

MODALITY ANALYSIS OF THE STORY “THE BEAR” BY ANTON CHEKOV

Dr. Shahid Nawaz, **Huda Hameed Qureshi, ***Muhammad Aqeel, *Muhammad Ramzan**
ABSTRACT

Modality is the opinion or judgment, as required, at the state of affirmation by the speaker. The present study is conducted to note the elements of modality in the short story The Bear by Anton Chekov. The objectives of the study are to find out the type of modality in shape of expressions, intentions and semantics being loaded by the text utterances by the speaker. The study is qualitative in its nature and form which has adopted the model of Khomutova (2014) and Palmer (2003) to find the types of modalities and their expressions in the selected short story. The results of the study show that there is existence of modalities in the short story. In perspective of Khomutova (2014), “the reality” and “unreality” had been tried to find in the story. The character had followed the “reality” at the beginning of the story yet their modalities were “unreal” at the ending. Under the typed of modalities of Palmer (2003), the negativity modality had been found because the characters are intended to have “desired action” while at the ending scenario, it has found that the “positive modalities” are there by the protagonist (Popova) and negative modality remained still at end as the “desired actions” are counted to be done, intended by Smirnov.

Keywords: Modality, Reality, Surreality, Positive, Negative, Neutral Modality

Introduction

The Bear by Anton Chekov is the short story, in which the mourning seen of Popova’s husband has been presented. The family is in the mourning rituals but the Smirnov is the person who is tended to demand his debt the late husband of Popova had. The demand of the money is based on the urgent basis yet Miss Popova intends to promise to pay on the next day. This demand turns towards amorous type of relations to get relief in debt. Modality is referred to the judgments or the opinions made by the speakers. Modality is the identification of the attitudes of the narrators or the person to understand the intended semantics through the selection of modals and expressions. Modality can be defined as the method of understanding the utterances and the expressions which is intended to be expressed by the narrator through the selection of the text (Palmer, 2003). The story is based on the conversation to affirmation requirement and the negation pertaining to the actions and helps explore the use of modals in which the certain actions and the desires are tried to be performed by the speaker. The present study is qualitative in its nature which is going to address the intended functions and the expressions made by the speakers. The study is unique as the function of the text and the intended semantics is being presented by the present study. Halliday (1994) mentioned that there is intermediate degree between the poles of negativity and positivity. Modality is being the meaning area lying between “yes and no” so there could be intermediate polarity of positivity and negativity. In the context of society, the language users are the human beings which as the linguistic experiences interchanging with others for the purpose of textual form realization. Halliday calls the modality as the language users’ actions while in the situation of changing of the linguistics experiences and these experiences are only changed by the selected text. In the changing of the language, the language users are intended to give the questions or commenting in sense of what is wanted to be said. There are judgments, attitudes, perspectives or the consideration of the addressors which are the realization for the questioning, offering, commanding or stating ways, on which the modality is consisted.

*Assistant Professor, Department of English Linguistics, The Islamia University, Bahawalpur.

**Assistant Professor English, Government Graduate College Baghdad Road, Bahawalpur

***Visiting Lecturer (English), Department of Political Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan,

****M Phil Applied Linguistics, Lahore Leads University, Lahore.

According to Halliday, the meanings of textual, interpersonal and ideational type are the main functional factors (1985). There are some elements that are a process relating through time, participants which are concerned of doing the process, and some circumstances such as cause, manner, time, place, etc. The circumstances are not the element of process but they participate in it. The clause can contain a mode of reflection, a mode of action, asking and giving service-and-goods and data that consist of event. When a clause contains of those elements it is called Transitivity.

As indicated by Zein et al. (2007), text is much the same as a live thing on the language level and text is additionally as a semantic unit that is the wellspring of significance creator. It can understand the significance which is constrained by the talk of importance. Indeed, morpheme, word, state, condition understand a wording which is constrained by the grammar and vocabulary. Halliday, contends that the framework arranges that can be recognized fall into three primary groupings, with collaboration between frameworks in any one group, yet practically no association between the frameworks across groupings.

Prina and Leon (2012) conducted a research study the Simpson model using in the stylistics analysis of Rosales' short story "Things You Don't Know". The study discussed that the stylistics analysis is the concerning with the reader's concerns of the textual interpretation under the linguistic choices focus. The study revealed that the Simpson model is helpful for the reader to understand the narrator's attitude. The study revealed that there was dominancy of the epistemic modal in which the uncertainty of the writer can be observed. The model does the function of revealing of the uncertainty, positivity or the negativity. The results also showed that the story was negative in shade and as there was affairs of the daily basis for the protagonist.

