Modals in Japanese

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Language name: Japanese

ISO 639-3: nucl1643

Glottolog: jpn

Consultant demographics: A male speaker of Tokyo Japanese. He was born and raised in

Fukuoka so also speaks Fukuoka Japanese, but provided

judgements w.r.t. Tokyo Japanese for this session.

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BODY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A. EPISTEMIC

A1 Epistemic Necessity

(1) Ben goes swimming every day. Ben is not obliged or required to go swimming; it is just a habit of his. It is now time for Ben to be swimming... so Ben MUST be swimming (right now).

Ben-waoyoi-deiruhazudaBen-Topswim-Asp(prog)MODCop

Ben-wa oyoi-deiru **ni-chigai-nai**

Ben-Top swim-Asp MOD

Comments:

Nichigainai slightly stronger => has to be the case based on what you know.

Hazu = reading where there is not actually entailment.

The original gloss for *ni-chigai-nai* is Dat?-different-Neg.

(2) You know that John goes to school at 9am every day. You look at the clock and see it is 9am, therefore John MUST be at school.

Not tested.

(3) The math teacher says: The ball is in A or in B or in C. It is not in A. It is not in B. So, it MUST be in C. Adapted from von Fintel & Gillies 2007.

Booru-wa	C	ni	aru	hazu	da
Ball-Top	C	Loc	exist	MOD	Cop
Booru-wa	C	ni	aru	ni-chiş	gai-nai
Ball-Top	C	Loc	exist	MOD(Dat?-different-Neg)

(4) Tim is calling for his dog. The dog is not coming. Tim looks for the dog in the kitchen, bedroom, living room, (in every room in the house) but the dog is not in any of those rooms. Therefore, Tim thinks/concludes that the dog MUST not be in the house.

Not tested.

A2 Epistemic Weak Necessity

(5) You know that Ann goes hiking from 7am until 8am every day. Most of the time Ann goes to the lake, but sometimes she goes to the mountains. It is now 7:30am. You say to your friend: Ann SHOULD be at the lake right now.

An-wa	mizuumi-ni	iru -daroo
Ann-Top	lake-Loc	exist-MOD

(6) (Imagine that) you used to live in Goa. You are not living in Goa anymore. You notice how different the weather is in the UK, where you live right now. You know that it often rains in Goa, especially in the afternoon, but not necessarily every day. Now it's the afternoon, so you think it SHOULD be raining now in Goa.

Not tested.

(7) When the light is on at Mary's house, it usually means that she is home. You want to visit Mary. You walk past Mary's house and notice that the light is on. However, there is no car in the driveway. You think to yourself: Mary SHOULD be at home, but it's not certain.

Meari-wa	ie-ni	iru	hazu- da	ga,	tashika-de-wa	nai
Mary-Top	house-Loc	exist	MOD-Cop	but	certain-Cop-Top	Neg
Meari-wa	ie-ni	iru	daroo.			
Mary-Top	house-Loc	exist	MOD			

A3 Epistemic Possibility

(8) The teacher is not consistent. The students never know if he's going to come or not to teach class. Today, it's time to start class and the students are waiting again. He MIGHT / #must be coming to school today.

Kare-wa kuru ka-mo-shire-nai.

he-Top come MOD 'It is not known whether...' (lit.)

As long as there is a possibility, kamoshirenai can be used.

Comment: The original gloss for *ka-mo-shire-nai* is QParticle-ConcessiveParticle-know-Neg.

(9) Grace is looking for her necklace. She looks in her wardrobe and on top of the wardrobe. It's not there. She looks on top of the TV. It's not there. She looks in her backpack. It's not there. Wait! She didn't check her sister's wardrobe yet. Grace's necklace MIGHT / #must be lost.

Not tested.

(10) Charles is looking for his pet cat, but cannot find it. He knows that his cat is very elusive/mysterious. Charles tells his sister:

The cat MAY be inside. The cat MAY also be outside.

(The task is not only to translate these two sentences individually, but to keep in mind the sequencing i.e., these sentences are not to be used in isolation).

Neko-wa	ie-no	naka-ni	iru	kamoshirenai-shi	i-nai
cat-Top	house-Gen	inside-Loc	exist	MOD-ConjunctiveParticle	exist-Neg

kamoshirenai

MOD

(11) Daniel lives in London and his friend has recently moved to New York. Daniel's parents told him that he is not allowed to go and see his friend in New York because it is too far away. You heard that Daniel is leaving London next week but you don't know where he will go. Daniel usually does things that he is not permitted to do. You think Daniel MAY / MIGHT / #is allowed to go to New York.

