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VÝSKYT ZÁMĚROVÉ A DISPOZIČNÍ MODALITY
ANGLICKÉHO MODÁLNÍHO SLOVESA MAY S OHLEDEM NA
ČEŠTINU

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

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Specializace v pedagogice

Anglický jazyk se zaměřením na vzdělávání

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**THE COMPETITION OF ROOT AND EPISTEMIC MODALITY
OF THE MODAL AUXILIARY MAY WITH RESPECT TO
CZECH**

BACHELOR THESIS

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Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně
s použitím uvedené literatury a zdrojů informací.

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ABSTRACT

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Supervisor: PhDr. Jarmila Petrlíková, Ph.D.

This bachelor thesis examines the use of the modal verb MAY and its various forms in the context of epistemic and root modality with respect to Czech. The theoretical background on modality, modal verbs and their use in linguistics is presented in the introductory part. The study includes a detailed analysis of 185 example sentences from a selected book, which reveals that epistemic modality is used more frequently than root modality. The analysis also shows that modal verbs are not the only way of expressing modality in Czech and that other grammatical structures, such as particles, adverbials, or conditional mood, can also convey the intended meaning.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2 | THEORETICAL BACKGROUND | 3 |
| 2.1 | English modal system | 3 |
| 2.2 | Modality | 3 |
| 2.2.1 | Classification of modality | 5 |
| 2.2.2 | Epistemic vs root modality | 7 |
| 2.3 | Epistemic modality | 8 |
| 2.4 | Root modality | 9 |
| 2.5 | English modal verbs | 10 |
| 2.5.1 | MAY | 12 |
| 2.5.1.1 | Epistemic modality of MAY | 13 |
| 2.5.1.2 | Root modality of MAY | 13 |
| 2.5.2 | MIGHT | 14 |
| 3 | CZECH MODAL SYSTEM | 16 |
| 4 | ANALYSIS | 18 |
| 4.1 | Method | 18 |
| 4.2 | Expected results | 19 |
| 4.3 | Analysis | 19 |
| 5 | CONCLUSION | 29 |
| | RÉSUMÉ | 31 |
| | RÉSUMÉ IN CZECH | 32 |
| | SOURCES | 33 |
| | REFERENCES | 33 |
| | LIST OF FIGURES | 35 |
| | LIST OF TABLES | 35 |
| | APPENDIX | 36 |

1 INTRODUCTION

The English language has a complex modal system that allows speakers to express different levels of possibility, obligation, and permission. Modal verbs, such as *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, *would*, and *must*, along with their associated meanings, are fundamental components of English grammar. Among these modal verbs, *MAY* stands out as one of the most commonly used in a formal language and is the primary focus of this bachelor thesis. The use of *MAY* is context-dependent, and speakers can use it to express either epistemic or root modality. Epistemic modality refers to the degree of certainty or belief the speaker has about a statement. In contrast, root modality refers to the speaker's attitude towards the possibility of an event occurring. The competition between these two modalities of *MAY* is an important area of study that helps understand how English speakers express possibility and certainty.

The main objective of this thesis is to examine the competition between root and epistemic modalities of *MAY* in English and its Czech translation. The thesis is structured into several chapters, starting with an overview of the term modality provided by various scholars. This chapter also includes the classification, definition, and main differences between epistemic and root modality. In subsequent chapters, each type of modality is given a dedicated chapter, providing an in-depth description and analysis with examples.

The following chapter focuses on modal verbs in general, emphasising *MAY* and its use in expressing modalities. Additionally, the use of *MIGHT* is also analysed since it is a tentative form of *MAY*, often used interchangeably in some contexts. The thesis also includes an analysis of the Czech modal system and how it compares to English. This chapter also mentions grammatical and linguistic means other than modal verbs the Czech language uses to express modality.

Finally, the thesis concludes with a text analysis section, which aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of modalities and the use of *MAY* and *MIGHT* in expressing them. The analysis involves examining 185 sentences excerpted from a book. Each sentence is examined to identify the type of modality expressed by the modal verb *MAY* or *MIGHT*, along with the tense and aspect they carry. The investigation also encompasses the analysis of the Czech translation of each sentence and the grammatical means the Czech language utilises in expressing modality. The features observed in the

analysis include the frequency of Czech expressions in the translation and the frequency of root and epistemic usage of *MAY* and *MIGHT*. The results of the analysis are later listed and brought to a conclusion.

2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The following chapters provide a theoretical introduction to the fundamental concepts in the field of root and epistemic modality, with a specific focus on modal verbs *MAY* and *MIGHT*.

2.1 English modal system

The English modal system is a complex structure that expresses various degrees of possibility, obligation, and permission in language and indicates the speaker's attitude toward a statement. Modal verbs like *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, *would*, and *must* convey a different meaning depending on their use in a sentence. have different meanings depending on their use in a sentence. While the modal system is similar to the auxiliary verb system in English, there are distinct differences in usage, form, and meaning, discussed later in this thesis. The modal system has been analysed from various perspectives, including syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, and continues to be an ongoing interest among linguists.

2.2 Modality

Verbal behaviour is an essential part of humanity. The existence of a language has developed over the years, so now we cannot only share information but also use several means to change the tone of our utterances in interpersonal communication. As Tárnyiková (1985) noted, modality is one of these tone-changing tools. She claims that modality in English can be presented as a hierarchal system. In this system, modality is sorted according to the presence of the modality in the sentence. The division is succeeding, obligatory or non-obligatory. The obligatory modality was by Tárnyiková, also described as 'communicative', and the other one, which is not a necessary part of the sentence, as 'modality proper'. This modality is further divided into the root and epistemic modality, which is why the 'proper modality' is vital for this thesis. This chapter examines various definitions of modality and the distinction between mood and modality.