In some different veins, Kazemian and Hashemi in 2014 acquainted a coordinated methodology to examine political or different talks considering overarching method systems of Hallidayan GM in SFL, and Fairclough's point of view on basic talk analysis and Rhetoric. They dissected Mr. Obama's eight talks from the purpose of recurrence and elements of Nominalization, Rhetorical techniques, Modality and Passivation and so on to show the incorporated methodology reasonableness and proficiency through analysis; at that point by analysis to uncover how language was controlled and mutilated by speakers so as to pass on consistently planned messages and political statements of faith to the gathering of people. Looking over the ongoing archives of literature, some other momentous analysis likewise explored different political, promotion, and so forth talks in light of SFL to recognize various methodologies abused by speakers and political savants and the manner in which they made text/talk convincing, huge, engaging and cloud, just as the manner in which they passed on their planned destinations to the group of onlookers.

Aims and Objectives

The language and the functions of language are observed through the selection of the text in the conversation. The conversations can be analyzed not only based on the selection of the words yet by the intended expressions and the actions through the selection of text. The study was designed to investigate the manipulate the intended meanings and functions being conveyed by the modals and expressions and to analyze the short story under the modality models of Palmer (2003) and Khomutova (2014).

Research Questions

1. Which are intended actions and functions made by the speaker's conversations in The Bear by Anton Chekov?
2. What semantic aspects are involved in the story under the modality categories envisioned by Palmer (2003) and Khomutova (2014)?

Research Procedure

The present study is qualitative in which the facts are discussed in the descriptive and textual form. The adopted model for the research is the two dimensional as the two ways of reality and unreality described by Khomutova (2014). Palmer (2003) defined three types of modalities in which the function of the literature can be studied. There can be three categories of the modalities showing the action required as positive, negative and neutral. In the positive modality, the attention are required by the speakers as to follow and affirm and would do some actions according to the desire. In negative aspects, the knowledge, belief or the cognition regarding any aspect. In natural aspects, no action is required. In the Khomutova model, the modalities and the actions are based on the affirmation of the reality and unreality. The following picture can elaborate the Palmer’s model of modality.

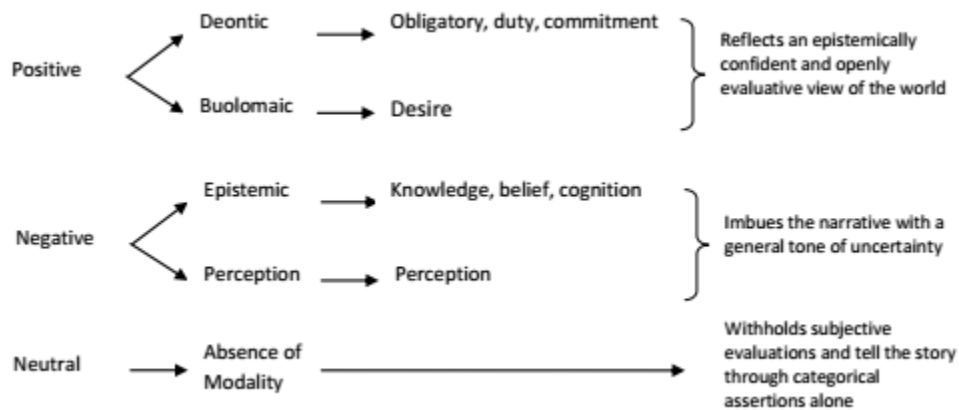


Figure 3.1

The data is collected from the online sourced websites where the whole text of the short story is available. The data is collected from the following website: <https://genius.com/Anton-chekhov-the-bear-full-text-annotated>. For the purpose of data analysis, the selected text of the short story The Bear is taken in which there are dialogues of Popova and Smirnov.

POPOVA.

You'll have your money the day after to-morrow.

SMIRNOV.

I don't want the money the day after tomorrow, I want it to-day.

Data Analysis

Modality is to note the intended meaning and the intentions of the speakers and these can be observed through going through the modals used in the text. In perspectives of Palmer (2003), there is “affirmation” and the “positive intentions” in the text utters by Popova, as the modal is used as “You ‘ll” which is stands in the perspectives of “obligatory” to ensure the positive expression. In the perspectives of Khomutova (2014), the sentence is based on unreality as the negation of the pre-utterances is there. In respond to, Smirnov is intended to show “the negative modality” showing that he had the “knowledge” of not paying. While it is based on the “reality ‘as well.

POPOVA.

Well, what can I do, if I haven't the money now!

SMIRNOV.

