

MULTINOT: ANNOTATION GUIDELINES – v. 2.4

1. MODAL MEANING

Potential markables of EVIDENTIALITY

- Modal or Non-modal?
In order to tag the markable as Modal, it must satisfy the following requirements:
 - The writer uses the markable to present the clause as a conclusion derived from evidence (*Apparently, they have found a solution; It's said to be harmful*).
- If Modal, these markables have an evidential function. But what type of evidence do they express?
- **Perception.** This is when the writer indicates that a claim is based on what s/he perceives or experiences (*he looks tired; it seems he's late*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Perception doesn't include those cases where the writer indicates that something is the expected or logical result. Compare: *Apparently, he was upset* (=I only have indirect evidence to claim that he was upset) vs. *Obviously, he was upset* (it was to be expected). For a markable to be annotated as 'Perception', it must indicate that the clause is a conclusion from indirect evidence. It must be excluded from annotation if it indicates:
 - That what is said is based on logic, common sense or what is to be expected.
 - That what the writer says is obvious for everyone to see, that anyone would agree.
- Perception is so general that it can actually imply communication: *I've talking to the boys and apparently he's fine*. This because 'what the writer has experienced' may include what he has been told. Annotate these examples as 'perception', even if they imply some communication.
- **Communication.** This is when the writer indicates that a claim is based on what others have said (*I've been/I've heard told he's in town; she's said to have...; according to...*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- A real example of 'Communicative evidence' contains a claim by the writer: quotations are not examples of evidentiality (*"Don't do it", he said.*)

- A real example of 'Communicative evidence' presents the claim as a conclusion from what others have said. What others have said is not simply used to support the writer's claim (*As most people say,...*)
- **Cognition.** This is when the writer indicates that a claim is based on what others have said (*They think told he's in town; she's believed to have...; supposedly...; allegedly...*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- In English and Spanish it is hard to distinguish what people say from what they think. The prepositions *according to/según* are vague, and the verb *say/decir* is often used to describe what people believe. If in doubt, choose Cognition.

Potential markables of **EPISTEMIC modality**

- Modal or Non-modal?
In order to tag the markable as Modal, it must satisfy the following requirements:
 - The writer uses the markable to show how certain s/he is of what s/he says (*It's certainly/probably/maybe the best beer*).

- If Modal, these markables may express different types of epistemic modality, or even modality other than epistemic. These are the main types of epistemic modality:

- **Possibility.** This is when the writer indicates that a claim could be true (*Maybe you're right; He could be ill*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Possibility can be similar to dynamic modality. These are the key elements to distinguish them:
 - Possibility contains an element of prediction and absence of knowledge from the speaker: *It could rain tomorrow*
 - Dynamic modality is a generic description of what is possible. It is hedging rather than prediction: *it can rain very hard here*.
- **Probability.** This is when the writer indicates what is likely to be the case: *He's likely to win; he'll probably win*.
- **Certainty.** This is when the writer indicates that s/he is quite confident that what s/he says is true: *It is certainly good; He's certain to come; It must be true; She can't have heard you; He's without doubt the best*. Negative certainty produces doubt
- **Doubt.** This is when the writer indicates that s/he has doubts that what s/he says is true: *I doubt whether I can finish this work; I don't know if that's true*. Negative doubt produces certainty
- **Apprehension.** This is when the writer shows his/her attitude towards an event that is uncertain: *I hope you're right; I fear they may have got lost*.

Potential markables of **DEONTIC modality**

- Modal or Non-modal?
In order to tag the markable as Modal, it must satisfy the following requirements:
 - The writer uses the markable to express meanings such as obligation, prohibition, etc. (*You must/should/mustn't/don't have to do that*).
- If Modal, these markables may express different types of deontic modality, or even modality other than deontic. These are the main types of deontic modality:
- **Obligation.** This is used to indicate that something must be done (*We must finish this*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Obligation is similar to dynamic necessity. These are the key elements to distinguish them:
 - In deontic obligation the sense of obligation stems from social laws: *They must submit the paper by the end of the month*.
 - In dynamic necessity the sense of obligation stems from physical limitations: *Animals must drink water to avoid dehydration*.
- **Recommendation.** This is used to indicate a milder type of obligation: *You should try at least*.

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Recommendation can be hard to distinguish from obligation. The key element to distinguish them is:
 - Recommendation presets the action as beneficial for the person who must carry it out: *You should work harder*.
 - Obligation simply imposes the obligation, without focusing on who will benefit from it: *You must do as you are told*.
- **Permission.** This is used to indicate that the addressee is allowed to do something: *You may come in*.
- **Prohibition.** This is used to indicate that the addressee mustn't do something, or that something mustn't happen: *You mustn't leave*.
- **Absence of obligation.** This is used to indicate that the addressee doesn't need to do something: *You don't have to/needn't stay*.