The modality in linguistics refers to a speaker or writer's attitude toward the world, including their expressions of certainty, possibility, willingness, obligation, necessity, and ability. However, defining modality clearly and concisely is challenging as different

scholars offer different definitions and perspectives. Kiefer (1987) argued that modality covers the meaning of a linguistically definable class of elements, such as modal auxiliary verbs, adverbials, and particles. Palmer (2014) also acknowledges the complexity of defining modalities due to the need for more specific, clearly definable semantic categories.

Cambridge Dictionary clearly describes the term modality: “*Modality is about a speaker’s or a writer’s attitude towards the world. A speaker or writer can express certainty, possibility, willingness, obligation, necessity and ability by using modal words and expressions.*” (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). However, clearly defining modality seems very hard since every scholar sets a different description of the term and studies it from a different angle. Kiefer (1987) wrote that the term modality is often used to describe a vast number of issues in linguistic literature. He also wrote that modality is sometimes used to express possibility and necessity and, on other occasions, to express the attitudes of the speakers. Later on, he closed the definition with the statement:

“Modality may be identified with what expressions of propositional attitudes do in sentences, but it may also be taken to cover the meanings of a linguistically definable class of elements (modal auxiliaries, modal adverbials, modal particles, parenthetical verbs, etc.).” (Kiefer, 1987, p. 67)

The next author who agreed with the complication of defining modality is Palmer (2014): “*The situation with modality is rather different because there is no simple, clearly definable, semantic category, such as time and enumeration.*” (p. 2).

Furthermore, modality is often confused with mood, which Aarts (2015) distinguishes from modality based on their grammatical and semantic approaches. The mood is observed through the grammatical approach. Nevertheless, modality is observed through the semantic one, associated with ‘possibility, permission, necessity’. These terms are crucial for describing and understanding root and epistemic modality. To be more precise, root or deontic modality deals with permission, epistemic modality with possibility, and both can deal with necessity. Necessity, mainly conveyed through the verb *MUST*, is unimportant for this thesis since the modal verb *MAY* is the main studied issue and expresses no such thing. Huddleston and Pullum (2002) explain that the Cambridge Grammar of the English Language compares mood's relation to modality and tense's

relation to time. Specifically, they note that mood and tense are grammatical categories linked to the semantic aspect of modality and time.

2.2.1 Classification of modality

In this part, the modality classification from various writers is displayed. Some of them had a similar idea for the classification, and some added new thoughts that revised claims invented by older authors.

Many scholars have agreed on two main types of modalities. Epistemic and deontic modality. In order to add some more clarity, it is good to mention that some authors, such as Bybee & Fleischman (1995) or Hofmann (1976), used the term root or agent-oriented modality instead of deontic. Although newer authors have identified the two most essential modalities, some writers, particularly in older editions, who have studied modality more extensively, have classified it into more than two types. One of these writers is Von Wright, who divided modality into four categories and included the two most important ones. In this division, he used the term modes instead of modality.

According to Von Wright's (1951) classification of modality, there are four types: alethic modality or modes of truth, epistemic modality or modes of knowing, deontic or modes of obligation, and existential or modes of existence. He noted that logicians had studied both alethic and epistemic modality. He later drew attention to similarities between three of four types of displayed modalities that were laid- out in a simple table. In his own words, Von Wright (1951) stated, "*One should, however, not fail to observe that there are essential similarities between alethic, epistemic, and deontic modalities on the one hand and quantifiers on the other hand.*" (p. 2).

Figure 1

Four types of modalities

| <i>alethic</i> | <i>epistemic</i> | <i>deontic</i> | <i>existential</i> |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| necessary | verified | obligatory | universal |
| possible | | permitted | existing |
| contingent | undecided | indifferent | |
| impossible | falsified | forbidden | empty |

Note. From *An Essay in Modal Logic*, by Georg Henrik von Wright, 1951, North-Holland Publishing Company, Copyright 1951 by Association for Symbolic Logic.

Since alethic and existential are not further discussed, they are shortly described in this paragraph. Alethic or circumstantial modality expresses universal truth, i.e., the *cube cannot have nine vertices*. Existential modality does not have such a clear description and was explained by Palmer citing Leech's sentence: *Lions can be dangerous*. (Leech, 1969, as cited in Palmer, 2001) This sentence was compared to a sentence showing epistemic modality: 'Lions may be dangerous' Palmer (2001) claimed that "*it does not mean 'It is possible that lions are dangerous', but 'It is possible for lions to be dangerous', in a sense 'Some lions are dangerous' "*" (p. 107) and by this explained the apparent distinction of the two mentioned modalities.

This thesis, as well as many other scholars in their works, primarily describe only two types of modalities. Palmer (2014) argues that it leaves no place for modality expressed by *CAN* and *WILL*, which is why he also acknowledged dynamic modality. Nonetheless, in this paper, the concentration is mainly drawn on epistemic and root modality considering only these two describe the modal verb *MAY*. The term 'root modality', introduced by Hofmann, refers to non-epistemic modals covering deontic and dynamic modality. Because root modality also contains deontic and dynamic modality, this paper contains some ideas of authors discussing one of the types previously mentioned. Furthermore, Hoffman's term root modality works as a supporting statement for the investigation of root modality.