Not tested.

A4 Epistemic Non-necessity

(7') When the light is on at Mary's house, it usually means that she is home. You want to visit Mary. You walk past Mary's house and notice that the light is on. However, there is no car in the driveway. You think to yourself: Mary should be at home, but it is NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE THAT she is / she MAY NOT be / it is NOT CERTAIN that she is.

^{&#}x27;The cat may be inside. The cat may also be outside.'

Meari-ga	ie-ni	iru-ka-wa	tashika	de-wa-nai
Mary-Nom	house-Loc	exist-Q-Top	MOD	Cop-Top-Neg

^{&#}x27;It is not certain whether Mary is at home.'

The following 2nd option is grammatical but slightly odd.

Meari-ga	ie-ni	iru -nichigainai	wake-de-wa- nai
Mary-Nom	house-Loc	exist-MOD	NMNL-Cop-Top-Neg

A5 Epistemic impossibility

(1') Ben goes swimming every day. Ben is not obliged or required to go swimming; it is just a habit of his. It is now time for Ben to be swimming... so Ben CAN'T be at home.

Not tested.

(3') The math teacher says: The ball is in A or in B or in C. We opened box A, and the ball is there. There is only one ball. So, it MUST NOT / CAN'T be in C.

Booru-wa	C-ni	aru	hazu-ga	nai
Ball-Top	C-Loc	exist	MOD-Nom	Neg
•				
Booru-wa	C-ni	aru	wake-ga	nai
Ball-Top	C-Loc	exist	reason-Nom	Neg

Both could be used for (1') as well.

B. DEONTIC

B1 Deontic Necessity

(12) In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike... You MUST wear a helmet.

Baiku-ni	noru-toki-wa	herumetto-o	kabur -ana-kereba	nar-anai
bike-Dat	ride-when-Top	helmet-Acc	wear-Neg-MOD	Verb-Neg

(lit.) if you don't wear a helmet, then you're not allowed (kind of). Meaning not transparent to native speakers => unit means deontic necessity.

Comment: The original gloss for *kereba* is ConditionalParticle.

(13) You are going to visit your friend in the hospital. When you enter into the hospital, you stop at the information desk to inquire what room your friend is in. But the woman at the information desk tells you that you can't visit your friend now because it's already 8pm. She says, "I'm sorry, the hospital regulations say that... Visitors MUST leave by 6pm."

Hoomonsha-wa roku-ji made ni kaer-anakerebanaranai visitors-Top 6-hour by Particle return.home-MOD

B2 Deontic Weak Necessity

(16) Your friend is having a birthday party. She tells you that she would like it if everyone invited wore formal clothes, but that it is not necessary to wear formal clothes to attend. You think to yourself... I OUGHT TO wear formal clothes to the party.

Reifuku-o kita-hou-ga ii
formal.clothes-Acc wear-direction-Nom good
"It would be better to wear formal clothes"

Reifuku-o kiru beki-da formal.clothes-Acc wear MOD-Cop

No specific one to one correspondence to Eng. 'ought to'.

(17) Your friend tells you that the rules of the restaurant state that employees must wash their hands after going to the bathroom. You reply to your friend:... Non-employees OUGHT TO wash their hands too!

Not tested.

(18) In England, it is recommended that face coverings be worn in stores, but it is not a legal requirement. You plan on going shopping, and you think to yourself... I OUGHT TO wear a face covering.

Not tested.

B3 Deontic Possibility

Target: deontic possibility vs. deontic necessity

(22) and (23) target deontic possibility vs. circumstantial possibility

- (19) The ferris wheel ride is only for children under 12 years of age. Martin is 10 years of age. It is not obligatory for Martin to go on the ride if he doesn't want to. Martin MAY / #must ride the ferris wheel.
- (20) According to the rules of the hospital, only family members are allowed to enter the patient's room during visiting hours. You came to visit your sister, but it was after visiting hours. But the really nice nurse says... You MAY / #must enter.

Hait-**te-mo** ii-desu-yo

enter-particle-Concessive good-Politeness-Particle

Hai-ru-koto-ga deki-masu-yo

enter-Nonpast-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do-Pol-Particle

(21) You are making plans for tomorrow night to meet up with your friend. Your friend says: You can stay overnight and you can go home.

You can stay overnight. You can also go home.

Tomat-**temoii**-shi kaet-**temoii** yo Stay.overnight-MOD-and go.home-MOD particle

Yo not necessary to interpretation of deontic possibility; more of a marker of new information.

