

**UNIVERSITY OF TARTU
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES**

**EPISTEMIC MODALS IN J.K. ROWLING'S
HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
AND THEIR ESTONIAN TRANSLATIONS
BA thesis**

**LIIS KARILAIK
SUPERVISOR: Lect. Reeli Torn-Leesik (PhD)**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses the epistemic modals in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and their Estonian translations. The aim of the thesis is to determine whether epistemic modals were expressed with Estonian modal verbs or with other modal markers in the Estonian version of the novel.

The thesis comprises four sections: the introduction, literature review, analysis of epistemic modals and their translations and the conclusion. The introduction describes, in brief, modality, epistemic modality, research questions of the thesis and how epistemic modals were found for the analysis.

Section 1 gives an overview of the definition of modality, modality types and the features of English as well as Estonian modal verbs. Section 2 analyses the epistemic modals and their Estonian translations on the basis of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Each modal and its translations are analysed in a separate subsection to determine how epistemic modals were translated into Estonian.

The conclusion restates the thesis and summarizes the main findings. A table comprising all the epistemic modals and their Estonian translations can be found after the list of references in Appendix 1.

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INTRODUCTION

Modality is an interesting phenomenon in linguistics. Not only does modality express the opinion of the speaker towards the truth of a situation, but it is also employed to convey such semantic notions as necessity, obligation and permission (Depraetere and Reed 2006: 269; Hansen and de Haan 2009: 511). Scholars have offered numerous ways of dividing modality, but one category which they have agreed on is epistemic modality. Epistemic modality allows speakers to express their certainty and uncertainty: they can express whether in their opinion something is true or not.

Modality is expressed with modal markers. One of the more well-known markers is the modal verb. Though English and Estonian are both European languages, their modal verb systems have quite a few differences. Furthermore, in English, the most popular means of expressing modality is the modal verb while in Estonian, both grammatical as well as lexical means are very common. The aim of this thesis is to analyse how epistemic modals found in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* have been translated into Estonian. Thus, my research questions are:

- 1) Were the epistemic modal verbs in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* expressed through Estonian modal verbs?
- 2) If they were not, what other means were used to translate epistemic modals into Estonian?

In order to answer these questions, I read *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling and marked down sentences which contained epistemic modal verbs such as *can*, *may*, *might* and *must* and looked up their Estonian counterparts. I will analyse the findings in section 2, preceded by section 1, which contains a general overview of modality and English as well as Estonian modal verbs with illustrating examples. The conclusion includes the summary of the main findings.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. 1. Modality

Modality does not have a clear definition. Linguists and semanticists have long discussed over what modality is and how to interpret it, but more or less, it is agreed that modality conveys semantic notions such as ability, obligation, permission, possibility and necessity which in other words are modal meanings. (Depraetere and Reed 2006: 269)

Modal meanings can be expressed with various morphological, syntactic and lexical means. In European languages, including English, modality has mainly been grammaticalised in the following ways: modal verbs, modal affixes or modal adverbs. Yet, modality can also be expressed with mood, modal adjectives, modal tags, modal particles, intonation and in some languages even with nouns. (Hansen and de Haan 2009: 516; De Haan 2004: 10-20)

Modality is traditionally divided into three: epistemic, deontic and dynamic modality. Epistemic modality forms a separate category, while deontic and dynamic modality form non-epistemic modality. In epistemic modality, which expresses possibility and probability, the speaker assesses whether a situation is true or not. Dynamic modality expresses ability and volition and deontic modality expresses permission and obligation. (Mortelmans et al 2009: 15– 16). Scholars such as Jennifer Coates, Joan L. Bybee, Johan van der Auwea and Vladimir Plungian have developed this division further. Since all these scholars agree with the category and definition of epistemic modality, they have primarily proposed new ways of defining non-epistemic modality. (De Haan 2004: 6–9). For this thesis, I will make use of the four domains of modality proposed by van der Auwera and Plungian (1998).

Table 1. Modality types (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 82).

Possibility			
Non-epistemic possibility			Epistemic possibility (Uncertainty)
Participant-internal possibility (Dynamic possibility, Ability, Capacity)	Participant-external possibility		
	(Non-deontic possibility)	Deontic possibility (Permission)	
Participant-internal necessity (Need)	(Non-deontic necessity)	Deontic necessity (Obligation)	Epistemic necessity (Probability)
	Participant-external necessity		
Non-epistemic necessity			
Necessity			

Van der Auwera and Plungian (1998: 80) define modality as a paradigm that either expresses possibility or necessity. On the basis of this definition, they propose four domains of modality which can be found in Table 1: participant-internal, participant-external, deontic (subdomain of participant-external modality) and epistemic. All these domains have therefore two categories: one which concerns possibility and the other which concerns necessity.

Participant-internal modality means that it is either possible (see see example 1) or necessary (see see example 2) for the participant of the sentence to do the action described. The possibility and necessity of a situation depend on the speaker itself. Participant-internal possibility therefore concerns ability and necessity concerns need. Since participant-internal modality too expresses ability and necessity, it is similar to dynamic modality. (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 80).

