

**IOSUD – UNIVERSITATEA „DUNĂREA DE JOS” DIN GALAȚI**

**Școala doctorală de Științe Socio-Umane**



**TEZĂ DE DOCTORAT**  
**GRAMMATICAL SYNONYMY IN ENGLISH AND**  
**ROMANIAN**

**Doctorand,**

**ANCA FLORINA SOREANU (LIPAN)**

**Conducător științific,**

**Prof. univ. dr. ELENA CROITORU**

**Seria U1: Filologie - Engleză Nr.13**

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Prof univ.dr.ELENA CROITORU

**Referenți științifici**

Prof univ.dr.MARIANA NEAGU

Prof univ.dr.GABRIELA DIMA

Lector. univ. dr. DANIELA ȘORCARU

**Seria U1: Filologie - Engleză Nr.13**

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## **Introduction**

### **State of the art**

The subject of the grammatical synonymy has been rather little considered by grammarians and linguists and therefore, our choice to study it has been motivated by this intriguing aspect. The very existence of the lexical synonymy is debatable, considered as impossible by certain philosophers such as Quine (1953) and Goodnam (1952), or linguists such as Hirst, (1995) who believe in the uselessness of the existence of any two words with the same meaning within a language. On the one hand, the principle of language economy justifies the existence of polysemy, implying that a single unit can have several meanings, but on the other hand, language expressivity is enhanced by the existence of synonymy allowing the speaker to choose from a variety of words and constructions with a similar or almost similar meaning the one that suits the purposes of communication best. Cruse (1991) and Murphy (2003, 2006) share this point of view and their studies lay at the basis of the present research.

Further studies on the same topic of Apresjan (1973), DiMarco, Stede (1993), Cruse (1991), Gutt (2000), Edmonds and Hirst, (2002), Glynn (2010), clarify the complex aspects implied by the notion of synonymy and discuss the semantic similarity as well as the differences implied by any two synonyms. They also bring to the foreground other related notions such as denotation, connotation, equivalence or paraphrase which are helpful in defining and describing synonymy.

The Romanian authors Iordan (1975), Vințeler (1983), Levitchi (1994), Hoarță Lăzărescu (1999), Zugun (2000), Bidu-Vrânceanu (2001), Leah (2010) also give a positive account on the notion of synonymy and their papers were also considered in our comparative research.



The first mention of the expression *grammatical synonymy* was due to O. Jaspersen (1964), but with no further explanations. A holistic perspective on the specialised literature would reveal that some English authors, such as Jerrold and Edwin (1967), Burge, (1978), Murphy, (2003), Mair, (2006), Glynn, (2010, 2014), and some Romanian authors such as Levitchi, (1994), Avram, (2001), Croitoru, (2002) use this expression as such. Nearly synonymous grammatical constructions are also mentioned by Quirk et al., 1985, but no explanations are provided for the existence of such constructions.

Furthermore, in the reference books of Leech and Svartvik, (1975), Thompson and Martinet, (1986), Broughton, (1990), Leech, (1990, 1996, 2004, 2006, 2009,), Biber et al., (1999), or in the grammar books of Carther and McCarthy (2002), Side and Wellman, (2002), Swan, (2015), Foley, (2012) most often the reference is to *rephrasing structures*, *transforms* or *equivalent structures*.

## **Objectives**

When considering the subject of grammatical synonymy, we should start from the analysis of the concept of synonymy and then introspection in the way it develops would be required. Since it occurs at the lexical level, language researchers have wondered if the phenomenon occurs at the other levels of language, too. So far, references to phonologic, syntactic and stylistic synonymy have been made and further on, our main question is if we can discuss about synonymy at the level of morphology too. Since there is a gap as far as the studies of this particular linguistic aspect is concerned, our main purpose is to prove that grammatical synonymy is a branch of synonymy by analyzing linguistic facts from different perspectives.

Our objective is to analyse synonymy from a double perspective: our first concern was to explore the grammatical synonymy at the level of the English

language with focus on the parts of speech and the constructions built around them; and secondly, we aimed at analysing the synonymy between two language systems as revealed in the process of translation. We concentrated on the translation from English into Romanian while the translation from Romanian into English came secondary. At the grammatical level, structures which have different forms may have similar semantic content and we chose to concentrate on analyzing the most striking aspects concerning the similarities as well as the differences implied. Since the grammar of a language is an almost infinite domain, we limited our analysis to the main morphological categories such as the noun, the verb, the adjective and the adverb. Out of these, the verb was given the most space due to its offering rich material of analysis.