(22) Alice fell down the stairs and broke her arm a while ago. She hasn't been lifting her baby while her arm was hurt because the baby is heavy. Finally, she has recovered, and she went to the doctor for a final check-up. The doctor gave her permission to lift her baby. But when she got home after her visit to the doctor, Alice found that she is still too weak to lift her baby... Alice CAN lift her baby.

Not tested.

(23) Beth's teacher told her class that it was okay to go swimming, but Beth doesn't want to because she cannot swim! Beth CAN go swimming.

i.e. Beth COULD go swimming, Beth is ALLOWED/PERMITTED to go swimming, but she can't swim.

Not tested.

B4 Deontic non-necessity

(16') Your friend is having a birthday party. She tells you that she would like it if everyone invited wore formal clothes, but that it is not necessary to wear formal clothes to attend. You think to yourself... I ought to wear formal clothes to the party, but I DON'T HAVE TO / NEEDN'T wear formal clothes.

Reifuku-o ki-naku-temoii formal.clothes-Acc wear-Neg-MOD

(18') In England, it is recommended that face coverings be worn in stores, but it is not a legal requirement. You plan on going shopping, and you think to yourself... I OUGHT TO wear a face covering, but I DON'T HAVE TO / NEEDN'T.

Not tested.

B5 Deontic impossibility

(12') In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike... You MUST NOT / MAY NOT ride a motor bike without a helmet.

Herumetto-nashi-de-wa baiku-ni notte-wa nar-anai helmet-no-Cop-Top bike-Dat ride-Top Verb-Neg

"You are not allowed to ride a bike without a helmet"

Herumetto-nashi-de-wa baiku-ni noru-koto-**wa deki-nai**

helmet-no-Cop-Top bike-Dat ride-Nmnl-Top be.able.to.do-Neg

Naranai has already appeared in deontic necessity; different way of using the verb *nar*. Up to linguist how to analyze this. If broken down into morphemes, then parallels can be seen between deontic necessity and deontic impossibility.

Herumetto-nashi-de-wa baiku-ni noru beki de-wa-nai helmet-no-Cop-Top bike-Dat ride MOD Cop-Top-Neg

"You should not ride a bike without a helmet."

beki => can also be used to express deontic weak necessity.

(13') You are going to visit your friend in the hospital. When you enter into the hospital, you stop at the information desk to inquire what room your friend is in. But the woman at the information desk tells you that you can't visit your friend now because it's already 8pm. She says, "I'm sorry, the hospital regulations say that... Visitors MUST NOT / MAY NOT stay after 6pm."

Not tested.

C. TELEOLOGICAL

C1 Teleological Necessity

(24) There is only one main road from Location A to Location B... If you go from Location A to Location B, you HAVE TO take this road.

Kono michi-o toor-anakerebanaranai

This road-Acc go.through-MOD

(25) Team A are playing in a tournament/competition/championship. In order to advance... Team A HAS TO beat Team B.

Not tested.

(26) The best pizza in town is sold at Gino's. You have invited your sister for dinner, and you decide to order pizza. You tell your sister: We HAVE TO order from Gino's to eat the best pizza.

Gino's-kara chuumon-shi-nakerebanaranai yo
Gino's-from order-LV-MOD Particle
[in principle possible but consultant finds it quite strong]

Context might be a bit weaker than necessity.

Gino's-kara chuumon-suru-beki-da-yo
Gino's-from order-LV-MOD-Cop-Particle

C2 Teleological Weak Necessity

(27) There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by tram/horse-carriage/truck/train/bus/public van, or drive/motorcycle/bicycle yourself. You are not sure how to go. Your friend advises you to get the bus because it is cheaper... To get to the shopping centre, you SHOULD take the bus.

Shoppingusentaa-ni shopping.centre-Dat	<i>iku-ni-wa</i> go-?-Top	<i>basu-ni</i> bus-Dat	<i>noru-beki-da</i> yo ride-MOD-Cop Part		
Shoppingusentaa-ni	iku-ni-wa	basu-ni	notta- hoo-ga	ii	yo
shopping.centre-Dat	go-?-Top	bus-Dat	ride-direction-Nom	good	Part

No apparent difference in this particular case; feeling that *beki* is slightly less natural in teleological contexts as opposed to deontic contexts (more felicitous in deontic contexts). *Beki* more about rules than goals (intuition).

(28) There are 3 ways to get to the seaside: a direct road, taking smaller roads, or a combination. Your friend says that taking the smaller roads is very beautiful. According to him, you SHOULD go via the smaller roads.

Not tested.