2.2.2 Epistemic vs root modality

This chapter explains the definition and the main differences between epistemic and root modality. It also contains examples that help better understand the division for further determination in the practical part.

According to Coates (1995) in her essay, *The Expression of Root and Epistemic Possibility in English*, the epistemic modality has something to do with the speaker's assumption of possibilities, certainty, or absence of certainty in the expressed proposition. Root modality is often connected to permission, obligation and possibility, necessity.

“This means that the root/epistemic distinction cuts across the necessity/obligation and possibility/permission distinctions.” (Coates, 1995, p.55)

These distinctions can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2

Distinctions across necessity/obligation and possibility/permission

| | root | epistemic |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>CAN</i> | permission → possibility | possibility <i>MAY</i> |
| <i>MAY</i> | | |
| <i>MUST</i> | obligation ← necessity | necessity <i>MUST</i> |
| <i>HAVE TO</i> | | <i>HAVE TO</i> |

Note. Adapted from *Modality in Grammar and Discourse: The Expression of Root and Epistemic Possibility in English*, by Jennifer Coates, 1995, John Benjamins Publishing. Copyright 1995 by John Benjamins B.V.

Palmer (2014) agreed with Coates that epistemic modality estimates the truth of a speaker's proposition, and root modality influences actions, states, or events and gives permission. Coates later claimed that in English as well as in other languages, one grammatical form (similarly the biggest concern in this thesis verb *MAY*) could contain both epistemic and root possibility.

In contrast to the previous statement, where one modal verb can have both epistemic and root modality, there are a few distinctions concerning each type. Since the verb *MAY* is crucial for this thesis, some distinctions are mentioned in more detail in Chapter 2.5.1.

2.3 Epistemic modality

After the preceding general summary of root and epistemic modality, the following chapters are devoted to further exploring the two individual types.

The first modality to be examined is epistemic. Palmer (2014) wrote that it is the simplest one to examine because “*it is most clearly distinct from the others and has the greatest degree of internal regularity and completeness*” (p. 63). It refers to the expression of a speaker or writer's degree of certainty or doubt about a proposition, such as the likelihood of an event happening or the accuracy of a statement. It can be expressed through modal verbs like *MAY*, *MIGHT*, or *MUST*, adverbs like *probably* or *possibly*, or other linguistic means.

Epistemic modality, which refers to anything related to knowledge, has been studied by various scholars such as Von Wright, Portner, and others. Von Wright (1951) explains that epistemic modality or modes of knowing are related to terms such as verified, falsified, or undecided, which indicate whether the truth is known, unknown, or uncertain. Other authors suggest that it depends on the level of certainty of the speaker's proposition. Portner (2009) emphasizes that epistemic modality is closely tied to knowledge and is used to make judgments about the possibility of something being true or false. Epistemic modals are subjective in nature since they reflect the speaker's perspective. As Palmer (2014) notes, “*Epistemic modality is... the modality of propositions, in the strict sense of the term, rather than of actions, states, events, etc.*” (p.50). Straightforwardly, epistemic modality deals with possibility and necessity, which can be further divided into two subcategories: epistemic possibility and epistemic necessity. The former is mainly expressed by modal verbs such as *may*, *will*, and *shall*, while the latter is expressed by *must*, *should*, and *ought to*.

2.4 Root modality

While epistemic modality is widely recognized, there is less agreement on the classification of root modality. Deontic modality is sometimes applied in texts when talking about non-epistemic modality. Some linguists argue that the term ‘deontic modality’ does not fully capture all aspects of root modality, and a range of terminology is used to refer to this concept. The term ‘root’ modality was introduced by Hofmann (1976) as a cover name for non-epistemic modality, which covers deontic and dynamic modals. Most of the authors work with the term deontic instead of root. However, this thesis shall not further distinguish deontic modality from the root, and the term root is used to cover all non-epistemic modalities instead.

Root modality is the other important modality for the purpose of this thesis. According to Palmer (2001), root, in other words, means relating to obligation. Generally, this modality deals with obligation or lack of obligation, duty, necessity, promise or threat, etc. It indicates that events mentioned in the utterance have not taken place and thus are only likely to happen. Preceding information fulfils the criterium, according to which Palmer named this modality ‘event modality’. This modality relies on some kind of authority, most commonly the speaker.

In his later work, Palmer (2014) claimed that being performative can be taken as a rule for deontic modals, which also refer to root modals. The root modals have no past tense forms in a typical situation. This information can already be seen from the expression ‘event’ and ‘performative’ modality. Both of those titles suggest that “*the act takes place at the moment of speaking*” (Palmer, 2014, p.70).

When using the root modal, the speaker is able to “*give permission (MAY, CAN), lay an obligation (MUST) or make a promise or threat (SHALL)*” (Palmer, 2014, p.69). These verbs can be further split into two subcategories: root possibility, marked by *MAY* and *CAN*, and root necessity, marked by *MUST*. Although there are only mentioned verbs when talking about expressing root modality, there are other linguistic means. As noted by Decklerck (2011), root modality can also be created by “*root modal adverbs (duly, obligatory...) and by ‘attitudinal verbs’ like wish, want, etc.*” (p. 41).

