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**Modal Verbs Expressing Epistemic Possibility in
English and Their Czech Equivalents**

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Prohlášení autora

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Annotation

The aim of this bachelor paper is to conduct a research that analyses the occurrence of English modal verbs expressing epistemic possibility and their Czech equivalents. The data required for the analysis are collected from two fictions, the English original and the Czech translation. The secondary literature was studied to provide a sufficient knowledge about modality and modal verbs expressing epistemic modality. During the analysis the four modal verbs (*may, might, can, could*) studied are taken in account together with the Czech equivalents. Finally, the data obtained via the means of quantitative analysis are interpreted qualitatively.

Abstrakt

Cílem této bakalářské práce je provést výzkum zaměřený na výskyt anglických modálních sloves vyjadřujících jistotní modalitu a jejich české ekvivalenty. Konkrétní autentický jazykový materiál je získán ze dvou beletristických děl, z anglického originálu a jeho českého překladu. Sekundární literatura byla studována, aby byla dosažena adekvátní znalost modality a modálních sloves, které vyjadřují jistotní modalitu. Během analýzy byla zkoumána čtyři modální slovesa (*may, might, can a could*) a v potaz byli vzaty i české ekvivalenty. Data získaná kvantitativní analýzou budou později kvalitativně interpretována.

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Introduction

The aim of this bachelor paper is to conduct research that analyses the use of modal verbs expressing epistemic possibilities in English and their Czech equivalents.

The modal verbs belong to a set of verbs that is small and closed. They are used to express various types of modality. There are three main types of modality in English; Epistemic, Deontic and Dynamic. Most of the modal verbs can express all of the types of modality however, for the purpose of this paper, as space is limited; it is not possible to embrace all modal verbs. Therefore, the decision was made to carry out the research considering only the modal verbs; *may*, *might*, *can*, and *could*, in the case when they are expressing epistemic possibility.

The paper is divided into three main parts, English Modal System, Czech Modal System and the practical part, the Contrastive Analysis. The first chapter focuses on the English modal system; it illustrates the English modality and its division into the three main types; epistemic, deontic and dynamic. Then the basic characteristics of epistemic modality are compared with the deontic modality. Next, the chapter presents the set of modal verbs used in English. Further, there can be found a detailed description of the modal verbs; *may*, *might*, *can* and *could* in their epistemic use.

The second chapter focuses on the characteristic of the Czech modal system. The Czech modal system is contrasted with the English modal system. The three main lexical devices for expressing epistemic modality in Czech are presented; they are the modal verbs, modal adverbials and modal particles. Each of the lexical devices is further being presented in the following subchapters together with the characteristics and a number of examples.

The third chapter presents the research outcomes. The data obtained via the means of quantitative analysis are interpreted qualitatively. All findings are sorted

according to the individual features studied in the analysis. The research is divided into three separate fractions.

The first part of the research analyses the use of individual English modal verbs expressing epistemic possibility and their equivalents used in Czech translations. Its aim is to find the preferences among the Czech modal verb and the modal adverbials or the modal particles.

The second part of the research is devoted to the use of the modal verbs in reported and non-reported speech. Basic characteristics of reported and non-reported speech are presented at the beginning of the section followed by the results of the analysis.

The third part of the research concentrates on the use of various time references in the sentences where the modal verbs were used. It also concentrates on the verb form, which is used when referring to past, present or future. All the findings are compared to the Czech translations.

Finally, in the last chapter, a summary can be found where conclusions are drawn. Examples of individual sentences from the representative sample are presented in Appendix One.

1. English Modal System

This chapter illustrates the English modal system. It provides details about the types of modality used in English. Then it depicts the basic differences between the two main types of modality used in English; the epistemic and deontic modality. Since this paper is concerned only with the epistemic modality, one chapter is devoted merely to this type of modality. The next subchapter presents the modal verbs used in English to express the epistemic modality; the studied modal verbs are *may*, *might*, *can* and *could*. The following chapter speaks about the specific characteristic of the modal verbs studied in this paper.

1.1 Modality

This chapter is devoted to modality along with the description of the main types of modality. Modality has been studied from literature written by English authors and it describes the system from the English perspective. However, the Czech modal system corresponds with the English system, so it can be applied to both of them. The Czech system will be discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

Modality is one of a number of semantic-grammatical features such as grammatical number or tense. Palmer quotes Lyon, who suggests that modality is concerned with the ‘opinion and attitude of the speaker’ (2001, 2).

Tarniykova speaks about communicative modality, which is in correlation with verbal mood classification (indicative, imperative and subjunctive). Next to the communicative modality exists level of modality which is not obligatory from the aspect of communicative modality. The speaker informs the addressee that the communicative event is: possible (Angus may be in London these days.), necessary (One must do one’s duties.), whether it was reached via the logical deduction based on one’s experience (It must be the 5:45 train to London), giving permission (You may smoke here.) and also asking for permission (May I call you Sue?). This modality is called modality proper. (1985, 12)

The modality proper is the one modality that is needed to be studied and is crucial for this paper and for the following analyses. Only one communicative event will be studied in detail and that is the possibility.

Linguistic means that express modality proper are called modal modifiers. Modal modifiers are adjectives such as: “possible, certain, sure”, adverbials: “possibly, perhaps”, and modal verbs which are most common in English. Tarnyikova (1985, 13). However, for the purpose of this paper the modal verbs are the most crucial especially in the analysis of the English text.

As was already said, to express modality, English very often uses modal verbs which are represented by two most semantically fundamental kinds of modality (Epistemic and Deontic), some linguists, such as Palmer (2001, 2), also mention another kind of modality, and that is Dynamic. For the purpose of this paper, dynamic modality will not be mentioned as the paper concentrates on epistemic modality and only the basic distinction between epistemic and deontic modality will be commented upon. Quirk uses different terminology; he uses the terms “intrinsic” (permission, obligation, and volition which involve some kind of intrinsic human control over events), and “extrinsic” (possibility, necessity, and prediction, which do not primarily involve human control of events, but do typically involve human judgement of what is or is not likely to happen), (1972, 219). The intrinsic term corresponds with deontic modality while the term extrinsic corresponds with epistemic modality. For the purpose of this paper the terms epistemic and deontic modality shall be used.

This paper concentrates on the use of epistemic modality and the next chapter shows some basic distinctions between the two main kinds of modality, epistemic and deontic.

1.1.1 Epistemic vs. Deontic Modality

This chapter provides the main distinctions between epistemic and deontic modality and their uses. The main distinctions are discussed in this chapter, as they provide sufficient and necessary knowledge for the analysis later.

“Epistemic modality concerns the speaker’s attitude to the factuality of past or present time situations while deontic modality concerns the speaker’s attitude to the actualisation of future situations.” (Huddleston, R. et al. 2002, 178) Epistemic modality is used to express possibility and necessity whilst deontic modality is used to express what is obligatory, permitted or forbidden.

“The traditional division of modality into epistemic and deontic reveals some interesting cases of polysemy in which the same form can be used for both types of modality. Thus for example; *may* can express either epistemic possibility (*Tim may be here by seven.*) or deontic permission (You may come in now)” (Bybee, et al. 1995).

Although the same modal verbs may be used in English for both epistemic and deontic modality there are some formal distinctions between the modal verbs in their two uses.

May not negates the modality when deontic (no permission), but the proposition when epistemic (‘It may be that it is not so’).

May followed by *have* is always epistemic, never deontic.

May is replaceable by *can* only in the deontic use, though *cannot* may be epistemic. (Palmer, 1993, 103)

The crucial distinction between forms expressing deontic possibility in English and forms expressing epistemic possibility is that the latter involve subjectivity. The literature on epistemic modality has suggested that there is a distinction between subjective and objective epistemic evaluations, Lyons (1977, 797) was probably first to introduce this distinction. According to him, objective epistemic modality expresses an objectively measurable chance that the state of affairs under consideration is true or not true, whilst subjective epistemic modality involves a purely subjective guess regarding its truth. Consider: *Alfred may be unmarried.* In

Lyon's view, it may either indicate that the speaker is simply uncertain about the (hypothetical) fact that Alfred is unmarried – i.e. subjective modality. Or, alternatively, it may indicate that according to the speaker there is a mathematically computable chance that Alfred is unmarried, for example because the speaker knows that Alfred belongs to a community of ninety people, of which there are thirty unmarried – i.e. objective modality.

Forms involving subjectivity can be defined as 'devices whereby the speaker, in making an utterance, simultaneously comments upon that utterance and expresses his attitude to what he is saying'. (Coates cites Lyons 1983, 59)

Deontic modality is usually subjective in that the speaker is the one who obliges, permits, or forbids. It can be paraphrased as "*possible/ necessary for...*".

As was mentioned earlier, epistemic modality can be both subjective and objective. It is usually subjective when it relates to an inference by the speaker. It is used to express what is possible or necessary. It can be paraphrased as '*possible/necessary that...*'. Strictly speaking, *necessary* is not used to express epistemic modality (It is necessary that he is there now), and should not preclude the more technical and perfectly transparent use of the term in linguistic description.