### **Data and methodology**

Although the theoretical approach relies heavily on the premises of the traditional descriptive grammar, but those of the cognitive grammar and those of the construction grammar have also been considered with a view to creating a strong theoretical background for the practical analysis of the grammatical synonymy. A combination of introspection and data analysis are meant to provide remarks about the particularities of the subject matter.

The methods used in this study are the deduction, the induction, the comparative analysis; the qualitative and the quantitative analysis. The approach to the subject matter of synonymy relies heavily on both the comparative analysis and the comparative research, as we aimed at studying the pattern of occurrence of both the common and the different linguistic elements within the synonymic pair or chain of grammatical constructions. The deduction and the induction were mostly used to provide explanations for the cases of synonymy found within the same language or between the two languages under study. Although there is nothing new about the methods used in this study, the

perspective and the approach itself of the subject of the grammatical synonymy is new and innovative, considering that no other paper attempted such a holistic, and yet detailed view on the matter of the grammatical synonymy.

The first step in the proposed linguistic endeavour was to establish the main sources of the grammatical synonymy, which seem to rely hugely on the language variations, the grammaticalization process, as well as other language evolutionary processes and the stylistic uses of the language.

The corpus includes sample translations, literary translations and examples taken from practical and reference grammar books. The practical and the reference grammar books provided the intralingual perspective upon the grammatical synonymy which was needed as the base for our further comments upon the interlingual perspective. We based our observations on the analysis of the translation of seven novels, out of which there are two Romanian novels translated into English, Mircea Cărtărescu's "De ce iubim femeile", (2006), translated by Alistar Ian Blith (2011); and "Orbitor. Aripa Stângă" (2018), translated by Sean Cotter (2013); and the following five English novels translated into Romanian, David Lodge's "A Man of Parts", (2012), translated by Ona Frantz (2011); "Deaf Sentence", (2009), translated by Roxana Marin (2009); Daniel Keyes' "Flowers for Algernon", (2007), translated by Dan Rădulescu (2016); D.H. Lawrence's "Women in Love", (1992), translated by Alexandru Dima (1999); William Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" (2001), translated by Constanta Tudor and Ion Frunzetti, (1992) and by Sanziana Mihalache (2013). The uneven rapport between the number of the English and the Romanian novels analyzed is explained by our main intention of proving the existence of the grammatical synonymy in English first, the perspective of traductology being secondarily considered, as proof of the correspondence between language systems. Since, at first, the existence of the synonymic structures was questioned, the corpora aimed at finding similarities both at the level of the same language as well as between different languages by analyzing

similar structures used in the source text and in the target text. The corpus chosen provides authentic materials and authentic language variations due to the variety of the situations involved.

## **The Structure of the thesis**

The thesis is divided into 5 chapters, each dealing with a different aspect. While the first chapter is dedicated to the presentation of the terminology to be used in my thesis, the other four chapters focus on the main morphological categories from the grammatical synonymy point of view.

As already mentioned, the first chapter, *On Synonymy*, provides an overall perspective on the notion of synonymy. First of all, we need to clear up our position towards the very notion of synonymy, due to the contrary attitudes towards it within the linguistic society. Therefore, we started from the assumption that synonymy exists and contributes to the expressiveness of a language and it implies both semantic similarities as well as differences. Considering the fact that our ultimate aim is the discussion of the grammatical synonymy, the other types of synonymy will be explained, too, with a focus on the grammatical synonymy with its definition and criteria, to be used in our further analysis.

When addressing such a complex linguistic issue, several terms need explaining from the very beginning. Thus, such notions as constructions, transformations, paraphrase, equivalence or grammatical regimen will be dealt with in detail. Moreover, for a better insight into the correspondence between language systems, the translation process will be considered both from a diachronic and a synchronic perspective. In order to explain grammatical synonymy, its sources need to be mentioned and exemplified as main contributors to the existence of this linguistic phenomenon.

Grammatical synonymy will be dealt with intralingually and interlingually in **Chapter 2: *Grammatical Synonymy with Nouns, Adjectives and Adverbs.*** This chapter focuses on the main morphological categories of Noun, Adjective and Adverb. The patterns and constructions having similar or almost similar meanings will also be analyzed with a view to proving the existence of the grammatical synonymy with these morphological categories. Special attention will be given to the correspondence between the English and the Romanian morphological parts of speech and a comparative analysis will be provided. The noun may relate to the lexical synonymy, but the grammatical behaviour of the nominal constructions, such as the genitive constructions, as well as the correspondence between the noun and the other speech parts can be considered from the grammatical synonymy point of view.