You mean to say, you can't pay me?

POPOVA.

I can't.

SMIRNOV.

Hm! Is that the last word you've got to say?

Palmer (2003) gave three type of modality, which the text is under the “positive” expression yet is “unreality” based. The used text as “can, haven’t” show it, uttered by Popova. The terms as “can’t pay, I can’t” stands on the negative modality yet it is based on the reality. In the perspectives of Khomutova (2014), the speaker orientation Popova are based on the unreal and negation while affirmation is there by Smirnov.

SMIRNOV.

The last word? Absolutely your last?

POPOVA. *Absolutely.*

Employed text, presents the expression and there are expressions in the text but no modality is there, in perspectives of Palmer (2003) as no entrances are there by the modals. It can be observed that the world is based on the “reality” being uttered by Popova and same the words are also based on the reality, being uttered by Smirnov.

SMIRNOV.

Thank you so much. I'll make a note of it. [Shrugs his shoulders] And then people want me to keep calm! I meet a man on the road, and he asks me "Why are you always so angry, Grigory Stepanovitch?" But how on earth am I not to get angry? I want the money desperately. I rode out yesterday, early in the morning, and called on all my debtors, and not a single one of them paid up! I was just about dead-beat after it all, slept, goodness knows where, in some inn, kept by a Jew, with a vodka-barrel by my head. At last I get here, seventy versts from home, and hope to get something, and I am received by you with a "state of mind"! How shouldn't I get angry.

POPOVA.

I thought I distinctly said my steward will pay you when he returns from town.

SMIRNOV.

I didn't come to your steward, but to you! What the devil, excuse my saying so, have I to do with your steward!

POPOVA.

Excuse me, sir, I am not accustomed to listen to such expressions or to such a tone of voice. I want to hear no more. [Makes a rapid exit.]

Smirnov is intended to the “positivity” in the lines as “I’ll, I meet, rod out, I was, I get” which are the positive modalities in sense of, showing “duty”. In the second utterances, “I thought, not accustoms” showing the respectively neutral modality and negative in which the “cognition” is there showing that the speaker is intended to build “knowledge and desire” to affirm the information. Smirnov is intended to show the expression of negativity, showing the “knowledge and cognition” while the reality is there showing that the utterances, based on the “knowledge and epistemological modalities as well.

[Enter POPOVA.]

POPOVA.

[Her eyes downcast] Sir, in my solitude I have grown unaccustomed

to the masculine voice, and I can't stand shouting. I must ask you not to disturb my peace.

SMIRNOV.

Pay me the money, and I'll go.

POPOVA.

I told you perfectly plainly; I haven't any money to spare; wait until the day after to-morrow.

Popov's expressions are of "negative" showing the "desire" and "belief" as the expressions are of "solitude, have grown unaccustomed to the masculine voice". The desire is there to have certain actions and desired by the speakers. In Smirnov, is intended to show the "nativity too" as the desire expression are not there. In based on Khomutova (2014), it can be observed that the Popova is intended to show the reality yet Smirnov is not intended to show the positivity at all.

POPOVA.

Please don't shout! This isn't a stable!

SMIRNOV.

I wasn't asking you about a stable, but whether I'd got my interest to pay to-morrow or not?

POPOVA.

You don't know how to behave before women!

SMIRNOV.

No, I do know how to behave before women!

Reality of the expressions is there in which the Popova, is intended to show the "reality" in sense of affirmation and the "belief" is there showing that the speaker is intended to show the epistemological modality. The words as "don't, don't know" stands for the "knowledge" and reality. In Smirnov, expressions, it can be observed that the expression are based on "unreality" too as the "desires" are there through the selection of the words as "I do, I'd got my interest" showing that the "desire" actions are required by the speaker intended to show that the certain action would be taken place.

POPOVA.

Then, according to you, who is faithful and constant in love? Is it the man?

SMIRNOV.

Yes, the man!

POPOVA.

The man! [Laughs bitterly] Men are faithful and constant in love! What an idea! [With heat] What right have you to talk like that? Men are faithful and constant! Since we are talking about it, I'll tell you that of all the men I knew and know, the best was my late husband. I loved him passionately with all my being, as only a young and imaginative woman can love, I gave him my youth, my happiness, my life, my fortune, I breathed in him, I worshipped him as if I were a heathen, and... and what then? This best of men shamelessly deceived me at every step! After his death I found in his desk a whole drawerful of love-letters, and when he was alive—it's an awful thing to remember!—he used to leave me alone for weeks at a time, and make love to other women and betray me before my very eyes; he wasted my money, and made fun of my.

