3) must – strong wish. Mmm! So delicious. I must taste it. Forms of them can be the second thing to learn, which means Modal verbs can be used in Continuous, Perfect, Perfect Continuous tenses and Passive voice, in which structure differs. Translation of some modal verbs is crucial to know in L1. When we see such problems leaners face, it is easy to find clear solutions to them.

II. Problems of Students

It is known that modal verbs mostly add extra meaning to verbs, such as probility, ability, sureness, confirmation, take Infinitive forms after them, and negative forms are made with them solely. However, English language learners have many more problems with the usage of them in not only their everyday conversation, but in their academic language as well. While some English language learners confuse positive and negative forms of some modal verbs, others have difficulty using present and past forms of them. And two thirds of learners do not know why they need semi-modal verbs and how they come from. In addition, some Modal verbs are translated wrong by some others.

III. Main Body: NLP strategies
3.1. Grouping - Easy to categorize Modals

In the process of English language learning, modal verbs might be categorized in several groups – one modal's functions: three functions of MUST; simple forms: must, can. Should, may; perfect forms: must have done, should have done, could have done, can't have done, might have done; percentage of certainty: 50-55% (may/might), 90-95% (must/can't/couldn't); synonyms of them and etc. Below shall we show them.

Table 1

	Functions	Tenses Active	Passive	Synonyms Positive	Negative
Must	Obligation Certainty Strong desire	Must V1 Must be Ving Must have V3 Must have been Ving	Must be V3 Must have been V3	(+) obligation Must = need = have/has to = have got to	(-) prohibition Mustn't = can't = to be not allowed to
Can	Ability Probability (can't / couldn't) Senses Permission	+ V1	+ be V3	(+) ability Can = to be able to (+) permission May = can = to be allowed to	(-) probability Couldn't = can't
Could	Ability (Past) Probability (can't / couldn't / could) Senses Permission	+ V1 + be Ving + have V3 + have been Ving	+ be V3 + have been V3	(+) ability Could = was/were able to (+) permission Could = can = may (+) probability Could = may = might	(-) probability Couldn't = can't
May	Permission + as well Probability Anticipation	+ V1 + be Ving + have V3 + have been Ving	+ be V3 + have been V3	(+)permission May = can = to be allowed to (+)anticipation May = might	(-)probability May not = might not
Might	Permission + as well Probability Anticipation (10%)	+ V1 + be Ving + have V3 + have been Ving	+ be V3 + have been V3	(+)anticipation May = might	(-)probability May not = might not
Should	Moral rules Anticipation	+ V1 + be Ving + have V3 + have been Ving	+ be V3 + have been V3	(+) moral rules Should = ought to (+)anticipation Should = to be going to	(-) moral rules Shouldn't = ought not to
Ought to	Moral rules Anticipation	+ V1 + be Ving + have V3 + have been Ving	+ be V3 + have been V3	(+) moral rules Should = ought to	(-) moral rules Shouldn't = ought not to

3.2. Semi-Modal Verbs: Why do we need them?

What are Semi-modal verbs? How are they formed? Why do we need them? Such questions can be asked daily, which requests clear answers. Semi-modal verbs (have to, to be able to, to be allowed to …) are phrases that derived from the mixture of different part-of-speech words and can have the same meaning as the main modal verbs and they are mostly used in the Tenses, meaning that their negative forms are formed by auxiliary verbs, which is totally different from Modals. We can not use

must, can, could, may, might or should in whatever tense we want, they can not take any verb endings, such as –ed, - ing, -es: ~~coulding, mayed, shoulds.~~ Thus, semi-modal verbs are formed. Let us see an example of "have/has to". Had to V1, will have to V1, would have to V1, have/has had to V1, had had to V1, will have had to V1, would have had to V1, might have to V1.

