ABSTRACT

Jiehad Akbar P. U (207500249) : An Analysis of Modality and It’s Meaning in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

In linguistics, modality is what allows speakers to evaluate a proposition relative to a set of other propositions. In addition modality means also the way of the speakers in one condition to speak or to behave in a communication. Modality is also an expression of fact and possibility. Some of the expression of modality can be shown in J.K. Rowling’s novel entitled Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret. In this novel the researcher tries to find modality and its meaning.

As the qualitative research, this research required theoretical base and reasoning logic. In this case, the theory of Paul Portner in his book Modality was used as a grand theory of the research, besides other theories of English grammar. The first topic that Portner discuss concerns systematic differences among semantically coherent groups of modals. We have already touched upon some important groups, for example epistemic and deontic modals, but we have not considered in an explicit way precisely what classification or classifications are appropriate. The goal of this section is to consider the alternatives and settle on the best method of classification.

This research used a descriptive method that refers to analysis of this study about modality. “Descriptive research involves a collection of techniques used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring phenomena without experimental manipulation.” It is similar to qualitative research, because it deals with naturally occurring phenomena, using data that either be collected first hand or taken from already existing data sources such as data from other studies. In this matter, the writer tried to apply this method in analyzing data found in J.K. Rowling’s novel Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret, to get the data accurately and naturally without any intervention. In addition, this method is suitable for the data extracted from J.K. Rowling’s novel Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret.

The term modality can be used in various senses. Most generally, it may be defined as the manner in which the meaning of a clause is qualified so as to reflect the speaker’s judgment of the likelihood of the proposition it expresses being true. Modality is a category of linguistic meaning having to do with the expression of possibility and necessity. A modalized sentence locates an underlying or prejacent proposition in the space of possibilities (the term prejacent was introduced by medieval logicians). It was found that in the novel, there are several modalities found.

Yet, those modalities are not the independents one, those are divided into two divisions: **Epistemic Modality** and **Deontic Modality**. The researcher founds about 13 epistemic modalities and about 20 deontic modalities. The epistemic modalities that are found in the novel are about 13 data; all of the data have a meaning used to say that you/somebody did something in purpose and the order. The deontic modalities that are found in the novel are about 25 data; all of the data have a meaning the order and the suggestion.