

**A STUDY ON THE USE OF MODALS IN ENGLISH
NEWSPAPERS**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization in English Education)**

**By
Kumari Kaushila KC**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2008**

**A STUDY ON THE USE OF MODALS IN ENGLISH
NEWSPAPERS**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization in English Education)**

**By
Kumari Kaushila KC
Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2008**

**T. U. Reg. No.: 6-1-329-218-99
Second Year Examination
Roll No: 280333/2064**

**Date of Approval of the
Thesis Proposal: 2065/03/08
Date of Submission: 2065/08/30**

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Kumari Kaushila KC** has prepared this thesis entitled “**The Use of Modals and in English Newspapers**” under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2065/08/13

.....

Mrs. Hima Rawal (Guide)

Lecturer

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Kathmandu

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation by the following
Research Guidance Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Reader and Head

Department of English Education

T.U.,Kirtipur

Chairperson

Mrs. Madhu Neupane

Lecturer

Department of English Education

T.U.,Kirtipur

Member

Mrs. Hima Rawal(Guide)

Lecturer

Department of English Education

T.U.,Kirtipur

Member

Date:

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following Thesis Evaluation Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Reader and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Chairperson

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor

Department of English Education

Chairperson

English and Other Foreign Languages

Education Subject Committee

T.U., Kirtipur

Member

Mrs. Hima Rawal(Guide)

Lecturer

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Member

Date:

Dedication

Dedicated

to

my parents, brothers, sister and sister-in-law whose love, encouragement, support, inspiration and blessing made me what I am now.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date : 2065/08/30

Kumari Kaushila KC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a debt to my teachers in the very beginning of my acknowledgements.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor **Mrs. Hima Rawal**, Lecturer, Department of English Education for her sincere guidance, enlightening ideas, invaluable suggestions, encouragements, constant friendly co-operation while carrying out this research. This work would be incomplete without her regular instruction, kind cooperation.

I would like to express my sincere honour to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Reader and Head, Department of English Education for his invaluable suggestions and help.

In addition, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor, Department of English Education for his constant inspiration, suggestion and kind co-operation assist me to produce this sort of work. Similarly, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to **Mrs. Madhu Neupane** for her invaluable suggestion, enlightening ideas and academic support.

Likewise, I am grateful to my highly respected gurus and gurumas **Prof. Dr. Shanti Basnyat, Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Mr. Vishnu Singh Rai, Dr. Anjana Bhattarai, Dr. Anju Giri, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Mr. Padma Lal Biswakarma, Mr. Ram Ekwel Singh, Mr. Prem Phyak, Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma, Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi, Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel** and **Mr. Durga Pokhrel** for providing me with invaluable knowledge on linguistics and language teaching.

I am also grateful to the librarian of the Central Library, T.U. and American Library, Marajgunj for providing me with newspapers to carry out this research.

I am also grateful to **Mrs. Madhavi Khanal**, the librarian, Department of English Education for her kind co-operation from the very beginning to the end of the work.

I warmly thank my friend **Kamala, Binita, Sumana and Trilok** for their kind co-operation and help in many stages of carrying out this research.

My special thanks goes to my brothers **Ranjeet, Bharat, Padam** for their every support and help.

Last but not the least, I would like to offer my thanks to all the friends and well-wishers who helped and encouraged me during my study.

I should not forget to thank **Krishna** for his excellent computer service.

December 08, 2008

Kumari Kaushila KC

ABSTRACT

The present thesis entitled “The Use of Modals in English Newspapers” aimed to find out the use of modals and phrasal modals in four newspapers viz. The Kathmandu Post, The Rising Nepal, The Times of India and International Herald Tribune. The researcher collected data from those four newspapers through careful observation and studied every news sections. The findings showed that all news sections use modals and phrasal modals, except some exceptions. Modals were used more than phrasal modals.

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter one is an introductory chapter. It includes general background, objectives of the study, the literature review, significance of the study and the definitions of the specific terms.

