

Investigating Modality in Kamila Shamsie's *Burnt Shadows* and Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Corpus Driven Comparative Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Corpus analysis of any piece of writing gives an insight into the number and nature of the linguistic items used by the writer in that piece of writing. It helps us investigate the grammatical categories or linguistic items with their frequencies of occurrence in the writings of a specific writer. The present research presents a corpus-based study of Modals and modality in Kamila Shamsie's novel "Burnt Shadows" and Charles Dickens's novel, "A Tale of Two Cities". The prime objective of this study is to investigate the significance of the modal auxiliaries used in these two novels, by giving their contrastive analysis. For this purpose, we have employed Antconc 3.5.8 software to count the frequencies and percentages of the Modal verbs used by both the novelists in these two novels. By using this model, we have been able to find out all the modal verbs that have been used in these two novels by applying plamer,s model. First of all, the frequencies of each modal verb existing in these novels were found out, then their comparative ratios or percentages were calculated for the sake of comparative linguistic analysis. The data results show that the modal verb "Will" has been used most frequently in Burnt shadows while it has 0 hits in "A Tale of Two Cities" in general spectrum. This study shows how two these two writers have exploited the modalities in different way in their novels to fulfill their purposes.

Keywords: Modal verbs, Modality. Antconc, Corpus Analysis Kamila Shamsie, Charles Dickens,

INTRODUCTION

The paper in hand is a corpus-based study of modal verbs and modality employed by Kamila Shamsie in her novel, "Burnt Shadows" and Charles Dickens's novel "A Tale of Two Cities". Modal verbs and Modality are the linguistic features that play a very important role in the texts. Modality expresses the writer's attitude and opinions in the utterances. Our fundamental concern is to present a contrastive analysis of the Modality and modal verbs employed in both the novels. Western scholars such as Carter & Simpson (1989), Bennison (1993) and Herman (1995) made great efforts in this respect. Burnt shadows was written by Kamila Shamsie in 2009. It is an epic narrative and is the fifth

novel of Kamila Shamsie. It was nominated for the Orange Prize for fiction and also won Anisfield-wolf Book Award. This novel very interestingly narrates the stories of two families in the backdrop of the World War II living in Japan and India at the time of partition of India in 1947. The story of this novel begins on August 9, 1945 in Nagasaki and ends at prison cell in the US in 2002 as the main character is waiting to be sent to Guantanamo Bay. The other novel is “A Tale of Two Cities” penned by the famous novelist Charles Dickens. It is also a historical novel and was published in the middle of Nineteenth century. It revolves round the story of a French doctor and his daughter.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Every research work has some specific objectives to be achieved by the researcher. The research objectives of the current study are:

- To find out which of these novels has used more modal verbs than the other.
- To find out which modal verbs have been used with greatest frequency and which modal verbs have been used with least frequency by both the writers.
- To find out the types of modal verbs used in these novels.
- To find out the percentages of these modal verbs with the highest and lowest frequency.
- To find out the objective use of the modal verbs under general spectrum and palmer’s model.

RESEARCH QUESTION

- Which novelist has used modal verbs more than the other?
- Which are the most and least used modal verbs in these two novels?
- Which types of Modal verbs have been used in these novels?
- Which modal verbs have zero occurrence in these Novels?
- Which modal verbs used in these selected novels are under the framework of general spectrum & Palmer’s model?

SIGNIFICANT OF STUDY

The current study can prove very significant as it aims at providing an insight into the phenomenon of modality and its manipulation by the writers to express their opinions. It is also meant to compare and contrast two novels of written by two celebrated novelists of different eras to fulfill their purpose. It also aims at describing various types of modal verbs used differently by these novelists. The study also digs out as to how two different types of writers living in two different backgrounds use these Modal words in their styles which play certain roles in the text constructing particular effects and impacts on the minds of the readers and all type of targeted audience.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kruger (2000, 2004) investigated the expression of lexical cohesion, register variants and features of involvement in different linguistic fields of Shakespeare's drama when

translated into Afrikkans (a kind of language in South Africa). Ren Xiaofei (2008) made drama stylistic analysis based on the corpus about the construction of the illocutionary force, discourse marker, turn-taking and indicating system in several translations of Tea House, Death of a Salesman and Measure for Measure. Zhang and Chen (2010) chose personalized character language and relative translation of Dream of Red Mansions as the data of corpus, and applied modality system as the entry point to study the selection of modality in discourse and its corresponding interpersonal function in the translation version. Such studies have provided great theoretical and technical support to this research.