1.2 Epistemic Modality

Chapter 1.2 presents details about epistemic modality. The definition of the epistemic modality is presented as well as the functions.

As was already said, Tarnyikova enlists epistemic modality among the category of modality proper (1985, 10).

Epistemic modality is the simplest type of modality to deal with. In both its syntax and its semantics, it is the kind of modality that is most clearly distinct from the others.

As has been already mentioned, most linguists (Palmer, Quirk, and Bybee et. al.) understand epistemic modality as the way of expressing the degree of a speaker's commitment to the truth of the proposition contained in an utterance. Thus, one way that epistemic possibility is expressed in English is by *may* and *might* which can be paraphrased by "It is possible that..." (*We may/might lose the election – It is possible that they would lose the election*) while epistemic necessity is expressed by *must* (*They must have won the election – It is necessary that they have won the election.*). When using *can* and *could* to express epistemic possibility it can also be paraphrased by "It is possible that..." (*It could be him over there. – It is possible that it is him over there*)

The function of epistemic modals is to make judgments about the possibility that something is or is not the case. Epistemic modality is, that is to say, the modality of propositions, rather than that of actions, states, events, etc. The proposition can be separately stated in a subordinate clause introduced by *that*:

.....and it may be that the family will disappear as the basis of civilization.

Tarnyikova also presents some markers that indicate epistemic modality. They are inanimate or general subject (one, person, you), stative verb, progressive aspect or in some cases passive voice.

1.2.1 Possibility

Epistemic possibility was already introduced in previous chapters: it concerns the speaker's degree of uncertainty about the truth-value of his/her assertion. In English this can be expressed in various ways, including modal auxiliaries (*John may/might have done it.*), modal adverbs (*Maybe/perhaps John has done it.*) and modal adjectives (*It is possible that John has done it.*).

This paper concentrates on the first strategy and that is the use of English modal auxiliaries *may*, *might* and *can*, *could*.

In previous chapters the properties of modalities, such as epistemic and deontic, were outlined. Now it is essential to focus on individual modal verbs and their characteristics. The following chapter 1.3 introduces the set of modal verbs used in English.

1.3 Modal Verbs

This chapter defines the set of modal verbs used in English and shows the main criteria according to which the modal verbs are rated and also the formal features are explicated.

The set of modal auxiliaries is a small and closed one: can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must and ought to. Some grammar books rank the verbs need, dare and used to with the modals too (Quirk et al 1972, 217). However, these verbs (need, dare and used to) do not meet the criterion of the modal verbs and so they will not be included in this paper.

Palmer: the criteria used by Palmer and Blandford (1993, 124) for their ‘anomalous finites’ and by Chomsky for four basic transformations in Syntactic Structures (Chomsky 1975: 61-9) place the modals among the auxiliary verbs together with the ‘primary’ auxiliaries BE and HAVE (Palmer 1993: 25-6). The criteria for such placement are:

- [i] Inversion with the subject → *Must he come?*
- [ii] Negative form with -n’t → *He can’t come.*
- [iii] ‘Code’ → *He will come and so will she.*
- [iv] Emphatic affirmation → *He máy come.*

A modal verb is always the first word in the verb phrase and it always has the same form and never has an ending such as -s, -ing or -ed. Except for ought, a modal verb is never followed by a “to infinitive” it is always followed by a “bare infinitive”. *I might go with you.* More details about modal verbs can be found in Eastwood. There is no doubt that English has a set of modal verbs that can be formally defined.

Modal verbs are used in all of the main types of modality that are found in modal systems – epistemic, deontic and dynamic. The exceptions are the modals *shall*, *need* and *dare*: they can be used only in the case of deontic modality. Modal verbs express meanings such as necessity, volition or possibility. We can use modal verbs to tell or allow people to do things, or we can use them to say how certain or uncertain we are (Eastwood 1994, 113).

Given the limited space devoted to this paper, it will be concerned only with the modals *can*, *could*, *may* and *might* and more specifically their use in epistemic modality reflecting possibility. The following chapter focuses on the individual modal verbs that will be studied during the analysis and it concentrates on their characteristics.

1.4 Epistemic Modal Verbs

This chapter presents detailed description of the four modal verbs studied in this paper; *may*, *might*, *can* and *could*.

As has been outlined in the previous chapters, most modal verbs have two distinct interpretations, epistemic and deontic. Epistemic modality, as was stated in chapter 1.2, expresses the certainty of the factual status of the embedded proposition. To change the grammatical mood of a sentence English often uses the modal verbs.

1.4.1 May

The first studied modal verb is *may*. It can express possibility or permission however this paper is concerned only with the epistemic modality and, specifically, possibility and so the meaning of permission is not important for this paper. *May* is very often used in the sense of possibility, Leech states that it is used commonly in statements, but it does not occur in questions where it is used to ask for permission which presents deontic modality. In questions its function is usurped by *can*, *could* or *might*. (2004, 76) Tarnyikova also comments the occurrence where the verb *may* does not occur in questions saying that it would be illogical to elicit addressees possibility, which is the result of our logical deduction (1985, 22).

In the sense of possibility *may* often indicates a future event when it is combined with an event verb; may lose, may go, may become, etc. *May* is replaced by *might* or *could* to express lesser possibility. All three cover present possibility with reference to the future, present or past. Past possibility is expressed by *may* plus past infinitive.

According to Palmer, *may* does not have form for the past tense, which would situate the utterance into the past. The *may have* is, according to Palmer, only the reference about the past realized in the present. In the past tense there could be the proposition but not the modality. (1993)

Now let's pay attention to indicators that are in favour to interpret *may* as possibility. Firstly, it is inanimate subject, which exclude the possibility to interpret *may* as permission for the permission is not given to inanimate subjects.

“*The shock of her desertion may have contributed to his early death...*”. (Appendix 1, example 65) In this example we can find inanimate subject *the shock* and also the paraphrase can help to identify epistemic possibility (*It is possible that the shock of her desertion may have contributed to his early death.*)

Secondly, if the subject is animate, the agent is not specified but is substituted by general expressions (one, you, a fellow, a person...). Other indicators are verb_{inf} plus mental processes, verb_{inf} plus an action independent on the agent's will. More information can be found in Tarnyikova 1985.

1.4.2 Might

As was said in the previous chapter, *might* is the tentative form of the modal verb *may*. Tarnyikova states: *Might* is characterised as a past form of the modal verb *May*, which lost its past meaning within the time (in contrast with *could*) and it signals the past only in dependant sentences. Herefrom is the qualification as “imaginative, hypothetical” *might* (1985, 41). *Might* is used to express a present time possibility and compared with *may* it makes the proposition even more uncertain.

Might, in independent sentences, presents only the conditional where it refers to the present or the future tense. The preterite is used only in dependent sentences (*I didn't know that I might not do it*) or in a sequence of actions bound by a sequence of tenses.

When we use *might* in sequence of tenses it covers the register of components of the verb *may*. (*She said she might be pregnant.*)

The indicator of past interpretation is past form of other verbs or other past time references (adverbials of time). *Might* in connection with *might have* almost always signals unreal, unused possibility although unreality is not inherent feature of *might have*, but the result of context integration.

A woman's voice came to him...in other circumstances he must have thought her drunk. (unreality is here supported through “in other circumstances”,

The indicator of non-past context conveys mainly possibility, which compared with *may* is in speaker's perception less probable. When it is compared with *can* or *could* the decreasing degree of certainty could be expressed in following scale - can→may→could→might.

Context indicators that contribute to interpret *might* as possibility are cognate to indicators of *may*.

1. (+human, -agent)

“...in which case, I might well be safer a little closer to Albus...”

(Appendix 1, example 33)

2. Usually we can find inanimate or general subject

“We thought it might be something like this...” (Appendix 1, example 37)

“...anyone who might have had a hand in Katie’s accident.” (Appendix 1, example 76)

3. Other indicators are V_{inf} plus copula (linking verb). In connection with verbs say, call, which might be marked as verbs of communication, *might* is used to carefully frame the statement as addressees’ probable opinion.

“Yeah, and others might say it’s your duty to check people really are Death Eaters before you check them in prison.” (Appendix 1, example 92)

4. Possibility that is admitted is implied to in the form of concessive sentence and it is analogous to the modal verb *may*.

Whatever the press and the opposition might say, the Prime Minister was not a foolish man. (Appendix 1, example 2)

More information about the context indicators can be found in Tarnyikova (1985,41-44).

When *may* and *might* plus past infinitive are used there remains an open question about the realization of the situation.

Dušková (1994) explains the question about the realization of the past situation as depending upon on the application of *may* or *might* on these sentences:

a) He may have taken the underground (*the speaker does not know if the person in question used the underground or not.*)

b) I might have taken the underground (*the speaker knows that he did not use the underground.*)

1.4.3 Can

The modal verb *can* expresses primarily deontic modality, but some occurrences of epistemic modality can be found in the English.

