

Modals in Igbo

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BODY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A. EPISTEMIC

[A1](#) Epistemic Necessity

Target: epistemic vs. deontic necessity.

(3) and (4) target only 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 *ga* *na* - *egwu* (*riri*) *mmiri* (*ugbua*).
Ben **MOD** hab - swim (**MOD**) water now

- *riri* optional, but preferred
- Researcher comment: *ga* is the future marker which presumably has a modal meaning and is therefore glossed as MOD, *ga* and *riri* both seem to contribute to the necessity meaning

(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.**

John *ga* - *ano* *(*riri*) *n'uloakwukwo*.
John **MOD** - be.loc **MOD** prep.house.book(school)

- *riri* not optional here
- *ga* is also not optional

*?John no-riri n'uloakwukwo.

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

O *ga-adi* **(riri)* n'akpati C.
3sg MOD-be MOD prep.box C

?? O di-riri n'akpati C.

- Sounds weird without *ga*

(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 concludes that **the dog must not be in the house**.

Nkita ahu ano - ghi (**riri*) n'ulo.
dog det be.loc - neg MOD prep.house

- Sentence sounds degraded with *riri*

Nkita ahu *aga* - ghi ano **(riri)* n'ulo.
dog det MOD - neg be.loc MOD prep.house

- First sentence; “*the dog is not at home*”
- The second sentence is closer to the target in the context of searching

A2 Epistemic Weak Necessity

Target: epistemic weak necessity vs. deontic weak necessity

(6) is also compatible with testing for epistemic possibility.

(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 and your friend asks where Ann is. You say to your friend: **Ann should be at the lake right now**.

Ann *kwesiri* i - no na lake ugbua.
Ann MOD inf - be.loc prep lake now

(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**.

E kwesiri na mmiri ga na - ezo na Goa.
 imp MOD that water MOD ipfv - rain prep Goa

- Imp = impersonal pronoun
- Complementizer *na* - low tone (always)
- Imperfective *na* - high tone (in this sentence), dependent on the verb stem's tone

(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. You think to yourself: **Mary should be at home**.

Mary kwesiri i - no n'ulo.
 Mary MOD inf - be.loc prep.house

Mary ga-ano riri n'ulo.

- stronger induction. Really sure (not much room for doubt)

A3 Epistemic Possibility

Target: epistemic possibility vs. epistemic necessity

(11) targets epistemic possibility vs. deontic 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 be coming to school today**.

O nwere ike i - bia uloakwukwo taa.
 3sg have strength inf - come school today

- Idiomatic, fixed expression "have strength" for possibility

(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. However, she has not checked two other places. She hasn't checked her sister's wardrobe yet. She hasn't checked the car either. **Grace's necklace might be lost**.

Iheolu Grace nwere ike na o fuola.
 necklace Grace have strength that it lost.pfv

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

The cat may be inside. The cat may also be outside.¹

Busu ahu nwere ike i - no n'ime ulo....
 cat det have strength inf - be.loc prep.inside house....

... *Busu ahu nwe -kwa - ra ike i - no n'iro.*
 ... cat det have- add - rV strength inf - be.loc prep.outside

- *Nwe-kwa-ra* -> with the additive morpheme *kwa*, *-ra* takes the vowel of the internal morpheme, so it's a different form of the unit *nwere*

(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 might go to New York.**

Daniel nwere ike i - ga New York.
 Daniel have strength inf -go N.Y.

Daniel ga-aga-ni N.Y.

- *ni* morpheme not used here (see "circumstantial possibility" for some possible uses)

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 may not be at home.**

Mary nwere ike na o no - ghi n'ulo.
 Mary have strength that 3sg be.loc - neg prep.house

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.**

Ben aga - ghi ano n'ulo.
 Ben MOD - neg be.loc prep.house

¹ (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).

- Most appropriate

(3') The math teacher says: There are 3 boxes. The ball is in box A or in box B or in box C. We opened box A, and the ball is there. There is only one ball. So, **it can't be in C**.