Being such a complex word class, the adjective has never been analyzed from the perspective of the similarity between the constructions or the linguistic patterns it can form. Another word class to be analyzed from the same point of view is the adverb. Thus, the grammatical synonymy with the adverb and the adverbial patterns will be studied with a view to highlighting those different adverbial patterns that can lead to constructions conveying similar meanings.

Starting from the assumption that language is made of interdependent lexical items and that there is no clear frontier between parts of speech, this study will not limit to analysing the synonymy between the already mentioned morphological parts only, but it will mention some of the syntactic structures involving these parts of speech, too, such as the similarity between the finite and their non-finite correspondent sentences, the reversed word order sentences triggered by the special uses of adverbs in front position, etc.

Further considerations on the translatability of such synonymous structures will be made as part of the study of the correspondence between languages. Starting from Jakobson's point of view (1986:236) that "languages differ essentially in what they must convey and not in what they can convey", a

parallel will be drawn between the different characteristics of the English and Romanian languages which may lead to difficulties in the process of translation.

As already mentioned, the next three chapters focus on the category of the verb because it offers rich material for the study of the grammatical synonymy. There are four main categories to be discussed and analyzed when considering the English verbal system, i.e. tense, aspect, voice and mood,. All four have been considered from the point of view of the grammatical synonymy that may occur between the different ways of expressing each category. Thus, **Chapter 3 – Grammatical Synonymy with Verbs: Tense and Aspect** provides special considerations on the grammatical categories of the Romanian verb, too, since it displays the categories of mood, tense and voice only. The English verb is such a complex part of speech that displays a wide range of peculiarities and different usages that lead to sentences which may be subject to grammatical synonymy. Since Time, Tense and Aspect cannot be analysed separately, this chapter will make a brief description of their interdependence considering the possible synonymous sentences and constructions that illustrate it.

Further on, the next step of our analysis is to highlight the main similarities as well as the differences between the different ways of expressing present, past and future time and a perspective will be drawn on their Romanian correspondents. Therefore, we will focus on those verbal forms that convey the same or almost the same meaning with a special emphasis on the slight semantic differences between these, since they highly contribute to language expressivity. The translation analysis from and into English is meant to provide a practical application of the theoretical considerations made on the subject of the grammatical synonymy between the source and the target languages.

The main semantic similarities between Direct and Indirect Speech sentences will be analyzed as main sources of grammatical synonymy. The similarities between the English and the Romanian direct and indirect speech

rules will be highlighted with a view to showing the correspondence between language systems applicable in the process of translation from and into English.

The correspondence between the active and the passive voice constructions is considered in Chapter 4: *Grammatical Synonymy with verbs: Active and Passive Voice Constructions*. These corresponding constructions are said to preserve the truth conditions of the sentences, but they change the perspective. We are interested in how often and in what context these corresponding constructions can be replaceable and how this replacement may affect the message conveyed. The semantic similarity involved in the dichotomy active-passive voice, between the constructions involving either the Accusative or the Nominative followed by Infinitive is analysed in order to be included in the category of the grammatical synonymy. Moreover, the structural and semantic similarity between the target text and the source text will be under focus with a view to highlighting the main characteristics of translation from and into English.

Among the grammatical categories such as case, tense, person, aspect and mood, the mood is that grammatical category which indicates modality. Thus, **Chapter 5, *Grammatical Synonymy with Verbs: Mood and Modality***, will provide an overall perspective upon modality and the associated notions such as factivity and non-factivity, or factual and non-factual with a view to having a better understanding of the attitudes and values implied by modality. These attitudes and values are closely related to notions of time, tense and possible worlds and this connection will also be highlighted in the fifth chapter. Furthermore, owing to the disagreement concerning the types of modality distinguished in the specialized literature, a brief mentioning of these has been felt as necessary in order to justify our choice concerning the number of the types of modality and their expressions adopted by this study. Lastly, the expressions of modality and their translations are analysed in the last section of this chapter. The chapter includes references to the Moods, as expressions of

modality and it is meant to create a theoretical framework for the further practical analysis of translation. A brief description of the Indicative, Subjunctive and Conditional Moods in the English language with all their forms and uses, as well as mentions to the Romanian moods of the Indicative, Subjunctive (Conjunctiv) and Conditional are made in an attempt at emphasising the theoretical similarities between the two languages as far as these moods are concerned.