Chapter two includes the methodology adopted to carry out the research. In other words, it includes the sources of data, tools for data collection, process of data collection, sampling procedure and limitations of the study.

Chapter three consists of analysis and interpretation of the data.

Chapter four consists of the findings and recommendations of the study.

References and appendices follow chapter four.

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Declaration</i>	i
<i>Recommendation for Acceptance</i>	ii
<i>Recommendation for Evaluation</i>	iii
<i>Evaluation and Approval</i>	iv
<i>Dedication</i>	v
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vi
<i>Abstracts</i>	viii
<i>Contents</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii

CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION

1.1	General Background	1
1.1.1	The English Language	2
1.1.2	Mass Media	2
1.1.3	Types of Mass media	3
1.1.3.1	Print Media	4
1.1.3.2	Electronic Media	4
1.1.4	Newspaper	4
1.1.5	Grammar	5
1.1.5.1	Verb	6
1.1.6	Modals	6
1.1.7	Phrasal Modal	8
1.1.7.1	The Meaning of Modals	9
1.1.8	Modals, Phrasal Modals and their uses	10
1.1.8.1	Will, shall (ought to)be going to, be about to	10
1.1.8.2	Would, used to	11
1.1.8.3	Can, could, be able to	11

1.1.8.4	May, might, be allowed to, be permitted to	12
1.1.8.5	Must, have to, have got to	12
1.1.8.6	Should(ought),be to, be supposed to	12
1.1.8.7	Need and dare	13
1.2	Review of the Related Literature	13
1.3	Objectives of the Study	16
1.4	Significance of the Study	16
1.5	Definitions of the Specific Terms	17

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

2.1	Sources of Data	18
2.2	Sampling Procedure	18
2.3	Tools for Data Collection	18
2.4	Process of Data Collection	19
2.5	Limitations of the Study	19

CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

3.1	Analysis of May/Might and Be allowed to/ Be permitted to	20
3.1.1	May	20
3.1.2	Might	21
3.1.3	Be Allowed to	22
3.1.4	Be Permitted to	23
3.2	Analysis of Must and Have to/Have got to	23
3.2.1	Must	23
3.2.2	Have to	24
3.2.3	Have got to	25
3.3	Analysis of Will/Shall and Be going to/Be about to	25
3.3.1	Will	25
3.3.2	Shall	26
3.3.3	Be going to	27
3.3.4	Be about to	28

3.4	Analysis of Would and Used to	29
3.4.1	Would	29
3.4.2	Used to	30
3.5	Analysis of Should (Ought to) and Be to/Be supposed to	31
3.5.1	Should (Ought to)	31
3.5.2	Be to	32
3.5.3	Be Supposed to	32
3.6	Analysis of Can/Could and Be able to	33
3.6.1	Can	33
3.6.2	Could	34
3.6.3	Be able to	35
3.7	Analysis of Need and Dare	36
3.7.1	Need	36
3.7.2	Dare	36

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1	Findings	37
4.2	Recommendations	39

REFERENCES

APPENDIXES

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

etc.	Etcetera (and other similar things)
i.e.	That is(id est)
e.g	for example(Latin exempli gratia)
TKP	The Kathmandu Post
TRN	The Rising Nepal
TTI	The Times of India
IHT	International Herald Tribune
T.U.	Tribhuwan University
Viz	namely
Freq	frequency
Per	percentage
No.	number
%	percent

LIST OF TABLES

Table no.1	:	Use of may
Table no.2	:	Use of might
Table no.3	:	Use of be allowed to
Table no.4	:	Use of must
Table no.5	:	Use of have to
Table no.6	:	Use of will
Table no.7	:	Use of shall
Table no.8	:	Use of be going to
Table no.9	:	Use of would
Table no.10	:	Use of used to
Table no.11	:	Use of should(ought to)
Table no.12	:	Use of be supposed to
Table no.13	:	Use of can
Table no.14	:	Use of could
Table no.15	:	Use of be able to