MODALITY

Modality is the semantic information associated with the speaker's attitude or opinion. We can say modality is a semantic concept providing the semantic information associate with the speaker's attitude or opinion about what he said. In English language, modality is shown by modal verbs, adverbs and adjectives but in the present study our chief concern is the modal verbs. **Modal verbs** have some special properties and they always help other verbs to express certainty, capability. Permission or possibility. They are a special kind of **helping verbs performing diversified functions in the texts**, and **modality** is when we use these verbs to **express various situations** in the text. In other words, these verbs can be used by the writers to determine the likelihood or certainty of something to happen and whether something is **possible** or not in that particular situation. They also show the ability of the speakers to do or not to do something, and also whether someone has permission to do something or not and whether or not we have some **obligation** or requirement or need to perform some action. So, these ways modal verbs are manipulated by the writers to make the sentences complete and **meaningful**. In this term paper we are going to study modal verbs in "Burnt Shadows" by Kamila Shamsie and "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens.

MODAL VERBS

As discussed earlier, modal verbs are the verbs which perform different kinds of actions in the text and express the intentions of the speakers in terms of ability, possibility, permission, and obligation. They are different from regular verbs which are used to express some action, activity or movement or state. Below is the list of some of the modal verbs used in English language.

- May
- Might
- Must
- Can
- Could
- Shall
- Should
- Will
- Would

These modal verbs are different from the action or main verbs in that they don't have infinitives and don't not admit any kind of inflections with them.

HIGH MODALITY

High modality shows high level of certainty.

Example:

- Ali must attend the function.
- I will try it later.
- She shall reach her office on time.

LOW MODALITY

Low modality shows less certainty

Example:

- I might go office tomorrow.
- You could try it later.
- She should eat this burger.

TYPES OF MODALITIES

Modality in linguistics, is in fact a system of linguistics options that is used for expressing the speaker's intentions in a particular utterance. There is a propositional Modality which includes Epistemic Modality and Evidential Modality, other is Event Modality in which we have Deontic Modality and Dynamic Modality.

A brief description of these types is given bellow.

EPISTEMIC MODALITY

The word Epistemic has been derived from a Greek word which means Knowledge, so Epistemic Modality shows the possibility or necessity of some piece of knowledge or degrees of certainty. As we know that modality indicates speaker's ideology attitude and opinions by using their feature in the utterances; so, Epistemic Modality serves to express attitude of the speaker's proposition. It is a fact-based proposition and shows necessity (Must) and the possibility (May) and the Modal verbs that are used in Epistemic Modality to convey these meanings include May, Must and Will. A modal auxiliary is used to express the degree of the speaker's conviction or belief in truth of the proposition expressed by the clause. In simple words we can say that Epistemic Modality is possibility or fact-based statement and is concerned with truth, belief and knowledge.

DEONTIC MODALITY

In Deontic Modality, modal verbs are used to affect a situation by giving permission. The modal verb 'May' is used for this purpose. Sometimes Modal verb 'Can' is also used for this purpose although mostly it shows possibility or physical capability. To be simple, Deontic modality is about will, permission or obligation. Deontic Modality is necessity based or obligation based and it concerns with action.

DYNAMIC MODALITY

Dynamic modality is concerned with the internal control of the subject and the ability comes from the subject's own capacity or ability. There are two types of dynamic modality, one is ability and the other is willingness. In Ablative, modal verb 'Can' and in Volatile, modal verb 'Will' is used. Can and Will are modal verbs that are used for this purpose, Can is also used in Epistemic modality but only in negations and for deontic Modality.

So, these are the types of modality which help us understand various functions performed by the modal verbs. But in the present study, we are going to discuss modal verbs according to their types.

TYPES OF MODAL VERBS

- **Ability: Can, could**

Example:

Zonish can speak three languages.

Ania could speak Urdu fluently even when she was four years old.

- **Permission: Can, could, or may**

Example:

Can I take that seat please?

Could I open the door?

May I barrow your book?

- **Advice: Should**

Example:

You should go to visit your Doctor twice a year.

- **Obligation: Must**

Example:

I must do all of my home work today.

- **Possibility: Might, may, could, can**

Example:

It looks fresh but might be its so expensive.

She may like this act.

After knowing the Modal verbs and their types, we also need to know how we can use them.