We meant to approach the modality expressed by modal verbs from the point of view of the grammatical synonymy that is likely to occur between the different structures constructed around different modal verbs, which express the same modal meaning. According to the concepts modal verbs may express, we studied the relations that may appear between the different ways of expressing a particular concept in order to prove the existence of the grammatical synonymy between the modal expressions. Similarly, at the end of the chapter, a characterization of the Romanian modal verbs and modal adverbials is made in order to analyze the modal and the non-modal translations of modal concepts in English and Romanian and their different stylistic effects.

### **Estimated contribution**

Our intention was to look into the ways language expressiveness is enhanced by means of the grammatical synonymy and explain why this type of synonymy is possible between the constructions built around the main morphological parts. We also tried to prove that the grammatical synonymy is a branch of synonymy, which, despite not being fully acknowledged in the linguistic society, is worth considering due to its complexity. Considering that no other study approaches the grammatical synonymy at the level of the English language and from the perspective of the translation process, we assume that the present study is a starting point in the analysis of the subject matter, which can be further



developed. The topic considered is a complex one and we only attempted a holistic perspective, but an indepth approach would reveal further linguistic facts.

We also consider that our main linguistic contribution is the very approach to the subject matter. We first attempted at highlighting the existent grammatical synonymy between different grammatical constructions built around different parts of speech of the English language. We studied both the similarities and the differences implied by such synonymic relations at the level of the same language and we only extended our analysis to the Romanian language where the obvious issues made it necessary. We analysed literary translations from and into English in order to provide the necessary examples to prove the similarity between language systems. Although the subject was the study of the semantic similarity between different morphologic linguistic constructions, elements of contrast, meaning differences and mistranslations were also provided in order to justify the existence of the very concept of synonymy, which implies both semantic similarity as well as contrast.

We consider that the thesis addresses both teachers and translators alike, being useful due to its presenting the overall reasons, explanations and examples for the subject of grammatical synonymy, which is familiar to both professional categories.

However, the idea of this thesis arose when, as a teacher, I had to teach my students how to solve the rephrasing exercises, among others, and not being able to explain exactly why there were several ways of conveying the same message made me look deeper into the subject to find the correct explanations. Although those days everybody avoided this type of exercise due to its loose structure, I kept working on it and searching for reasons and explanations for the linguistic phenomenon. Therefore, when I discovered the topic of grammatical synonymy, it was like finally getting the opportunity to study it thoroughly and scientifically. And yet, providing such a holistic perspective, we

feel that the thesis only sheds some light upon the issue of grammatical synonymy and invites to further research on smaller language compartments where outstanding results can be achieved.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSIONS**

Our linguistic quest started from the supposition that synonymy contributes to the language expressivity and it is present at different language departments – the phonologic, the lexical, the morphologic and the syntactic one. Among the different types of synonymy mentioned in the linguistic studies, the grammatical synonymy is thought to be rather a new type of synonymy which refers to the semantic similarity between the constructions built around different parts of speech which convey the same grammatical information and which may be replaceable in context. Proving that the grammatical synonymy is a branch of synonymy which, just as the lexical synonymy, gives the speaker the chance to choose from a variety of alternatives was our main purpose. If lexical synonymy seems to have its sources in the lexicon of a language, grammatical synonymy finds its roots in the continuous linguistic changes determined by the evolution of the language as well as in the varieties of the language such as register, dialect or idiolect. It seems that the grammatical synonymy occurs not only at the level of the relationship established between the word classes, due to their capability of replacing each other in structures conveying similar meanings, but it is obvious, that different grammatical regimens of words can lead to different constructions with similar or almost similar meaning.

Owing to the fact that no two different grammatical constructions can convey exactly the same meaning, we analyzed the semantic differences implied and we reached the conclusion that these differences trigger different stylistic

effects. Therefore, it seems that the grammatical synonymy is also a branch of the stylistic synonymy.

Throughout the paper, synonymy was treated from a double perspective that of the intralingual synonymy and that of the correspondence between language systems, considering that translation is another type of synonymy based on the assumption that languages possess correspondent synonymous models. We found synonymy between the different translations of the same text, which reveal the existence of the synonymy at the level of the English language and the synonymy between the source text and the target text constructions.