Potential markables of DYNAMIC modality
--

➤ Modal or Non-modal?

In order to tag the markable as Modal, it must satisfy the following requirements:

- The writer uses the markable to describe tendencies, what is possible or obligations imposed by natural limitations. These meanings are explained and exemplified in more detail below.

➤ **Necessity.** This meaning presents an obligation imposed by natural limitations, as opposed to obligations stemming from social or moral principles (*Humans need to drink to survive*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Inevitability can be hard to distinguish from deontic meanings. Sometimes the key is the communicative purpose of the utterance. Consider the sentence:
 - *These plants must be watered regularly.*

If the sentence is said to impose an obligation on the addressee (= 'you must water these plants, the example is to be annotated as deontic. If the sentence is said as part of a description of plants and their requirements, it is an example of dynamic modality.

➤ **Tendency.** This describes tendencies: *They tend to finish too early*.

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Tendency can be very similar to probability, as typical expressions of probability are often used to describe tendencies. Consider the sentence:
 - *Students are likely to complain when they are assigned homework.*

The key to distinguishing them is that probability contains an element of prediction about a specific case (*Your students are likely to complain if you do that*), whereas tendency is found in generic statements (*Students in general*).

➤ **Dynamic possibility.** This is used to describe what is possible in the world as we now it (*Humans can't escape gravity*).

CAREFUL WITH...:

- Dynamic possibility and epistemic possibility can be very similar. The key to distinguishing them is that dynamic possibility is descriptive and is found in generic statements, whereas epistemic possibility is a prediction from the writer about a non-generic event.

- Dynamic possibility can be confused with permission. This is because in English and Spanish speakers often refer to what is possible as a way of granting permission: *You can leave*. The key to their distinction is that dynamic possibility is purely descriptive, whereas permission affects the addressee's behaviour.

Potential markables of VOLITIONAL modality

➤ Modal or Non-modal?

In order to tag the markable as Modal, it must satisfy the following requirements:

- The writer uses the markable to describe what a participant wants or is ready to accept.

➤ **Willingness.** This describes what a participant wants to do (*They want/are willing to do it*).

➤ **Acceptance.** This describes what a participant is ready to accept (*They don't mind going to school*)

2. REALIZATION

TAGS		ENGLISH	SPANISH
INFLECTION		—	<i>Será un error</i>
VERB	FINITE	<i>It must be..., it can be...</i>	<i>Tiene que ser..., puede ser ...</i>
	PROJECTING CLAUSE	<i>It is said that..., they think...</i>	<i>Se dice que..., creen que...</i>
	PROCESS	<i>It is not allowed..., they want to..., he looks ...</i>	<i>Está permitido..., quieren ..., parece ...</i>
ADVERB/PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE	ADJUNCT	<i>perhaps, possibly, according to...</i>	<i>tal vez, posiblemente, según...</i>
	MODIFIER	<i>a seemingly difficult decision</i>	<i>una decisión aparentemente difícil</i>
ADJECTIVE	EPITHET	<i>A probable mistake, a necessary action</i>	<i>Un probable error, una acción necesaria</i>
	ATTRIBUTE ASCRIBED TO PROCESS	<i>It is possible to ...</i>	<i>No es posible...</i>
	ATTRIBUTE ASCRIBED TO PARTICIPANT	<i>He's likely to ...</i>	—
NOUN	EXISTENT	<i>There's a tendency to ...</i>	<i>Hay una tendencia a ...</i>
	POSSESSED	<i>he has no intention of ...</i>	<i>No tiene intención de...</i>

The tags explained:

- **Inflection.** Any inflection of the verb, such as the Future and Conditional tenses (only in Spanish).
- **Finite.** A verb that acts as Finite within the verbal group. The verb doesn't retain a lexical meaning (modal verbs).
- **Projecting clause.** A verb that is in the projecting clause. The projected clause is the clause that is under the scope of modality.
- **Process.** A verb that acts as Process within the verbal group. As opposed to Finite, these verbs retain a lexical meaning and can take nominal groups as a participant: *I want it (*I must it), This is not allowed (*This shouldn't).*
- **Adjunct.** An adverb or prepositional phrase that acts as Adjunct in the clause.
- **Modifier.** An adverb or prepositional phrase that modifies the head of an adjectival group.
- **Epithet.** An adjective that modifies the head of a nominal group.
- **Attribute ascribed to process.** An adjective that acts as Attribute in a relational process, where the participant that receives the Attribute is a process.
- **Attribute ascribed to participant.** An adjective that acts as Attribute in a relational process, where the participant that receives the Attribute is a participant.

- **Existent.** A noun that has a clause under its scope and acts as the Existent in an existential process.
- **Possessed.** A noun that has a clause under its scope and acts as the Possessed in a possession process.