USE OF MODAL VERBS

Modal verbs also called helping verbs and sometimes known as Modal Auxiliaries, are **used frequently** in English as they add meanings to base verbs. When we use modal verbs, we do not add "S" with them while using a singular third person. When we use modal verbs

in questions, we don't use Do Does or Did and when we use modal verbs in negative sentences we don't use don't, doesn't, or didn't with them.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is a corpus-based study of the use of modality in the Novels 'Burnt Shadows' written by Kamila Shamsie and 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens. It is based on qualitative as well as quantitative research methods. The corpus is based on the plain text of novels in which we have counted the frequency of various types of modal verbs with their usage percentage. We have also investigated that which modal verb is missing or has been used with least frequency.

CORPUS

The researchers have tried to give a corpus-based comparison of these two novels as the chief purpose of this study is to find out modality in Kamila Shamsie's novel Burnt Shadows. It is her fifth novel and was published in 2009 and is one of the epic novels that was written by her. It narrates the story of two families during World War II in Japan and India on the brink of partition of 1947. This novel won Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in 2010, and in 2009 it was nominated for the Orange Prize. The other novel is 'A Tale of Two Cities' which is also a historical novel by Charles Dickens. The reason behind choosing these novels being that, as we know Kamila Shamsie is one of the finest writers and her novel Burnt Shadow is truly a masterpiece is stylistically dense and amazing. And Charles Dickens is also a great writer and these two have different writing styles so it is an interesting as well as informative to know about writing styles of these two writers. This study can provide the information about which types of modal verbs have been used them.

DATA MANIPULATED

Firstly, the researchers downloaded the software Antconc from softfamous and also downloaded the novel Burnt Shadows and A Tale of Two Cities in pdf forms then we converted PDF files into text because it is the only accepted text files. Then we Selected 'Open Files from the 'File' menu after selecting the file, clicked the 'Open' button, because after downloading the required texts we can use it for corpus analysis through Antconc. Antconc is one of the best softwares which is used in corpus-based studies. Its main features are concordance including concordance plot and frequency, word list and keywords. So it helps a lot to find out the results and helps the researchers to reach their required conclusions.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

There are two research frameworks which have been applied in this research to draw results and conclusion. One is the Palmer's modal while the other is the general spectrum under which 14 modal verbs are analyzed. Later on, the findings of the both frameworks are compared and analyzed in a refined way to achieve the desired objectives.

DATA ANALYSIS

The researchers collected two samples of the data for conducting the analysis of this research

Sample data-1, 14 modal verbs general spectrum data

Sample data-2, modal verbs under palmer’s model

Both samples have been presented in the form of separate tables having all the mandatory statistics in each of them which were deemed to be helpful in the analysis to draw clear and connected results. To avoid any misunderstanding, we endeavored to clarify each table and sample.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Contrary to quantitative research method which is statistical in nature, in this mixed method research maximum representation has been given in tables and these tables have been explained in full details. There are eight tables in total which contain all the modal verbs along with their occurrence and frequency.

“Here we have given total number of Modal verbs and their number of used in both novels”

Table No 1: Burnt Shadow

Would	450
Could	313
will	147
shall	2
Might	98
Must	55
May	12
Can	177
Need	14
Have to	57
Had better	1
Dare	2
should	106
Total	1438

Table No 2: Tale of Two Cities

Would	343
could	282
will	0
shall	98
Might	145
Must	101
May	128
Can	152
Need	14
Have to	8
Had better	16
Dare	8
Should	137
Total	1432

Table no 1: Most frequently used Modal verb is ‘Would’ and less frequently used modal verb is HAD Better.

Table no 2 shows that the most frequently used Modal verb is Would and there is no use of Modal verb Will in the novel A Tale of Two Cities.

“Here we have counted the frequencies of the modal verbs used in both novels and their percentages have also been indicated”

Table No 3:

Modal verbs	No of hits in Burnt Shadow	No of hits in two Tale of Cities	% ratio in bunt shadow	% ratio in two tale in cities	Difference between % ratio of both Novels
Would	450	343	21.86	14.21	7.65
Could	313	282	14.5	10.86	3.64
Will	147	0	8.14	0	8.14
Shall	2	98	0.29	3.81	3.52
Might	98	145	4.98	4.38	0.6
Must	55	101	3.18	1.06	2.12
May	12	128	4.95	6.02	2.06
Can	177	152	4.28	4.05	0.22
Need	72	14	0.41	0.07	0.34
Have to	57	8	1.23	0.48	0.75
Had better	1	16	0.01	0.06	0.05
Dare	2	8	0.1	0.48	0.38
Should	106	137	3.72	10.71	6.99
Total count	1438	1432	67.65	57.14	36.46

The above table indicates the frequencies and percentages of different Modal verbs occurring in both the novels along with the ratios of differences in occurrence.