O *ga - ghi* *adi* *na* *C*.
3sg MOD - neg be.pred prep C

O *nwe - ghi* *ike* *i - di* *na C*.
3sg have - neg strength inf - be.pred prep C

- This seems stronger in terms of (absolute) impossibility.

B. DEONTIC

B1 Deontic Necessity

Target: deontic necessity

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

I *ga - eyi* *riri* *helmet*.
2sg MOD - wear MOD helmet

(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.**"

Ndi *obia* *ga - apu* *riri* *n'elekere* *isi*.
people visitor MOD - leave MOD prep.o'clock six

B2 Deontic Weak Necessity

Target: 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.**

<i>Ekwesiri</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>i - yi</i>	<i>akwa</i>	<i>mara</i>	<i>mma.</i>
MOD	1sg	inf - wear	cloth	be.beautiful	beauty

- When the first person pronoun comes after *kwesiri*, epenthetic *E* is added to it. No difference in meaning

<i>M</i>	<i>kwesiri</i>	<i>i - yi</i>	<i>akwa</i>	<i>mara</i>	<i>mma.</i>
1sg	MOD	inf - wear	cloth	be.beautiful	beauty

(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!**

<i>Ndi</i>	<i>na - abu - ghi</i>	<i>ndi</i>	<i>oru</i>	<i>kvesi - kwa - ra</i>	<i>i - kwo</i>	<i>aka</i>	<i>ha.</i>
people	ipfv - be - neg	people	work	MOD - add - rV	inf - wash	hand	their

(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.**

<i>Ekwesiri</i>	<i>m - i - yi</i>	<i>ihe</i>	<i>kpochie</i>	<i>ihu</i>	<i>m.</i>
MOD	1sg - inf - wear	thing	cover	face	my

<i>M</i>	<i>kwesiri</i>	<i>i - yi</i>	<i>ihe</i>	<i>kpochie</i>	<i>ihu</i>	<i>m.</i>
1sg	MOD	inf - wear	thing	cover	face	my

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, but **Martin may ride the ferris wheel.**

<i>Martin</i>	<i>nwe - re</i>	<i>ike</i>	<i>i - nya</i>	<i>ugbo.</i>
Marin	have - rV	strength	inf - ride	vehicle

(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 after visiting hours. But the really nice nurse says... **You may enter.**

<i>I</i>	<i>nwe - re</i>	<i>ike</i>	<i>i - ba.</i>
2sg	have - rV	strength	inf - enter

(21) You are making plans for tomorrow night to meet up with your friend. Your friend says:

You can stay overnight or you can go home.

You can stay overnight. You can also go home.

I nwe - re ike i - rahu ma o bu i nwe - re ike la.
2sg have - rV strength inf - sleep comp 3sg be 2sg have - rV strength go.home

I nwe - re ike i - rahu. I nwe - kwa - ra ike i - la.
2sg have - rV strength inf - sleep. 2sg have - add- rV strength inf - go.home

(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, although according to the doctor's orders

Alice can lift her baby.

Alice nwe - re ike i - kuli nwa ya.
Alice have - rV strength inf - lift child her

(23) Beth's teacher told her class that it was okay to go swimming, but Beth doesn't want to because she has never learnt to swim! However, as far as the teacher's directions are concerned...

Beth can go swimming.

Beth nwe - re ike i - ga gwo mmiri.
Beth have - rV strength inf - go swim water

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.**

O bu - ghi iwu na m ga - eyi (riri) akwa mara mma.
3sg be - neg law that 1sg MOD - wear MOD clothes be.beautiful beauty

- Preferable without *riri*. Not degraded with it.

M kwesiri i-yi akwa mara mma mana ekwesiri (**riri*) m i-yi akwa mara mma.

