





*Interpersonal Meaning of Mood and Modality in National Geographic's  
Selected Articles*

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المعنى الشخصي للبناء والافعال المساعدة في مقالات مختارة لناشيونال  
جيوغرافيك

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## Abstract

Discourse linguists nowadays have been steadily shifting their interest from the traditional emphasis on linguistic text structures and toward how texts build reality in social contexts in recent years. There has been emphasis on the fact that understanding the syntactic structures, morphological formations, and phonological aspects of a text does not guarantee that the reader will also understand the text's underlying meanings. Intentional or inadvertent insertions made by the text designer between the layers of text are equally significant and should not be overlooked. With a focus on mood and modal auxiliary operators, this project aims to analyze a selection of articles from National Geographic using Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). The articles are information-centered and heavily rely on declarative clauses, as indicated by the results of the mood selections (97.3%). The majority (49.1%) of modal auxiliary operators are low scale operators.

**Key Words:** Systemic Functional Grammar, Mood , Modality , National Geographic, Halliday & Matthiessen

### المستخلص

في الوقت الراهن ، حول علماء لغة الخطاب اهتمامهم من التركيز بصورة تقليدية على بناء النص اللغوي الى كيفية بناء النصوص مع المؤثرات الاجتماعية. هناك تأكيد على حقيقة أن فهم الهياكل النحوية ، والتراكيب الصرفية، والجوانب الصوتية للنص لا تضمن أن القارئ سيفهم المعاني الأساسية للنص بشكل كامل . الإدراج المتعمد أو الغير المقصود الذي يقوم به الكاتب بين طبقات النص ذا أهمية بالغة ولا ينبغي إغفالها. بالتركيز على البناء و الأفعال المساعدة ، يهدف البحث إلى تحليل مجموعة مختارة من المقالات لقناة ناشيونال جيوغرافيك باستخدام النحو الوظيفي النظامي. المقالات ذات محتوى معلوماتي وتعتمد بشكل كبير على الجمل الخبرية، كما تشير نتائج لاختيارات البناء (97.3%). (49.1%) تبين ان اغلبية الأفعال المساعدة ضمن النطاق منخفض.

البناء , الأفعال المساعدة , ناشيونال جيوغرافيك , هالديدي & ماثيسن الكلمات المفتاحية : النحو الوظيفي النظامي

## **Introduction**

There are currently many different grammatical trends in use, and each one has an own viewpoint on language. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) has attracted the attention of numerous linguists worldwide, such as M. Halliday, C. Matthiessen, R. Hassan, S. Eggins, G. Thompson, Hoang Van Van, Nguyen Thu Hanh, and others. It is especially valuable in shedding light on the ways in which language is selected and organized to achieve particular sociocultural goals. It can therefore contribute to our deeper and more comprehensive understanding of human language.

Systemic Functional Grammar investigates the relationship between social interaction and language use. It maintains that form and meaning are inextricably linked and sees language as a tool for creating meaning. Furthermore, according to Gee (2005: 9), Systemic Functional Grammar is a tool that may be used to analyze the particular linguistic decisions made for certain reasons. Language possesses the unique property that allows a specific design to be used, whether speaking or writing, depending on the situation. Similar observations are made by Van Dijk (2006: 730-736), who points out that systemic functional grammar is a method of examining how meaning is produced in written texts by looking at the words used to describe speakers, activities, objects, and persons being spoken about in addition to the grammar rules. The three dimensions of meaning identified by Halliday are ideational meaning, textual meaning, and interpersonal meaning (Thompson, 2019: 145).

Halliday defines metafunction as the ideational, interpersonal, and textual components of meaning. The interpersonal connotation primarily focuses on the author-reader interaction. Its goal is to make it easier for participants in rhetorical discussion to

exchange comments, queries, offers, and directives (Thompson, 2004: 43 ). Interpersonal meaning is traditionally realized in a variety of ways, such as through mood, modality, and pronoun usage. One can play multiple speaking parts by choosing mood types that mimic the interpersonal significance between people. The author's attitude and point of view are communicated through the usage of modes. In particular, "personal pronouns" are used to establish distinctive bonds between users and maintain the interpersonal meaning (Li, 2002: 9).