After counting the number of modal verbs and their frequencies in both the novels, now we can find out which types of modal verbs have been used by the writers of both the novels.

Table no 4:

Modal verbs	Who gains greater frequency hits
Would	Burnt shadow
Could	Burnt shadow
Will	Burnt shadow
Shall	A tale of two cities
Might	A tale of two cities
Must	A tale of two cities

May	A tale of two cities
Can	A tale of two cities
Need	Burnt shadow
Have to	Burnt shadow
Had better	A tale of two cities
Dare	A tale of two cities
Should	A tale of two cities

This table shows the fact that which novel uses these modal verbs more frequently and which of the modal verbs have been used with least frequency.

This table indicates the main results of our data as to which modal verb has been employed in what number by these two novelists in these novels.

In the table given below, we are going to check this sample data through Palmer,s Modal.

Table No 5:

Palmer's modality types	Modal verbs	Hits in burnt shadow	Hits in A tale of two cities	% in burnt shadow	% of A tale of two cities	Difference in there %	Who is on greater hits
Epistemic possibility	May	12	128	0.6	10.34	9.74	Burnt shadow
Epistemic Necessity	Must	55	101	1.08	10.28	9.2	A tale of two cities
Epistemic W/S	will	147	0	10.9	0	10.9	Burnt shadow
Deontic possibility	May can	12 , 177	128, 152	0.6, 11.89	10.34, 15.06	9.74,3.17	A tale of two cities
Deontic Necessity	Must	55	101	6.06	10.08	4.02	A tale of two cities
Deontic W/S	Shall	2	98	0.02	6.09	6.07	A tale of two cities

Dynamic possibility	Can	177	152	11.89	15.06	3.17	Burnt shadow
Dynamic W/S	Will	147	0	14.03	0	14.03	Burnt shadow
Total		779	709	57.07	77.25	70.074	

This data table shows all types of modal verbs with number of their usage which we have already discussed in the introduction of this study.

Table no 6:

Difference in palmer's ratio	in Who gains greater hits	Difference in sample 1	in Who gains the general hits
9.74	Burnt shadow	7.65	Burnt shadow
9.2	A tale of two cities	3.64	Burnt shadow
10.9	Burnt shadow	8.14	Burnt shadow
9.74, 3,17	A tale of two cities	3.52	A tale of two cities
4.02	A tale of two cities	0.6	A tale of two cities
6.07	A tale of two cities	2.12	A tale of two cities
3.17	Burnt shadow	2.06	A tale of two cities
		0.22	A tale of two cities
14.03	Burnt shadow	0.34	Burnt shadow
		0.75	Bunt shadow
		0.05	A tale of two cities
		0.38	A tale of two cities
		6.99	The tale of two cities

This table summarizes all the data results gained after comparison and contrast of both the novels by using Palmer's Model.

INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

Table 1:

In table no1, we collected data from novel "Burnt Shadows" as we mentioned earlier, we used Antconc to find out the modal verbs used in these novels along with their frequencies and ratios of usage in both the novels. The results gained after the analysis of the data show that the modal verb "**Would**" has the highest hits and it is the most frequently used modal verb of the novel Burnt Shadow as it has **450** hits in this novel. "**Could**" is on second number and it has total 313 hits, then "**Can**" is used **177** times throughout this novel "**Will**"

has **147** hits and **“Should”** has **106** times hits **“Might”** is used **98** times and **“Have to”** is used for **57** times **“Must”** is used **55** times **“Need”**, **“May”** show some lesser number as it is used for **14** and **12** times. **“Shall”** and **“Dare”** both are only used for **2** times and the **“Had better”** is last on the table as it has been used for **1** time only.