3.3. Suitability of Present and Past forms of Modals; Positive as well as Negative structures.

Some learners think that as modal verbs form negative structures themselves and they have certain past form structures, they must have the same meaning in both positive and negative, present and past forms. But it is supposed to be wrong. There are some modal verbs whose past and present forms, negative and positive forms differ a lot. For example, must (+) = need = have/has to = have/has got to; mustn't (-) = cannot = to be not allowed to. The synonyms in the positive structure do not mean to be the same in the negative structure. Must (present) = had to (past) – learners have learnt in this way. However, must and had to have different meanings in function.

3.4. Native Language Translation

The most essential part of learning process is to find the most effective way of it. Here I can state that the best way to learn modals is by learning them with their translation.

Table 2

Don't/doesn't have to V1 Don't/doesn't need to V1 Needn't V1 Haven't/hasn't got to V1	-(i)sh shart emas hojati yo'q
Mustn't V1	-maslik kerak =can't V1 =mayn't V1 =to be not allowed to V1 (ular sinonim va birgalikda sinonimlar testda berilsa chiqarib yuboring)
Had to V1	-(i)shga to'g'ri keldi
Didn't have to V1 Didn't need to V1	Hojati qolmadi (**needn't have V3(ed)** bilan chalg'itishadi)
Needn't have V3(ed)	-masa ham bo'lardi (buning antonimi **Could have V3(ed)** – sa ham bo'lardi
Must V1	-(i)sh kerak -sa kerak
Must be V3(ed)	-(i)n/(i)l sh kerak -(i)n/(i)l sa kerak
Must be Ving	-(a)yotgan –sa kerak
Must have V3(ed)	-gan –sa kerak **should have V3(ed)** bilan chalg'itadi
Must have been V3(ed)	-(i)n/-(i)l – gan –sa kerak
Must have been Ving	-(a)yotgan –sa kerak

Could V1	-(i)sh mumkin (kelasi zamon taklif)
	-(i)sh mumkin (ogohlantirish)
	-(i)sh mumkin (bo'rttirish)
Can't/couldn't V1	-masa kerak
Can't/couldn't V3(ed)	-(i)n/-(i)l –masa kerak
Can't/couldn't be Ving	-mayotgan –sa kerak
Can't/couldn't have V3(ed)	-magan –sa kerak
Can't/couldn't have been V3(ed)	-(i)n/-(i)l –magan –sa kerak
Could have V3(ed)	-sa ham bo'lardi
	-gan bo'lishi mumkin
	-(i)sh mumkin edi
Should V1	-sa kerak (kelasi zamon taxmini)
Should have V3(ed) Ought to have V3(ed)	-(i)sh kerak edi (tanbeh) **(was/were to V1 ham – (i)sh kerak edi**, ammo u qilinishi kerak bo'lgan lekin qilinmagan ish-harakat uchun qo'llaniladi)
Shouldn't have V3(ed) Ought not to have V3(ed)	-maslik kerak edi
May/might V1	-(i)sh mumkin
May/might be Ving	-(a)yotgan bo'lishi mumkin
May/might have V3(ed)	-gan bo'lishi mumkin
May/might not be Ving	-mayotgan bo'lishi mumkin
May/might not have V3(ed)	-magan bo'lishi mumkin

IV. Conclusion

Modal verbs are believed to be one of the easiest topics in English Grammar because some learners think it is enough to know the translation of them and to place infinitive forms of the verb after them. However, it is not as straightforward as they believe. Functions, forms, meanings together with translation have to be learnt equally, which means Grammar is not all about structure. If you have completed the whole article above, you might have noticed that there seem to be certain modal verbs which do not exist in English Grammar.

- Mustn't have V3(ed)
- Mustn't have been Ving
- Mustn't have been V3(ed)
- Can be Ving
- Can have V3(ed)
- Can have been V3(ed)
- Can have been Ving

To conclude, we can say that there are some phrases which do have another meaning in English, but used wrong in Uzbek: "If I am not mistaken…, You must have studied hard. Now you failed it". One who is aware of the useful functions of Modal verbs does know what is wrong in it and can easily correct in his/her both oral and written speech.

References

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