(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 wear a face covering.**

O bu - ghi iwu na m ga - eyi (riri) ihe kpochie ihu m.
 3sg be - neg law that 1sg MOD - wear MOD thing cover face my

B5 Deontic impossibility

(12') In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike... **You mustn't ride a motor bike without a helmet.**

I kwesi - ghi i - nya machine na ekpu - ghi helmeti.
 2sg MOD - neg inf - ride motor.bike NA wear.on.head - neg helmet

- This is "You shouldn't ...", more like a recommendation. Not easy to come up with a stronger version.
- The same holds for “ekwesi” (see below)

Any-la machine na ekpughi helmeti.
 ride-neg.imp motor.bike NA wear.on.head helmet
 “Don't ride a motorbike without a helmet.”

- This is a negative imperative (elicited, not volunteered in the context)
- *na* in this case appears when there is extraction from negative clause - particle, not the same as the comp *na*
- *la* is a negative imperative suffix

(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 mustn't stay after 6pm.**”

Ndi obia ekwesi - ghi i - no karia elekere asato.
 people visitor MOD - neg inf - be.loc exceed o'clock eight

- Again, this means "shouldn't ..." rather than “mustn't”

Ndi obia ano - kari - la elekere asato.
 people visitor be.loc - exceed - neg.imp o'clock eight

- Could be used in a context where it's a head doctor giving instruction to the receptionist
- It's an instruction

Ndi obia aga - ghi ano karia elekere asato.
 people visitor MOD - neg be.loc exceed o'clock eight
 "Visitors will not stay after 8 pm."

C. TELEOLOGICAL

C1 Teleological Necessity

Target: 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.**

I ga - eso - riri uzo a.
 2sg MOD - follow - MOD road this

(25) Team A are playing in a tournament. In order to advance... **Team A has to beat Team B.**

Team A kwesi - riri i - meri Team B.
 Team A MOD - MOD inf - win team B

?? Team A kwesiri i - meri Team B.
 Team A MOD inf - win Team B.

- The second example is not really appropriate in the context, means sth. like "Team A should have won" (e.g. because they played better)

* *Team A riri i-meri Team B.*

- *riri* has to attach to a verb

(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.

Anyi ga azu - riri na nke Gino.
 1pl MOD buy - MOD prep ? Gino

Anyi kwesi - riri i - zu na nke Gino.
 1pl MOD - MOD inf - buy at ? Gino

- both work (second ex. maybe slightly better)

C2 Teleological Weak Necessity

Target: teleological weak necessity

(27) There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by bus, or drive 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**.

Were bus gaa.

“Take the bus.”

I kwesiri i-ji bus gaa.
2sg MOD inf - take bus go

(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**.

Siri umu obere uzo gaa.

go.via children small road go

“Take the smaller roads.”

- conveys direct advice
- *umu* is necessary for the plural interpretation

I kwesiri i-si umu obere uzo gaa.
2sg MOD inf-go.via children small road go

(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.

I kwesiri i-ga na shop m.
2sg MOD inf - go prep shop my

I ga aga-riri na shop m.
2sg MOD go-MOD prep shop my

“You have to go to my shop.”

- Judged as felicitous in the context, but translated as “must”

kwesiri-riri

C3 Teleological Possibility

Target: 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.**

I nwere ike i - so way I.
2sg **have strength** inf - follow way 1

(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.**

Anyi nwere ike i - ga SP di na odida anyawu.
1pl **have strength** inf - go SP prep prep falling sun

(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.**

I nwere ike i - ga na boutique a.
2sg **have strength** inf - go prep boutique this

C4 Teleological non-necessity

(27') There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by bus, or drive 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 take the bus.**

... mana o bu-ghi iwu na i ga-eji bus.
but 3sg be-neg **law** that 2sg **MOD-take** bus

?/# mana o bu-ghi-riri iwu na i ga-eji bus.
but 3sg be-neg-**MOD** law that 2sg **MOD-take** bus

- Same infelicity with *kwesiri-riri*

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.**

I nwe-ghi ike i-so uzo ozo.