Table No 2:

In table No 2, we collected data from novel “A Tale of Two Cities. For Data collection, we used Antconc to find out the modal verbs from this novel so here is the result of the analysis of the data that we found and these are the Modal verbs and the number of their usage. The modal verb **“Would”** is on the top of the list with highest hits and it is the most abundantly used modal verb of the novel *Burnt Shadows*, as it has **343** hits **“Could”** is on the second number and it has total hits of **282** then **“Might”** is used **145** times and **“Must”** is used **101** times **“Can”** is used **152** times throughout the novel and **“Should”** has **137** hits. **“May”** is used for **128** times and Modal verb **“Had better”** is used for **16** times. **“Need not”** is used for **14** times. **“Dare”** and **“Have to”** both are only used for **8** times and **“Will”** is the modal verb which shows **0** hits means Charles Dickens does not use this Modal verb in his novel “A Tale of Two Cities”.

Table No 3:

Table no 3 just enumerates the modal verbs and their hits that have already been analyzed and incorporated and mentioned in table no 1 and table no 2. So, in table no 3, we have found out their percentages. According to the data results, in *Burnt Shadows* **Would** has highest percentage of use which is 21.86% and in *A Tale of Two Cities* its percentage is 14.21%. Percentage of **Could** is 14.5 % in *Burnt Shadows* and in *A tale of two cities* it is only 10.86. In *Burnt shadows* **Will** has been used with 8.14% and in ‘*A Tale of Two Cities*’ there is no use of **Will** as it shows 0 hits. It means this Modal verb has not been used by Charles Dickens particularly in this novel. **Shall** gets 0.29% in *Burnt Shadow* and 3.81%.in *A tale of two cities*. **Might** is present in *Burnt shadows* with 4.98% and in *A tales of two cities* it’s have 4.38% **Must** is 3.18% and 1.06% and **May** is with 4.95% and 6.02%. **Can** is there with 4.28% and 4.05% respectively and **Need**, **have to**, **had better**, **Dare**, **Should**, **have** been used with 0.41%, 1.23%, 0.01%, 0.1% and 3.72% in *Burnt Shadows* and 4%, 0.07%, 0.48%, 0.06%, 0.48%, and 10.71% in *A tale of two cities* respectively.

Table No 4:

This table is the answer of the first three research questions, as in Table no 1 and 2 we counted the modal verbs and their number of usage in both Novels with the help of Antconc and the in Table no 3 we counted the percentage of their usage in both novels, which in turn helped us to find out the % difference between these novels in use of modal verbs. In the Table no 4 we collected the data and found out the answer of the question, which Modal verb has been used most frequently in these novels? So, here is the analysis of Table no 4. This table shows that Modal verbs **Would** , **Could**, **Will**, **Need**, and **Have to** are most used modal verbs in *Burnt Shadows* and Modal verbs **Shall**, **Might**, **Must**, **May**, **Can**, **Had better**, **Dare**, and **should** are the most used verbs in *A tale of two cities*.

Table No 5:

Table no 5 is about palmer’s modality types. For this type of analysis, first we divided modal verbs with palmer’s modality types like in Epistemic possibility there is **May**, in

Epistemic Necessity there is Must then in Epistemic W/S there is Will in Deontic possibility there is May and Can in Deontic necessity there is Must. DeonticW/S have the modal verb shall and in Dynamic possibility there is Can, and in Dynamic W/S there is Will also. Then we counted their hits in both novels, we also checked their percentage of usage and also found out difference between their %. According to this table, May the modal verb of Epistemic possibility have 12 hits with 0.6% in Burnt Shadows and in A Tale of Two Cities its hits are 128 and % of usage is 10.34% and there is 9.74% difference between their percentage in both the novels. Epistemic necessity have modal verb Must which have 55 hits and 1.08% in Burnt shadows and 101 hits and 10.28% in A tale of two cities and there is 9.2% difference between their percentage. Possibility with modal verb Will is present with 147 hits and 10.9% in Burnt shadows and no or zero hits in A tale of two cities. So, we guess here no need to argue between there % difference. Deontic possibility has modal verbs May and Can which present in Burnt Shadow with 12 and 177 hits and % is 0.6% and 11.89% and in A tale of two cities have 128 and 152 hits with 10.34% and 15.06% and there is 9.74% and 15.06% difference between them. Deontic necessity is with Must modal verb and have 55 hits and 6.06% in Burnt shadow and in A tale of two cities there is 101 hits and 10.08% and 4.02% is difference between their percentage. Deontic have shall and in Burnt Shadow it has 2 hits with 0.02% and in A tale of two cities there are 98 hits and 6.09% so difference between their percentage is 6.07%. Dynamic possibility has modal verb Can it hits 177 in Burnt Shadow and having 11.8% and in A tale of two cities it hits 152 and 15.06% so difference between their percentage is 3.17%. Dynamic have modal verb will which have 147 hits in Burnt Shadow with 14.03% and there is no presence of this modal verbs in Charles Dickens A tale of two cities with 0 hits and so there is 14.03% difference between there percentage.