Furthermore, root modality is closely related to the speaker’s intention and authority. The speaker's intention is often implied through specific linguistic tools, such as

modals and adverbs, which convey the speaker's attitude towards the proposition. For instance, *MUST* can indicate a strong obligation or necessity, while *SHOULD* implies a weaker obligation or advice. On the other hand, the speaker's authority can also influence the use of root modality. A higher degree of authority can lead to more forceful modals, while a lower degree may require more polite or tentative modals. The context in which root modality is used can also affect its interpretation. For example, depending on the context, the same modal verb can express different degrees of obligation or necessity.

2.5 English modal verbs

This section focuses on the placement of modal verbs in the English verb system. Also, the similarities and differences between modal and auxiliary verbs are explained as their uses in negation, interrogation, and sentence construction. This chapter aims to provide an overall understanding of the function of modal verbs in English grammar.

In sentences, modality is expressed, among others, and mostly, by using modal verbs. That is why modal verbs are the primary concern of the following chapter. In this chapter, the concentration is on the place of the modal verbs in the verb system. Two primary groups of modals are described, focusing more specifically on the pure modals, where the verb *MAY* belongs. Modal verbs belong to the branch of Auxiliary verbs. In Quirk's system of verbs (1972), auxiliary verbs are further divided into two branches: Primary auxiliary and Modal auxiliary verbs or just modals. Primary auxiliary verbs contain *do*, *have* and *be*. Modals consist of *can*, *may*, *shall*, *will*, *must*, *ought to*, *need*, *dare*, *could*, *might*, *should*, *would*, and *used to*.

The grammatical meaning of sentences, such as tense, aspect, mood, or voice, can be changed using auxiliary verbs. '*John is eating dinner*', the auxiliary here is '*to be*' in this sentence, its structure helps to express the present continuous. Modal verbs, on the other hand, imply modality in a sentence and are used to express ability, probability, obligation permission, possibility etc. There are a few similarities between these two categories. Dušková (2012) further studied those similarities: The negation of modal verbs is created by the particle '*not*' or its contraction. The interrogative sentences are assembled by exchanging the words in order. There is no need to add another auxiliary verb, as the modals sometimes fulfil their function. Modals equal to the auxiliary verb '*do*' and are not

followed by 'to' when followed by infinitives. (There is an exception in modals like ought to and used to)

On the other hand, modals also have some specific features. They are not changing their form to the third person singular. They can construct only present tense and past tense. *Can-could, may-might, shall-should, will-would.* (*Must* exist only in present structures, but it can be used in reported speech.) However, most of the time, the past tense still represents some present situation. Palmer (2001) adds that modals do not create any non-finite form, such as infinitives or participles.

Furthermore, modal verbs cannot create imperative sentences due to the lack of correlation with their ability to show possibility. In opposition to auxiliary verbs, there is a meaning present in modal verbs. The auxiliary verb cannot stand on its own. They always need a lexical verb, whereas modals have meaning independently, but they need a lexical verb to display their meaning. Moreover, in his publication *Modality and the English Modals* (2014), Palmer mentions one more specific parameter. Combining two modal verbs in one sentence does not exist. It is possible to write: *I can swim*. Nevertheless, it is not possible to write: *I will can play the piano*.

However, above mentioned similarities of modal verbs with auxiliary verbs and following rules that distinguish modals do not always apply to all the verbs. Based on Palmer (2014), "*WILL, SHALL, MAY, CAN, MUST and OUGHT TO fit all the criteria with the exception that MAY has no -n't form in the present, MUST and OUGHT TO differ from the others in having no past-tense forms, while OUGHT TO is the only one that requires to.*" (p. 4).

There is also a way to divide only modals into two primary groups: modal and semi-modal. Central modal verbs, also called pure modals or core modals, contain verbs such as *can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must, and ought to*. The second group of semi-modals, which can also be referred to as quasi-modals (Swan, 2005), is slightly different and contains *dare, ought to, used to, have to, etc.* (Although *have to* was placed by Quirk (1972) into an isolated category called semi-auxiliary verbs.) These two groups differ in terms of the following verb. After the complete modal verb follows bare

infinitive, such as *do* in *You cannot do this to him*, whereas in semi-modals, the following infinitive is full as to *do* in *Do not dare to do this to him*.

2.5.1 MAY

The first and main verb studied in this thesis is the verb *MAY*. *MAY*, along with its past tense form *MIGHT* are members of the modal verbs. *MAY* specifically expresses possibility or permission. Czech verb versions are modals like *moci/smět* or modal adverbials such as *možná/snad* etc. When *MAY* expresses possibility, the modality is called epistemic when it expresses permission, the modality used is root (deontic). According to Dušková (2012), it is possible that the verb *CAN* overlaps at some points with the verb *MAY* because they both fulfil the previously mentioned functions.

As it was mentioned, *MAY* could have both epistemic as well as root meanings. However, Dušková (2012) claimed that references to the future or past tense differ depending on the type of modality that *MAY* represents. The presence or absence of a question also determines which type of modality is represented. Root modality in the first person singular takes place in question and changes the sentence into a more formal one, i.e., *May I come in?* On the other hand, epistemic may not appear in questions at all. The difference between epistemic and deontic modality can also be depicted syntactically. The distinction between modal *MAY* and its two uses is specified by Palmer (2001) in the following paragraph.