#### Interpersonal Metafunction

Halliday (1985, 1994) proposed the theory of metafunctions in the framework of functional grammar. Later, he and C. Matthiessen ( 2004, 2014) collaborated together and argue that language serves the following metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The author states that each type of meaning "forms part of a different functional configuration, making up a separate stand in the overall meaning of the clause" (p. 83) for each metafunction that it is concerned with. The interpersonal metafunction outlines the roles that people perform in communication and creates and preserves social relationships. It focuses on how language expresses the opinions of the writer or speaker as well as their feelings toward other people ( Yang, 2017:27). "It is also a proposition, or a proposal, wherein we inform or question, provide an order or make an offer, and communicate our assessment of and attitude toward whoever we are addressing and what we are talking about," write Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 30) about the grammar phrase. This kind of meaning is "language as action," if "language as reflection" is the ideational function of the grammar. We call it the interpersonal metafunction.

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 84), language grammar can be used to express our expectations and attitudes toward people we deal with, as well as to discuss our inner and exterior experiences of the world. Thus, language serves as a tool for both acting in interpersonal metafunction and reflecting in ideational metafunction. The interpersonal metafunction is concerned with how individuals relate to their audience through language. In addition to conveying substance or information, people who communicate also convey their roles in relation to their conversation partners ( Chueasuai, 2017a:4-8). This covers the several approaches the speaker takes to enter an interaction and carry out a speech act. Interpersonal meaning can be accomplished by different ways in English, but this study concentrates on two of them: mood choices and modal auxiliaries.

## The Grammar of Interpersonal Meaning

### 1. The Mood System

A component is essential for performing the interpersonal metafunction of the clause as exchange in English, which keeps the conversation flowing. Subject and Finite make up this component, which goes by the name Mood (Thompson 2014 :41). "The Subject supplies the rest of what it takes to form a proposition, namely, something by reference to which the proposition can be affirmed or denied," according to (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014, p. 140-151). The initial functional component of the linguistic group is referred to as the Finite.

The primary interpersonal systems in the clause are modality, polarity, and MOOD. It consists of a mood element and a residue. The two components of the Mood element are the Subject, a nominal group, and the Finite operator, a verbal group component (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014, p. 140). While the Finite displays the underlying tense and modality, the Subject assesses

arguments in the relationship between these functional pieces favorably or negatively. Primary tense describes time in relation to "now," the inner significance of a statement relating to the "past," "present," or "future" depends heavily on the sentence's "primary tense."

Residue is the portion of the sentence that comes after the mood. Three distinct functional component types make up the Residue: predictors are linguistic groups without temporal or modal operators; A residual element that could be the subject but isn't is called the complement; An adjectival group or prepositional phrase that provides additional, auxiliary information to a sentence is called an adjunct. The statement consists only one Predicator, and one or two Complements, and unlimited number of Adjuncts.

Imperative mood and indicative mood are the two categories of mood. Declarative mood and interrogative mood are the two types of indicative mood. When expressing facts and opinions, offering information, or making assertions, the indicative mood is employed. In casual communication, this is the most prevalent mood. Commands, demands, and invites are all made in the urgent mood. It is employed when the speaker wishes for the audience to act or do a certain task (Chen & Shuo, 2018: 38).

For example:

*“Drug Enforcement Administration launched its first National Take-Back Day in September 2010.”*

Drug Enforcement Administration	Launched	its first National Take-Back Day	in September 2010.
Subject	Finite	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

“*Will music save the Garifuna language?* ”

Will	music	Save the Garifuna language
Finite	Subject	Residue
Mood		

“*How can travelers help?* ”

How	can	travelers	Help
Adjunct / wh-	Finite	Subject	Predicator
		Mood	Residue

“*Throw clothes in a hot dryer.* ”

Throw	clothes	in a hot dryer
Finite	complement	Adjunct
Mood	Residue	

## 2. Modality

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014 : 178), modality is crucial in executing the interpersonal metafunction of clauses indicating the degree of validity of the proposition. The word "modality" describes the area that appears between "yes" and "no," indicating The speaker's estimation of the chances or responsibilities associated with her statements. Thompson (2004, p. 57) states that modulation and modalization make up modalities. The former concerns the speaker's assessment of the proposition's validity in terms of regularity (sometimes-usually-always) and probability (possible-probable-certain). The latter includes the degree of duty (allowed-supposed-required) as well as the desire (willing-keen-determined) and relates to the speaker's confidence in the exchange's possibility for success.

The speaker uses modality to take a position and convey the validity and significance of his own findings. Sentences are called propositions when information is the exchanged good, and modal expressions are called modalization since they characterize the proposition's validity concerning likelihood and regularity. In the event when goods and services are being traded, the terms "proposals" and "modulation" refer to the ways in which the speaker expresses their confidence in the trade's eventual success in terms of duty and inclination ( Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 144).