Can like *could* covers general possibility without reference to the past, present or future. Dušková (1994, 186) says that *can* expresses possibility, when the speaker and the contents of action are not compatible with the sense of ability. In this sense it refers to the future using present form. General possibility is part of deontic modality thus it is not relevant for this paper.

Epistemic *can* has, as the other modal verbs expressing epistemic modality, a specific form when referring to the past. The past tense is expressed with the present form of *can* plus past infinitive of the main verb. This form occurs primarily in negative sentences (*He can't have forgotten*) (Dušková 1994, 187). However this expresses the epistemic modality it does not express possibility but certainty therefore it is not aim of this bachelor paper.

The only occurrence of *can* expressing epistemic possibility can be found in interrogative constructions.

Can it be true? – Is it possible that this is true?

1.4.4 Could

The last verb that needs to be mentioned for the purpose of the later analysis is the modal verb *could*. It is the other form of *can* and it is formally ambiguous as it may refer either to the past (then it is the preterite form) or to the present or the future (i.e. the conditional) (Dušková 1972, 17). The ambiguity is very often eliminated by the context.

Could is primarily deontic nevertheless it is found in cases when it expresses epistemic possibility. When the verb *could* is used as epistemic it very often has inanimate subject or is followed by stative verb and also quite frequently progressive aspect, on the other hand when *could* is deontic, it can be found with animate subject and dynamic verb and also in active voice.

The usage of *could* can be divided into three parts:

1. *Could* in sequence of tenses (back-shifting, reported speech)
2. *Could* in past context – (very important indicators are here past forms of other verbs in sentences or other past tense indicators such as adverbials of time – yesterday, last year....). The verb *could* covers the past register of the verb can if it means the possibility, if the meaning is ability it uses the form be able to. Reliable indicator of possible interpretation of *could* in the past is also the inanimate subject. Past possibility can be indicated by more specific component Imagination because it is non-productive from the point of view of present moment. The unreality, hypotheticality is intensified by the form *could have*.

We could have spent our lives on knees. And no one would have heard of us.

3. *Could* in non-past context that is in reference to present of future, has its specific modal functions. They can signal caution, respect and courtesy

Let's once again pay attention to the particular component of possibility. *Could* signals lesser degree of possible realization of action indicated via V_{inf} or cautious findings of possible realization of action, which can sound as a suggestion if there is subject is +agent or in the 1st person plural.

We could play at questions.

If-sentences signalise fixation of proposal to some conditions.

If Simon walks in the middle of us, then we could talk over his head.

Hypothetical possibility can be emphasized via wish-clauses.

I wish I could think you liked having me here.

The previous chapters outlined the theory of the English modal system and stated and defined modals chosen for the analysis. The distinctions between the epistemic

and deontic modality were also introduced. To be able to conduct the comparative analysis it is necessary to be familiar with the basics concerning the Czech modal system. The next part of the paper is, therefore, devoted to the general characteristics of the Czech modal system.

2. Czech Modal System

This chapter deals with the Czech modal system. It shows the different lexical means used to express the epistemic modality in the Czech language. The semantic English system of modal verbs can be distinguished from the Czech system.

Dušková: The difference is apparent especially with the epistemic modality, where the whole sentence composition varies. English language prefers modal verbs, meanwhile in the Czech language modal adverbs and modal particles can be found frequently. Deontic modality in both languages is realized by means of modal verbs. (1994, 185)

Information about necessity and possibility are in today's Czech expressed mostly by lexical means. Sometimes, to express possibility or necessity Czech can even use grammatical means, such as some types of sentence constructions or word-forming processes.

As was already implied by Dušková, modal verbs as means of expressing epistemic modality are less common in the Czech language than they are in English and they often correspond with Czech modal adverbials or modal particles.

The English modal system is identical to the Czech modal system. The details about the modality can be found in previous chapters 1.1 and 1.2. These chapters describe the term modality and two main types of modality and those are the epistemic and deontic modality. The modality has been studied from literature by English authors however the rules apply to both systems; the English as well as the Czech.

2.1 - Modal Verbs

This chapter speaks about the modal verbs used in the Czech language to express modality. The Czech language defines these basic modal verbs: *moci*, *mít* (*povinnost*), *muset*, *smět chtít*, *hodlat*, and in the broader sense verbs as *umět*, *dověst*, *vydržet*, *dokázat* and others. Most of these verbs are used primarily to express deontic modality, which is not discussed in this paper, with the exception of the verb

moci. The verb *moci* is secondarily used as indicator of possibility. The verb *moci* in the epistemic modality function does not inform about the objective possibility of realization of the situation, but it informs about the degree of speaker's certainty about the realisation of the action. (Petr 1986, 359)

Petr states that general possibility is expressed by the verb *moci* and the negative form *nemuset*. (*Petr může být venku. Odjeli jsme s dětmi k babičce, a tak žena nemusela vařit/ mohla nevařit večeri.*) These verbs signal medium degree of certainty (1986, 541).

The reflexive form of the verb *moci* corresponds with *dá se*. It occurs only in reflexive constructions and it anonymizes the agent and also the bearer of the modal proposition – (*Žáci mohou tu rovnici řešit dvěma způsoby* → *Ta rovnice se může/ se dá řešit dvěma způsoby.*)

Petr says that within the group of possibility there are three categories that can be distinguished. It is specified by common means and also by the means that are characteristic for each separately.

- A) general possibility – information about the existence of favourable conditions for the realisation or non realisation of some activity
- B) permission – informs that some obstructions are avoided
- C) ability – information about the agent's abilities (1987, 297)

For the purpose of this paper I shall be concerned only with general possibility as permission and ability express deontic modality.

2.2 - Modal Adverbials

As was mentioned before, modal adverbials are used in the Czech modal system more frequently than modal verbs. These modal adverbials are formed using adjectives, but with the affix –o (*možno*) only small selection has the same form as adjectives.

Modal adverbials express possibility expressed in the infinitive or in the subordinate clause. Sometimes they compete with adjectives: (*Je možno /je možné/ si vypůjčit kola*). In the Czech language there are modal adverbials such as: *je možno, je nemožno, je těžko, lze, nelze etc.*

2.3. – Modal Particles

Modal particles, like the modal adverbials, are used to express modality in the Czech language more often than modal verbs.

Modal particles express a range of degrees of possibility about the truth of proposition and they can express epistemic as well as deontic modality.

Modal particles express epistemic possibility within the scale between “it is possible that ...the statement or its part is true” and on the contrary “it is possible that (Petr 1986, 233)

Modal particles in the Czech language are *asi, snad, nejspíš, možná, pravděpodobně etc.* They express the possibility of the truth in proposition. They are commonly used in statements (*On asi půjde s námi*), possibly in yes/no questions (*Máš snad strach?*) Less suitable or unusable are modal participles in imperatives, exclamatory and optative sentences and complementary questions. (Petr a Grepl 1986, 359)

Chapter 2 presented the basic information about the Czech modal system. As the modality was covered in previous chapters it was not dealt with in this chapter. The subchapters illustrate the main means used in the Czech language to express modality.

3. Contrastive Analysis

This chapter contains the analysis of the primary source book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J. K. Rowling and its Czech translation *Harry Potter a Princ Dvoji Krve* translated by Mr Medek, who has translated the whole series of the Harry Potter books. I have chosen this book as it deals with present-day English and the text contains a lot of dialogue, mystery and uncertainty – it provides an ideal environment for epistemic modality. The analysis targets the modal verbs expressing epistemic possibility – *might, may, could* and *can* in the original English version and their Czech equivalents.

The research was carried out using the original text from Harry Potter and the translation. The representative sample of 100 examples was isolated from the English text and 100 equivalents were taken from the translation. Chapter 3.1 shows the findings concerning the frequency of the individual modal verbs in English and the way that the translator chose to translate them into Czech, together with his preferences, i.e. whether he prefers to use modal verbs, modal adverbials or modal particles. Chapter 3.2 shows the use of modal verbs in various time references. The analysis concentrates on the verb form that is used to refer to past, present or future time situation.

The outcome of the research will show the use of modal verbs in English and their preferences and at the same the outcome shows the preferences how the English modal verbs are translated into Czech language. It must be taken in account that the research will provide the information about the author's preferences over the choice of modal verbs, particles, and adverbials or other grammatical means.

The overall summary of the research outcome is presented at the end of this paper, in the final chapter. The modal verbs studied as well as their translations are presented in Appendix One and the tables that show the exact numbers of features in question, can be found throughout chapters 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 The Frequency Analysis

The first part of the analysis is concerned with the frequency of modal verbs expressing epistemic possibility and their Czech equivalents.

Table No.1

Might	78x
May	7x
Could	14x
Can	1x

The research concerning the frequency analysis is summarized in table No.1. As can be seen, the most frequently used modal verb from the representative sample was *might*, which occurred in 78 examples. The modal verb *might* expresses the lowest degree of possibility from the group of analysed modal verbs, see chapter 1.4.2 where it was represented as followed can→may→could→might. The second most frequently used modal verb was *could*, which was used in 14 cases. The verb *may* was used in 7 cases and, as was stated in chapter 1.4.1, it expresses stronger possibility than *might*. The verb *can* was found in 1 case and it occurred in a question, as the modal verb *can* is used epistemically only in questions, see chapter 1.4.4.