“‘*May not*’ negates the modality when deontic (no permission), but the proposition when epistemic (‘It may be that it is not so’). *MAY* followed by *HAVE* is always epistemic, never deontic. *MAY* replaceable by *CAN* only in the deontic use, though *CAN’T* may be epistemic. “(Palmer, 2001, p. 103)

In addition to its epistemic and root meanings, Dušková (2012) noted that the verb *MAY* can also be used to express sentence modality. This usage is similar to the subjunctive mood in other languages. *MAY* can be used in sentences to express wishes or hopes, as in the example *May the best man win!* (p. 193). This type of usage is different from its epistemic and root meanings, and it adds another view to the analysis of this modal verb.

2.5.1.1 Epistemic modality of MAY

As Palmer (2014) stated, epistemic modality can be further divided into epistemic possibility and epistemic necessity. May represent epistemic possibility and, according to Palmer (2014), can be paraphrased as ‘possible that’.

MAY expressing possibility appears only in indicative sentences. As previously mentioned, it does not appear in questions. The verb *CAN* is used instead. (Dušková, 2012) *We may be there on time. ~~May we be there on time?~~ Can we be there on time?* Negation is expressed by *may not*: *They may not like it*, and it is used more frequently compared to root *MAY*.

It can refer to the future, present, or past using *may* and past infinitives. When referring to the future, the form of the verb does not change: *I don't know where they are. They may be in London, though.* The only difference is with atelic, where *MAY* can either express future or presence. When referring to the past, *MAY* with the past infinitive is used: *You may not have seen it, but it happened. She may have called while I was in the shower.*

Huddleston and Pullum (2002) stated that *MAY* is frequently used subjectively. “*I don't know that the proposition is false and put it forward as a possibility: i.e. He may have left it downstairs.*” (p. 181). However, the verb also appears objectively to refer to shared knowledge as in: “*He may have misled the Parliament: there's going to be an inquiry.*” (p. 181). And both of those cases can be emphasized by adding the adverb ‘*well*’, which implies a higher probability of the statement being true.

2.5.1.2 Root modality of MAY

Root modality, as well as an epistemic modality, has two degrees. The first is a possibility, which “consists essentially of the giving of permission” (Palmer, 2014, p. 70), and the second is a necessity which consists of giving obligation. *MAY* in this two-degree system represent a member of the first group and thus indicates permission in sentence structures.

As was previously mentioned, root modals have no perfective (past tense) forms. In this case, the modal verb *MAY* has no perfective form. It gives permission that has no connection to the past. The expression of the future or perfect tense of the permissive *MAY* is created through the phrase *BE ALLOWED TO*: *The children will not be/*

were not allowed to go bathing alone or by using present tense structure: *May I come tomorrow?* (Dušková, 2012, p. 191). Negation *may not* is very rare in a common language and is mainly found in the official language.

In Chapter 2.3, it was suggested that the epistemic modals are subjective. Similarly, the term *subjective* can also be used to describe root modals. Root modal verb *MAY* can also appear in the objective statement, “*most obviously in reports of rules and regulations.*” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p. 183), but only very rarely. When used to express objectivity, it is mainly substituted with *CAN*, which sounds less formal. In summary, the epistemic modal verb suggests that the speaker delivers the utterance or judgement. This statement, nonetheless, is in contrast with root modals and, more specifically, with root *MAY* where “*the originator of the modality is always different from the originator of the action*” (Dušková, 2012, p. 191) and because of that, its occurrence is most frequent in the first person singular: *May I come in?* However, in today’s English, *MAY* is commonly replaced by *CAN* as a less formal form of modality, which is why the previous sentence will not most likely be present in daily language.

2.5.2 MIGHT

In this chapter, the modal verb, *MIGHT*, is discussed. The difference between *MIGHT* and *MAY* and their grammatical use in sentence structures are shown in this chapter.

The modal verb *MIGHT* is often considered a perfective form of *MAY* or a tentative form of it. According to Tárnyikova (1985), *MIGHT* has lost its past meaning (contrary to the verb *COULD*) and is only used to represent the past in dependent clauses. For example, *I didn't know that I might not do it. Nevěděl se, že to nesmím dělat.* (Dušková, p. 192). In main clauses, *MIGHT* is used to express conditional possibilities in the present or future. When the perfective part of *MIGHT* is ignored, the meanings of *MAY* and *MIGHT* are similar and refer to possibilities and permissions. The only difference lies in the degree of certainty, with *MIGHT* indicating a lower likelihood of the situation occurring. For instance, “*This may be our last night together, or it might be the first of many.*” the sentence shows the epistemic possibility, and when using *MIGHT*, it indicates less likelihood. Although *MIGHT* can also refer to permission, it is mainly used in formal

situations that are not frequent. As Palmer (2001, p. 103) argued, *MIGHT* is closely related to the epistemic sense of present tense *MAY*. Furthermore, Palmer's later work suggests that *MIGHT* can also be seen as a tentative or unreal form of *MAY*. For example, “*You think someone might be watching us*” (Palmer, 2014, p. 58).

According to Dušková (2012), the occurrence of *MIGHT* with the past infinitive form suggests possible action that happened in the past. It is up to the context of the sentence that shows whether the action was or was not performed, for example: “*If only her father had been stronger, she might have chanced it, but Hoster Tully had been bedridden these past two years, and Catelyn was loath to tax him now.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 332). The sentence indicates unrealized possibilities in the past.

3 CZECH MODAL SYSTEM

The following chapter discusses how modality is expressed in Czech and English. It explains that while both languages use modal verbs to express root modality, Czech also relies heavily on modal adverbials and particles. The chapter also discusses the different grammatical means by which modality can be conveyed in Czech, including the future tense and conditional mood.