## 2.1 Types of Modality

### 2.1.1 Modalization

Statements or inquiries are the ways through which individuals are interacting to communicate information i.e., a proposition. What "can be argued about, affirmed or denied" is the definition of a proposition (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 249). Two types of intermediate alternatives are used in propositions.: (1) degrees of Usuality, which is related to —judgments of oftenness (frequencies of what happens, happened, and will happen), and (2) degrees of Probability, which is related to — Likelihood judgments. These two probability and usage scales are referred to as "modalization" by Halliday and Matthiessen (Ibid), who also note that there are three ways to describe modality. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), on page 147, there are three ways in which Probability and Usuality might be conveyed within this point: (a) through a verbal group's finite modal operator; (b) through a modal adjunct of (i) probability or (ii) usuality; and (c) through both of them combined, producing a prosody of modalization. Examples of Modalization (Probability) such as:



*“Unused or expired medicines lying around at home can get into the wrong hands, leading to accidental poisoning or drug overdose.”*

*“Importers of Italian rice will surely feel the pinch.”*

*“A teaspoon of garden soil might hold a billion bacteria, network of air pockets, many yards of fungal filaments, and thousands of protozoa.”*

Examples of Modalization (Usuality) can be as follows:

*“People regularly feed the raccoons dog food, sour cream, and chips.”*

*“For his part, he says, he enters the water always with a message of love, respect, humility, and gratitude for the sharks.”*

*“Experts usually respond within 24 hours.”*

### 2.1.2 Modulation

The form of the clause used to exchange goods and services is called a proposal. Depending on the speech function—to command or to offer—proposals can have one of two sorts of intermediate degrees of possibility (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 303). Intermediary values are used to indicate obligation are requests, while offers are the intermediary degrees are used to indicate inclination, such as "you must go." We refer to these inclination and obliging scales as modulation. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), modal verbs like "you must go" and "I should go" convey obligation and inclination as a component of mood. They can also be utilized as a predictor in residue, the section of a sentence that follows the mood component. According to Fontaine (2013: 121), modulation is "a type of connotative meaning relates to obligation or permission, including willingness and ability." Therefore, the sentences that

represent obligation or inclination can be used to express modulation. Here are examples of Modulation (Obligation):

“ *Travelers who visit this remote corner of the world should approach sharks with reverence and respect, he says. ”*

“ *Making a switch is complex and should be guided by a task force linking expert researchers from universities and government to farm ers on the ground, says Muroi. ”*

“ *In the experiment, an animal must drop stones into a water-filled cylinder to raise the fluid level and make floating treats—in this case, marshmallows—rise to the surface. ”*

### 2.1.3 Degrees of Modalization and Modulation

In English, modal verbal operators of the finite verbs—also referred to as modal auxiliaries—are frequently used to actualize modality (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004: 178). Modality, also known as modal commitment, refers to scales and degrees about a proposition's validity. Modal commitment has three values on the scale: high, median, and low, each of which has a distinct meaning (Halliday, 1994).

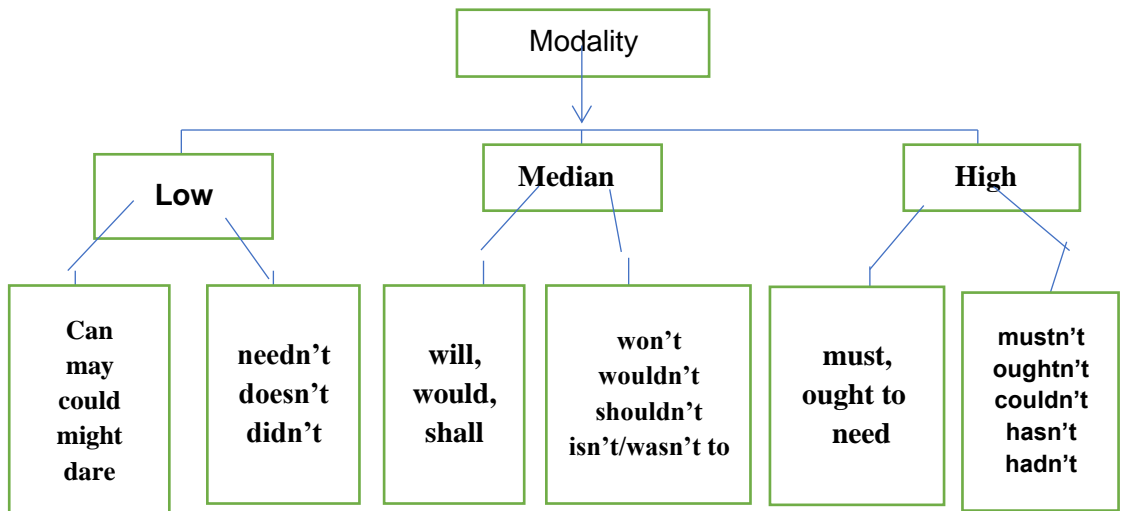


Figure 1 Modal auxiliaries and their degree of commitment /  
Modified from Wang (2010: 259)