3.1.1 Might

Table No.2

Might	64 (14*)
možná	19
sice	2
nejspíš	3
snad	3
je možné	3
třeba	7
pravděpodobně	2
asi	1
moci	24

*The number of cases in which other than lexical means were used.

As has been said, *might* conveys the weakest possibility of all the modal verbs concerned.

Since its meaning is very close to the meaning of *may*, the range of expressions that are used in the Czech translations is also very similar to that of *may*. When translating the modal verb *might*, the most often used were the modal participles *asi*, *snad*, *nejspíš*, *možná*, *pravděpodobně* or *třeba*. The most frequently used was the participle *možná*, in 19 cases.

- 1) “*I might still be...well, maybe Scrimgeour will have more success.*” – “*možná bych ještě byl...*” (Appendix 1, example 5)

In 24 examples we could find that the translator chose the Czech modal verb *moci*.

- 2) “*Seemed to think it might bring about a relapse...*” ... “*Obával se zřejmě, že by to u mě mohlo vést...hmm...k recidivě.*” (Appendix 1, example 9)

To translate *might* into Czech, modal participles were chosen over the modal verb. The modal participles express weaker possibility than the modal verb *moci*, which is primarily deontic.

The verb *might* was translated in 12 cases by other methods than the lexical mean. For example:

3) *Whatever the press and the opposition might say, the Prime Minister was not a foolish man.* – *Bez ohledu na to, jak se o něm vyjadřovala opozice a sdělovací prostředky, nebyl ministerský předseda žádný hlupák.* (Appendix 1, example 2)

In the case of example 3, the verb *might* was used in a concessive sentence and so it is necessary to use it in English but from the grammatical perspective it is not obligatory to translate it into the Czech language and so it can be omitted.

4) *Narcissa let out a noise that might have been a dry sob and covered her face with her hands.* – *Narcisa ze sebe vyrazila jakýsi chraptivý vzlyk a oběma rukama si zakryla obličej.* (Appendix 1, example 8)

This example uses the verb *might have been* to express possibility in English. To translate this sentence the author chose the word *jakýsi* to express the uncertainty about the situation. The uncertainty about the origin of the sound is expressed.

The other examples were translated either via the mean of another Czech verb instead of the modal verb or the modal verb was omitted completely.

3.1.2 May

May compared to *might* expresses slightly stronger possibility as was explained in chapter 1.4.1. The following table No. 3 presents the lexical means used to translate the epistemic modal verb *may*.

Table No.3

May	5 (2*)
moci	2
možná	2
je možné	1

*The number of cases in which other than lexical means were used.

The findings concerning the English modal verb *may* were as followed, it occurred in 7 examples in the representative sample of sentences.

Možná was used 2 times by the translator when translating *may* into Czech.

- 5) “*Black’s a known Muggle killer and may be planning to rejoin You-Know-Who...*” – “*...a možná má v úmyslu znovu se přidat k Vy-víte-komu...*”
(Appendix 1, example 1)

The Czech modal verb *moci* was used in 2 cases from the representative sample, when translating *may*.

- 6) *They may have been put under the Imperius Curse.* – *Takové osoby mohou být pod vlivem kletby Imperius.* (Appendix 1, example 14)

The representative sample of the verb *may* was quite a small one so it is no surprise that the use of modal participles and modal verbs is equal, although I would expect the use of the modal participles to be greater than the use of modal verbs as the verb has similar characteristics as the verb *might*, where it was proved that the modal participles were used more often in translations. Both verbs convey epistemic modality above all.

In 2 examples the verb *may* was translated by methods other than lexical means.

- 7) *Unconfirmed sightings suggest that the Death Eaters may now be using Inferi.*
– *Nepotvrzené zprávy naznačují, že Smrtijedi v současné době využívají služeb mrtvých.* (Appendix 1, example 15)

In example 7 we can see that *may* is omitted in the Czech translation. The meaning of *may* is implied in the expression “*nepotvrzené zprávy naznačují*”. The expression “*naznačují*” expresses that they may be using the Inferi but we are not sure, which points to the uncertainty.

So far, the findings show that the translator prefers modal particles to modal verbs or adverbials. The modal verbs *might* and *may* were analysed and, as they are primarily epistemic, it is more common to translate them via the modal particles or

adverbials. The Czech modal verb *moci* is usually used to translate modal verbs which are primarily deontic, this will be evident in the following analysis of the verbs *can* and *could*. However, the Czech modal verb *moci* was chosen in 24 cases to translate the modal verb *might*, and in 2 cases to translate modal verb *may*.

As can be seen from the analysis, there is a considerable difference in occurrence between the two modal verbs *might* (78x) and *may* (7x). This may be due to the degree of probability that each of the verbs implies. *Might* was probably used more frequently as it explicit lower possibility which is more suitable for the text that was analysed.

3.1.3 Could

Table No.4

Could	14
moci	10
nejspíš	1
je snad možné	2
Alespoň	1

The verb *could* was the most difficult one to analyze as it can often be ambiguous and of course some ambiguous examples were found within the representative sample. As was mentioned in previous chapters, the verb *could* is primarily deontic so it is hard to analyze it. Even the Czech translation did not help as it was often translated with the Czech modal verb *moci*, which can indicate both epistemic and deontic modality. In the cases where the modal verb was translated via Czech modal particles, there was no doubt that it is epistemic modality.

As was explained in chapter 1.4.3 *could* expresses the more tentative proposition when expressing possibility. As can be seen in table No 4, within the translation of the book we could find more cases where the translator used the Czech modal verb *moci* to translate epistemic *could*. This is because the modal verb *could* is primarily used to express deontic modality and not epistemic modality. As a result even the

Czech language prefers the use of a modal verb in the translations. The translator used the modal verb *moci* in 10 examples.

8) *Dumbledore could be prevented from collecting him.* – *Mohlo se přihodit něco, co Brumbálovi znemožní vyzvednout ho tady.* (Appendix 1, example 17)

As can be seen in this example *could* is used to express the uncertainty of the speaker about the future event and is translated into Czech via the modal verb *moci*. This example is as well ambiguous as it can be interpreted either in the way that he could be prevented as there are some obstacles that would stop him, or that it is not in his power to collect him.

The other means used in the translation were the Czech adverbs *je snad možné* and *nejspíš*.

9) *Could the Half-Blood Prince possibly be-?* – *Je snad možné, že tím princem dvojí krve byl...?* (Appendix 1, example 71). This example is certainly epistemic as the possibility is assured via the mean of *possibly*, which grants the possibility.

In 1 case the modal verb *could* was translated into the Czech language using other methods than the lexical means.

10) *In that way, the other house elves could keep an eye on him.* – *Tam by ho alespoň ostatní měli pod dohledem.* (Appendix 1, example 25)

In this case the modal verb was not translated. Instead of *could* was used the adverb “*alespoň*“ which expresses the uncertainty in the Czech translation. Once again this example is not unambiguous. There exists two ways how to interpret this sentence. Firstly, we can say that they could keep an eye on him because it is in their power, Secondly, because there is nothing in their way. However, the translation suggests that we are dealing with epistemic modality on the ground of the adverb “*alespoň*“.

Could is the one verb, from the group of the studied verbs that were analyzed, which was translated into Czech more often by means of the Czech modal verb *moci* than by modal adverbials or modal particles. The reason is as was already stated that the

verb is primarily deontic and the preferences are to use the modal verb *moci* to translate *could*.

3.1.4 Can

Table No.5

Can	1
náhodou	1

Epistemic *can* was found in the representative sample in 1 case. Its occurrence was found in the interrogative structure

11) “*Can you possibly be related to Hector Dagworth-Granger?*” – “*Nejste náhodou příbuzná s Hectorem Dagworthem-Grangerem?*” (Appendix 1, example 96)

The single occurrence of the modal verb *can* was found in the a direct sentence, see table No. 6, and it suggests the uncertainty of the speaker about his knowledge of whether the person is related to the person referred to. The uncertainty is emphasized via the adverb *possibly*. The translator used the adverbial *náhodou* to translate the modal verb *can* to express the uncertainty.

As was mentioned in the previous chapters the modal verb *can* is primarily deontic and so its occurrence in epistemic modality is rare and found only in the interrogative structures. As a result the presence of the modal verb *can* was low.

As can be seen from the results, shown in tables No. 2, 3, 4, 5 the most frequent modal verb used in the English book was *might* which, as was stated before, is used to express very low possibility of the analysed modal verbs. When translating the modal verbs *may* and *might*, the preference was to use modal adjectives and modal particles. When translating the modal verbs *can* and *could* the preference was to use the Czech modal verb *moci*. The analysis show that the primarily epistemic modal verbs *may* and *might* tend to be translated by Czech modal adverbials and particles

whilst the primarily deontic modal verbs *can* and *could* tend to be translated via the Czech modal verb *moci*.