(1) *I can finish this paper today.*

(2) *I need to finish this paper today.*

Participant-external modality has two subdomains: deontic modality and non-deontic participant-external modality. In deontic modality, deontic possibility conveys permission (see example 3) and deontic necessity expresses obligation (see example 4). The participant of a deontic sentence is permitted or obliged to do something by an external source which can be a person, social or ethical norms. In non-deontic modality, the possibility and necessity of a situation depend only on factors which are external to the speaker. In example 5, bus 66 is a possible means of reaching the station while in example 6, it is necessary to take bus 66 to reach the station. (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 80–81)

(3) *You may leave the room.*

(4) *You must leave the room.*

(5) *To get to the station, you can take bus 66.* (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 80)

(6) *To get to the station, you have to take bus 66.* (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 80)

The fourth domain that van der Auwera and Plungian propose is epistemic modality. In epistemic modality, speakers make judgements about the factuality of a situation. The category of epistemic necessity conveys probability and certainty (see example 7) and epistemic possibility conveys uncertainty (see example 8). (van der Auwera and Plungian 1998: 81)

(7) *She must have arrived earlier.*

(8) *She may have arrived earlier.*

1.2. Modal verbs in English

The modal verb is undoubtedly the most popular means of expressing modality in English (De Haan 2006). English modals are highly grammaticalised: they form a separate word class and have distinctive semantic, morphological and syntactic properties

(Mortlemans et al 2009: 11–12). Modal verbs are divided into central and marginal or peripheral modals. Central modals are *must, will, would, can, could, may, might, should, shall*. Marginal modals are *ought to, dare* and *need*. A third group of modals also exists: these are called semi-modals. Semi-modals are *have to, be able to* and *be going to*. (Depraetere and Reed 2006: 272)

English central modals have morphosyntactic features which set them apart from lexical verbs and primary auxiliaries. They do not have a person nor a number distinction, they can only be combined with a bare infinitive, their past tense forms do not usually express past and they cannot occur with each other in a verb phrase. (Mortelmans et al 2009: 14) However, similarly to primary auxiliaries, they precede the *not*-particle in negation, that is they have no non-finite forms, that is no infinitive, *-ing* participle or *-ed* participle, due to which they can only be used at the beginning of a verb phrase. Semi-modals have a few exceptions, as they do have non-finite forms, person and number distinction and they can also be used with other central modals. (Depraetere and Reed 2006: 272–273)

Modal verbs are polyfunctional, that is one modal can express multiple meanings (Hansen and de Haan 2009: 514). Polyfunctionality stems from the fact that epistemic meanings have developed from other modal meanings. The meanings of English modal verbs have developed from expressing merely internal and physical abilities to general abilities and from general abilities to permission (deontic modality) and epistemic modality. (Bybee et al 1994: 192–194). Therefore, one modal can belong to different categories of modality. For instance, modal *can* may convey epistemic meaning, deontic meaning as well participant-internal meaning. The division of all modal verbs, however, is as follows. Modal verbs which express epistemic meanings are *can, could, may, might, must, should, will, ought to*. Deontic modals are *can, could, may, must, shall, should, need*

and *ought to*. Dynamic modals, including participant-external modals are *can*, *could*, *will*, *shall* and *dare*. ('Modal verb': 1998) Moreover, since one modal verb conveys different meanings, it is important to pay attention to the context of the sentence as well as the whole text. In example 9, without further context, the modal verb 'can' may denote that Mary is either permitted to ride a bicycle (deontic modality) or that Mary is able to ride a bicycle (participant-internal modality).

(9) *Mary can ride a bicycle.*

1.3. Modal verbs in Estonian

Unlike English modals, Estonian modals do not form a clear morphosyntactic class (Keyahov and Torn-Leesik 2009: 367). Estonian linguists have differing opinions on the definition of modal verbs and on which verbs function as modals. Yet, in general, modal verbs in Estonian are described as verbs which convey such semantic notions as possibility and necessity. (Torn-Leesik 2007: 174). Estonian modal verbs are also polyfunctional. The main modal verbs *saama* 'can', *võima* 'can, may' and *pidama* 'must, have to' have developed from expressing participant-internal possibility (dynamic modality) to deontic and epistemic meanings. (Erelt 2007: 106)

According to Erelt et al (1993: 182), fully modal verbs in Estonian are *saama* 'can', *võima* 'can, may', *pidama* 'must, have to', *tohtima* 'be allowed', *näima* 'seem', *paistma* 'seem', *tunduma* 'seem'. The main modal verbs in Estonian are *võima* 'may', *saama* 'can' and *pidama* 'must, have to'. *Saama* mainly expresses deontic possibility (example 10) and the verb *pidama* conveys deontic necessity (example 11), that is they convey permission and obligation respectively. (Erelt 2007: 106)

(10) *Ta võib lugeda.*
'She **may** read.'

- (11) *Sa pead seda tegema.*
 ‘You **must do** this.’

The verbs *pidama* and *võima* also express epistemic possibility and necessity. *Võima* conveys epistemic possibility and situations which are likely to happen (see example 12) while *pidama* expresses high probability and epistemic necessity (see example 13). The two are very similar and sometimes indistinguishable. Verbs *näima* ‘seem’, *paistma* ‘seem’, *tunduma* ‘seem’ also belong to this category, but they rather convey situations which are likely to happen. (Erelt et al 1993: 189–190)

- (12) *Ta võib iga hetk saabuda.*
 ‘He **may arrive** any minute.’

- (13) *See peab seal olema.*
 ‘It **must be** there.’

The verbs *saama* and *võima* express dynamic possibility and *pidama* expresses dynamic necessity, that is participant-internal possibility and participant-internal necessity. *Saama* and *võima* therefore express ability (examples 14) and *pidama* (example 15) necessity. (Erelt 2007: 106–107) However, it is important to note that the verb *saama* is one of the most polysemantic verbs in Estonian and does express all modal meanings, except permission (Habicht and Tragel 2017: 22).

- (14) *Ma saan seda teha.*
 ‘I **can do** this.’

- (15) *Ma pean seda tegema.*
 ‘I **need to do** this.’

As can be seen from the multiple examples, Estonian modal verbs take nonfinite complements. Modals such as *võima* and *saama* take the *da(ta)*-infinitive complement (example 16). Verbs *näima*, *paistma* and *tulema* take the *vat*-infinitive (example 17). *Pidama* is the only verb which takes the *ma*-infinitive complement (example 18). (Torn-Leesik 2007: 176)

(16) *Ma võin selle ära visata.*

‘I can throw this away.’

(17) *Kirjandis tundub/paistab esinevat vigu.*

‘The essay seems/appears to contain some mistakes.’ (Torn-Leesik 2007: 176)

(18) *Laura peab koju minema.*

‘Laura must go home.’

