Modality In English And Standard Arabic: A Contrasto - Error Analytic Study

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Abstract

The present study indicates that Arab university students majoring in English still make errors in three modal areas, namely use, semantics and implication. It therefore sets to deal mainly with the modal auxiliaries in three categories along with those modality expressions of Standard Arabic through a contrasto-comparative context, reviewing the three problematic areas indicated above. Through this the study hopes to be a simplified work on modality and the modals that achieves the following purposes.

1. Bringing the modals home to Arabic speakers learning English to attain better understanding and communication. This may be achieved through finding these verbs equivalents and paraphrases, and through explicating their contexts and uses.

2. Giving researchers a general account on Arabic modality expressions, especially the nature of their semantics and syntax.

3. Extending the category of modality in Standard Arabic suggested by other researchers descriptively.