3.2 Reported and Non-reported speech

This chapter deals with the analysis of the reported and non-reported speech in given text.

Let us first summarise the characteristic of the text that was chosen for the analysis. The examples were collected from genre – fiction. Fiction is a form of narrative, one of the modes of discourse. It has distinct forms of expressions or modes each with its own purposes and conventions. Fiction is any form of narrative which deals, in part or in whole, with events that are not factual, but rather imaginative and invented by its author.

The speech can be divided into two main streams: reported and non-reported speech. Traditionally, two kind of reported speech can be distinguished: Direct speech and Indirect speech. The former evokes the original speech situation and conveys, or claims to convey the exact words of the original speaker in direct discourse; the later adapts the reported utterance to the speech situation of the report in indirect discourse. For more information see Coulmas (1986). Among the non-reported speech we can include the narrative and all background information in the given text.

Table No.6

			Might	May	Could	Can
Reported speech	68	Indirect speech	/	/	/	/
		Direct speech	52	5	10	1
Non-reported speech	32		26	2	4	0

As was already said above another phenomenon that was observed in the analysis was the occurrence of modal verbs in reported and non-reported speech. The studied modal verbs occurred 68 times in reported speech and all the occurrences were found

in direct speech. Non-reported speech was represented in 32 examples. See table No. 6 for the full summary of the occurrences.

As was mentioned earlier the most occurrences of modal verbs in question were found in reported speech and more precisely in direct speech. This might be due to the style of writing – the fiction, which is full dialogue and it contributes to produce effects of immediacy, drama and involvement.

Where the modal verb was used in direct speech it showed the speaker's uncertainty about the proposition.

12) *"It might be possible...for me to help Draco."* – *"Snad by to šlo...myslím, abych Dracovi pomohl."* (Appendix 1, example 13)

In example 11 the speaker is stating that it is possible that he will be able to help but he is not sure at the moment. To show the uncertainty, the modal verb *might* is used. In this example the uncertainty is further emphasized by the adjective *possible*.

13) *"He only followed different instructions to ours," said Ron. "Could've been a catastrophe, couldn't it?"* – *"Jen se řídil jinými pokyny než my," poznamenal Ron. "Mohlo to taky skončit katastrofou, nemyslíš?"* (Appendix 1, example 57)

Example 12 shows that it was possible for something to happen in the past, as the structure of the verb indicates. From the context we learnt that the situation was possible, nevertheless it did not happen. The direct speech is usually put in quotation marks, as can be seen in both examples 11 and 12.

When a modal verb is found in the main clause in direct speech it is explicitly expressing the uncertainty of the speaker about whether the proposition is possible or not.

Unfortunately, no occurrence of indirect speech was found among the analysed representative sample of modal verbs.

Another occurrence of the modal verbs was found in non-reported speech. This might be called the stream of consciousness, which would be represented by the narrator's speech, background information.

Example 2, indicates narrators voice where he is expressing the uncertainty via the use of modal verb *might* plus say. It means that whatever is said is or is not the truth.

14) *Whatever the press and the opposition might say, the Prime Minister was not a foolish man. – Bez ohledu na to, jak se o něm vyjadřovala opozice a sdělovací prostředky, nebyl ministerský předseda žádný hlupák.* (Appendix 1, example 2)

15) *Still Harry remained silent, though he thought his chest might explode. – Harry mlčel jak zařezaný, i když měl pocit, že se mu hrudník snad roztrhne.* (Appendix 1, example 49)

Example 14 follows the basic rule when the modal verb is in its past tense form *might* plus bare infinitive.

When we compare the occurrence of the modal verbs in reported and non-reported speech we could not find any great distinction in their usage. All forms very used in both cases with no apparent preferences.

3.3 Time Reference Expressed By Modal Verbs

The other part of the research concentrates on the use of the modal verbs; *might*, *may*, *could* and *can*, expressing epistemic possibility and the time reference which they express. Table No. 7 shows the summary of the analysis. We shall also try to compare the consistency of time reference in English as well as in Czech.

Table No. 7

	Might	May	Could	Can
Past time reference	22	4	7	/
Present time reference	15	1	4	1
Future time reference	38	2	3	/
Conditional future time reference	2	/	/	/
Conditional present time reference	1	/	/	/

3.3.1 Might

From the table above it can be seen that the most frequent modal verb *might* was used in 38 cases to express reference to a future event; for example:

- 16) *It's all this uncertainty with You-Know-Who coming back, people think they might be dead tomorrow. – Lide si říkají, že zítra už třeba nebudou naživu.*
(Appendix 1, example 35)

The future time reference when using modal verb has the structure *might* + bare infinitive, the future reference can be determined only from the context as it is the same as referring to the present.

In 15 cases the verb *might* was used to express the event referring to the present time.

- 17) “*Tom, I might be wrong – but has somebody nailed a snake to that door?*” –
“*Tome, možná se mylím, ale není tam na těch dveřích přibitý had?*”
(Appendix 1, example 63)

As can be seen from the examples 15 and 16, the form of the modal verb expressing the present and future time reference is the same. The difference can be recognized from the context. Example 15 gives reference to the future by adding the adverbial of time “*tomorrow*”, so it is explicitly referring to the future. Example 16 is a direct sentence where the speaker is expressing present uncertainty.

The reference of the modal verb *might* to past events was found in 22 cases. Unlike the expression of present and future time references, the past time reference is distinguished by a distinctive form. When the modal verb is used to express past time, the form is as follows: *might + past infinitive*.

- 18) *Narcisa let out a noise that might have been a dry sob and covered her face with her hands. Narcisa ze sebe vyrazila jakýsi chraptivý vzlyk o oběma rukama si zakryla obličej.* (Appendix 1, example 8)

The form of the verb and also its’ translation helps us to recognise the past time reference in example 17.

When comparing the English and Czech time reference, some differences were found in the time reference. Let me present an example

- 19) *He could not shrug off the feeling that something was going to go wrong - his reply to Dumbledores might have gone astray. – mohlo se stát, že se jeho odpověď na Brumbálův dopis někam zatoulá.* (Appendix 1, example 16)

As can be seen in this example the English uses *might have gone astray* which is referring to the past while the Czech translation *že se dopis někam zatoulá* expresses the uncertainty in the future.

3.3.2 May

As can be seen in table No.7 the verb *may* occurred in the text 7 times. It was found in 1 case when referring to the present time.

20) *Unconfirmed sightings suggest that the Death Eaters may now be using Inferi. – Nepotvrzené zprávy naznačují, že Smrtijedi v současné době využívají služeb neživých.* (Appendix 1, example 15)

From example 18 it is obvious that it refers to the present time event as it uses the adverbial of time “*now*”, the Czech translation also uses the adverbial, “*v současné době*”.

As was stated in the previous chapter, reference to the present situation has the same form as future time reference. The verb *may* occurred in future time reference in 2 cases.

21) “*I may be as woefully wrong as Humphrey Belcher,..*” – “*Se může stát, že se dopustím tak politováníhodného omylu jako Humphrey Říhal.*“ (Appendix 1, example 61)

The two sentences 18 and 19 both have the same form of the verb *may* + *bare infinitive*, so it is not clear whether they refer to present or future time. The time reference is, however, apparent from the context. And besides, example 18 also uses the adverbial of time “*now*”, so it is obvious that the reference is to the present. In example 19 a similar device is not used, though the future reference can be recognized from the paraphrase and also from the Czech translation. When there are no adverbials in the sentence the time reference must be recognized from the context.

The verb *may* appeared 4 times in the sentences with the past time reference. The form of the verb expressing the past time reference has the form of *may* + *past infinitive*.

22) *The shock of her desertion may have contributed to his early death. (It is possible that her desertion have contributed to his early death.) – Je možné, že šok z jejího útěku přispěl i k jeho brzké smrti.* (Appendix 1, example 65)

The reference to the past event is expressed here by the grammatical structure of the verb *may + past infinitive*, in the Czech translation the time reference is obvious from the verb in the past tense “*přispěl*”.

In the Czech translations there were again found some differences in time reference when compared with the English.

23) *They may have been put under the Imperius Curse. – Takové osoby mohou být pod vlivem kletby Imperius.* (Appendix 1, example 14)

As can be seen from this example the English uses *may have been* and as it was said above this structure refers to the past. However the Czech translation is in the present *mohou být*.

3.3.3 Could

The verb *could* was found in 14 examples in the representative sample text. See table No. 7.

The verb *could* was found 3 times when referring to the future events.

24) *"If you were prepared to grant me a few interviews, say in four-or five-hour sessions, why, we could have the book finished within months." – "Kdybyste byl ochoten poskytnou tmi pár rozhovorů, řekněme tak po čtyřech či pěti hodinách, za pár měsíců bychom mohli mít knihu hotovou."* (Appendix 1, example 84)

As can be seen from example 21, the future time reference is apparent from the sentence via the use of “*within months*”, when the sentence is referring to a future event, a situation that will be finished in the future. The Czech translation is also helpful since the author chose the word “*za pár měsíců*”.