2. ANALYSIS OF THE EPISTEMIC MODALS IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE*

The analysis comprises of comparing English modal verbs and their Estonian translations on the basis of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling and its Estonian version which has been translated by Krista Kaer. Taking into consideration the required size of the present thesis, only the epistemic modals *must*, *might*, *may* and *can* were chosen for the analysis.

All the modals were found by first reading the original English of the book, highlighting the sentences in which modals occurred and then finding the corresponding sentences in the Estonian version of *Harry Potter*. In order to make the findings as accurate as possible, I employed the electronic version of the 2004 edition of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. After reading the whole book I could also double-check my findings with the search function that the electronic version of the book has.

Modals are polyfunctional, meaning that one modal can convey multiple meanings. Whether a modal verb expresses epistemic meaning or not was identified on the basis of the definition offered by Auwera and Plungian which has been described in more detail in section 1. In short, however, epistemic modality deals with probability and certainty. Furthermore, for the reason that modals are polyfunctional, it was better to read the whole book rather than just use the search engine alone. In some of the cases, the preceding as well as the following sentences had to be looked to determine the meaning of the modal verb.

Epistemic modals occurred altogether in 131 sentences. The modal *must* occurred 50 times, *might* 55 times, *may* four times and *can* 22 times. In two sentences, a modal verb was used twice. In sentence 94 the modal verb *can* was merely repeated twice. In sentence 106 *might* was used to express epistemic meaning, but also merely for emphasis.

Table 2. Epistemic modals in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Epistemic modals	Number of sentences in which modals occurred	
Must	50	131
Might	55	
May	4	
Can	22	

All the modals and their translations can be found in Appendix 1 in the order in which they appear in the book. Each modal verb and its translations will be analysed in a separate subsection.

3.1. *Must* and its translations

The modal *must* occurred altogether in 50 sentences. In 40 sentences, that is in the majority of the sentences, *must* was not translated into Estonian with a verb but with the modal adverb *ilmselt*. The adverb *ilmselt* means ‘probably, most likely’ and is predominantly used to mark high probability (Erelt et al 1993: 188). In some of the cases, an adverb of emphasis has been used with *ilmselt*. In sentence 1 (see example 19), *must* was translated with the adverb *ilmselt* and with the adverb of emphasis *lihtsalt* ‘just, merely’ (Erelt et al 2007: 196). In sentence 10 (see example 20), *must* was translated with *ilmselt* and with the adverb of emphasis *aga* which also functions as a conjunction in Estonian that illustrates oppositional information (Mund and Raadik 2006: 25–26).

(19) *It must have been a trick of the light.*

‘**Ilmselt** oli asi **lihtsalt** valguses.’

(20) *It must have made sense to Dumbledore /.../*

‘Dumbledore **aga ilmselt taipas** sellest midagi /.../’

In sentences 68, 113 and 121, *must* was translated with the adverb *küllap*. *Küllap* ‘surely, probably’ marks high probability and is used when the speaker has made a conclusion on something (Erelt et al 1993: 188). Based on the sentence, which is preceded

by sentence 113 (see example 21), a conclusion has been made that the harp has probably been left behind by Snape and that is expressed in Estonian with the adverb *küllap*.

(21) *'Looks like a harp,' said Ron. 'Snape **must have left** it there.'* (Rowling 2004: 200).
 „Paistab harfi moodi,“ ütles Ron. „**Küllap jättis** Snape selle maha.“

Two more sentences were translated with adverbs. In sentence 6, adverbs *küll* and *vist* were used (example 22). *Küll* expresses high probability and emphasizes phrases/propositions (Erelt et al 1993: 188). *Vist* means 'probably, possibly' and conveys situations which are quite likely to happen. In sentence 69, *must* was translated with the adverb *muidugi* 'of course' which expresses that the sentence holds entirely true. (Erelt et al 1993: 188).

(22) *I **must have passed** a dozen feasts and parties on my way here.*
 'Teel siia **mööduisin ma küll vist** kümnekonnast peost ja pidusöömingust.'

Sentences 31, 91 and 101 did not have any indication of modality at all. All three sentences, however, were expressed with the present perfect tense (*täisminevik* in Estonian). Only in one sentence was *must* translated with a modal verb. In sentence 47 (example 23) *must* was expressed with its Estonian equivalent *pidama* 'must, have to'.

(23) */.../ Harry thought there **must be** thick trees there.*
 '/.../ Harry meelest **pidid** seal **kasvama** tihedad puud.'

3.2. *Might* and its translations

Might occurred in 55 sentences. When the modal *must* was translated with a modal verb only once, then *might* was translated with a modal verb in 25 sentences. The modal verb which was used is *võima* 'can, may', which epistemic possibility and situations which are likely to happen (Erelt et al 1993: 189).

The second most popular means of translating *might* was modal adverbs. The most frequently used adverb is *võib-olla* 'maybe, perhaps' which occurred in 10 sentences. The adverb *äkki* 'maybe, possibly' was used in three sentences. *Äkki* is used to express

situations which are quite likely to happen (see example 24) (Erelt et al 1993: 188). *Vahest*, the synonym of *võib-olla* ‘maybe, perhaps’ was used in the sentences 66 and 67. In sentences 23 and 71, adverbs *nagunii* ‘anyway, in any case’ and *küll* were used. *Nagunii* describes situations that will most definitely happen (see example 25) and *küll* merely emphasizes propositions (Erelt et al 1993: 185; 188).

(24) *What Harry feared most was that he **might not be able to find** the mirror room again.*
 ‘Kõige rohkem kartis Harry seda, et **äkki ei leia** ta peeglituba enam üles.’

(25) *He thought two of his ribs **might already have cracked** from trying not to laugh.*
 ‘Ta kartis, et tal on kaks ribikonti juba **nagunii** naeru tagasihoidmisest **katki läinud**.’

