



## **AN ANALYSIS OF MODAL AUXILIARY “Can” IN THE BOOK *RULES OF LIFE* BY RICHARD TEMPLAR**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The title of this study that an analysis of Modal Auxiliary “Can” in the book of *The Way of Life*. The aim of this study that is to find out how many words modal auxiliaries “Can” that it can be found. The theories are used from Holiday in the basic learning of Language and Swam and Palmer the modality in general and more specific of modal “Can” is from Biber. The descriptive method is used in this study. The taken data is from the book of *The Way of Life* by Richard Templar. The data are selected and analyze. The result of the study that the biggest proportional of modal Auxiliary “Can” is 42 Percent is possibility, and the second proportion is ability 40 percent, and the lowest proportion is permission 18 percent.

Key words : Modality, Modal Auxiliary Can, Ability, Possibility and Permission

### **INTRODUCTION**

By this time, it is acknowledged that English is one of the well-known languages in the world. English language is an international language that is mostly utilized by the word society to get in a good interaction to each other. English becomes one of the important subject that it must be given and updated at school. Especially, In Indonesia English is considered as an important subject that it is given since elementary school to the university student.

In the learning of Language that linguistics is very important to study such as: Such as pragmatics, Semantics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, syntax, Phonology morphology and also grammar, here the is more specific in the grammar especially in modal auxiliaries of “Can”.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Grammar is one of basic in learning of the language. It is as the basic knowledge and as important role in understanding the English language. “Grammar is partly



the study of what forms (or structures) are possible in a language. Traditionally, grammar is a description of the rules that govern how language's sentences are formed" (Haliday (2014)

There are many aspects discussed in English grammar one of them is "Modal Auxiliaries". or "Modal Verb" are: can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, and must. These auxiliaries add to a special semantic component such as Ability, obligation, possibility. They have special grammatical features; have more than one meaning, and also complex. Haliday (1970), and in this study discuss one of the modal auxiliaries "Can".

### Modal Auxiliaries

Modal auxiliaries generally express a speaker's attitudes, or "mood". For example, modal can express that a speaker feels something necessary, advisable, permissible, possible, or probable; and in addition, they can convey the strength of these attitudes (Swam, 1980: 90). These are the modal verb can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, should, ought, and need. They are different from the other three auxiliary verbs (*do*, *be* and *have*) in two ways. **Firstly**, they have special grammatical features (for instance, they have no infinitive and the third person singular has no s). And **secondly**, most modal verbs have not only a grammatical function, but also a "dictionary meaning": for instance, must, can mean, be obliged to". (*do*, *be* and *have* do not really have "meaning") of this kind when they are used as auxiliary verbs)

Palmer (1990) Modal verb is technical one of this verb form: ought to, used to, need, Had Better, and dare. They are all used with others verb to change their meaning by expressing ideas such as possibility, permission, or intension.

### Meaning of Modals Auxiliaries; Can

According to Biber (1999) that the modal 'Can' is a commonly used modal verb in English. It is used to express; ability, opportunity, a request, to grant permission, to show possibility or impossibility. It is this large amount of functions and the fact that 'can' is replaced by other modals when it is used to express future or past time that often lead to certain errors.

Table 1. Biber et al.'s (1999)

Meaning	Definition	Example
Permission	Evidence of some condition that determines whether an agent is or is not permitted to do something	<u>Can</u> I have some? You <u>can</u> read my book <u>Can</u> I have an apple please?
Possibility	Express the degree to which	Smoking <u>can</u> cause



	something is possible: inanimate noun/dummy it + can + linking verb + Adj noun phrase; or inanimate noun + can + main verb	cancer
Ability	Evidence of an animate agent that is capable of doing something	I <u>can</u> hear what she's saying about somebody

### Research questions

In accordance with the research background, this study attempts to answer the research questions formulated as follows:

1. How many modal auxiliaries “Can” is used in the book of “*The Rule of Life*” by Richard Templar?
2. What kind of modal auxiliaries “Can” are often used in the book of “*The Rule of Life*” by Richard Templar?

### Objectives of the Study

The main objective can be detailed as follows:

1. To describe how many of modal auxiliaries “Can” is used in the book of “*The Rule of Life*” by Richard Templar?
2. To analyze of modal auxiliaries “Can” is used in the book of “*The Rule of Life*” by Richard Templar

### Data Source

In this study, the selected data were taken from book of “*The Rules of Life*” By Richard Templar for analyzing the modal auxiliaries which was published in 2010. ISBN is 978027375102, 0273751050, Publisher is Pearson Education Limited



## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Previous Research

There are several studies related to this study. Those have the same topic, the first A. Sudirman (2010), He studied the second grade students of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ciputat in learning modal Auxiliary, the writer wants to give a description in learning modal Auxiliary especially in Can and Could, to make it easy for the students. A descriptive study was used and the analysis technique with visiting the school to do research, the writer gives them the test about Modal Auxiliary in meaning, function and form.

The second was Dwi Haryanto Topan (2016). He studied modal auxiliary verbs as the principal means of expressing hedging in English academic discourse. For this purpose, a corpus of 75 primary empirical research articles from economics, linguistics, medicine, natural sciences and engineering was analyzed quantitatively with the help of corpus linguistic method. The results revealed that modal auxiliaries were used most frequently in linguistics and economics and least frequently in engineering and natural sciences while. Modal auxiliaries tend to be more common in soft sciences than in hard sciences

**The Third was Dian Putri Pertiwi (2019)** She described the type of modal auxiliary used which is not in line with the usage or semantic meaning and illustrates the errors on the use of modal auxiliary that is often done and The instrument used in this study is an essay test containing 9 modal auxiliaries. Subject in this study were 100 students of the English Education Students at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The results showed that the semantic meanings had a lot of errors, namely 'prediction' (11%), while the modal that often had errors was 'may' (28.9%) and 'will' (27.2%) and the lowest was 'could' and 'might' (2.7% for each),

## METHODOLOGY

The research has been designed by the researcher in procedure and setting and it uses descriptive method. For one thing to take a case in the objectives of the research that is improving a certain condition in the setting that the book was read very carefully then the modal auxiliary “Can” was identified then they were grouped after that they were analyzed as accurate as possible.

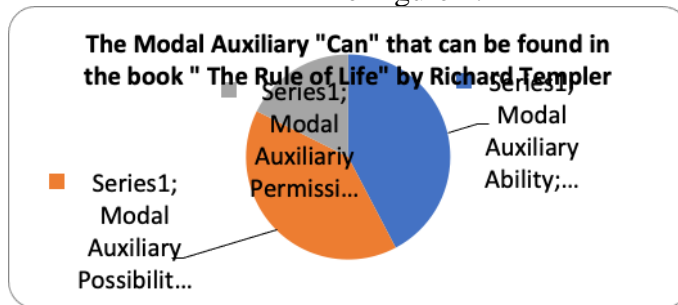
## RESULT OF THE STUDY

The modal auxiliary “Can” that it can be found in this book. There are 96 modal auxiliaries “Can” functioning as ability. There are 91 modal auxiliaries “Can” can



be functioned as possibility There are 40 modal auxiliaries can be functioned as permission.

The Figure 1.



The result of the study in the percentage that the biggest proportional of modal auxiliary “Can” is 42 % is Possibility and the second proportional is Ability 40 % and the lowest proportion is permission 18 %.

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