The verb *could* was located in 4 examples when it was used in the present.

25) *"It's addled his brains, but he could still be dangerous." – "Zatemnil mu mozek, pořád ještě by ale mohl být nebezpečný."* (Appendix 1, example 6)

The future and the present time reference, as has been mentioned, has the same form of the verb *could* + *bare infinitive*. However, in example 21, there is the form *could have finished* as it is a conditional sentence referring to the future, which is emphasized by “*within months*”. This example is ambiguous from the English perspective. It could be interpreted either as it is possible that he is still dangerous or that there is nothing in his way to be dangerous. When interpreting this example as epistemic we can look at the translation which uses the conditional *mohl by být* which supports the epistemic possibility. Another element that supports the epistemic possibility is the use of stative verb *be*, which is one more indicator for epistemic possibility.

The verb *could* was also found in reference to the past. It occurred in such references in 7 cases.

26) “*Slughorn could’ve handed me that book,...*” – “Taky mohl Křiklan dát tu učebnici mně,...” There is the paraphras: “*It is possible that Slughorn has handed me that book,...*” (Appendix 1, example 58)

Like the previously mentioned modal verbs *might* and *may*, the modal *could* expresses the past time reference using the structure *could* + *past infinitive*.

When analysing the modal verb *could* there were not found any differences in time reference.

3.3.4 Can

The verb *can* was found in the text in one example from the representative sample, see Table No. 7.

25) *Can you possibly be related to Hector Dagworth-Granger?* This sentence can be paraphrased as followed – *Is it possible that you are related to Hector Dagworth-Granger?* (Appendix 1, example 96)

Example 24 refers to the present time. As with the previously cited cases, it has the following structure *can + bare infinitive*. In example 24 the structure is passive.

To conclude this chapter, the time reference of modal verbs has two forms. When the modal verb refers to the present or the future it can be found in the same form – the modal verb plus bare infinitive. Compare this to the reference to the past, which has a different structure to that of the present and the future time references. To refer to the past tense, the modal verb plus present perfect tense are used. When analysing the time reference and its consistency in English and Czech some dissimilarities were found. It usually occurred in sentences where the modal verb referred to the past whereas the Czech translation referred to the present.

Conclusion

This chapter is designed to summarize the findings of the research concerning the previously mentioned modal verbs. The aim of this bachelor paper was to study the use of English modal verbs *may*, *might*, *can* and *could* expressing the epistemic possibility and their Czech equivalents. The research was built upon the theoretical background concerning the secondary data. The primary data were gathered from the book *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J. K. Rowling and the translation *Harry Potter a Prince Dvojí Krve* translated by Pavel Medek.

The research confirms that the modal verb *might* occurs in the analysed text most frequently. The reasons for that are the grammatical characteristics. Firstly, the verb is primarily epistemic and secondly, it implies the weakest possibility of all the analysed verbs. The lower occurrence in the text was found with the modal verbs *could* and *can*. This is because the verbs are primarily deontic and to express epistemic possibility they are not used frequently.

The research also confirms that in the case when the primarily epistemic modal verb is used the preferences when translating such verb are to use the Czech modal adverbials and modal particles instead of the Czech modal verb. On the contrary, when translating the modal verbs that express the epistemic possibility, but are primarily deontic, the preferences are to use the Czech modal verb in the translation. This can be seen on the modal verbs *might*, which was translated mainly via the means of Czech modal adverbials and particles. The other primarily epistemic verb is *may*, however in this case the analysis did not prove that the most often used means in translation are the modal particles or modal adverbials. This can be a result of a small sample of the verb *may* found in the text. The means used to translate *may* into Czech were almost equivalent between the Czech modal verb *moci* and modal adverbials. However, the modal verb *could* was translated primarily via the Czech modal verb “*moci*”. The verb *can* was found in the text only once. Therefore, there is

no sufficient amount of examples on which to draw conclusions. The only example was, however, translated via the Czech modal adverb “*náhodou*” and it occurred in interrogative structure as this is the only occurrence for epistemic *can*.

As the use of modal verbs within the reported (direct and indirect) and non-reported speech is concerned, the research revealed that the most frequent occurrences of the modal verbs were found in the reported speech. As was mentioned the reported speech can be divided into direct and indirect speech. All occurrences of the reported speech were however found in the direct speech. These direct structures express the speaker’s explicit uncertainty about the proposition. Among non-reported structures were included all examples of narratives and other information in the text.

The next outcome of the analysis concerns the use of the modal verbs when referring to past, present or future. When the modal verb is used to refer to present or future it proved to have the same verb form and that is the modal verb plus bare infinitive. The distinction between present and future time reference can be made from the context. In some cases it was possible to determine the time reference as the author used an adverbial of time; such as: *tomorrow*, *within months*, *now*, *still*. It is possible to build the distinction upon the Czech translation since the Czech language has specific verb forms for each time reference. Past time reference is obvious from the text as the modal verbs in past time have a specific structure; modal verb plus past infinitive. Another phenomenon that was studied was the consistency of time reference in English and Czech. Usually the time reference was consistent; however, some examples were found where the time reference differs. When the modal verb was used in past tense it was very often translated into Czech in present tense.

The analysis proves that the most frequently used modal verb is *might* when expressing epistemic possibility. When translating the modal verbs into the Czech language the translator chose the modal adverbs and modal particles to translate the primarily epistemic modal verbs (*may* and *might*). While, the modal verb was chosen

to translate the primarily deontic verbs (*can* and *could*). As the time reference is concerned, when the modal verb refers to present or future it has the same verb form. Though when the modal verb refers to past it has a specific verb form.

Resumé

Cílem této bakalářské práce je provést výzkum, zaměřený na výskyt modálních sloves, které vyjadřují jistotní modalitu v anglické beletrii a jejich ekvivalenty použity v českém překladu.

Práce je rozdělena na tři části – Anglický modální systém, Český modální systém a samotná analýza. Teoretická část práce se zabývá studiem odborné literatury týkající se modality, modálních sloves a charakteristiky modálních sloves vyjadřujících jistotní modalitu – *may*, *might*, *can* a *could*, které jsou později předmětem analýzy. Konkrétní autentický jazykový materiál je získán z anglické beletrie a z českého překladu. Získaná primární data jsou analyzována z hlediska lexikálního s ohledem na zkoumané jevy modálních sloves.

První kapitola v teoretické části práce se věnuje anglickému modálnímu systému. Je zde vysvětleno, co je to modalita a že existují tři druhy modality, modalita jistotní, dispoziční a dynamická. V další podkapitole se mluví o rozdílech mezi jistotní a dispoziční modalitou, neboť nastudování rozdílů je důležité pro pozdější analýzu, která bude provedena na základě těchto nastudovaných informací. A samozřejmě jistotní modalita je rozebrána podrobně v následující podkapitole. Dále je definována skupina modálních sloves používaných v anglickém jazyce a jejich specifické vlastnosti. Z této skupiny modálních sloves je následně vybrána skupina sloves, která jsou předmětem následné analýzy (*may*, *might*, *can* a *could*) a následující kapitola podává jejich popis a charakteristiku.

Druhá kapitola v teoretické části práce se věnuje českému modálnímu systému. Nejprve je zde poukázáno na rozdíly mezi anglickým a českým modálním systémem. V dalších podkapitolách se pojednává o prostředcích, které vyjadřují jistotní modalitu v českém jazyce. Tyto prostředky jsou modální slovesa, modální příslovce a modální částice. Každá podkapitola se věnuje jednomu typu modálních prostředků. Každé z nich je charakterizováno a jsou uvedeny příklady nejužívanějších prostředků.

Třetí kapitola zahrnuje praktickou část bakalářské práce a to samotnou analýzu. Analýza byla provedena na základě reprezentativního vzorku sloves vyjadřující jistotní modalitu, který byl získán z anglické beletrie, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* od J. K. Rowling a z českého překladu *Harry Potter a princ dvojí krve* přeloženo Pavlem Medkem. Z anglického díla byl získán vzorek o sto příkladech, a na jehož základě byl posbírán stejně rozsáhlý vzorek ekvivalentů z českého překladu. Daný vzorek příkladů byl následně analyzován z několika hledisek.

První část analýzy se týká výskytu modálních sloves vyjadřujících jistotní modalitu v anglickém jazyce a jejich preference při používání. Poté byli zjišťovány preference při překládání jednotlivých modálních sloves (*may, might, can a could*) do českého jazyka. Bylo zkoumáno jaké jazykové prostředky si překladatel vybral, zda modální sloveso, modální příslovce a nebo modální částice.

Druhá část analýzy je zaměřena na výskyt modálních sloves a jejich slovesný tvar, který je použit k vyjádření děje odehrávajícího se v minulosti, přítomnosti nebo budoucnosti. Bylo zjišťováno, jak se liší forma modálních sloves vyjadřující již zmíněné gramatické časy. Pro vyjádření přítomného a budoucího času používají modální slovesa stejný slovesný tvar (modální sloveso plus infinitive) a rozeznat je lze pouze ze souvislosti a nebo pokud autor použije příslušné příslovce. Při vyjádření minulého času se v anglickém jazyce tvar modálního slovesa liší, je použito modální sloveso plus minulý infinitive.