Another frequent way in which the modal *might* was translated was by using the conditional mood. The conditional mood is, in fact, often used in Estonian to replace modal verbs and it expresses the attitude of the speaker towards something that is either possible or inevitable (Erelt et al 1993: 185, Kehayov and Torn-Leesik 2009: 366). The conditional mood is marked by the *ks(in)*-ending which is added to the verb stem before personal endings (Viitso 2007: 53).

The conditional mood alone has been used in five sentences, including sentence 87 (see example 26). However, in many cases *might* was translated with the combination of the verb *võima* and the conditional mood (example 27). This has been done altogether in six sentences.

(26) *He gave it to Neville, who looked as though he **might cry**.*
 ‘Ta andis selle Neville’ille, kellel oli niisugune nägu, nagu **hakkaks** ta kohe **nutma**.’

(27) */.../ how dare you – **might have broken** your neck /.../*
 ‘/.../ kuidas sa julged – **oleksid võinud** kaela **murda** /.../’

In the remaining seven sentences *might* was not expressed with any modal markers, though in one of the sentences *might* was translated with a noun whose meaning could denote possibility. In sentence 85 (see example 28) the verb phrase ‘we might overtake’

was translated as *meil on võimalus* ‘we have a chance’. *Võimalus* means ‘chance, possibility’ and thus conveys epistemic necessity.

(28) *He's not going to be fair if we **might overtake** Slytherin.*

‘Kui meil **on võimalus** Slytherinile **järele jõuda**, ei ole ta kindlasti õiglane.’

3.3. *May* and its translations

May was used the least in the novel. Though *may* was used in the epistemic meaning more than in other modal meanings, it still only occurred four times. In all the sentences, *may* was translated differently. In sentence 9, *may* was expressed with the modal adjective *võimalik* ‘possible, probable’ (example 29). In sentence 80 and 127, *may* was translated with the modal verb *võima* ‘can, may’. Lastly, in sentence 126 the adverb *võib-olla* ‘maybe, perhaps’ was used (example 30).

(29) *We **may never know**.*

‘**Võimalik**, et me ei saa kunagi teada.’

(30) */.../ while you **may only have delayed** his return to power /.../*

‘/.../ kuigi sa **võib-olla lükkasid** tema võimuletulekut ainult edasi /.../’

3.4. *Can* and its translations

Can occurred once in 22 sentences and twice in sentence 94. *Can* is also the modal which was translated into Estonian with a modal verb the most. The two verbs which were used are *võima* ‘can, may’ and *saama* ‘can’. It was especially difficult to analyse the sentences which were translated with *saama*, since it is one of the most polysemantic verbs in Estonian (Habicht and Tragel 2017: 22). *Võima* occurred in seven sentences while *saama* occurred in nine sentences.

Võima and *saama* were used with an additional modal only once. Both of the verbs were expressed with the adverb *küll* which conveys high probability (see example 31 and 32). Two sentences were also translated with the modal adjective *võimalik* ‘possible,

probable’ (see example 33) and in one of the sentences, *can* was expressed with the adverb *ilmselt* ‘probably, most likely’ which was mostly used when translating the modal *must*. All the remaining sentences had no modal markers at all.

(31) /.../ *surely a sensible person like yourself can call him by his name?*
 ‘/.../ teiesugune mõistlik inimene **võib** teda ilmselt **küll** õige **nimega nimetada.**’

(32) *I don’t think I can be a wizard.*
 ‘Minu meelest **ei saa** ma **küll** võlur olla.’

(33) *I shall /.../ see if we can’t bend the first-year rule.*
 ‘Ma /.../ vaatan, kas sellest esimese klassi reeglist **on võimalik** kuidagi **mööda hiilida.**’

3.4. Discussion

Table 3. Estonian translations of epistemic modals

	Must	Might	May	Can
Modal adverb	46	17	1	1
Modal verb	1	20	2	16
Conditional mood	-	5	-	-
Modal adjective	-	-	1	2
No marker	3	7	-	2
Modal verb + adverb	-	-	-	2
Conditional mood + modal verb	-	6	-	-

All epistemic modals were translated with similar means. However, one modal marker was preferred more than other markers in the case of each modal. *Must* was mostly translated with modal adverbs which express high probability. The adverb which was used the most is *ilmselt* ‘probably, most likely’. *Must* was also expressed in many sentences with an adverb and also an adverb of emphasis. In only one sentence was *must* expressed with its Estonian equivalent *pidama* ‘must, have to’.

Out of all the epistemic modals, *might* occurred the most in the novel. *Might* was translated with its Estonian equivalent *võima* ‘can, may’ a lot more, but still the majority of the sentences were expressed with adverbs which convey situations that are quite likely to happen. The adverbs which were used the most are *võib-olla* ‘perhaps, maybe’ and *äkki* ‘maybe, possibly’. Another popular means was the conditional mood which was either used alone or with the verb *võima*. Furthermore, many of the sentences did not have any modal markers at all.

The modal *may* occurred the least in the novel overall, though in the epistemic meaning it was used the most. There was no dominant way in which these sentences were translated since all the sentences were translated differently. In two sentences the verb *võima* was used and in the other sentences a modal adjective and an adverb was used.

Can is the modal which was expressed in Estonian with a modal verb the most. The modal verbs which were used are *võima* ‘can, may’ and *saama* ‘can’. In some of the sentences, verbs *võima* and *saama* were used with adverbs of emphasis. Other sentences were translated either with no modal markers at all or with the modal adjective *võimalik* ‘possible’.

Generally, the epistemic modals found in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* were translated in many sentences with modal verbs, but it does not seem to be the preferred way. Although the majority of sentences which contain *can* were translated with its Estonian equivalents, others modal verbs were not. *Must* was predominantly expressed with adverbs and *might* was translated with adverbs and the conditional mood. In many sentences modal adverbs were also used with an adverb of emphasis. *May* only occurred in a few sentences, therefore it is difficult to make any assumptions on this modal.