### Primary Tense

A clause's time is its tense. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014), the primary tense refers to the time relative to "now" and might be past, present, or future at the time of speaking. Here are some examples:

*"We all know raccoons are cute, but mischievous. "* (Present tense)

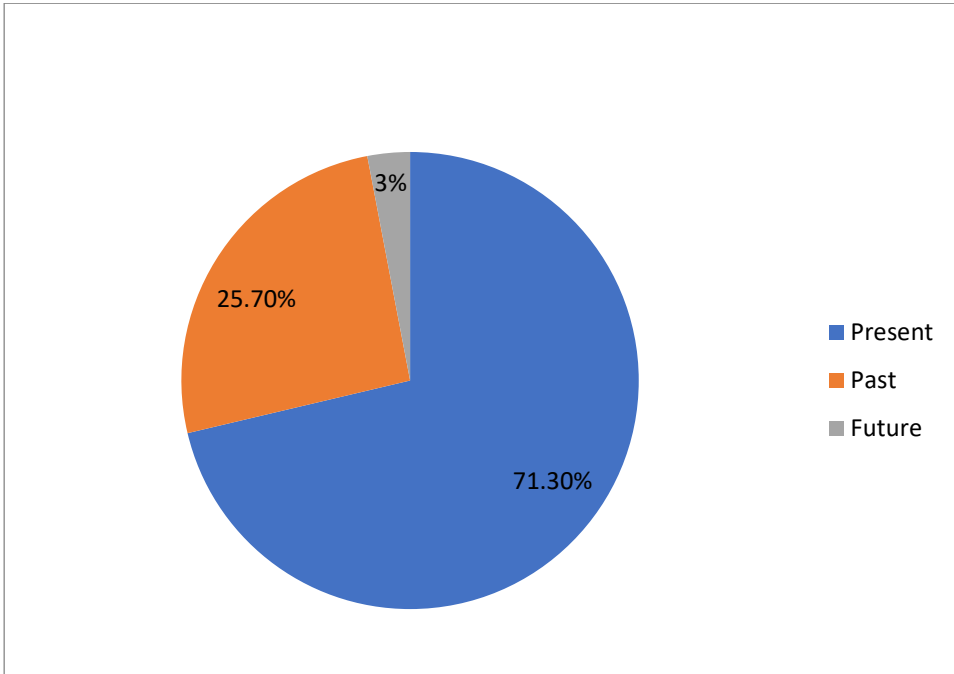
*"In the early 1900s, American scientists in the burgeoning field of animal psychology had a grand plan. "* (Past tense)

*" For instance, they'll eat pretty much anything from fruit to insects. "* (Future tense)

Table 2 illustrates how frequently the articles use the primary tenses. The tenses statistics show that the present tense is the most frequently employed tense in speech, with a frequency of 71.3%. The future tense comes in last with a percentage of 3%, and the past tense comes in second with a percentage of 25,7%. "The preference for present tense verbs is particularly strong in conversation; the reliance on present tense reflects speakers' general focus on the immediate context," according to Biber et al. (1999, p. 457). The result suggests that authors wish to highlight the actual situation at the time of speaking.

Table 2 Frequency of Primary Tenses

Tense	Past	Present	Future	Total
Times	338	940	39	1,317
Frequency	25,7 %	71,3 %	3 %	100 %



Pie Chart : Frequency of Primary Tenses

Writers may choose to write in the present tense instead of the past or future for a variety of reasons, and these choices can have an impact on the overall tone, style, and impact of a piece of writing. The present tense can make events seem more interesting and modern by giving them a sense of urgency. It might give readers the impression that the tale is taking place right now, which heightens their sense of immersion. The present tense is commonly used in stories where the viewpoint of the main character is extensively incorporated into the narrative. Viewing the story from the characters' perspectives, as if they were co-living it, can be advantageous for the reader . In addition , To convey the immediacy of a character's thoughts and experiences, the present tense is frequently employed (Garner, 2016: 895 ).