Poslední kapitolou je závěr práce, kde jsou vyvozeny závěry na základě prostudované odborné literatury a následně provedené analýzy.

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ÚDAJE PRO KNIHOVNICKOU DATABÁZI

Název práce	Modal Verbs Expressing Epistemic Possibility in English and Their Czech Equivalents
Autor práce	Monika Krausová
Obor	Anglický jazyk pro hospodářskou praxi
Rok obhajoby	2010
Vedoucí práce	Mgr. Petra Huschová, Ph. D.
Anotace	Cílem této bakalářské práce je provést výzkum zaměřený na výskyt anglických modálních sloves vyjadřujících jistotní modalitu a jejich české ekvivalenty. Konkrétní autentický jazykový materiál je získán ze dvou beletristických děl, z anglického originálu a jeho českého překladu. Sekundární literatura byla studována, aby byla dosažena adekvátní znalost modalit a modálních sloves, které vyjadřují jistotní modalitu. Během analýzy byla zkoumána čtyři modální slovesa (<i>may, might, can a could</i>) a v potaz byli vzaty i české ekvivalenty. Data získaná kvantitativní analýzou budou později kvalitativně interpretována.
Klíčová slova	Modalita – modality Jistotní modalita – epistemic modality Modální slovesa – modal verbs may, might, can, could

Appendix 1

1	He shuddered"Black's a known Muggle killer and may be planning to rejoin You-Know-Who..."	"O Blackovi je známo, že zabil několik mudlů, a možná má v úmyslu znovu se přidat k Vy-víte-komu...."
2	Whatever the press and the opposition might say, the Prime Minister was not a foolish man.	Bez ohledu na to, jak se o něm vyjadřovala opozice a sdělovací prostředky, nebyl ministerský předseda žádný hlupák.
3	It was, however, eclipsed almost immediately by a glow of smugness at the thought that, deficient though he himself might be in the area of materialising out of fireplaces, there had never been a murder in any of the government departments under his charge...	Tu však prakticky vzápětí zadusila vlna samolibého uspokojení, kdy si uvědomil, že sice neumí tak dobře jako Popletal vyskakovat z cizích krbů, zato však pod jeho vedením nikdy nedošlo na půdě některého z ministerstev k žádné vraždě...
4	"We think He Who Must Not Be Named may have murdered her in person, because she was a very gifted witch and..."	"Domníváme se, že Ten, jehož jméno nesmíme vyslovit, ji možná zavraždil osobně, protože to byla velice nadaná čarodějka a..."
5	"I wish him luck," said Fudge, ..."If he'd just been prepared to persuade the boy, I might still be ... well, maybe Scrimgeour will have more success."	"Kdyby projevil ochotu přesvědčit toho chlapce, možná bych ještě byl... Nu což, třeba bude Brousek úspěšnější."
6	Said Scrimgeour..."It's addled his brains, but he could still be dangerous."	"Zatemnil mu mozek, pořád ještě by ale mohl být nebezpečný."
7	Wormtail hesitated for a moment, looking as though he might argue, but then turned and headed through a second hidden door.	Červíček zaváhal a chvíli se zdálo, že se chce dát do hádky, pak se ale otočil a vyšel z pokoje druhými skrytými dveřmi.
8	Narcissa let out a noise that might have been a dry sob and covered her face with her hands.	Narcisa ze sebe vyrazila jakýsi chraptivý vzlyk a oběma rukama si zakryla obličej.
9	"Not quite," said Snape calmly. ".....Seemed to think it might bring about a relapse...tempt me into my old ways."	"Obával se zřejmě, že by to u mě mohlo vést...hmm. K recidivě, že by mě to mohlo znovu zlákat k dřívějšímu způsobu života."
10	"He did not dare reveal himself to a former ally if that ally might turn him over to Dumbledore or the Ministry."	"Neodvážil se dát svou existenci najevo někdejšímu spojenci, protože se obával, že by ho ten spojenec mohl vyradit Brumbálovi nebo ministerstvu."
11	"Do you disagree that murdering his favourite student might have turned him against me?"	"Myslíš si snad, že nemám pravdu, když tvrdím, že zavražděním jeho oblíbeného studenta bych si ho nejspíš obrátil proti sobě?"

12	"Indeed, many of the Dark Lords old followers thought Potter might be a standard."1	Mnozí z původních přívrženců Pána zla se dokonce domnívali, že by se Potter mohl stát bojovou zástavou.
13	"It might be possible...for me to help Draco."	"Snad by to šlo...myslím, abych Dracovi pomohl."
14	They may have been put under the Imperius Curse.	Takové osoby mohou být pod vlivem kletby Imperius.
15	Unconfirmed sightings suggest that the Death Eaters may now be using Inferi.	Nepotvrzené zprávy naznačují, že Smrtijedi v současné době využívají služeb neživých.
16	He could not shrug off the feeling that something was going to go wrong - his reply to Dumbledores might have gone astray.	...- mohlo se stát, že se jeho odpověď na Brumbálův dopis někam zatoulá.
17	Dumbledore could be prevented from collecting him.	mohlo se přihodit něco, co Brumbálovi znemožní vyzvednout ho tady.
18	The letter might turn out not to be from Dumbledore at all.	Mohlo se dokonce ukázat, že ten dopis vůbec nepsal Brumbál.
19	He had completely forgotten to warn the Dursleys that Dumbledore might be coming.	Úplně zapomněl Dursleyovy upozornit, že se u nich Brumbál možná objeví.
20	It might have been the blatant wizardishness of his appearance.	Možná to byl jeho nepokrytě kouzelnický vzhled.
21	but it might, too, have been that even Uncle Vernon could sense that here was a man whom it would be very difficult to bully.	možná ale strýc Vernon sám vycítil, že tohoto muže by stěží dokázal zastrašit.
22	"We may as well be comfortable," said Dumbledore pleasantly.	"Bude lepší, když si uděláme pohodlí," prohodil spokojeně.
23	Dumbledore said calmly....."It might be that Bellatrix will arrive on the doorstep at any moment."	"Každým okamžikem se může stát, že se na jeho prahu objeví Belatrix."
24	Dudley drew his large bare pink head, as though he thought the creature might run up his pyjama trousers.	Dudley zvedl velké bosé růžové nohy téměř nad hlavu, jako by se bál, že mu ten podivný tvor skočí do nohavic pyžama.
25	"In that way, the other house-elves could keep an eye on him"	Tam by ho alespoň ostatní měli pod dohledem
26	"If there is an attack," said Dumbledore, "I give you permission to use any counter-jinx or -curse that might occur to you.	"Ti dávám svolení použít jakékoli protikouzlo či protikletbu, která tě napadne.
27	"I'm fine," said Harry....."But I think I might prefer brooms."	"Řekl bych ale, že létání na koštěti mi vyhovuje víc."
28	...half-scared of what he might see hidden behind the wreck of the piano or overturned sofa,...	...co by asi mohl objevit za zničeným klavírem nebo převrženou pohovkou...
29	"Still, it might be reusable."	"Možná ale půjde použít znovu."

30	"Albus! I might have been in hiding, but some funny rumours have reached me since Dolores Umbridge left!"	"Albusi! Je sice pravda, že se schovávám, ale po odchodu Dolores Umbridge z Bradavic se ke mně doneslo pár dost podivných zpráv!"
31	Harry had been slightly worried that Slughorn might be at breakfast, but he answered his office door at the first knock,.....	Harry se trochu bál, že Křiklan může být právě na snídani, dveře kabinetu se však otevřely hned po prvním zaklepání.
32	"And I suppose one could argue that..."	A dalo by se nejspíš argumentovat, že....
33	"... in which case, I might well be safer a little closer to Albus..."	"A v tom případě je docela dobře možné, že trochu blíž Albusovi bych byl ve větším bezpečí..."
34	That he might even suspect that until his letter arrived Harry had spent nearly all his time at the Dursleys lying on his bed.	Možná se dokonce domyslel, že než dorazil jeho dopis, strávil Harry prakticky všechnen čas u Dursleyových tím, že ležel na posteli.
35	"It's all this uncertainty with You-Know-Who coming back, people think they might be dead tomorrow."	Lidé si říkají, že zítra už třeba nebudou naživu.
36	"I mean, a Death Eater might have forced the answer out of you before impersonating, you!"	"Smrtijed by tě přece mohl přinutit, abys mu tu odpověď prozradil, než by se za tebe vydával."
37	"We thought it might be something like this...."	"No, napadlo nás, že by to mohlo být něco takového..."
38	"When we heard Dumbledore was collecting you in person, we thought he might be telling you something, or showing you something, to do with the prophecy."	"Když jsme se dozvěděli, že si tě Brumbál jde osobně vyzvednout, napadlo nás, že ti možná chce povědět nebo ukázat něco, co s tou věštbou souvisí."
39	"They might be able to find you a double cell in Azkaban with your loser of a husband!"	"Možná se v Azkabanu najde dvoucela, kam vás zašijou i s tím ubohým ztroskotancem, s vaším panem manželem!"
40	"We took away everything that might have been dangerous."	"Zabavili jsme všechno, co nám připadalo nebezpečné."
41	The prophecy could have referred to either of them.	Věštba se mohla týkat jednoho či druhého z nich.
42	"Let's go under the Invisibility Cloak, then we might get a good look at Malfoy on the way, see what he's up to."	"Aspoň bychom se cestou mohli pořádně podívat na Malfoye a zjistit, co má za lubem."
43	...what might he not see or hear?	...kdo ví, co by uvnitř uviděl a nebo zaslechl?
44	"I mean, I might not even be at Hogwarts next year."	"Chci říct, že příští rok možná vůbec v Bradavicích nebudu."
45	"What do you mean, you might not be at Hogwards next year?"	"Jak to myslíš, že příští rok možná vůbec v Bradavicích nebudeš?"