Table No 6:

In Table no 6 we just compared the Palmer’s modals and sample number 1 and for this use the difference of % in Palmer’s ratio and difference of % in sample one as these two have already been mentioned and explained earlier. So, there is no need to explain them further. So this is how this table has been analyzed.

ANSWERS OF THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

As we know that the purpose of every research project is to find out the answers of the questions raised for the purpose. As regards this study, it has succeeded in finding out the answers of its research questions. These are given below.

Question no 1: Which novelist has used modal verbs more than the other?

Answer: After collecting data with the help of Antconc doing data analysis we come to know the answer of first research question, as table no 1 and 2 show clearly which novel used more modal verbs and their number of usage are also provided there so now clearly the answer is Kamila Shamsie’s Burnt Shadows has made use of more Modal verbs with total number of 1438 and Charles Dickens also used modal verbs many time in his novel A tale of two cities as the number is shown as 1432.

Question no 2: Which are the most and least used modal verbs in these two novels?

Answer: The answer of this question has been provided in table no 3 as it shows clearly which are the Modal verbs used with most and least frequencies in both the novels. We

also provided the % of their usage then also find out the difference between their percentages. Modal verbs “**Would**” is used **more** in **both Novels** as there is 450 hits are in *Burnt Shadow* and 343 are in *A Tale of Two Cities* but this number also shows that Kamila Shamsie used it more than Charles Dickens. In *Burnt Shadow* modal verb “**Had better**” is used with least frequency than other modal verbs as there is only **1** hit is present. In *A Tale of Two Cities*, two modal verbs “**Have to**” and “**Dare**” have the least hits of **8** of both the verbs and there is no use of **will** in this Novel as there is **no** hit is present.

Question no 3: Which types of Modal verbs have been used in these novels?

Answer: Answer of this question lies in Table no 5, Modality and its types are shown and after data analysis we come to know that based on Palmer’s model, three types of modalities i.e. Epistemic Modality, Deontic Modality and Dynamic Modality have been used in these novels. So, from the result of Table no 5, it is clear that modality types **Epistemic possibility, possibility, Dynamic possibility** and **Dynamic** are used in *Burnt Shadows* and **Epistemic Necessity, Deontic possibility, Deontic Necessity, and Deontic** have used more in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Question no 4: Which modal verbs have zero occurrence in these Novels?

Answer: In *Burnt Shadows* all Modal verbs are present either with highest hits or with least hits they are present in some way but in *A tale of two city* there is one modal verb which shows 0 hit and that is “Will” this is the only modal verb which is not present in this novel.

Question no 5: Which modal verbs used in these selected novels are under the framework of general spectrum & Palmer’s model?

Answer: To obtain the answer of this question, we analyzed the data of sample no 1 and then we analyzed data collected through Palmer’s Model in table no 5 and finally in table no 6 we presented the list of all the Modal verbs used in general spectrum and Palmer’s model and in this way we come to know that the modal verbs used in both the novels abide by the rules of general spectrum and Palmer’s Model.

CONCLUSION

After collecting and analyzing the data, we can say modality is the linguistic feature which aims to perform different functions aimed by the user of a language. Modality has different types and it can express permission, certainty likelihood, desire and capability. It may influence other people in different ways, it can express an opinion or certainty. In English language, there is 14 Modal verbs but our concern in this paper was to have a comparative analysis of the use of modals and modalities used by two novelists in their novels *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens and *Burnt Shadows* by Kamila Shamsie. The novel “*Burnt shadows*” has made use of more modal verbs than “*A tale of Two Cities*”. Both the writers have different styles of writing and use modal verbs in their own way which suits their purpose of writing. As we have used two methods for data analyzing one is General Spectrum and other is Palmer’s model so this is how we have done A corpus Based study of Modality in Kamila Shamsie,s “*Burnt Shadows*” and “*A tale of two cities*” by Charles Dicken. As modality indicates writer’s conviction or opinion about the situation, so different writers are bound to use different modal verbs according to the situations they have put their characters in.

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