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A Linguistic Analysis of English Modal Verbs in a Literary Text

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

وَأَن لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَىٰ وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَىٰ

صدق الله العلي العظيم

سورة النجم الآية 39-40

Dedication

To my beloved:

To the man of struggle, to the one who instilled Islamic values and principles, to the one who sacrificed the bloom of his youth in raising his children... my beloved father.

To my princess mother, the symbol of tenderness, love, and sacrifice, whose sincere prayers were the secret of my success... my beloved mother

.

To the companions of the first step and the step before the last, to those who were, throughout the difficult years, a refreshing rain cloud, I am grateful... my siblings.

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Abstract

This research paper provides a linguistic analysis of English modal verbs in Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Old Man and the Sea." Modal verbs play a crucial role in expressing the attitudes, opinions, and degrees of necessity within the narrative. By employing a corpus-based approach, this study examines the frequency, distribution, and functions of modal verbs, shedding light on their semantic and pragmatic roles in shaping the meaning and tone of the text. Through this analysis, the paper aims to deepen our understanding of Hemingway's linguistic choices and their impact on the overall narrative structure and characterization within the novel.

Chapter One

Introduction and Background

In the study of language, people are very interested in looking at words that show possibility and opinion. These kinds of words are called modal verbs in English. They are important because they help people express what they think and feel in their conversations. But these words can be used differently depending on the situation, especially in literature. This research paper wants to study and understand how modal verbs are used in a specific literary text. We will look at how these words are used, how they help the author's message, and how they affect the overall meaning. By understanding modal verbs in literature, we can learn more about how language is used and find new ways to understand and enjoy literary works.

1.1. The Problem

The current study attempts to address and provide insights into the following inquiries:

1. Do modal verbs have multiple roles in discourse?
2. What are the usage and functions of English modal verbs?
3. How do English modal verbs function in old man and the sea?
4. What are the variations and patterns of usage of modal verbs in the old man and sea?

1.2 The Aims

The present study aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Investigating the roles played by modal verbs in discourse analysis.
2. Analyzing the usage and functions of English modal verbs.
3. Examining how English modal verbs function within the context of old man and the sea.

1.3 The Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that

1. Modal verbs serve multiple roles in discourse, including expressing modality, indicating attitudes, and conveying the speaker's intentions.
2. The usage and functions of English modal verbs vary based on context, linguistic features, and the literary text being analyzed.
3. The specific literary text under analysis will demonstrate the unique functions and effects of English modal verbs within its narrative structure.

1.4 The Procedures

The current study involves the following procedures:

1. Providing a comprehensive overview of English modal verbs by examining their definition, functions, and usage patterns.
2. Selecting an appropriate literary text that includes various instances of modal verbs to analyze.
3. Conducting a detailed analysis of the chosen literary text to identify how modal verbs contribute to the overall meaning, tone, and characterization within the text.
4. Drawing meaningful and well-supported conclusions from the findings of this research paper.

1.5 Limitations

The primary aim of this research was to analyze and understand the usage of modal verbs, rather than conducting a comprehensive investigation of all types of verbs. Furthermore, the scope of my study was deliberately confined to literary texts, allowing for a more focused analysis within this specific genre. By delving into the intricacies of modal verbs in literary works, this study aimed to provide valuable insights into their linguistic functions and nuances within the specific context of literature.

1.6 The Value

This research paper holds significant value for students, researchers, and individuals interested in grammar, literature, and linguistics. It particularly sheds light on one of the most important aspects of verbs in the English language.

Chapter Two

Definitions and Types of Modal Verbs

2.1 Introduction

According to Payne (2011:254), auxiliaries can be categorized into different types, such as modal auxiliaries and inflectable auxiliaries. Modal auxiliaries, in turn, can be further divided into plain modal auxiliaries and semi-auxiliaries. Modal verbs, which fall under the category of auxiliary verbs, are utilized to convey modality, encompassing attitudes, opinions, and degrees of certainty. These modal verbs serve to indicate possibilities, obligations, permissions, abilities, and preferences, often altering the meaning of the main verb in a sentence. The term "semi-auxiliary" is also employed by other grammar experts.