(29) Your friend wants to buy a new shirt for her job at a reasonable price. There are many nice shops for professional clothes in the area, and you work at one of them and think it offers good prices. You say: You SHOULD go to my shop to buy a new shirt.

atarashii	syatsu-o	kau-nara	watashi-no	mise-ni
new	shirt-Acc	buy-Conditional	1sg-Gen	shop-Dat

kuru-beki-da yo come-MOD-Cop Particle

"If you are buying a new shirt, you should come to my shop."

atarashii syatsu-o kau-nara watashi-no mise-ni new shirt-Acc buy-Conditional 1sg-Gen shop-Dat

kita-**hoo-ga-ii** yo come-Direction-Nom-good Particle

Option with *hooga ii* seems a bit strange; felicitous only if there are other alternatives explicit in the context. Basically a comparative construction.

C3 Teleological Possibility

(30) There are two different ways to get to the mountains from the city centre. Way 1 is inland and way 2 goes around via the coast. Both take around 7 hours by bus and they are equally beautiful... You CAN take way 1.

Kono michi-o tootte-mo ii-yo

This road-Acc go.through-Concessive good-Particle

Kono michi-o tooru-koto-ga dekiru
This road-Acc go.through-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do

(31) There are two swimming pools in the town with the exact same design and both are an equal distance from your house. You plan to go swimming later on but have no specific desire for which pool to go to. You tell your sister... We CAN go to the swimming pool to the west.

Nishi-no puuru-ni itte-**mo ii**-yo

west-Gen pool-Dat go-Concessive good-Particle

(32) Your friend wants to buy a new shirt for her job. Since there are many nice shops for professional clothes in the area, you say... You CAN go to this boutique.

Not tested.

C4 Teleological non-necessity

(27') There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by tram/horse-carriage/truck/train/bus/public van, or drive/motorcycle/bicycle yourself. You are not sure how to go. Your friend advises you to get the bus because it is cheaper... To get to the shopping centre, you should take the bus, but you DON'T NEED TO / NEEDN'T do so.

Basu-ni nor-anaku-te-**mo ü-**yo

bus-Dat ride-Neg-TE-Concessive good-Particle

C5 Teleological impossibility

(24') There is only one main road from Location A to Location B... If you are going from Location A to Location B, you CAN'T take another road.

Betsu-no michi-wa toor-**e**-nai-yo

different-Gen road-Top go.through-CAN-Neg-Particle

Betsu-no michi-wa tooru-*koto-ga deki-nai-*yo different-Gen road-Top go.through-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do-Neg-Particle

(25') Team A are playing in a tournament/competition/championship. In order to advance... Team A CAN'T lose to Team B.

A-wa B-ni maker-are-nai-yo
A-Top B-Dat lose-MOD-Neg-Particle

D. CIRCUMSTANTIAL

D1 Circumstantial Necessity

- (33) You are on a bus. You have not had a chance to go to the toilet for 4 hours, and your bladder is full. You text your friend... I HAVE to pee so badly!
- (34) In the middle of a conversation, you feel a sneeze coming on... Excuse me! I HAVE to sneeze.

Kushami-ga deru sneeze-Nom come.out

(35) Water is entering a pipe, which has two outputs: the left output and the right output. But, you know that the left output is blocked. And the water is coming out from the right output. You say: the water MUST come out from the right output.

Mizu-wa migi-no deguchi-kara deru-hazu-da water-Top right-Gen output-from come.out-MOD-Cop

Difference between inanimate subject and first-person subject case in terms of modals chosen. When you use *hazu* = observation of what logically follows from what you know about the situation/context (intuition).

D3 Circumstantial Possibility

(36) Ani came to visit a small island in the Philippines. She noticed that the climate and many of the plants are similar to some places she visited in Indonesia. The temperature is the same, the rainfall is the same, the types of rocks and the soil are the same. But when she looked around, she didn't find any *duku* trees anywhere. But because the temperature, rainfall, and soil are the same, she thinks that... *duku* trees CAN / #might grow here.

Duku-no ki-wa koko-de sodatsu **hazu-**da
Duku-Gen tree-Top here-Loc grow MOD-Cop

koto-ga dekiru (incompatibility with verb itself)

(37) Amy knows how to make traditional Italian pasta. Now Amy is back in the country she lives in, and she wants to make traditional pasta, but the right kind of ingredients are not sold where she lives. So, she is unhappy because she wanted to show her parents how to make traditional pasta... Amy CAN / #might make traditional Italian pasta (but she does not have the ingredients).

Amy-wa pasuta-o tsukur-**e**-ru

Amy-Top pasta-Acc cook-CAN-Nonpast

Amy-wa pasuta-o tsukuru-**koto-ga dekiru**

Amy-Top pasta-Acc cook-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do

(37) = ability; (36) = pure circumstantial possibility.