#### Methodology

Fifteen articles have been selected as the analysis's data source. National Geographic articles are renowned for their high-quality

that cover a wide range of topics related to nature, science, history, and exploration (Rothengberg 2007: 26). The discourse of National Geographic's scientific articles is characterized by several key elements:

- 1- They are known for their commitment to accuracy and factual reporting. Scientific articles published by the magazine undergo rigorous fact-checking and are written by reputable experts in their respective fields. The credibility of the sources and the information presented is of utmost importance.
- 2- Many of the articles adopt an interdisciplinary approach to explore scientific topics. They may combine insights from various fields like biology, geology, anthropology, ecology, astronomy, and more to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject.
- 3- National Geographic's discourse in its scientific articles seeks to inspire curiosity, awareness, and a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the natural world while emphasizing the importance of science and environmental stewardship.
- 4- The articles have a global perspective by referring to discoveries from all over the world. They may cover diverse cultures, ecosystems, and scientific endeavors from different regions, promoting a global perspective on scientific topics.
- 5- The language used in these articles tends to be clear, straightforward, and easy to understand. Complex scientific jargon is often avoided or explained in simpler terms to make the content more accessible to non-experts.
- 6- To maintain reader interest and prevent overwhelming the audience, scientific journalistic articles often use shorter sentences and paragraphs. This helps in breaking down complex ideas into digestible chunks (J. Trappel & T. Tomaz , 2022 : 309-320).

Table 3 The Links of National Geographic articles

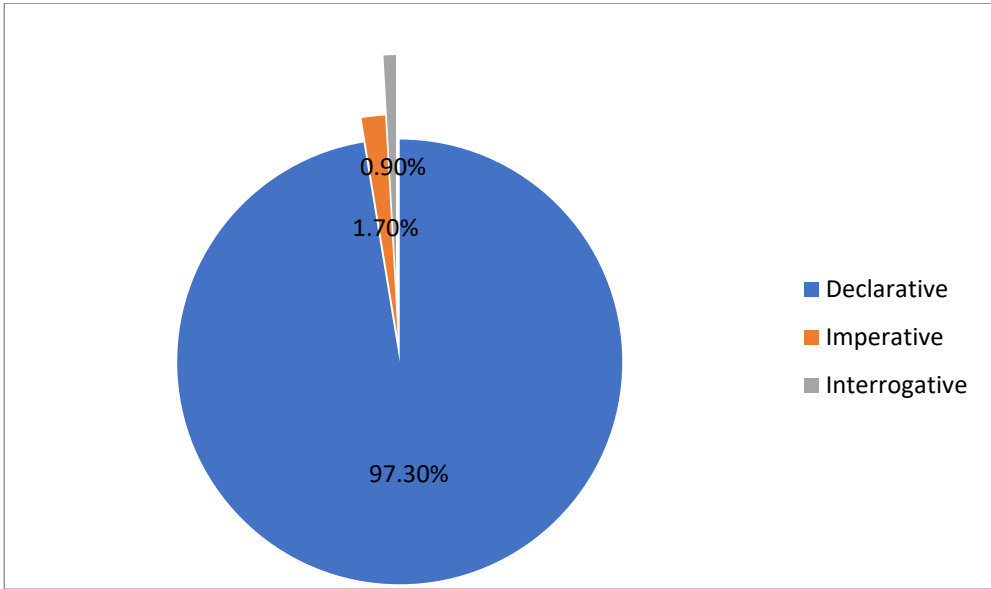
no	Website
1	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/how-you-should-dispose-of-unused-or-expired-medications">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/how-you-should-dispose-of-unused-or-expired-medications</a>
2	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/how-raccoons-became-the-ultimate-urban-survivors">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/how-raccoons-became-the-ultimate-urban-survivors</a>
3	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/can-songs-save-an-endangered-language">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/can-songs-save-an-endangered-language</a>
4	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/extremely-rare-bird-added-to-ark-of-imperiled-animals">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/extremely-rare-bird-added-to-ark-of-imperiled-animals</a>
5	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/extreme-drought-threatens-italy-rice-crops-and-its-beloved-risotto">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/extreme-drought-threatens-italy-rice-crops-and-its-beloved-risotto</a>
6	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/unique-spear-lord-dinosaur-to-be-returned-to-brazil">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/unique-spear-lord-dinosaur-to-be-returned-to-brazil</a>
7	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/want-to-help-california-kelp-forests-eat-sea-urchins">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/want-to-help-california-kelp-forests-eat-sea-urchins</a>
8	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/heres-what-its-like-to-dive-through-french-polynesias-shark-alley">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/heres-what-its-like-to-dive-through-french-polynesias-shark-alley</a>
9	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/penguins-are-slow-to-evolve-and-vulnerable-to-climate-change">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/penguins-are-slow-to-evolve-and-vulnerable-to-climate-change</a>
10	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/why-tick-borne-diseases-have-reached-epidemic-proportions">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/why-tick-borne-diseases-have-reached-epidemic-proportions</a>
11	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/increasingly-heavy-farm-equipment-is-crushing-fertile-soils">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/increasingly-heavy-farm-equipment-is-crushing-fertile-soils</a>
12	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/monarch-butterflies-are-now-an-endangered-species">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/monarch-butterflies-are-now-an-endangered-species</a>
13	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/explore-inca-life-beyond-machu-picchu-on-this-trail">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/explore-inca-life-beyond-machu-picchu-on-this-trail</a>
14	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/doctrine-of-discovery-how-the-centuries-old-catholic-decree-encouraged-colonization">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/doctrine-of-discovery-how-the-centuries-old-catholic-decree-encouraged-colonization</a>
15	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/history-magazine/article/the-ziggurat-of-elam-in-iran">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/history-magazine/article/the-ziggurat-of-elam-in-iran</a>