2.2 Definitions of Modal Verbs

According to Leech (2006:15), modal verbs are a type of verb used to indicate things like possibility or permission (can, may), obligation, necessity, or likelihood (must, should), and prediction, intention, or hypothesis (will, would). Modal verbs typically come in pairs, except for "must."

Young (1984:95) further explains that modal verbs form a small class of verbs that serve as specialized finite auxiliaries. They do not have forms such as s-forms, ing-forms, or n-forms, and they lack non-finite uses. Some of these verbs also do not have d-forms. Examples of modal verbs include will, would, may, might, shall, should, can, could, must, ought (to), need, dare, and used (to).

Additionally, Leech (1989:40) categorizes the other helping verbs, referred to as modal auxiliaries, such as can and must. These modal auxiliaries primarily convey ideas like "possibility," "necessity," "permission," and "prediction."

Lester (2019:388) adds that modal verbs, including can, may, must, shall, and will, are an important group of helping verbs in modern grammar. They are always followed by a verb in the base form. Traditionally, only will was recognized, while the other modal verbs remained unnamed and unappreciated, as will was considered the closest equivalent to the future tense in Latin.

According to Leech (2006:14), modals always function as operators and are positioned at the beginning of their verb phrase. They join with the base form of another verb, as seen in examples such as "may be," "may have," and "may find." They do not have any other forms such as adding -s, -ing, or -ed. Leech (2006:14) further states that when forming questions, modals come before the subject, and when creating negative sentences, they come before "not."

According to Quirk (1973:30), modals possess only one or two forms, such as can or could. Auxiliary verbs, including modals, can be combined, as demonstrated in constructions like "may have found," "has been taken," or "is being performed." To understand the patterns in which auxiliaries are combined, reference can be made to the verb phrase.

According to Hearing (2016:123), all verbs, except for modal auxiliaries, have different forms that come after the main verb form (if there is one) in the verb phrase. Examples of these forms include "will be," "is eating," "has lived," "has been living," and "will be eating." These verb phrases are referred to as finite because they begin with the main verb form. However, there are also non-finite verb forms that appear in non-finite verb phrases without a main verb. These forms can be infinitive phrases (starting with "to" + verb), -ing phrases (starting with a verb ending in -ing), and -ed phrases (starting with a verb ending in -ed). Non-finite verb phrases do not have a main verb.

In addition, there are special verbs known as modal verbs or modal auxiliary verbs that are used to express possibilities, likelihoods, abilities, permissions, obligations, and future intentions. Examples of these modal verbs include can, could, will, would, shall, should, must, may, and might. These modal verbs are distinct because they cannot be changed into different forms and are always followed by a base form of a verb. Here are some examples provided by Hearing (2016:123):

- "I will be there tonight." (expressing a future plan)
- "She can write very well." (describing her ability)
- "May I be excused from the table?" (requesting permission)
- "We must finish this today." (stating the necessity or obligation to complete it)

According to Lester (2016:92), modal verbs are a distinct group of verbs that deviate from the patterns discussed earlier. They are considered different because they do not possess all the various forms like other verbs. This is why they are sometimes referred to as "defective" verbs. Modal verbs only have present and past forms and do not have base forms, infinitive forms, present participle forms, or past participle forms. Lester (2016:92) provides the present and past forms of the five modal verbs.

Moreover, Richards (2013:96) notes that modal verbs differ in various ways. The terms "present" and "past" have a different connotation when applied to modal verbs. In this context, "present" and "past" refer to the historical forms of the modal verbs rather than their meaning. For instance, "could" serves as the past tense form of "can," and "might" is the past tense form of "may." However, it is important to note that the terms "present" and "past" do not necessarily relate to time. Even modal verbs labeled as past tense can be employed to discuss the future.

2.3 Types of Modal Verbs

According to Young (1984:40), modal verbs are a specific type of auxiliary verb that are used to express concepts such as necessity, possibility, ability, or permission. Common examples of modal verbs include "can" (to indicate ability), "may" (to indicate permission), "should" (to offer advice), "must" (to express necessity), "could" (to convey possibility), and "would" (to make a polite request). These modal verbs are employed to modify the main verb in a sentence and often convey the speaker's attitude or certainty towards the described action.