46	"I might have - er - moved on to bigger and better things."	"Je možné, že - no...že mě čeká něco lepšího a důležitějšího."
47	"I thought you might be hiding for some reason."	"Napadlo mě, že se třeba z nějakého důvodu schováváš."
48	"You might have set a record, Potter."	"Pravděpodobně jste vytvořil nový rekord, Pottere."
49	Still Harry remained silent, though he thought his chest might explode.	Harry mlčel jak zařezaný, i když měl pocit, že se mu hrudník snad roztrhne.
50	"He might just go back to teaching Potions at the end of the year."	"Třeba se koncem školního roku prostě vrátí k výuce lektvarů."
51	"That Slughorn bloke might not want to stay long-term, Moody didn't."	"Vždyť ten chlápek Křiklan tu třeba nebude chtít zůstat dlouhodobě, Moody přece taky nechtěl."
52	"I urge you, therefore, to abide by any security restrictions that your teachers might impose upon you,..."	"Vyzývám vás proto, abyste dodržovali všechna případná bezpečnostní omezení, která vám vaši učitelé uloží,..."
53	"...however irksome you might find them..."	"...ať už vám budou připadat jakkoliv protivná..."
54	"which means you would be well-advised to assume he might use them again."	"což znamená, že je radno předpokládat, že jich může použít znovu."
55	...he thought he might have smelled at The Burrow.	...,co snad kdysi cítil v Doupěti.
56	the shivelled bean could have held it all.	jak jí vůbec mohla jedna fazolka obsahovala...
57	"Could've been a catastrophe,."	"Mohlo to taky skončit katastrofou."
58	"Slughorn could've handed me that book,..."	"Taky mohl Křiklan dát tu učebnici mně,..."
59	...it might look suspicious.	...protože by to vypadalo příliš podezřele.
60	"It might have been a girl."	"Třeba to byla holka."
61	"I may be as woefully wrong as Humphrey Belcher,..."	"...se může stát, že se dopustím tak politováníhodného omylu jako Humphrey Říhal,..."
62	He might have looked comical,...	Mohl svým zjevem působit směšně...
63	"Tom, I might be wrong - but has somebody nailed a snake to that door?"	"Tome, možná se mýlím, ale není tam na těch dveřích přibitý had?"
64	"Merope could have taken to make Tom Riddle forget his Muggle companion..."	"Co mohla Meropa podniknout, aby přiměla Toma Raddlea, že zapomněl na svoji mudlovskou společnici..."
65	"The shock of her desertion may have contributed to his early death..."	"Je možné, že šok z jejího útěku přispěl i k jeho brzké smrti..."

66	"But trials might take all morning,..."	"Může se, ale stát, že konkurz zabere celé dopoledne..."
67	that Lupin might write occasionally,...	...že, by mu čas od času mohl poslat pár řádek Lupin...
68	"He might have been put under the Imperius Curse,"	"Třeba na něj seslali kletbu Imperius."
69	Harry had hoped that winning their final match last term might have cured it,...	Doufal, že vítězství ve finálovém zápase minulého školního roku ho z trémy vyléčilo,...
70	He thought for a moment that McLaggen might punch him,..	Chvíli ho napadlo, že se McLaggen pokusí Harryho praštit...
71	Could the Half-Blood Prince possibly be -?	Je snad možné, že tím princem dvojí krve byl...?
72	"I am going with Dean - might see you there."	"Jdu s Deanem - třeba se tam uvidíme."
73	More than once Harry wondered whether they might not have had a better time in the warm common room,...	Harry si několikrát pomyslel, že by možná bývalo lepší, kdyby zůstali v teple společenské místnosti,...
74	"...where this necklace might have been purchased."	"...kde byl tenhle náhrdelník možná zakoupen."
75	"It could've been meant for loads of people."	"Mohl být určen spoustě lidí."
76	"...anyone who might have had a hand in Katie's accident."	"...každý, kdo mohl mít s Katiinou nehodou něco společného..."
77	"Could you possibly be feeling sorry for lord Voldemort?"	"Je snad možné, že je ti lorda Voldemorta líto?"
78	"I thought he might be."	"Čekal jsem, že asi bude trochu zvláštní."
79	"You might have to buy some of your spellbooks and so on second-hand, but -"	"Možná si budeš muset některé knihy a další věci opatřit z druhé ruky, ale -"
80	"But I thought you might have the mouth-organ or something."	"Napadlo mě ale, že tady budete mít třeba foukací harmoniku nebo něco takového."
81	...he had had an inkling that this might happen sooner or later.	...měl dojem, že by k tomu dřív nebo později dojít mohlo.
82	He really thought for a moment that Ron might hit him,...	Chvíli si myslel, že ho Ron nejspíš udeří,...
83	Gripping Harry's arm so tightly he might have been hoping to Disapparate with him...	Popadl Harryho za paži tak pevným stiskem, jako by měl v úmyslu někam se s ním přemístit,...
84	"If you were prepared to grant me a few interviews, say in four-or five-hour sessions, why, we could have the book finished within months."	"Kdybyste byl ochoten poskytnout mi pár rozhovorů, řekněme tak po čtyřech či pěti hodinách, za pár měsíců bychom mohli mít knihu hotovou."

85	"I've got no plans to tell Ron anything about what might, or might not, have happened at Keeper tryouts."	"Rozhodně nehodlám Ronovi vykládat o ničem, co se na brankářském konkurzu možná přihodilo a možná taky ne."
86	"I might have another word with your dad, too."	"Možná bych si měl taky znova promluvit s tvým tatškou."
87	"We both know he wanted my job, but he could have wrecked much worse damage on me by tampering with the Potion."	"Oba víme, že měl záslusk na moje místo, mohl m ale uškodit mnohem hůř, kdyby mi do lektvaru přimíchal něco nepatřičného."
88	"It might have been on Dumbledore's orders that Severus questioned Draco."	"Je totiž docela možné, že se Severus Draca vyptával na Brumbálovův příkaz."
89	"The idea that there is somebody out there who might be able,..."	"Pomyšlení, že na tomto světě existuje někdo, kdo by mohl Toho, jehož jméno nesmíme vyslovit, zničit,..."
90	"...who might even be destined. To destroy He Who Must Not Be Named..."	"...kdo je k tomu možná dokonce předurčen..."
91	"And I can't help but feel that, once you realise this, you might consider it, well, almost a duty,..."	"A nemohu si pomoci, ale mám pocit, že pokud si tohle uvědomíš, budeš pravděpodobně považovat prakticky za svoji povinnost..."
92	"Yeah, and others might say it's your duty to check people really are Death Eaters before you chuck them in prison,"	"Jistě, a jiní by zase možná řekli, že vaší povinností je ověřit si, jestli je někdo skutečně Smrtijed, než ho strčíte za mříže,"
93	"You might have noticed he's not Minister any more,..."	"Nejspíš jste si všiml, že už není ministrem,..."
94	"I think you might even consider the possibility that I understood more than you did."	"Snad bys měl dokonce vzít v úvahu i možnost, že jsem tomu porozuměl lépe než ty sám."
95	"Each of us believes that what he has to say is much more important than anything the other might have to contribute!"	"Oba jsme přesvědčeni, že to, co chce říct jeden z nás, je mnohem důležitější než cokoli, čím může přispět ten druhý!"
96	"Can you possibly be related to Hector Dagworth-Granger?"	"Nejste náhodou příbuzná s Hectorem Dagworthen-Grangerem?"
97	"As you might have noticed,"	"Jak sis možná všiml,"
98	"...and might do much more harm than good,..."	"...a mohlo by to nadělat mnohem víc škody než užítku..."
99	I believe that you are the one person who might be able to penetrate his defences.	Já jsem přesvědčen, že právě ty jsi ta pravá osoba, které by se mohlo podařit proniknout jeho obranným štítem.
100	He had hoped that Hermione might have been able to give him a clue as to what Horcruxes were.	Doufal, že by mu mohla poskytnout alespoň nějaké vodítko k tomu, co jsou vlastně ty viteály zač.