2sg **have-neg strength** inf-follow road another

(25') Team A are playing in a tournament. In order to advance... **Team A can't lose to Team B.**

Team A kwesi-ghi ka ha kwe ka team B merie ha.
 Team A **MOD-neg** comp 3pl agree that team B win them

Team A enwe-ghi ike i-kwe ka team B merie ha.

- They can't allow the other team to beat them
- It's not in their power to allow team B to beat them - because they're too strong?

D. CIRCUMSTANTIAL

D1 Circumstantial Necessity

Target: circumstantial necessity; (35) with inanimate subject

(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!**

M kwesiri i - nyu mamiri ozogbo ozogbo.
 1sg **MOD** inf - go urine immediate.reduplication

M ga nyu-riri mamiri (ugbua).

(34) In the middle of a conversation, you feel a sneeze coming on... Excuse me! **I have to sneeze.**

M ga - eze uzere.
 1sg **MOD** -sneeze sneeze

(35') Water is entering a pipe, which has two outputs: the left output and the right output. You block the left output so that **the water must come out from the right output.**

Mmiri ahu ga - esi - riri na nke aka nri puta.
 water det **MOD** - follow - **MOD** prep ? hand food come.out

- **Comment: This means there really is no other option.**

Mmiri ahu kwesiri i - si aka nri puta.
 water det **MOD** inf - follow hand food come.out

D3 Circumstantial Possibility

Target: (36) & (37) circumstantial possibility vs. epistemic possibility

(38) circumstantial possibility

(39) & (40) circumstantial possibility vs. deontic 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, where *duku* trees grow. 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 grow here.**

<i>Osisi</i>	<i>duku</i>	<i>nwe - re</i>	<i>ike</i>	<i>i - to</i>	<i>ebe</i>	<i>a.</i>
tree	duku	have - rV	strength	inf - grow	place	this

<i>Osisi</i>	<i>duku</i>	<i>ga - eto - ni</i>	<i>ebe</i>	<i>a.</i>
tree	duku	MOD - grow - MOD	place	this

# <i>Osisi</i>	<i>duku</i>	<i>to-ro-ni</i>	<i>ebe</i>	<i>a.</i>
tree	duku	grow-rV-MOD	place	this

- This means the trees have already grown here before

(37) Amy was in Italy and learned 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 make traditional Italian pasta (but she does not have the ingredients).

<i>Amy</i>	<i>nwe - re</i>	<i>ike</i>	<i>i - me</i>	<i>pasta</i>	<i>odinaala</i>	<i>ndi</i>	<i>Italy.</i>
Amy	have - rV	strength	inf - do	pasta	traditional	people	Italy

<i>Amy</i>	<i>ga - eme - ni</i>	<i>pasta</i>	<i>odinaala</i>	<i>ndi</i>	<i>Italy.</i>
Amy	MOD - do - MOD	pasta	traditional	people	Italy

- Without *ni* "she will make pasta". With *ni*, she has the ability to make pasta.

(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.

<i>Ben</i>	<i>ga - aga - ni</i>	<i>ije</i>	<i>ugbua.</i>
Ben	MOD - go - NI	walk	now.

<i>Ben</i>	<i>nwe - re</i>	<i>ike</i>	<i>i - ga</i>	<i>ije</i>	<i>ugbua.</i>
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Ben have - rV strength inf - go walk now

- Could be used where the person has regained the ability to walk
- In a context where a child starts walking, the first sentence would be used. Also when sb. pretends not to be able to walk but you know that they can.