Crystal (2008:40) explains that modal verbs form a distinct and limited group of verbs, with examples including may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should, must, ought, need, among others.

2.4 Form of Modal Verbs

According to Huddleston (2006:106), the main modal auxiliary verbs possess five distinct characteristics. They do not have different forms to match the various tenses or persons, hence rendering them unsuitable for certain sentence structures that require such forms. A comparison between sentences with "can" and "be able" exemplifies this grammatical distinction, with "can" being identified as a modal verb while "be" is not.

Furthermore, as mentioned by Young (1984:40), modal verbs typically exhibit two forms: a basic form and an irregular past tense form. For instance, "might" serves as the past tense form of "may," "could" serves as the past tense form of "can," "would" functions as the past tense form of "will," and "should" acts as the past tense form of "shall." However, it is important to note that verbs like "must," "ought," and "need" do not have a past tense form. Additionally, it is worth highlighting that modal verbs do not take forms that end in "s" or "-ing" (mays, musting, etc.).

According to Leech (2006:15), modal auxiliaries such as can are categorized as finite verbs due to their placement at the beginning of the verb phrase and their ability to exhibit a present/past contrast (as seen with can ~ could).

2.5 Syntactic Rules of Modal Verbs

Lester (2016:96) explains that although modal verbs are classified as verbs, they adhere to strict syntactic rules.

1. Modal verbs are always followed by the base form of the main verb, without "to." For example:

- We can go to the movies tonight. (Not: We can to go to the movies tonight.)

2. Modal verbs do not have a third-person "s" in the present tense. For example:

- She should study for her exam. (Not: She should studies for her exam.)

3. Modal verbs are typically followed by the subject and the base form of the main verb. For example:

- He might arrive late.

- You should call your mom.

4. In negative sentences, the word "not" is placed after the modal verb. For example:

- They cannot attend the meeting. (Not: They can not attend the meeting.)

5. In interrogative sentences, the modal verb is placed before the subject. For example:

- Can you help me with this?

6. Modal verbs are used to express different meanings and attitudes, such as possibility, ability, necessity, permission, and advice.

2.6 Function of Modal Verbs

Payne (2011:255) states that this particular group of auxiliaries is known as "modal" due to the fact that most of their meanings are related to modality. Although their formal properties hold more significance than their semantic functions, they still form a cohesive unit. In language, there is often no straightforward correlation between form and function. Some modal auxiliaries' express meanings that do not align well with the concept of modality. For instance, "will" is more closely associated with tense, while "used to" is more related to aspect rather than modality. Nonetheless, these forms share common structural features, allowing them to be categorized together based on their formal properties.

Chapter Three

Data Analysis

3.1 Introduction

The data for this research paper consists of Chapter One from the literary text "The Old Man and the Sea," written by Ernest Hemingway. The selected chapter serves as the primary source for the analysis. It contains numerous instances of modal verbs.

3.2 Research Design

The research design of this paper entails a qualitative linguistic analysis of the English modal verbs in Chapter One of "The Old Man and the Sea." The analysis focuses on identifying and exploring the syntactic structures, semantic meanings, and pragmatic functions of the modal verbs present in the chapter.

3.3 Data Analysis

Can

1. I can still row and Rogelio will throw the net.

_ Ability: "I can still row and Rogelio will throw the net." - The speaker is capable of rowing, and Rogelio is able to throw the net.

2. Can I offer you a beer on the Terrace and then we'll take the stuff home."

_ Permission: "Can I offer you a beer on the Terrace and then we'll take the stuff home." - The speaker is asking for permission to offer a beer.

3. "Can I go out and get sardines for you for tomorrow?"

_Permission: "Can I go out and get sardines for you for tomorrow?" - The speaker is requesting permission to go out and get sardines.

4. "I can remember the tail slapping and the noise of the clubbing."

_Ability: "I can remember the tail slapping and the noise of the clubbing." - The speaker has the ability to recall specific events.

5. "Can you really remember that?"

5. Ability (Questioning): "Can you really remember that?" - The speaker is questioning the listener's ability to remember.

6. I know where I can get four baits too."

Possibility: "I know where I can get four baits too." - The speaker is aware of the possibility of obtaining baits.

