MODAL WORDS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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In this article the author attempts to trace some features of presentation of modal words in the Russian language. Fixation of the ability of particles to make our speech more intense has served to the speaking area as the basis for actualization of this problem. The specified ability allows us considering the modal particles to be the shades of meaning.

Keywords: Russian language, modal words, modality, lexical-grammatical structures, speaking area.

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The mood is one of a set of distinctive verb forms that are used to express modality. There are three moods in Russian, the indicative, the subjunctive and the imperative. Modality is concerned with the status of the proposition that describes the event. “Modality differs from tense and aspect in that it does not refer directly to any characteristic of the event, but simply to the status of the proposition.” (Palmer, 2001:25)

Modality is a special morphological means, for expressing various meanings and shades of modality. Mood forms of verbs, intonation and lexical items such as modal words and modal particles express modality in the Russian language. The relationship of the person speaking to the reality is represented by lexical, morphological and syntactic means in the Russian language. Syntactic means of expression of modality are mainly various words and constructions (sentences and phrases).

e.g.: полагаю, поверь, как видим, по правде говоря, уверяю вас, по-прежнему, уверяю вас, уверяю вас, по-прежнему, уверяю вас.

I think, trust me, as we see, honestly, I convince them clearly, without doubt, as far as I remember, all of us are deeply convince that it is time to acknowledge.

Different meanings of modality are characteristic for declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, imperative sentences and exclamations.

The modal words are not parts of the main clause, and they are not connected grammatically with other words in the sentence. They are syntactically used as:

a) phrase-sentence and mostly in dialogic speech;
   e.g.: Вы хотите купить эту книгу? - Безусловно. (Rosental/Golub/Telenkova, 2006:281)
   Do you want to buy this book? - Yes, I do.

b) parenthetical words with the modal meaning.
   e.g.: Вам до меня, конечно, нет никакого дела. (Ebd.281) You don’t care about me of course.

The Russian researchers Valgina and Rosental are of the opinion that the modal words represent a particular part of speech or word combination, and that their expression is evaluated by the speaker as whole or only parts of the utterance in terms of the degree of likelihood.

e.g.: a) Это, верно, кости глотает красногубый вурдалак (Valgina, 2006:282)
   The red-lipped vurdalak gnaws maybe the bones.

b) Обстоятельства верно, вас различили? (Ebd.282)
   They are no longer together by force of circumstances?

In both examples, верно is a modal word. It expresses the degree of probability of the utterance. The word верно in the first example refers to the entire set, in the second example only to the subject. Modal words are very close to adverbs and modal particles, so it is difficult to distinguish between them.

e.g.: a) Наши успехи действительно (modal particle) невелики. (Ebd.282)
   Our successes aren’t really big.

b) Я прислушался: действительно (modal word), это был голос. (Ebd.282)
   I listened it was really the voice

According to the Russian researchers not only modal words but also other parts of speech express different degree of possibility, as follows:

a) the words which express the attitude of the speaker to aspects of reality:
   e.g.: к счастью, к удовольствию, к сожалению, к несчастью, к удивлению, к огорчению, к прискорбию, к досаде others (Rosental/Golub/Telenkova, 2006:282 f);
   luckily / fortunately, enjoyable / pleasure, unfortunately / unfortunate unfortunately / unhappy / for evil, surprisingly / amazing / to astonishment, regrettably / sad, sadly / sad annoyingly / annoying
   e.g.: Найденов, к изумлению Нагульнова, в одну секунду смахнул с плеч кожанку, присел к столу.
   To Nagulnov’s amazement, Naydenov has quickly taken off the leather jacket and sat down at the table.

b) the words that refer to statement, restriction or alienation.
   e.g.: в частности, впрочем, including kстати in particular, by the way
   Присмотритесь, выберите себе дело по вкусу, и я обещаю учесть ваши склонности.
   Take a closer look, select the event to your liking, and I promise to consider your addiction.

Кстати, этих склонностей мы пока не знаем. But we don’t know these inclinations.

c) the words that indicate the association of ideas and their order.
   e.g.: во-первых, наконец, напротив, однако, итак, значит, следовательно, так сказать
   first, last, on the contrary, but / however, but / so, therefore, consequently, so to speak

Дядя заменил мне собою отца, воспитывал меня на свой счет и, словом, сделал для меня то, что не всегда сделает и родной отец.
The uncle has replaced my father and raised me as his own son; in a word, he has done everything for me that my own father hasn’t.

Accordingly, the meaning of the modal words in the Russian language, can be divided into two groups:

<table>
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<th>a)</th>
<th>with nouns - права, факт, право / the truth, the fact that legal</th>
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<td>e.g.:</td>
<td>Правда глаза колет. Truth hurts the tongue.</td>
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In this case, the word правда is translated as really, really, truly.

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<th>b)</th>
<th>with adjectives and adverbs - очевидно, конечно, действительно, верно, obviously, of course / course, really, probably / likely</th>
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<td>e.g.:</td>
<td>Я видел счастливого человека, заветная мечта которого осуществлялась так очевидно.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I saw a happy man whose dream was so obviously fulfilled.

The windows were closed with the blind. It is perhaps still asleep in the house.

c) | with the impersonal predicative words - видно, including слышно |
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<td>Хоть убей, следа не видно.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Life of me, I can’t see a trace.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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It seems that, goes without saying, have significance / meaning etc.

e.g.: Как вам кажется письмо Чаяева? |
What do you think about Chaadaev’s letter?

It seemed to me that he has probably long wondered at the door before you enter.

The waywodes have left nothing out of sight, but have done nothing.

Ты никак, Фишка плачешь? Are you crying Fischka?

Глаза закрылись сами собой. The eyes have been closed by itself.

- Когда же мы увидимся? Когда же мы увидимся? When will I meet you again?
- Не раньше лета, должно быть. - Maybe in summer, certainly not earlier. |

Ты никак. Фишка плачешь? Are you crying Fischka?

- Не раньше лета, должно быть. |
- Maybe in summer, certainly not earlier.
- Даже дважды два безусловно, |
- Twice two is sure / safe, probably |

Чаадаева?
What do you think about Chaadaev’s letter?

Воеводы не дремали, но никак не успевали. |
The waywodes have left nothing out of sight, but have done nothing.

... |
... |

Двождас два безусловно, |
- Twice two is sure / safe, probably |


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