

← Cognitive script: *It is said* that the Augsburg Bishop Walter Mixa had punished children physically.

From the point of view of synonymy, a certain cognitive context motivates the interchangeability of modal verbs, for example **dürfen**:

(36) Wie das geht, wissen wir eigentlich alle: Du **sollst** nicht rauchen, so lautet das erste Gebot. [www.bilanz.ch]

← How to do this we all don't know: you **shan't** smoke, so the first Law is.

← Cognitive script: Du **darfst** nicht rauchen. – You *are not allowed* to smoke.

The modal verb **wollen** in the meaning of “necessity” forms a synonym to **müssen** and is its stylistic variant and express the necessity to perform action:

(37) Eine persönliche Spendenstrategie **will** aber gut überlegt sein. [www.gea.de]

← A personal giving strategy needs to be thought out well.

← Cognitive script: Eine persönliche Spendenstrategie **muss** aber gut überlegt sein. – A personal giving strategy must be well thought out.

Without a doubt, it is possible to say that the modal verbs have several meanings among which are the main meaning and a few other typical meanings, namely precedent meanings. Depending on the speech situation and the context, the modal verbs can substitute for each other and, on this basis, are synonyms.

The system analysis of prototypical meanings of modal verbs allows us to state two kinds of their use – non-deictic and deictic. Within the first method, the modal relation of an opportunity characteristic for the verbs **können** and **dürfen**, necessity for **müssen** and **sollen** is realized. The modal relation of desirability contains the modal verbs **wollen** and **mögen**, that is, one can speak of the volatile modality. Within the second method, the modal relation of the assumption is realized in its various semantic aspects.

Revealing the functional relevance of the cognitive script for the realization of the semantics of modal verbs has shown that for the such cognitive script as a modal reading of the proposition in which the modal verb is realized, contextual conditioning is actual. The latter, in the form of a wide or narrow scope, influences the formation of the cognitive script, and as a consequence, the formation of the precedent meaning of the modal verb.

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