7. "I'll be back when I have the sardines. I'll keep yours and mine together on ice and we can share them in the morning. When I come back you can tell me about baseball.

Intention/Possibility: "I'll be back when I have the sardines. I'll keep yours and mine together on ice and we can share them in the morning. When I come back you can tell me about baseball." - The speaker intends to share sardines and suggests the listener can talk about baseball later.

8. "so I can get the cast net and go after the sardines."

Intention: "So I can get the cast net and go after the sardines." - The speaker plans to get a net and catch sardines.

9. Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel?

Contrasting Capability: "Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel?" - The speaker contrasts the delicate nature of birds with the potential cruelty of the ocean.

10. She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel.

Contrasting Capability: "She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel." - The speaker acknowledges the person's kindness and beauty but also their potential for cruelty.

11. I can and give him the line when he wants it.

Ability: "I can and give him the line when he wants it." - The speaker is able to give the line when needed.

12. "I would like to go. If I cannot fish with you, I would like to serve in some way."
 Conditional Possibility: "I would like to go. If I cannot fish with you, I would like to serve in some way." - The speaker expresses a desire to help if they cannot fish.

13. I must hold him all I can and give him the line when he wants it.

Necessity/Ability: "I must hold him all I can and give him the line when he wants it." - The speaker feels a necessity to hold on as much as possible and provide the line when requested.

No	Modal verbs	Ability	Permission	Offer	Likelihood	Capability	Inability
1	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
2	Can	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
3	Can	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
4	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
5	Can	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
6	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
7	Can	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
8	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
9	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
10	Can	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
11	Can	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

12	Can	✓	×	×	×	×	×
13	Can	×	×	×	×	×	✓

In summary, "can" is a versatile modal verb that can indicate abilities, ask for permission, express possibilities, and state intentions, depending on the context of the sentence.

Could

The modal verb "could" is used in these sentences to express various functions such as past ability, conditional possibility, and inability. Here's a breakdown of its use in each sentence:

14. The fish just moved away slowly and the old man could not raise him an inch.
Inability: "The fish just moved away slowly and the old man could not raise him an inch." - The old man was unable to lift the fish.

15. "I could go with you again."
Conditional Possibility: "I could go with you again." - The speaker is expressing a possibility that is conditional on some other factor.

16. He could see the fish in the water as he pulled it in.
Past Ability: "He could see the fish in the water as he pulled it in." - The speaker had the ability to see the fish in the past.

17. There was no part of the hook that a great fish could feel which was not sweet-smelling and good-tasting.
Conditional Possibility: "There was no part of the hook that a great fish could feel which was not sweet-smelling and good-tasting." - It is possible that a great fish would find all parts of the hook appealing.

18. In the dark the old man could feel the morning coming.

Past Ability: "In the dark the old man could feel the morning coming." - The old man had the sensory ability to perceive the morning approaching despite the darkness.

19. The old man could see the other boats.

Past Ability: "The old man could see the other boats." - The old man had the ability to see the other boats.

20. Though he could not see them.

Inability: "Though he could not see them." - The speaker acknowledges an inability to see, implying some form of obstruction or distance.

21. It was because she could not help them.

Inability: "It was because she could not help them." - The person was unable to provide assistance.

No	modal verbs	Ability	Possibility	Inability
1	Could	✗	✗	✓
2	Could	✗	✓	✗
3	Could	✓	✗	✗
4	Could	✗	✓	✗
5	Could	✓	✗	✗
6	Could	✓	✗	✗
7	Could	✗	✗	✓
8	Could	✗	✗	✓

No	modal verbs	Possibility	Hypothetical	Desire	Prediction	Past action
1	Would					✓
2	Would	✓				
3	Would			✓		
4	Would		✓			
5	Would		✓			
6	Would			✓		
7	would				✓	
8	Would	✓				
9	Would	✓				
10	Would		✓			
11	Would			✓		

In summary, "could" is used to talk about abilities or possibilities that were true in the past or are conditional, and also to express inability to perform an action.

Would

22. The successful fishermen of that day had already butchered their marlin and carried them to the ice truck that would take them to the market in Havana.

_The function of "would" is to express the past likelihood or probability that the successful fishermen had already butchered their marlin.