The modal verb can express epistemic and root modality in Czech and English. Epistemic modality in Czech and English concerns the speaker's degree of certainty or uncertainty about a proposition. Various modal verbs and verb phrases such as '*může*' (can/may), '*může být*' (may be), or '*je pravděpodobné*' (it is probable), can be used when expressing modality in the Czech language.

Root modality in Czech is, as in English, concerned with expressing obligation, permission, or prohibition. In Czech, root modality can be expressed through modal verbs such as '*muset*' (must), '*mít povinnost*' (to have an obligation/ to be obliged), '*smět*' (to be allowed to), or, for example, '*zakázat*' (to prohibit)

Even though the modality systems of English and Czech may appear identical, there is a notable distinction in their treatment of epistemic modality under closer examination. According to Dušková (2012), the semantic system of epistemic modality differs between the two languages. While both languages use modal verbs to express root modality, the sentence structure varies when expressing epistemic modality. Specifically, English tends to prefer modal verbs, whereas Czech frequently employs modal particles or adverbs. Despite this difference, both languages utilize modal verbs to express root modality, resulting in a similar structural composition. However, it is worth noting that the semantic meaning of individual modal verbs may differ between the two languages. To summarize, the disparity in English and Czech modality systems is mainly semantic rather than structural.

Modality in Czech can be expressed through several methods. These methods can be either lexical or grammatical. Lexical means include verbs, particles, and adverbs; grammatical means include future tense, conditional or subjunctive mood. Additional explanations and some examples are discussed furthermore. Nevertheless, before discussing concrete examples, it is essential to acknowledge that translating modality into

Czech is not always a one-to-one correspondence. There are multiple ways to express modality in Czech, and it is crucial to consider the context (Grepl & Karlík, 1988).

In Czech, modality is mainly expressed by modal adverbials or modal particles, as was already mentioned by Dušková in the previous chapter. This next paragraph displays lexical means of expressing modality in the Czech language.

Primary way of expressing modality are modal verbs *mušet, mít, moci, smět, chtít*, which are in Czech grammar called ‘real modal verbs’ and in more extended parameter also *umět, dovést, vydržet*, etc. From these expressions the most commonly used is the verb *moci*. Next mean are modal adverbials. Modal adverbials are primarily connected to subordinate clause. In Czech there are adverbial such as *je nutné, možno, nemožno, vhodné, lze, nelze* etc. And finally, modal particles like *asi snad možná, pravěpodobně, nejspíš* etc.

Another way to express modality in Czech language is by grammatical means. In Czech the future tense can be used, see Appendix 182.: *Sansa na něj pohlédla a zachvěla se, plná obav, že ji bude ignorovat nebo, což by bylo ještě horší, že se k ní opět bude chovat nenávistně a pošle ji s pláčem pryč od stolu* (Martin, 2000b, p. 204). *Sansa looked at him and trembled, afraid that he might ignore her or, worse, turn hateful again and send her weeping from the table* (Martin, 1996, p. 345).

There is also a possibility to use conditional mood, which is used in Czech to express a hypothetical situation. The conditional mood is created by adding the suffix ‘-by’ to the verb in the perfective tense. This grammatical feature can be seen in the following example: *On by zpíval.* (*He would sing.*) Sometimes a translation of modality in the Czech language is completely omitted, as can be seen, for example, in Appendix 1: *Ser Waymar cítil chlad, který přišel zároveň s nimi, ale neviděl je, neslyšel je.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 9). *Ser Waymar may have felt the cold that came with them, but he never saw them, never heard them* (Martin, 1996, p.25).

4 ANALYSIS

The present chapter studies a written English text and focuses on the frequency and placement of the two modal uses in different contexts. The selected exemplary sentences cite the first book in the Game of Thrones series, *A Song of Ice and Fire*, by George R. R. Martin. The chapter also discusses the process of transcription and translation of sentences and the criteria used to examine their modality, tense, and aspect.

4.1 Method

This chapter describes the methodology used in this thesis to investigate the competition between root and epistemic modality of the modal auxiliary *MAY* in English. The study is based on a corpus analysis of English written text. This text is further examined for the frequency and placement of root and epistemic uses of *MAY* in a different context. In order to obtain a sufficient amount of material for the analysis, 185 exemplary sentences were cited from a book. The name of the chosen book is *A Game of Thrones*, the first book of the collection, *A Song of Ice and Fire*, written by George R. R. Martin. This book was chosen because it contains an acceptable amount of occurrence of the examined verb. Since these verbs are primarily used in formal situations, they are only rarely used in modern literature. *A Song of Ice and Fire* is a historical fantasy novel, and because of the story dating, a slightly different word choice is present.

Firstly, the sentences were transcribed, and then they were translated. After the beginning phase, the analysis of individual sentences was realised. The modality, tense, and aspect type were examined based on the criteria established in the theoretical part. Next, Czech translation was analysed by searching for grammatical features to translate the modal verbs and explaining why it appears so. Finally, all the exemplary sentences were observed and analysed using descriptive statistics and frequency analyses to examine the distribution of root and epistemic uses of *MAY* and brought to a conclusion.

A few details should be considered before reading the analysis of the sentences. The results can be affected by several factors. One of the factors is, for example, writing style. Next is the character voice, the usage of the modality can be influenced by the voice of the character, and it may depend on the hierarchy of the character in the story (when someone is more confident of their action, they may use more root structures, while who is uncertain use epistemic more. The third influencing aspect is the plot of the book or theme,

and the last one consists of contextual factors. Certain tenses or aspects may favour one type of modality over the other.