(38) Ben was in a motorbike accident 3 weeks ago, and he sprained his ankle. Ben is able to walk now. However, the doctor told Ben that he is not allowed to walk until 5 weeks after the accident... Ben CAN walk now.

Ben-wa aruk-e-ru

Ben-Top walk-MOD-Nonpast

(39) Paul is quite old now, but he is still strong. His children are scared he will hurt his back if he does any intense labour, so they told him that he is forbidden to lift heavy things. But one day, his friend Rob asked to help him in the field, because Rob knows Paul is still strong. So when Rob saw a large rock that had to be moved, he asked P straightaway for help (but he didn't tell Paul's children!). Rob knew that... Paul CAN lift that rock.

Not tested.

(40) The travel vans have a limit of 13 people by law. But the drivers don't care, and stop for more than 13 people. Also, the vans are bigger than you think... Travel vans CAN fit 20 people.

Kuruma-wa nijuu-nin-o noser-**are**-ru

car-Top 20-CL(person)-Acc carry-MOD-Nonpast

Kuruma-wa nijuu-nin-o noseru-koto-ga dekiru car-Top 20-CL-Acc carry-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do

D4. Circumstantial non-necessity

(44) Given the way this volcano has been active in the past 100 years, it is LIKELY BUT NOT CERTAIN that it will erupt in the next 5 years.

Kono kazan-wa go-nen inai-ni hunka-suru to-wa kagira-nai This volcano-Top 5-years within-in eruption-LV Comp-Top limit-Neg "It is not guaranteed that this volcano will erupt in 5 years"

D5. Circumstantial impossibility

(34') In the middle of a conversation, you feel a sneeze coming on... Excuse me! I CAN'T help sneezing!

Kusyami-o tomer-are-nai sneeze-Acc stop-CAN-Neg

Kusyami-o tomeru-koto-ga **deki-nai**

sneeze-Acc stop-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do-Neg

(35') Water is entering a pipe, which has two outputs: the left output and the right output. But, you know that the left output is blocked. And the water is coming out from the right output. You say: the water CAN'T come out from the left output.

Mizu-wa hidari-no deguchi-kara deru-hazu-ga-nai come.out-MOD-Nom-Neg water-Top left-Gen output-from deki-nai Mizu-wa hidari-no deguchi-kara deru-koto-ga water-Top left-Gen come.out-Nmnl-Nom be.able.to.do-Neg output-from

E. BOULETIC

E1 Bouletic Necessity

Target: bouletic necessity

(42) targets bouletic necessity vs. deontic necessity

(41) You love handbags. You see a really nice handbag in a window and you say... I WANT/NEED TO buy it.

Kono baggu kaw-**ana-kya**This bag buy-Neg-MOD

Kono baggu kaw-ana-kerebanaranai

This bag buy-Neg-MOD

(42) Your friend asks you what you desire/want to do today since it is a holiday and you both are not required to do any tasks today. You say... I WANT to go to the cinema.

(43) A daughter tells her parent... My friend WANTS to come visit me.

Can express bouletic sense with a modal only if SUBJ = 1st person (intuition).

Table of Japanese Modals:

MODALS	EPISTEMIC	ROOT/NON-EPISTEMIC					
		PARTICIPA	NT-EXTERNAL	PARTICIPANT-INTERNAL			
	Epistemic	Deontic	Teleological	Circumstantial	Bouletic		
Necessity	hazu (da) ni chigai nai (slightly stronger)	(a)nakereb anaranai	(a)nakerebanar anai	hazu with non-first person subjects	(a)nakereb anaranai seemingly only with first person subjects		
Weak Necessity	daroo	hou-ga ii beki	beki hou-ga ii		::		
Possibility	kamoshirenai	temo ii OR koto-ga deki	temo ii OR koto-ga deki	(ar)e with ability readings hazu with pure circumstantial possibility readings as in (36) koto-ga dekiru in principle okay with agentive verbs			
Non necessity	tashika (certain) + negation	[p negation +] temo ii	[p negation] + temo ii	Kagira-nai 'limit-neg'			

	OR nichigainai + negation (slightly less natural)				
Impossibility	hazu-(ga) + negation OR wake-(ga) (reason-Nomi natative) + negation	naranai OR beki + negation OR koto-ga deki + negation	(ar)e + negation OR koto-ga dekiru + negation	(ar)e + negation (ability readings) hazu + negation (pure circumstantial impossibility readings) OR koto-ga dekiru + negation	