## **Mood Choices**

Halliday (1994: 143) states that frequently English statements are understood in connection with declaratives, interrogatives, and imperatives. The mood that the speaker decides to employ is determined by the role he chooses to play in the speaking circumstance and the role he assigns to the addressee. Thompson (2004: 44) states that the imperative mood conveys an order, the declarative mood typically conveys information, and the interrogative mood typically communicates an inquiry that typically demands information. In most discourses, declarative clauses are widely used since they provide the most information as they can to the viewers. Imperatives have the potential to convey two main kinds of signals. The first offers an order, whereas the second invites the audience to work alongside the speaker to complete a particular task (Eggins, 2004: 168).

Table 4 Frequency of Mood Types

Mood Types	Imperative	Declarative	Interrogative	Total
Times	23	1282	12	1,317
Percentage	1.7 %	97.3 %	0.9 %	100 %



Pie Chart : Frequency of Mood Types

Declarative clauses typically predominate in articles, chats, and speeches, followed by imperatives and interrogatives, according to Feng and Liu (2010 : 825-829) and Ye (2010 : 146-151). Writing serves three purposes: it conveys the author's point of view on the world, influences or modifies the reader's views, and ignites the reader's desire to support the writer's idea. The author intends to convey to the reader specific ideas about his attitude and presumptions through his writing. Imperative sentences follow declarative clauses in most writings, with interrogative clauses coming last because they could weaken the writing's solemnity, effectiveness, and persuasiveness. In this sense, the 1282 declarative clauses that predominately appear in the articles are successful since they serve as assertions that aim to provide the reader with as much information as possible. There are 23 imperative clauses regarding the usage of imperative in the articles. Imperative clauses, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014), can express two different kinds of



messages: one is a demand to do something, while the other is an offer or suggestion for the audience to take action or accomplish a goal as a group. The articles' imperative clauses categorically fall under the heading of ordering someone to do anything :

“ *Don't forget protocols during everyday activities.* ”

“ *Call your doctor.* ”

There are twelve interrogative clauses in the articles regarding their use. There are five examples using the yes-no interrogative and seven using the wh-interrogative:

“ *So how does one dispose of unneeded over-the-counter and prescription medications accumulating in our home?* ”

“ *Will music save the Garifuna language?* ”

Table 5 Frequency of Polarity

Polarity	Positive	Negative	Total
Times	1244	73	1,317
Frequency	94.4 %	5.5 %	100 %

Positive sentences make the claim that something is real or true. It has affirmative components, and the finite verb is typically in the affirmative. The predicate is usually marked as affirmative in positive sentences. The articles make extensive use of them. Conversely, negative clauses refute the existence of something or the veracity of a notion. They have aspects of negativity, and the finite verb is typically marked as such. Usually, the predicate is negated in negative sentences. Negative components, such as negating words (like "not," "never," or "no") or negative auxiliary verbs (like "didn't," "doesn't," or "can't"), are used to realize polarity in a phrase. These negative components are essential for indicating the negation and shifting the clause's polarity. Because it enables speakers and writers to convey truth conditions and distinguish between positive and negative meanings, polarity is a

crucial component of communication. Language users can communicate a variety of information, such as beliefs, assertions, denials, prohibitions, and permissions, among others, by effectively utilizing positive and negative phrases.

### Modality Analysis

In order to examine the writer's level of commitment—that is, how much he believes that what he says is true—the analysis focuses on modal verbal operators. Because of this, a table listing every modal auxiliary operator based on their degree of modal commitment has been created. Each of the three values can be chosen, and this changes the meaning of the text.