4.2 Expected results

The present chapter outlines the expected results of the study based on the theoretical part. These results are taken into account when writing conclusions.

1. The analysis is expected to show that root and epistemic *MAY* are both commonly used in sentences, but their frequency varies depending on the context of the sentences.
2. The analysis of the data is expected to mostly use other grammatical means than modal verbs when translating modality into the Czech language.

4.3 Analysis

The analysis of 185 example sentences from the book reveals an interesting trend in using the modal verb *MAY* and *MIGHT*. Specifically, the data in the following graph shows that epistemic modality is used more frequently than root modality. Only 8% of the sentences use modal verbs to express permission, obligation, or prohibition. In most of the sentences, out of the 8% is *MAY/MIGHT* used as a request for permission. In 3 examples, the modal verb expresses prohibition, which happens only in the case of the verb *MAY*. “*No one may carry a blade here or shed a man’s blood.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 563)

In other words, as a narrator in the book or on behalf of his characters, the author was likelier to use these modal verbs to indicate uncertainty or possibility rather than to express permission.

Figure 3

Frequency of root and epistemic usage of MAY and MIGHT

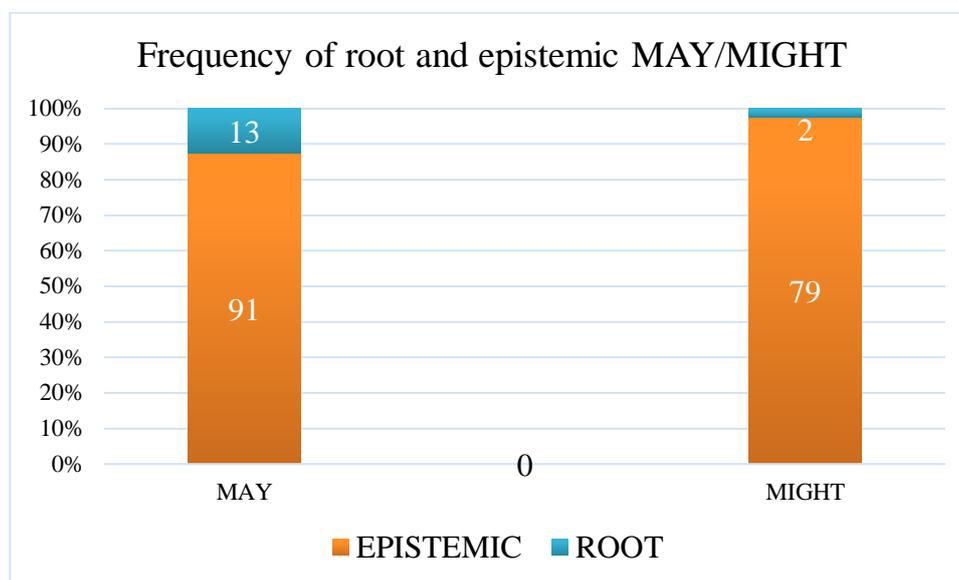


Figure 3 displays the frequency of occurrence of root and epistemic versions of *MAY* and *MIGHT* in a book. Out of 185 example sentences, 91 results were found to be epistemic uses of *MAY*, while only 13 were classified as root uses. Similarly, there were 79 epistemic uses of *MIGHT*, compared to just two root uses. These findings suggest that the epistemic uses of "may" and "might" are far more common in the book than their root uses. This phenomenon may have implications for the author's style, tone, and the overall message conveyed in the book. The outcomes are consistent with the theoretical information presented by the authors previously mentioned. Additionally, these results could contribute to our understanding of how modal verbs are used in written language and how they can convey different meanings and levels of certainty.

One example of each category is displayed and described below.

Appendix 58: "You may get that chance one day." (Martin, 1996, p. 523)

MAY indicates that something is possible in the future, but there is no guarantee. Hence *MAY* is a modal verb used to express epistemic modality.

Appendix 53: "Then you may leave... by one door or the other." (Martin, 1996, p. 480)

A modal verb in the sentence implies that the speaker is giving the listener permission to leave. Therefore, the modality of *MAY* is root.

Appendix 124: *He hadn't been up to the broken tower for weeks with everything that had happened, and this might be his last chance.* (Martin, 1996, p. 101)

MIGHT indicates the speaker's uncertainty about this being his last climb. The speaker is not making a definite statement. He is just saying the possible course of events, and so epistemic modality is used.

Appendix 116: *"Might I have a closer look at your wolf?"* (Martin, 1996, p. 76)

In this example, *MIGHT* suggests that the speaker is asking permission to examine the wolf more closely, indicating root modality. The choice of this modal verb makes the request more polite and respectful.

The following overview lists Czech equivalents that occurred in the examined book. All appeared expressions are arranged in descending order by frequency. The comments are provided on the most common means, and everything is illustrated in examples.