There are a couple of reasons as to why the translator may have preferred to use modal adverbs. While English modals are highly grammaticalized and form a clear

morphosyntactic class, Estonian modal verbs do not (Kehayov and Torn-Leesik 2009: 367). Also, while in English, modals are one of the more popular ways of expressing modality, in Estonian both lexical as well as grammatical means are preferred. Kehayov and Torn-Leesik (2009: 392) state that modal verbs are preferred means of expressing modality in Estonian. Yet, they also state that the conditional mood and modal adverbs are often used in place of modal verbs (Kehayov and Torn-Leesik 2009: 365). This was very apparent in the translations of *might* where the conditional mood was used a lot and also *must* which was mostly translated with adverbs, namely the adverb *ilmselt*. However, finite conclusions cannot be made on how modals are translated into Estonian on this analysis alone, since this analysis compares only epistemic modals and their translations on the basis of one novel and only on the work of one translator.

CONCLUSION

The current thesis analysed whether epistemic modals in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* were translated into Estonian with modal verbs as well, and if they were not, what other means were used to express epistemic modality in Estonian.

Modality conveys such notions as possibility, necessity, obligation, permission and ability. Epistemic modality allows for the speakers to express whether they think something holds true or not. English and Estonian modal verb systems are quite different: English modal verbs have a clear morphosyntactic class, but Estonian modals do not. Estonian also equally prefers grammatical as well as lexical means in conveying modality, but in English the modal verb is undoubtedly the most common means.

Epistemic modals allow speakers to express whether they think something holds true or not. Epistemic modals *must*, *might*, *may* and *can* were found for the analysis by first reading the electronic version of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, marking down sentences which contain epistemic modals and then finding all the corresponding sentences in the Estonian translation of the novel.

The analysis showed that modal verbs were not the preferred means in translating epistemic modals into Estonian. The translator did use a lot of modal verbs, but epistemic modals were mostly expressed with modal adverbs. Modal adverbs were often expressed together with an adverb of emphasis. The translator also used in many cases the conditional mood or no modal markers at all.

Yet, conclusions cannot be made on this analysis alone, since the analysis only contains epistemic modals from one novel and the translations have been provided by one translator. In order to further explore this topic, further analysis could be done on either the works of another translator to see whether another translator prefers to translate modals in

a similar manner as Krista Kaer or the works of Krista Kaer to see whether she expresses modality in the same way as in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

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Appendix 1: Epistemic modals and their translations

	Page number	Epistemic modal verbs in <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	Page number	Estonian translations
1.	8	It must have been a trick of the light.	6	Ilmselt oli asi lihtsalt valguses.
2.	8	If he hadn't, he might have found it harder to concentrate on drills that morning.	7	Kui see nii poleks olnud, oleks ta võinud leida, et tal on sel hommikul raskevõitu puuridele keskenduda
3.	9	It might have been Harvey.	8	Ta nimi võis olla Harvey.
4.	12	He couldn't see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on .	10	Ta ei näinud mingit võimalust, et tema ja Petunia võiksid kuidagi toimuvasse segatud saada.
5.	12	Mr. Dursley might have been drifting into an uneasy sleep /.../	10	Härra Dursley võis ju rahutusse unne vajuda /.../
6.	13	I must have passed a dozen feasts and parties on my way here.	12	Teel siia möödusin ma küll vist kümnekonnast peost ja pidusöömingust.
7.	14	/.../ surely a sensible person like yourself can call him by his name?	13	/.../ teiesugune mõistlik inimene võib teda ilmselt küll õige nimega nimetada.
8.	15	We can only guess /.../	14	Seda võib ainult oletada /.../
9.	15	We may never know .	14	Võimalik, et me ei saa kunagi teada.
10.	15	It must have made sense to Dumbledore /.../	15	Dumbledore aga ilmselt taipas sellest midagi /.../
11.	15	/.../ you can't mean the people who live here?	15	/.../ te ei saa mõelda neid inimesi, kes siin elavad?
12.	15	/.../ you think you can explain all this in a letter?	15	/.../ kas te tõesti arvate, et saate kõik selles kirjas ära seletada?
13.	16	She eyed his cloak suddenly as though she thought he might be hiding Harry underneath it.	15	Ta piidles äkitselt Dumbledore'i mantlit, nagu mõtleks ta, et mees peidab Harryt selle all.
14.	17	Scars can come in useful.	17	Armideest võib kasu olla.
15.	17	He bent his great, shaggy head over Harry and gave him what must have been a very scratchy, whiskery kiss	17	Ta kummardas oma suure sassis pea Harry kohale ja andis talle ilmselt väga kareda ja torkiva muski.
16.	21	Harry must have had more haircuts than the rest of the boys in his class /.../	21	Harryl oli ilmselt rohkem juukseid lõigatud kui ülejäänud tema klassi poistel /.../

