Guía N°5 – Elementos del lenguaje: Verbos Modales

Los **verbos modales** se emplean cuando, además de dar información mediante afirmaciones, negaciones o preguntas, se desea expresar requerimientos, ofrecimientos, sugerencias, deseos o intenciones.

Los verbos modales son un tipo especial de verbos auxiliares. Siempre van acompañados de otro verbo ya que solos no proporcionan una idea acabada. Su función principal es la de transmitir, lo más claramente posible, la postura del hablante hacia lo que está diciendo.

En la oración negativa, es el modal el elemento que va seguido de la partícula "not", y para la interrogación el modal se antepone al sujeto.

En definitiva, los elementos del lenguaje destinados a expresar la opinión o actitud del hablante en relación con la información objetiva expresada por la oración conforman la modalidad. A través del uso de verbos modales se personaliza el discurso en el que cada individuo se expresa y revela a sí mismo.

Ejemplo- Example

- Health and safety regulations **can** offer protection to the worker.
- Health and safety regulations **should** offer protection from the beginning.
- Health and safety regulations **would** offer protection to workers.

Clasif i c a c i ó n

En lingüística se ha dividido la noción de modalidad en dos grandes grupos. La modalidad que expresa necesidad y posibilidad, y la modalidad para expresar obligación y permiso.

Los verbos modales más frecuentes en la bibliografía académica para expresar estas modalidades son: ***can, could, must, should, may, might*** **y** ***would*****.**

Modal verbs	Modal	Subject	Modal	Infinitive
Affirmative sentence		I You/ we/ they He/ she/ it	can could must should may might would	work.
Negative sentence		I You/ we/ they He/ she/ it	cannot could not must not should not may not might not would not	work.
Interrogative sentence	Can Could Must Should May Might Would	I you/ we/ they He/ she/ it		work?

El modal ***can*** expresa tres nociones básicas que son **posibilidad, permiso y habilidad**. Es un verbo irregular, su pasado e hipotético es *could*. En forma negativa puede expresar prohibición.

Ejemplo- Example

Health and safety regulations **can offer** protection to the worker.
Workers **can stop** working for an hour in order to have lunch.
Trainers **can teach** workers how to be healthy and safe at work.
Workers **cannot smoke** in the factory.

El modal **"must"** expresa dos nociones básicas que son obligación y conclusión lógica. Es un verbo irregular, su pasado y futuro se expresan por medio de "had to" y "will have to", respectivamente.

Ejemplo- Example

Health and safety regulations **must be enforced** in most countries.
Workers **must be protected** by law.

El modal **"should"** expresa la noción central de requerimiento socialmente orientado –en general, concebido en términos de comportamiento apropiado–, así como consejo o sugerencia.

Ejemplos:

Health and safety regulations **should be taken** seriously.
Workers **should follow** safety regulations when at work.

El modal **"may"** expresa dos nociones básicas que son posibilidad y permiso. Es un verbo irregular, su pasado e hipotético es **"might".**

Ejemplos:

Health and safety regulations **may not be** enough to protect workers.
Workers **might not pay** so much attention while working.

El modal **"would"** expresa la noción de predicción en pasado. Pero, además, se emplea habitualmente en el texto académico para expresar resultados hipotéticos y probabilidad inferida.

Ejemplos:

- Health and safety regulations **would not be** so important in the past.
- The results of the research show that health and safety issues **would require** more studies.

Actividad

a. Identificar las oraciones con verbos modales en el siguiente texto
b. Expresar la idea que transmiten en castellano.

The intensity and type of thermal exposure has a major effect on a uniform's thermal protective performance and resulting burn injuries. Exposure heat flux can vary from insignificant low levels to intensities so high that no uniform ensemble could provide complete protection while still allowing flexibility and mobility for a firefighter to perform work tasks on the fire scene. Because our aim was to determine if field testing of the modified modern uniform could be done with a high degree of safety, PyroMan was subjected to a worse case scenario, i.e., the extreme heat flux typical of that found in flash fires.

The potential limitation of this study is that PyroMan cannot be used to evaluate all possible thermal exposures that commonly occur during routine firefighting. First, PyroMan can only be positioned upright while firefighters are taught to remain as low down as possible. Different positions might affect both the location and intensity of thermal exposure. Second, the uniform ensembles tested did not include the SCBA cylinder and harness. Financial and safety considerations prevented this, but this omission altered the "wear and fit" spatial relations and thus may have affected predicted burn injuries for the torso. Third, PyroMan was not subjected to thermal stress imposed by repetitive compressions. For the torso and upper extremities, field condition scenarios do not realistically include repetitive compressions. For the knee and shin, repetitive compressions against the anterior surface do occur when firefighters crawl through the fire scene and/ or operate hoselines. Under this scenario, compression testing for the anterior knee and shin areas might yield additional information. Fourth, PyroMan was not subjected to prolonged moderate intensity thermal exposures. Transmission of heat in prolonged exposure to low level heat is a potential source of firefighter burn injury. Fifth, the impact of varying degrees of uniform wetness on the uniform's thermal protective performance was not considered. Firefighters operate in uniforms that rapidly become moist or wet from sweat (inside layers) and hoseline water (outer layers). Added information would be gained from conducting tests (PyroMan, TPP, compression tests, etc.) under varying conditions of uniform wetness. Future research is certainly needed in this area.