Having established the definition, the criteria and the types of synonymy, we focused on analyzing the main parts of speech and the constructions built according to the grammatical behaviour of each of them. The constructions built around nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs were considered from the point of view of the grammatical synonymy established between them. Linguistic processes such as the nominalisation or the verbalisation improve the English expressive means to the extent at which different structures with similar or almost similar meaning coexist and become subject of the grammatical synonymy. Different genitival constructions, adjectival and adverbial patterns were analyzed from the semantic, structural and syntactic point of view with the view to highlighting both the semantic similarities as well as the differences that prove their inclusion in the synonymic series. Therefore, there is synonymy between the syntactical and the analytical forms of the genitive, between the different ways of forming the degrees of comparison and between nominal, adjectival and adverbial patterns.

In order to prove the correspondence between language systems, we made continuous theoretical references to the Romanian correspondent morphological categories and we highlighted the main common points and the main differences between the English and the Romanian nouns, adjectives and

adverbs as provided in the process of translation. All the mentioned speech parts display both common features as well as differences in both languages. The nouns, for example, can be classified into concrete, abstract, countable or uncountable, or animate/inanimate and may be part of common phrases, idioms and proverbs in both languages, but there might be differences regarding the genitive case forms which can become serious problems for the translator.

As for the adjective, despite being versatile and displaying a variety of particular usages and common features in both English and Romanian, it is also part of collocations and patterns which need reformulation and rephrasing in the target text in order to preserve the source text meaning.

Just like the former morphological categories, the adverb is formed by means of suffixation and compounding in both languages and displays resemblance with adjectives, certain verbal forms and nouns. Moreover, as well as its English correspondents, some adjectives in Romanian have different corresponding adverbs: *bine* (adverb) - *bun* (adjective)/ *well* – *good*. The cases of non-equivalence between Romanian and English occur, when a certain adverbial idiom cannot be translated by a corresponding one in the TT, due to the linguistic lack of a similar idiom.

The English verbal system was given the largest space in the present paper due to the variety of aspects it includes. First, we provided the theoretical considerations upon the categories of Aspect, Tense, Time and Mood. Since not all of the mentioned categories could be presented in detail in one chapter only, we divided them in three distinct chapters: chapter 3 dedicated to the analysis of the grammatical synonymy as revealed between the different ways of expressing time, chapter 4 dedicated to the analysis of the correspondence between the active and the passive voice constructions and chapter 5, which tackled the grammatical synonymy between the different ways of expressing the same modal concepts.

In chapter 3, we discussed the similarities as well as the differences found at both the theoretical level, in grammar and reference books, and at the practical level in the analysis of the literary translations, fact which enabled us to agree with the linguists arguing in favour of the existence of the grammatical synonymy between the different ways of expressing past, present and future time. The general or the particular meaning implied by each of them, the modality attached or the truthfulness of the conditions implied or the time reference became the criteria used in order to include those expressions in a synonymic chain.

Considered from the point of view of the synonymy expressed by its means of expression, the category of the Aspect proved to be closely connected to the social and the stylistic changes that lead to the subjectification of meaning of the linguistic expression. As compared to the Romanian language, where it is expressed mainly lexically, the English category of the Aspect seems to display morphologic peculiarities which acquire new meanings.

The category of the Aspect is related to that of Time in the expression of tense. Different tenses may refer to the same time and therefore, grammatical synonymy may occur between verbal constructions with similar time reference, such as the use of the Simple or the Progressive Present Tense to refer to future time or the use of Past Progressive to refer to future time.

As far as the correspondence between the direct speech statements and the reported ones is concerned, although we find them similar from the semantic point of view, we cannot avoid mentioning the change of perspective and of truthfulness implied by the reported ones, according to the speaker's purposes. The free indirect and the free direct speech do presuppose some semantic and structural overlapping, but they also trigger different stylistic effects. Therefore, we could speak of grammatical near-synonymy in this case. The main differences between the English and the Romanian rules used in the process of reporting lead to interesting correspondences in translation from one language

into the other, since back-shifting, specific to the English language, is not the norm for the Romanian reporting, where the natural reference to the matrix clause is applied.

We also considered the correspondence between the active and the passive voice constructions as they preserve the same truth conditions, but change the perspective and the focus of the sentence. Having mentioned that, we were interested in how often and in what context can an active voice construction be replaced by its passive voice correspondent. Although such constructions are mostly used according to register, there are no strict rules in this case. Therefore, even if the passive voice is likely to occur mostly in the scientific, official and technical registers, it can also be used in fiction or familiar registers with a variety of stylistic implications. However, just as in the already discussed cases of grammatical synonymy, there is no perfect synonymy between the active and the passive voice constructions, but the semantic similarity between the verbal constructions involving either the Accusative or the Nominative followed by an Infinitive can explain the existence of the grammatical synonymy between them.