17.	23	/.../ until finally it might have fitted a glove puppet /.../	24	/.../ kuni lõpuks see oleks selga läinud käpiknukule /.../
18.	23	Aunt Petunia had decided it must have shrunk in the wash /.../	24	Tädi Petunia jõudis otsusele, et ilmselt oli sviiter pesus kokku läinud /.../
19.	24	Harry supposed that the wind must have caught him in mid-jump.	24	Harry oletas, et ilmselt viis tuulehoog ta poole hüppe pealt kaasa.
20.	24	/.../ they seemed to think he might get dangerous ideas.	25	/.../ nad paistsid arvavat, et see võib talle ohtlikke mõtteid pähe panna.
21.	25	It must be really annoying.	27	Ilmselt on see tõesti tüütu.
22.	28	The poor toilet's never had anything as horrible as your head down it -- it might be sick.	30	Vaeses tualetipotis pole kunagi enne olnud midagi nii hirmsat nagu su pea – tal võib paha hakata.
23.	29	He thought two of his ribs might already have cracked from trying not to laugh.	31	Ta kartis, et tal on kaks ribikonti juba nagunii naeru tagasihoidmisest katki läinud.
24.	31	For a moment it looked as though she might faint .	33	Hetkeks tundus, nagu hakkaks ta minestama.
25.	31	Watching -- spying -- might be following us /.../	34	Jälgivad – nuhivad – võivad meid isegi jälitada /.../
26.	32	/.../ we think it might be nice if you moved into Dudley's second bedroom.	35	/.../ meie meelest oleks tore, kui sa Dudley teise magamistuppa koliksid.
27.	38	He hoped the roof wasn't going to fall in, although he might be warmer if it did.	42	Ta lootis, et katus sisse ei lange, kuigi tegelikult oleks võinud tal siis isegi soojem olla.
28.	40	/.../ I mighta sat on it at some point /.../	44	/.../ võib-olla istusin ma sellele mingil ajal peale /.../
29.	41	But yeh must know about yer mom and dad /.../	46	Aga oma emast ja isast sa ju ometi tead? /.../
30.	44	I had no idea, when Dumbledore told me there might be trouble gettin' hold of yeh /.../	49	Mul polnud aimugi, kui Dumbledore ütles mulle, et sinu kättesaamisega võib raskusi olla /.../
31.	47	/.../ I think you must have made a mistake /.../	53	/.../ minu meelest oled sa eksinud /.../
32.	47	I don't think I can be a wizard.	53	Minu meelest ei saa ma küll võlur olla.
33.	53	Might this not all be some huge joke that the Dursleys had cooked up?	61	Äkki oligi see kõik lihtsalt mingi üüratu nali?
34.	53	If Harry hadn't known that the Dursley's had no sense of humour, he might have thought so /.../	62	Kui Harry ei oleks teadnud, et Dursleydel pole huumorimeelt, oleks ta võinud nii arvata /.../
35.	54	/.../ can this be –?	62	/.../ kas see võib olla?

36.	63	Hagrid must have jumped too /.../	73	Ilmselt võpatas ka Hagrid /.../
37.	66	How can they expect great things?	77	Kuidas saavad nad oodata suuri tegusid?
38.	69	Hagrid must have forgotten to tell him something /.../	81	Ilmselt oli Hagrid unustanud öelda talle midagi /.../
39.	70	His twin called after him to hurry up, and he must have done so /.../	82	Tema kaksikvend hõikas, et ta kiirustaks, ning ilmselt ta kiirustaski /.../
40.	74	/.../ I thought it might be one of Fred and George's jokes /.../	88	/.../ ma arvasin, et see on üks Fredi ja George'i naljadest.
41.	75	You must know loads of magic already.	88	Ilmselt tead sa võlukunstist juba kole palju.
42.	77	I might get Agrippa /.../	91	Äkki saan ma Agrippa /.../
43.	78	He might have died /.../	93	Ta võib ära surra /.../
44.	80	My dad says it must've been a powerful Dark wizard /.../	95	Minu isa ütleb, et ilmselt oli tegu vägeva musta võluriga /.../
45.	81	Ron gave a slight cough, which might have been hiding a snigger.	96	Ron kõhatas vaikselt, võib-olla selleks, et itsitust varjata.
46.	81	I can help you there.	96	Selles suhtes saan ma sind aidata.
47.	83	/.../ Harry thought there must be thick trees there.	98	/.../ Harry meelest pidid seal kasvama tihedad puud.
48.	85	/.../ the rest of the school must already be here /.../	100	/.../ ülejäänud õpilased olid ilmselt juba kohal /.../
49.	88	You might belong in Gryffindor /.../	103	Vahest suundud sa Griffindori /.../
50.	88	You might belong in Hufflepuff /.../	103	Vahest kuulud sa Hufflepuffi /.../
51.	88	There's nothing hidden in your head The Sorting Hat can't see /.../	103	Teie peas pole midagi peidus, mida Sõõlamiskübar ei näe.
52.	93	/.../ they thought I might not be magic enough to come, you see.	110	/.../vaadake, nad arvasid, et võib-olla pole minus piisavalt võlujõudu.
53.	104	I've heard Snape can turn very nasty.	121	Ma olen kuulnud, et Snape võib väga vastikuks minna.
54.	105	It might've been happening while we were there!	123	See võis toimuda samal ajal, kui meie seal olime!
55.	107	Neville /.../ desperate for anything that might help him hang on to his broomstick /.../	126	Neville, /.../ ihates meeleheitlikult mingit nõuannet, mis aitaks tal hiljem luua seljas püsida /.../
56.	111	/.../ how dare you – might have broken your neck /.../	130	/.../ kuidas sa julged – oleksid võinud kaela murda