(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 Paul straightaway for help (but he didn't tell Paul's children!). Rob knew that... **Paul can lift that rock.**

Paul *nwe - re ike* i - bu okute ahu.
Paul have - rV strength inf - carry stone det

Paul *ga - ebu - ni* okute ahu.
Paul MOD -lift - MOD stone det

Paul *bu - ru - *(ni)* okute ahu.
Paul carry - rV - MOD stone DET

- This means that the action has been performed before, so he would be able to carry it

(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.**

Ugbo *ga - ebu - ni* mmadu 20.
vehicle MOD - carry - MOD people 20

- Vehicle is able to carry 20 people

Ugbo *bu - ru - ni* mmadu 20.
vehicle carry - rV - MOD people 20

- The travel vans have fit 20 people already, "has the ability to do something again" [Researcher comment: This might be a pragmatic inference]

Ugbo *nwe - re ike* i - bu mmadu 20.
vehicle have - rV strength inf - carry people 20

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. **The volcano doesn't have to erupt.**

D5. Circumstantial impossibility

(34') Ben was in a motorbike accident 3 weeks ago. He sprained his ankle and is in a lot of pain.

Ben can't walk.

Ben *aga - ghi* *aga - ni* *ije.*
Ben **MOD - neg** go - **MOD** walk

Ben *enwe - ghi ike* *i - ga ije.*
Ben **have - neg strength** inf - go walk

(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.**

Mmiri *aga - ghi* *esi - ni* *aka ekpe puta.*
water **MOD - neg** come.from - **MOD** hand left come.out

- *Aga-ghi esi-ni* -> "the water has not got the ability to come out the left"
- *Aga-ghi esi* -> "it will not come from the left, because that's not an option. E.g., it doesn't exist"

(36') Ani came to visit a small Caribbean island. She noticed that the climate and many of the plants are very different to the places she visited in Indonesia, where *duku* trees grow. The types of rocks and the soil are different as well. She doesn't know whether or not there are *duku* trees on the island. But because the temperature, rainfall, and soil are so different, she thinks that... ***duku* trees can't grow here.**

Osisi *duku* *aga - ghi* *eto - ni* *ebe a.*
tree *duku* **MOD - neg** grow - **MOD** place this

?? *Osisi duku eto-ghi ni ebe a.*

- Not natural.

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 must buy it.**

M **ga** - *azu* - **riri** *ya*.
1sg MOD - buy - MOD it

(42) Your friend asks you what you want to do today since it is a holiday and you both are not required to do any tasks today. However, you absolutely want to see this new movie that everyone is talking about- You say... **I must to go to the cinema.**

M **ga** - *aga* - **riri** *cinema*.
1sg MOD - go - MOD cinema

? *M ga-riri cinema*.

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

Enyi *m* **cho** - **ro** *i* - *bia* *leta* *m*.
friend my want - rV inf - come visit me

? *Enyi m cho-riri i-bia leta m*.

- *ga*:- my friend would want to to come and visit me

bia-riri

Table of Igbo Modals:

MODALS	EPISTEMIC	ROOT/NON-EPISTEMIC			
		PARTICIPANT-EXTERNAL		PARTICIPANT-INTERNAL	
	<u>Epistemic</u>	<u>Deontic</u>	<u>Teleological</u>	<u>Circumstantial</u>	<u>Bouletic</u>
Necessity	ga- <i>v</i> -riri	ga- <i>v</i> riri	Ga- <i>v</i> -riri, Kwesi-riri	Ga- <i>v</i> -(riri), (e)kwesiri	Ga- <i>v</i> -riri, Cho-ro (want)
Weak Necessity	(e)kwesiri	(e)kwesiri	(e)kwesiri	...	n/a
Possibility	Nwe-re ike	Nwe-re ike	Nwe-re ike	Nwe-re ike ga- <i>v</i> -ni	n/a
Non-necessity	Nwere-ike ... <i>v</i> -ghi (NEG)	O bu- ghi iwu na... ga- <i>v</i> -(riri)	O bu-ghi iwu na ... ga- <i>v</i>	???	
Impossibility	ga-ghi (FUT+NEG), (e)nwe-ghi ike	(e)kwesi- ghi	(e)nwe-ghi ike, (e)kwesi-ghi	Aga-ghi + <i>v</i> -ni (FUT-NEG), (e)nwe-ghi ike	