The expressions and the functions of the language, by Popov are there of the “unreality” and same is by Smirnov showing the “negativity” and the “beliefs” too. The knowledge is there by showing, “Man are”, we are, I love, I found”. These expressions are based on the “negative modality” based on the knowledge and belief yet there are no expressions, based on the aspects being shown in the lines. In sense of “unreality” is there as the “context” is neglected in the lines showing the “intentions” towards the discursive aspects.

SMIRNOV.

You may have buried yourself alive, but you haven't forgotten to powder your face!

POPOVA.

How dare you speak to me like that?

SMIRNOV.

Please don't shout, I'm not your steward! You must allow me to call things by their real names. I'm not a woman, and I'm used to saying what I think straight out! Don't you shout, either!

Positive expression are there with respect to the bulimic modality, as the “desires” are there being expressed by “you may, you haven't. Must allow” as the intended semantics is the creation of the desire. The desire expressions are bases on “unreality” making diverse utterances in case of the issues being raises. The text used by Popov, is based on the “neutral” with no expression to the desire setting and phenomenon.

SMIRNOV.

Give me my money.... [Aside] Oh, how angry I am! How angry I am!

POPOVA.

I don't want to talk to impudent scoundrels! Get out of this! [Pause]Aren't you going? No?

SMIRNOV.

No.

Reality is there in the lines of Smirnov, showing that the speaker is intended to “desired actions” yet the negative modality is there based on the buolomaic expressions, of “desire actions. Popov is intended to have the “reality” based utterances and actions, showing the “own belief” yet the native epistemology is there as the certain actions are desired and the “belief” of the speaker is shown.

POPOVA.

Get out of this, now.

SMIRNOV.

Can't you be more polite?

“Neutral modality” is there being uttered by Popov and Popov is intended to show that the desired action can't be performed. This show the “unreality” too. Smirnov's expressions are based on the certain action showing the “negative modality” through the text as “can't you” which denotes the epistemological modality of “desire”.

SMIRNOV.

I'm mad.... I understand nothing. [Yells] Waiter, water!

POPOVA.

[Yells] Let's go out and fight!

“Negative modality” is there showing that the speaker is intended to have the “belief and knowledge” of the things while Smirnov is there with the utterances of the positivity, showing that the speaker is intended to show the certain actions. The “unreal” actions are there in sense of making the things more “concerning” as the things are based “on the desire actions”. The “neutral modality” is there by the textual utterances of “Popova” showing no actions but minor are the negative to, as epistemological modality is there by “desire actions”.

SMIRNOV.

[Approaching her] How angry I am with myself! I'm in love like a student, I've been on my knees.... [Rudely] I love you! What do I want to fall in love with you for? To-morrow I've got to pay the interest, and begin mowing, and here you.... [Puts his arms around her] I shall never forgive myself for this....

POPOVA.

Get away from me! Take your hands away! I hate you! Let's go and fight!

Negative epistemology is there, which is intended to create the certain type of actions. The actions are based on the things on the issues and the “desire” is there. The selection of the text as “I’m in love, I have, I want,” showing that there is epistemological modality based on the “cognition” and “desire” being uttered by Smirnov. The utterances are of “unreality” as the certain actions are desired to be performed by the listener yet the things are diverse. “Negative Positivity” is also there in regard to the Popova as the “desire” actions is also being intended to be performed by the listener. The listener is intended to “show the certain belief” as well.

Discussion and Conclusion

Modality is the noticing of the intended meanings and expressions being desired by the speaker from the listener. Modality is the inclusion of the utterances, intended meaning and expression which are loaded on the words. The present study is conducted in this regard which has found that *The Bear* by Anton Chekhov have the different types of modalities in which the positive, negative and neutral modalities are there, which are mostly found in the story. The positive modalities as desire and obligation is found in the texts of Smirnov who is intended to have the certain desired actions by Popova. There had been the utterances and the expressions of reality mostly found in the text of Popova. In perspectives of Khomutova (2014), it can be observed that the reality based utterances are mostly of Smirnov at the beginning of the story yet these diverted into “unreality” at the ending of the study which denotes that the speaker is intended to have the desired type of actions from the other person. In perspectives of Popov, it can be observed that she had been in expressions of “unreality” at the beginning yet transferred into reality at the end of the story. In positive, negative and neutral modalities (Palmer, 2003), it has been observed that both characters had been at the negativity at the beginning of the story to have some desired action being desired by the speaker to the other person yet it be observed that the neutral and positive modalities had been seen at the end of the story which denotes that the speaker remained attended to the obligatory type of actions as Popov had.

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