				/.../
57.	113	/.../ I may change my mind about punishing you.	132	/.../ muidu võin ma sinu karistamise suhtes ümber mõelda.
58.	113	I shall /.../ see if we can't bend the first-year rule.	132	Ma /.../ vaatan, kas sellest esimese klassi reeglist on võimalik kuidagi mööda hiilida.
59.	113	/.../ you must be the youngest house player in about...	133	/.../ sa oled ilmselt kõige noorem mängija umbes...
60.	114	You must be good, Harry /.../	133	Sa oled ilmselt väga hea, Harry /.../
61.	115	Can't a person eat in peace in this place?	134	Kas inimestel ei lasta siis rahu süüa ka?
62.	116	/.../ you can back me up .	136	/.../ ja teie võite mu juttu tõendada
63.	117	/.../ they might be lurking in a corner.	137	/.../ nad võivad nurgas varitseda.
64.	118	/.../ Malfoy must have tipped him off.	138	/.../ ilmselt andis Malfoy seda talle mõista.
65.	119	Filch must have hurried off to look for them somewhere else /.../	140	Ilmselt oli Filch läinud neid kusagilt mujalt otsima /.../
66.	125	A game of Quidditch only ends when the Snitch is caught, so it can go on for ages /.../	147	Mäng lõpeb alles siis, kui kitu on kinni püütud, nii et see võib kesta igavesti kaua /.../
67.	125	It's too dark, we might lose it.	147	On liiga pime, võime selle ära kaotada.
68.	127	She must've noticed she's got no friends.	149	Küllap on ta märganud, et tal ei ole sõpru.
69.	130	/.../ someone downstairs must have heard the crashes and troll's roars.	153	/.../ aga muidugi oli keegi alumisel korrusel mürtsatusi ja trolli mõirgamist kuulnud.
70.	132	She might not have needed saving if we hadn't locked the thing in with her /.../	155	Tal ei oleks võib-olla päästmist olnud vaja, kui me teda koos selle elukaga luku taha poleks pannud /.../
71.	136	The seats might be raised high in the air, but it was still difficult to see what was going on sometimes.	159	Istmed kerkisid küll kõrgele, kuid mõnikord oli sellegipoolest raske näha, mis toimub.
72.	137	/.../ that must have hurt , hit in the back of the head by a Bludger/.../	161	/.../ see oli ilmselt valus, sai klommilt hoobi kuklasse /.../
73.	140	Can't have /.../	164	Pole võimalik /.../
74.	140	Can't nothing interfere with a broomstick except powerful Dark Magic /.../	164	Luuda ei saa mõjutada miski peale vägeva musta maagia /.../
75.	144	/.../that hut of Hagrid's must seem like a palace /.../	168	/.../ ilmselt näib see Hagridi onn lausa lossina /.../
76.	145	We must've been through hundreds of books already /.../	169	Me oleme ilmselt juba sadu raamatuid läbi

				vaadanud /.../
77.	145	/.../ not knowing what Flamel might have done to get himself into a book.	170	/.../ neil polnud aimugi, millega Flamel oli raamatusse sattumise ära teeninud.
78.	152	/.../ but he must be five floors above there.	177	/.../ aga tema oli ilmselt viis korrust kõrgemal.
79.	152	Wherever he was, Filch must know a shortcut /.../	178	Ükskõik, kus ta ka oli, ilmselt teadis Filch otseteed /.../
80.	152	Well, they can't be far /.../	178	Noh, ilmselt ei ole nad kaugemale jõudnud /.../
81.	152	Harry must have walked straight past him /.../	178	Ilmselt oli Harry temast mööda kõndinud /.../
82.	154	What Harry feared most was that he might not be able to find the mirror room again.	180	Kõige rohkem kartis Harry seda, et äkki ei leia ta peeglituba enam üles.
83.	155	This isn't safe - she might have gone for Filch /.../	182	Asi on kahtlane – võib-olla läks ta Filchi kutsuma /.../
84.	157	/.../ it struck Harry that Dumbledore might not have been quite truthful.	184	/.../ tuli talle pähe, et võib-olla ei rääkinud Dumbledore talle päriselt tõtt.
85.	158	He's not going to be fair if we might overtake Slytherin.	186	Kui meil on võimalus Slytherinile järele jõuda, ei ole ta kindlasti õiglane.
86.	159	He must have had to bunny hop all the way up to Gryffindor tower.	183	Ilmselt oli ta hüpnud terve tee üles Gryffindori torni.
87.	160	He gave it to Neville, who looked as though he might cry .	187	Ta andis selle Neville'ile, kellel oli niisugune nägu, nagu hakkaks ta kohe nutma.
88.	161	The dog must be guarding Flamel's Sorcerer's Stone!	189	Koer valvab ilmselt Flameli tarkade kivi!
89.	167	Quirrell, however, must have been braver than they'd thought.	196	Quirrell oli aga ilmselt vapram, kui nad arvasid.
90.	169	/.../ Hagrid, you might not want to tell us, but you do know /.../	199	/.../ Hagrid, sa võib-olla ei taha meile öelda, aga sa tead kindlasti /.../
91.	170	If Snape had been in on protecting the Stone, it must have been easy /.../	199	Kui Snape oli kivi kaitsmisel osalenud, oli tal kerge /.../
92.	170	It must've cost you a fortune.	200	See maksis sulle ilmselt terve varanduse.
93.	171	So now they had something else to worry about: what might happen to Hagrid /.../	200	Nii et nüüd oli neil veel üks mure: mis juhtub Hagridiga /.../

94.	172	/.../ but I can't jus' dump him, I can't .	202	/.../aga ma ei saa teda ka lihtsalt välja visata, ei saa!
95.	175	/.../ that might have been because Norbert had just bitten him on the leg.	205	/.../ see võis tulla ka sellest, et Norbert oli teda parajasti jalast hammustanud.
96.	175	Add Norbert and the invisibility cloak, and they might as well be packing their bags already.	208	Kui veel Norbert ja nähtamatuks tegev mantel juurde lisada, võivad nad kohe asju pakkima hakata.
97.	178	/.../ Harry knew what it must have cost him to try and find them in the dark, to warn them.	209	/.../ Harry teadis, kui raske oli tal ilmselt olnud neid pimedas otsida ja hoiatada.
98.	181	It must be something really horrible, or Filch wouldn't sound so delighted.	213	See oli ilmselt midagi väga jubedat, sest miks Filch muidu nii rõõmustas.
99.	181	His relief must have showed in his face /.../	213	Ilmselt peegeldus kergendustunne ta näos /.../
100.	183	We might have ter put it out of its misery.	215	Võib-olla tuleb ta piinadele lõpp teha
101.	183	/.../ it must've bin staggerin' around since last night at least.	215	/.../ ta on vähemasti eile õhtust saati ringi tuigerdand.
102.	183	/.../ there must be a stream somewhere close by.	216	/.../ ilmselt oli kusagil läheduses oja.
103.	184	/.../ it can't've gone far if it's this badly hurt /.../	216	.../ kui üksarvik on nii raskelt viga saand, siis ei ole ta kaugele läind /.../
104.	190	They must show that Voldemort's coming back...	223	Ilmselt näitavad planeedid, et Voldemort tuleb tagasi...
105.	191	/.../ they didn't have much time to fret about what Snape or anyone else might be up to .	224	/.../ neil polnud eriti aega pabistada selle pärast, mis võib olla plaanis Snape'il või kellelgi teisel.
106.	193	Mighta bin a dragon dealer, mightn' he? /.../	227	Võis olla lohekaupmees, eks ole? /.../
107.	193	Mighta come up /.../	227	Võis ju jutuks tulla /.../
108.	194	/.../ it must've been easy , once he'd got Hagrid drunk.	227	/.../ ilmselt oli see lihtne, kui ta Hagridi juba purju oli jootnud.
109.	194	Firenze might back us up if Bane doesn't stop him.	227	Firenze võib meie juttu tõendada, kui Bane teda ei takista.
110.	195	/.../ no one can possibly steal it, it's too well protected.	229	/.../ seda ei saa keegi varastada, see on nii hästi kaitstud.
111.	197	/.../ there might be something useful...	231	/.../ seal võib olla midagi kasulikku...
112.	198	/.../ Snape might even now be playing Fluffy to sleep.	232	/.../ Snape võis juba praegu tupsut magama uinutada.