23. I would like to take the great DiMaggio fishing. They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical desire of the speaker to take the great DiMaggio fishing.

24. "I would," the boy said. "But I bought these."

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical desire of the boy to take part in the activity, but unable to do so because of his prior purchase.

25. "How would you like to see me bring one in that weighed over a thousand pounds?

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical desire of the speaker to bring in a marlin weighing over a thousand pounds.

26. Touch on the bait would make the stick dip.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical outcome that the stick would dip if touched by bait.

27. He thought. It would be wonderful to do this with a radio.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical desire of the old man to have a radio while fishing.

28. He knew he would need his hands before this was over and he did not like to be cut before it started.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional need or requirement of the old man to have his hands intact for the fishing and his reluctance to be injured beforehand.

29. It was all he would have all day and he knew that he should drink it.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional decision or future action that the old man should drink the coffee as it would be his only sustenance for the day.

30. I would like to take the great DiMaggio fishing. They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

The function of "would" is to express the conditional possibility or hypothetical desire of the speaker to take the great DiMaggio fishing.

31. Do you believe the great DiMaggio would stay with a fish as long as I will stay with this one? He thought. I am sure he would and more since he is young and strong. Also his father was a fisherman.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional belief or hypothetical assumption that the great DiMaggio would stay with a fish as long as the speaker will stay with their current catch, with the added notion that DiMaggio's youth and strength would allow him to do even more due to his fishing background.

32. The old man drank his coffee slowly. It was all he would have all day and he knew that he should drink it.

The function of "would" is to express the conditional need or requirement of the old man to drink his coffee slowly as it would be his only sustenance for the day.

The modal verb "would" in these sentences primarily expresses desires, wishes, and hypothetical situations. Here's a breakdown of its use:

- Desire/Wish:

- Sentences 23 and 30 express a wish to take DiMaggio fishing, hoping he would understand their situation due to his background.

- Sentence 27 shows a wish for an enhanced experience, imagining fishing with a radio.

- Hypothetical Situation:

- Sentence 25 poses a hypothetical scenario, asking how it would be to catch an exceptionally large fish.

- Past Habit:

- Sentence 24 indicates a past decision or action, where the boy refers to a purchase he made.

- Future in the Past:

- The initial sentence discusses the fishermen's actions, with "would" indicating a future action from the past perspective, where the ice truck was expected to take the marlin to the market.

- Necessity/Anticipation:

- Sentence 28 shows anticipation of a future need, where the old man knew he would need his hands unharmed.

- Sentences 29 and 32 indicate the old man's understanding of his limited provisions for the day, knowing he would only have coffee.

- Conditional Belief:

- Sentence 31 expresses the old man's belief about DiMaggio's potential actions under certain conditions, assuming he would stay with the fish due to his youth and strength.

In each case, "would" helps to convey a sense of intention, expectation, or speculation about events or actions, whether desired, anticipated, or imagined.

No	modal verbs	Possibility	Hypothetical	Desire	Prediction	Past action
----	-------------	-------------	--------------	--------	------------	-------------

1	Would					✓
2	Would	✓				
3	Would			✓		
4	Would		✓			
5	Would		✓			
6	Would			✓		
7	would				✓	
8	Would	✓				
9	Would	✓				
10	Would		✓			
11	Would			✓		

The modal verbs "should," "may," "ought to," and "must" in these sentences serve different functions, such as making suggestions, asking for permission, expressing possibility, giving advice, and stating obligations.

33. "That's very kind of you," the old man said. "Should we eat?"

Should (Suggestion): "That's very kind of you," the old man said. "Should we eat?"

- This "should" suggests a polite inquiry or proposal to eat, inviting the other person's opinion.

34. "Should we talk about Africa or about baseball?"

Should (Suggestion): "Should we talk about Africa or about baseball?" - Similar to sentence 33, this "should" is used to propose a topic of conversation, again in a polite and inclusive manner.

35. "May I get the sardines?"

The function of "may" is to seek permission to get the sardines.

36. "May I take the cast net?"

The function of "may" is to seek permission to take the cast net.

37. "I may not be as strong as I think," the old man said.

The function of "may" is to express the possibility or uncertainty of the old man not being as strong as he thinks.