Table 6 Frequency of Modal Auxiliary

Modal auxiliary	can	could	will	would	should	need to	must	may	Others	Total
Times	58	16	41	16	8	9	7	20	4	179
Frequency	32.4	8.9	22.9	8.9	4.4	5	3.9	11.1	2.2	100

In terms of frequency, the modal auxiliary *can* appears in the articles 58 times (32.4%), placing it in first place. It has a low modalities. According to Hickel (2009 : 667-683), these modals show that the speaker is not confident in the veracity of the claims being made. This decision is based on a few factors. On the one hand, *can* is regarded as the least demanding situation, allowing others to take the initiative and reducing the gap between the author and the reader. Conversely, *can* frequently marks personal belief, possibility, likelihood, and courtesy in language, according to Kondowe (2014 : 214-221).

The accompanying data shows that *will* is used far too frequently—41 times (22.9%). It is mostly used to make forecasts about what will happen in the future. Additionally, "will" emphasizes the author's unshakeable commitment. The modal word "will" conveys a great degree of certainty about the outcome.

With a tone that is unambiguous and certain, the speaker dispels any doubt. The interpersonal interpretation implies that the speaker is knowledgeable and confident about the start time of the concert. for example:

*“Upcoming photography trips will take him Austria and Czechia for freshwater fish and mammals such as Siberian weasel, Minnesota for primates , and Ontario for Stone’s sheep.”*

The modal auxiliary "should" is identified as the "obligation" modality when it appears eight times (4.4%) and is employed as the median category to express the speaker's viewpoint or attitude. The modal verb "should" implies a less strong duty or suggestion. The advice being given by the speaker is cordial but not unduly assertive. The interpersonal connotation conveys empathy and calls for taking constructive action:

*“This field should be flooded with water, flourishing with four-foot emerald green blades and golden rice panicles.”*

With seven occurrences, the modal verb "must" places a heavy duty on the reader. The speaker emphasizes the significance of achieving the deadline in an authoritative and stern manner. The interpersonal connotation carries a sense of accountability and urgency:

*“Those objects must be returned to the country of origin if the import date was after April 26, 2007.”*

Uncertainty is introduced by the modal verb "might," which falls under the category of "others." Regarding the likelihood of rain, the speaker is unsure. The speaker is open to the prospect of several outcomes, and the interpersonal meaning conveys a cautious tone. For example:

*“A teaspoon of garden soil might hold a billion bacteria , network of air pockets, many yards of fungal filaments, and thousands of protozoa.”*

The word "may" denotes a formal, courteous request for authorization. The speaker is being polite and respectful. The interpersonal meaning expresses respect and civility:

*“ Choosing these gods, Untash-Napirisha may have intended the new city to transcend the role of a local religious center and become an equal to ( or even outshine ) Susa. ”*

In this instance, the modal verb "could" denotes a kind and informal manner to ask for permission. The speaker keeps a polite tone while being thoughtful. The interpersonal meaning is kind and courteous:

*“ You couldn’t ask for a better route from point A to point B. ”*

We may observe how the selection of modal phrases impacts the interpersonal meaning of the text by examining modality in these cases. The speaker's degree of certainty, duty, possibility, and civility can all be inferred from their modality, which also reveals information about their intents and attitudes toward the reader. Since modality enables speakers to communicate their attitudes, beliefs, and intentions, it is essential in SFG for determining the interpersonal meaning of language. Different modal expressions add subtleties of assurance, permission, possibility, and emotional posture to the information being delivered, which can have a substantial impact on how the listener perceives and receives the message.

Table 7 Scales of modal commitment identified in the articles

POLARITY	MODALITY					
	Low		Median		High	
	Feq.	Perc.	Frq.	Perc.	Frq.	Perc.
Positive	88	49.1%	63	35.1%	18	10%
Negative	5	2.8%	2	1.1%	3	1.6%