113.	200	Snape must have left it there.	235	Küllap jättis Snape selle maha.
114.	200	It must wake up the moment you stop playing /.../	235	Ilmselt ärkab Tupsu kohe üles, kui sa mängu lõpetad /.../
115.	201	We must be miles under the school /.../	236	Me oleme ilmselt mitme miili sügavusel kooli all /.../
116.	203	/.../ they can't be here just for decoration /.../	238	/.../ ei saa olla, et nad on siin ainult ilu pärast.
117.	203	So that must mean...	238	Nii et see ilmselt tähendab...
118.	206	/.../ Flitwick must've put charms on the keys /.../	242	/.../ Flitwick nõidus ilmselt võtmed ära /.../
119.	208	I might be able to hold Snape off for a while /.../	244	Võib-olla õnnestub mul Snape'i natuke aega kinni pidada /.../
120.	208	I might get lucky again.	244	Võib-olla veab mul uuesti.
121.	210	/.../ you must have seen what I did to the one in the chamber back there?	247	/.../ küllap sa nägid, mida ma selle trolliga seal ees toas tegin?
122.	214	He realized he must be in the hospital wing.	252	Ta mõistis, et on ilmselt haiglatis.
123.	214	Madam Pomfrey, however, felt it might not be very hygienic /.../	253	Proua Pomfreyle tundus aga, et see ei ole hügieeniline /.../
124.	215	We must have crossed in midair.	253	Ilmselt läksime teineteisest mööda.
125.	215	I feared I might be too late.	253	Ma kartsin, et jään hiljaks.
126.	216	/.../ while you may only have delayed his return to power /.../	254	/.../ kuigi sa võib-olla lükkasid tema võimuletulekut ainult edasi /.../
127.	216	/.../ he may never return to power.	254	/.../ võib juhtuda, et ta ei saagi enam kunagi võimule.
128.	217	/.../ your father happened to leave it in my possession, and I thought you might like it .	255	/.../ su isa jättis selle juhtumisi minu kätte ning ma arvasin, et see võiks sulle meeldida.
129.	220	Someone standing outside the Great Hall might well have thought some sort of explosion had taken place /.../	261	Suure saali läheduses viibivad inimesed oleksid võinud küll arvata, et toimus mingi plahvatus /.../
130.	222	They had hoped that Goyle /.../ might be thrown out /.../	262	Nad olid lootnud, et Goyle /.../ visatakse välja /.../
131.	332	You must be Harry's family /.../	264	Teie olete ilmselt Harry sugulased /.../

RESÜMEE

TARTU ÜLIKOOL
ANGLISTIKA OSAKOND

Liis Karilaid

Epistemic Modals in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and their Estonian Translations

Episteemilised modaalverbid ja nende eestikeelsed tõlked J.K. Rowlingu romaani “Harry Potter ja tarkade kivi” näitel

Bakalaureusetöö

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Lehekülgede arv: 33

Annotatsioon:

Käesolev bakalaureusetöö uurib, kuidas on eesti keelde tõlgitud episteemilised modaalverbid, mis esinevad romaani “Harry Potter ja tarkade kivi” ingliskeelses versioonis. Inglise keeles väljendatakse modaalsust alatihti modaalverbide abil, ent eesti keeles nii leksikaalsete kui ka grammatiliste vahendite abil. Töö eesmärk on välja selgitada, kas episteemilised modaalverbid tõlgiti inglise keelest eesti keelde samuti modaalverbidega ja kui ei tõlgitud, milliseid teisi konstruktsioone tõlkimisel kasutati.

Teoreetiline osa annab ülevaate modaalsuse tähendusest, modaalsuse tüüpidest ja inglise ning eesti modaalverbide omadustest. Empiirilises osas analüüsitakse episteemilisi modaalverbe, mis pärinevad “Harry Potter ja tarkade kivi” romaanist. Selleks et leitud modaalverbide arv võimalikult täpne oleks, kasutati modaalverbide otsimisel romaani elektroonilist versiooni. Igat modaalverbi ja selle tõlkeid analüüsiti eraldi peatükis.

Analüüsi põhjal selgus, et tõlkija ei eelistanud inglise modaalverbide tõlkimisel eestikeelseid modaalverbe. Modaalverbe oli tõlkimisel küll rohkesti kasutatud, ent enamasti oli tõlkija episteemilisi modaalverbe modaaladverbide abil väljendanud.

Märksõnad:

episteemiline modaalsus, modaalverb, grammatika, tõlkimine, inglise keel, eesti keel

Lihtlitsents lõputöö reprodutseerimiseks ja lõputöö üldsusele kättesaadavaks tegemiseks

Mina, Liis Karilaid,

1. annan Tartu Ülikoolile tasuta loa (lihtlitsentsi) minu loodud teose

Epistemic Modals in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and their Estonian Translations,

mille juhendaja on Reeli Torn-Leesik,

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