38. "You ought to go to bed now so that you will be fresh in the morning."

The function of "ought to" is to give advice or suggestion for the boy to go to bed in order to be fresh in the morning.

39. I am a boy and I must obey him.

The function of "must" is to convey a sense of obligation or duty for the boy to obey his father.

40. I must have water here for him, and soap and a towel. Why am I so thoughtless? I must get him another shirt and a jacket for the winter and some sort of shoes and another blanket.

The function of "must" is to express the necessity or obligation the speaker feels in providing water, soap, a towel, another shirt, a jacket, shoes, and a blanket for him.

41. "Que va," the boy said. "It is what a man must do."

The function of "must" is to express the sense of duty or obligation the boy feels towards doing what a man is supposed to do.

42. "Now I must get your sardines and mine and your fresh baits."

The function of "must" is to express the sense of obligation or necessity the speaker feels in getting both their sardines and fresh baits.

No	modal Verbs	Suggestion	Permission	Possibility	Obligation
----	-------------	------------	------------	-------------	------------

1	Should	✓			
2	Should	✓			
3	May		✓		
4	may		✓		
5	May			✓	
6	Ought to	✓			
7	Must				✓
8	Must				✓
9	Must				✓
10	Must				✓

There is no definitive answer as to why "can," "could," and "would" are used more frequently than other modal verbs. However, there are a few possible reasons for this:

1. Common Usage: "Can," "could," and "would" are among the most commonly used modal verbs in English. They are versatile and can be used to express a wide range of meanings and functions, making them more likely to be used in everyday language.

2. Expressing Ability and Possibility: "Can" is often used to express ability or capability, while "could" is used to express past ability or hypothetical situations. "Would" is commonly used to express conditional or hypothetical actions. These

concepts are frequently discussed and needed in conversation, leading to their higher usage.

3. Politeness and Requests: "Could" is often used to make requests in a more polite and indirect manner. This politeness feature makes it a preferred choice in certain contexts.

4. Past Events and Hypothetical Situations: Since "could" and "would" can be used to discuss past events or hypothetical situations, they are often employed in storytelling, anecdotes, or discussions about the past or imaginative scenarios.

5. Familiarity and Comfort: "Can," "could," and "would" are among the first modal verbs taught to English learners due to their frequency and practicality. As a result, they become more familiar and comfortable to use in everyday language.

These factors, among others, contribute to the higher usage of "can," "could," and "would" compare to other modal verbs. However, it's important to note that the frequency of modal verbs can vary depending on context, region, and individual speaking styles.

Chapter Four

Conclusion

According to the data analysis presented, "can" is a versatile modal verb that can indicate abilities, ask for permission, express possibilities, and state intentions, depending on the context of the sentence. It is the most frequently used modal verb in the given text, appearing in various forms to express different meanings. Similarly, "could" is used to talk about abilities or possibilities that were true in the past or are conditional, and also to express inability to perform an action. It is used to express past ability, conditional possibility, and inability.

On the other hand, "would" primarily expresses desires, wishes, and hypothetical situations. It is used to convey a sense of intention, expectation, or speculation about events or actions, whether desired, anticipated, or imagined. The analysis indicates that "can," "could," and "would" are the most frequently used modal verbs in the text, covering a wide range of functions such as expressing abilities, possibilities, intentions, desires, and hypothetical situations. Other modal verbs like "should," "may," "ought to," and "must" are also used, but less frequently, to make suggestions, ask for permission, express possibility, give advice, and state obligations.

Addressing the hypotheses:

1. Modal verbs indeed serve multiple roles in discourse, including expressing modality, indicating attitudes, and conveying the speaker's intentions. This is evident in their diverse functions within various contexts and literary texts.
2. The usage and functions of English modal verbs do vary based on context, linguistic features, and the literary text being analyzed. Different texts may prioritize certain modal verbs or employ them in distinct ways to achieve specific effects.
3. The specific literary text under analysis will indeed demonstrate the unique functions and effects of English modal verbs within its narrative structure. The modal verbs chosen and their usage patterns will contribute to shaping the tone, mood, and overall meaning of the text, highlighting its individuality within the broader linguistic landscape.

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