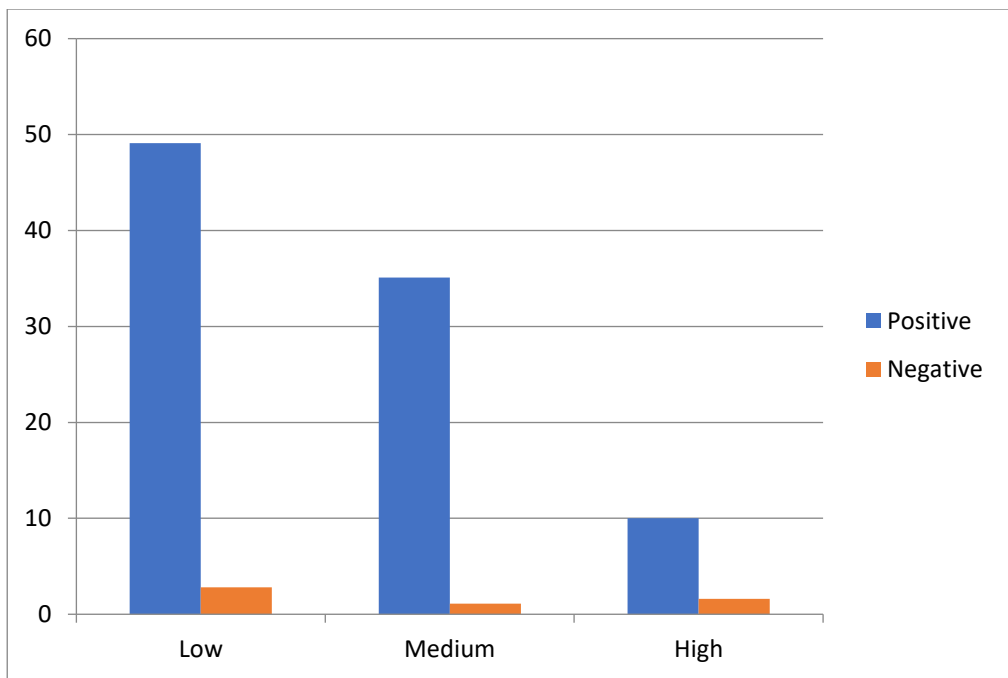


Chart : Scales of modal commitment identified in the articles

Table 6 makes it clear that low-scale modal auxiliary operators predominate in the speech. Ninety-three (53%) of the 179 modals in total are small-scale. The relative representation of high and medium auxiliary modals is minor, with 11.7% and 36.6%, respectively. Table 6 shows that high and medium modals are often quite disliked in the speech, with low incidence of 10% and 35.1%, respectively. High scale modals, such as must demonstrate

full commitment, are not the best choices for modals in articles since they give the impression that the speaker is overly committed, according to Hickel (2009 : 667-683). Additionally, it's possible that he intentionally avoided taking on such a high commitment role in order to escape personal responsibility and provide himself some wiggle room in the event that he broke his word (cf. Mozuwa and Ezejideaku 2009 : 40-52)

“ *We need to respect them.* ”

“ *A sustainable revival must take root with native speakers themselves.* ”

According to Hickel (2009: 667-683), low modals are used to convey a speaker's lack of confidence in the veracity of the claims being made. According to Kondowe (2014b: 214-221 ) can frequently be used to indicate civility in discourse as well as probability and likelihood. For instance:

“ *Only a Catholic pope can take that highly symbolic step.* ”

“ *We can do that now.* ”

In order to uncover the meanings perceived from the mood and modality in the articles, interpersonal metafunction analysis is utilized in Systemic Functional Linguistics to interpret the meanings interpersonally. Understanding the speech function of the utterances in the articles is made easier by the theory of mood. Modality enhances mood by expressing the speaker's attitude toward the need or likelihood of the statement, which modal verbs realize.

## **Conclusion**

This study has deliberately examined different aspects of interpersonal meaning in a selection of stories from National Geographic. The analysis has concentrated on modal auxiliaries and mood selection. The mood analysis's findings show that declarative clauses are more dominant than imperative clauses in terms of their ability to convey the most information, with interrogative clauses coming in last. Low-scale modal auxiliary operators greatly predominate in the literature. Auxiliary modalities with high and medium frequencies are far away. The present tense is employed in documentary writing for a number of reasons that are consistent with the objectives of these genres. It strives for promptness in information delivery, supports objectivity in reporting, aids in maintaining accuracy and clarity in the communication of facts and details, and supports the objective of documenting actual occurrences. Although writing in the present tense is frequent in documentaries, it's important to modify the tense according to the situation and the type of content. In some situations, such as when giving historical background or reflecting on past events within the narrative, the past tense or a blend of tenses may be more appropriate. The modals will, can, should, and would frequently seem to maintain the modality in the speech in terms of modal auxiliary. Through the use of the modal will, the future became visible. Conversely, by employing the modal can in his discourse, the author aimed to reduce the gap between himself and the reader in order to build a positive rapport, offer hope, and look forward to the future rather than imposing. In terms of modality, the speaker skillfully employs median and low modal verbs to draw people closer to him and create a sound relationship; in terms of mood, the speaker makes use of indicative mood to effectively convey their ideas and win support.

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