As for the medio-passives, the get-passives and the pseudo-passives, we agree with the mentioned authors (Leech and Hundt, Quirk) that such structures have mainly different meanings and therefore, they cannot be considered synonymous, but we do admit that there is some semantic similarity between the medio-passives, certain modal adjectives and the be-passives. Furthermore, the causative constructions fall into the same category of passive constructions, which cannot be considered grammatically synonymous with their active correspondents, owing to their implying a different meaning.

On the other hand, the structural and the semantic similarity between the English and the Romanian passive voice constructions, enables us to mention the correspondence regarding these structures, but it seems that in translation,

the structural identity between the source text and the target text is a matter a choice, according to the type of translation or to the translator's intentions.

The study of moods and modality in the last chapter (Chapter 5) aimed at proving that, at least in certain contexts, there is grammatical synonymy between the different ways of expressing the same modal concept. Starting from this assumption, we related the previously mentioned notions of truth, time and tense to the notions of factivity, counter-factivity, factual and non-factual, reality and unreality, specific to modality and moods. We brought to the fore the correspondence between the Subjunctive and the Conditional as the Moods of the unreality as opposed to the Indicative as the Mood of the reality and fact. There is some resemblance between the Subjunctive and the Conditional moods as both express hypothesis, but on the other hand, there is also some overlapping between the Subjunctive and the Indicative Moods as far as the structural identity of the Present Subjunctive and the Present Tense of the Indicative Mood or the Past Subjunctive and The Past Tense of the Indicative Mood is concerned. These verbal forms are used according to the language variety they are specific to, such as the American or the British varieties of English. However, nowadays there are no strict boundaries in language use and what used to be inadmissible in one language variety in the past became common in today's everyday speech and even in the prescriptive grammar.

The sample translations analysed proved that there are some similarities as far as the mentioned moods and their expressions are concerned in both English and Romanian, but such cases or correspondence in translation are context dependent.

The modalities expressed by modal verbs, modal idioms and semi-modal verbs are varied and numerous, fact that gives us the opportunity to discuss the grammatical synonymy that may occur between the different ways of expressing the same modal concept.

Contemporary English witnesses the increasing use of semi-modal verbs instead of the core modals, which means that different verbal constructions with the same semantic content still coexist and can be included in a grammatically synonymous chain, such as that formed from the modal verb *must*, and the semi-modals *have to*, *to be obliged to*, to express modal concepts of necessity and obligation. This semantic overlapping is a result of the grammaticalisation process, as a main source of grammatical synonymy. However, it is the difference between the possible grammatically synonymous alternatives which prove that the grammatical synonymy implies not only semantic similarity but also difference. Mostly relying on the register difference, the synonymy between the modal verbs, the semi-modals and the modal idioms displays a whole range of modal meanings, both Epistemic and Deontic. The division across registers shows that modal verbs are mostly used in fictional register, the scientific, the business language, the educational and the political discourse, whereas in the other registers semi-modals, modal idioms and modal expressions may be more frequent than core modals.

If we cannot speak about a monosemantic character of the English modal verbs, (Leech and Hundt, 2009), then there is no such thing about the Romanian modal verbs either. The main common ground regarding the modal verbs in both languages is the ambiguous line between the epistemic and the deontic modalities as expressed by certain modal verbs. Moreover, the literary translations analysed revealed interesting modal and non-modal translations of modality.

Due to the fact that modality may be expressed by a variety of grammatical and lexical means, it is difficult to cover all its aspects in just one paper. We only attempted at providing a general overview upon the topic from the point of view of the grammatical synonymy, which means that this is a subject that needs further exploration.



Last but not least, we analysed the 206 literary translations from English into Romanian and from Romanian into English from the point of view of the translation equivalence. The results confirm that, overall the cases of non-equivalence in translation are outnumbered by those of equivalence. However, the cases of one-to-one translation were relatively fewer than those where equivalence was only partially achieved. Moreover, the cases of non-equivalence in translation included omissions, alterations, and changes of modality, emphasis of meaning of the ST due to lack of the correspondent target language means of expression or to less inspired translation choices. The conclusion to be drawn from this data is that there may be some correspondence between language systems due to both the differences and the similarities displayed in the literary translations analysed.

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