Table 1

Frequency of Czech expressions in the translation.

| CZECH TRANSLATION | FREQUENCY | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | OVERALL (MAY+MIGHT) | ONLY MIGHT |
| možná | 76 | 23 |
| moci | 64 | 40 |
| omission | 12 | 3 |
| conditional mood | 9 | 8 |
| ať | 8 | 1 |
| future tense | 3 | 1 |
| lze | 2 | 0 |
| třebaže | 2 | 1 |
| možné | 2 | 0 |
| bezťak | 1 | 0 |
| snad | 1 | 1 |
| hodlat | 1 | 1 |
| aby | 1 | 1 |
| nesměť | 1 | 0 |
| obávat se | 1 | 0 |
| zakazovat | 1 | 0 |

The most common translation of the modal verb *MIGHT* or *MAY* was the Czech modal particle *možná*, used in 76 sentences out of 185. Frequent occurrence of other grammatical structures than verbs when expressing modality is typical for the Czech language. This feature was already described in more detail in previous chapters. The second place of frequency occupies the Czech modal verb *moci*, which occurred in 64 sentences. When it comes to sentences with modal *MIGHT*, the first two places are switched, which means that the modal verb was used more often in Czech translation when translating *MIGHT* than the particle *možná*. Other Czech grammatical structures used to convey modality are, for example, a conditional mood which mostly appears to be present in sentences with modality expressed by *MIGHT*. The next translation of modality was realized through future tense, complete omission, and more particles or conjunctions such as *ať*, *třebaže*, *možné* or *snad*. A particular attribute of the Czech language was using non-modal verbs to express modality. Among these verbs are *nesměť*, *obávat se*, *zakazovat*, and they suggest worries, fear, and prohibition.

The following section is devoted to examples of each occurring form of translation. Every example is studied, and its meaning is explained.

MOŽNÁ:

Appendix 63: “*You may learn that one day to your sorrow.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 539) – “*Jednoho dne se to ke svému zármutku možná dozvíš.*” (Martin, 2000b, p. 7)

MAY and *možná* express a similar sense of possibility. When using this Czech particle, the translation indicates that the listener will probably learn something about their sorrow. In this context, it also adds some tone of warning.

Appendix 79: “*My speech may be Tyroshi, and my garb Dothraki, but I am of Westeros, of the Sunset Kingdoms,*” *Dany told him.* (Martin, 1996, p. 669) – “*Moje řeč je možná tyrošská a můj oděv dothracký, ale já jsem ze Západozemí, z Království zapadajícího slunce,*” *řekla mu Dany.* (Martin, 2000b, p. 74)

Možná indicated the possibility or uncertainty of something being true. By using *možná*, the speaker acknowledges her cloth and language as being from different cultures but suggests that none defines her origin.

Appendix 152: “*Uncle Benjen said they might search as far as the Shadow Tower.*” (Martin, 1996, pp. 221-222) - “*Strýc Benjen řekl, že možná budou muset jet pátrat až ke Stínové věži. To znamená celou cestu vzhůru do hor.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 129)

MOCI:

The particle *možná* indicated the possibility of something happening. This sentence indicates the uncertainty of realizing the search reaching as far as the Shadow Tower. By using *možná* the speaker implies hesitation.

Appendix 74: “*She is a sweet thing now, but in ten years, who can say what treasons she may hatch?*” (Martin, 1996, p. 624) – “*Ted’ je to takové milé stvoření, ale kdo může vědět, jakých zrad se dopustí za deset let?*” (Martin, 2000b, p. 51)

In this example, both English and Czech modal verb expresses possibility or uncertainty

again. By using *moci* the translation gives the sentence a potentially ominous tone.

Appendix 156: “*Tell Robb that I’m going to command the Night’s Watch and keep him safe, so he might as well take up needlework with the girls and have Mikken melt down his sword for horseshoes.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 249) – “*Řekni Robbovi, že budu velet Noční hlídce a udržím ho v bezpečí, takže klidně může s děvčaty začít vyšívat a svůj meč dát Mikkenovi, aby ho roztavil a nadělal z něj koňské podkovy.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 147)

The verb *moci* in the form of third person singular, present tense *může* is used to express the possibility of something happening. Using this verb suggests that Rob can take up needlework, but whether he will choose to do so is unclear. In this context, the verb also gives the sentence a mocking tone.

OMISSION:

Appendix 1: *Ser Waymar may have felt the cold that came with them, but he never saw them, never heard them.* (Martin, 1996, p.25) - *Ser Waymar cítil chlad, který přišel zároveň s nimi, ale neviděl je, neslyšel je.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 9)

Translation of modality is in the Czech language omitted. There is a present sentence structure with no remittance of the possible presence of the cold he felt.

Appendix 112: *As he filled his wine cup once more from a passing flagon, it struck him that this might be one of them.* (Martin, 1996, p. 69) - *Když si naléval víno do svého poháru od jednoho ze sluhů procházejících kolem se džbánem, napadlo ho, že právě teď je jedna z nich.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 35)

Translation of modality is again in the Czech language omitted. In the Czech sentence, the person does not doubt that the present moment is one of them. In contrast, the English version suggests that this moment may be one of them.

CONDITIONAL MOOD

Appendix 44: “*If we linger here, they will be on us again for a certainty, and we may not live through a second attack.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 387) – “*Když se tu budeme zdržovat, určitě na nás zaútočí znovu, a podruhé už bychom to nemuseli přežít.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 228)

Conditional statement *bychom* suggests that if they stay longer, there is a possibility they not survive the second attack. The conditional mood expresses a hypothetical outcome in the future.

Appendix 115: “*If you knew what the oath would cost you, you might be less eager to pay the price, son.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 75) – “*Kdybys věděl, co tě ta přísaha bude stát, méně bys dychtil zaplatit tu cenu, synu.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 38)

The conditional *bys* indicates a possible situation. It suggests that if the condition is fulfilled (the son knows the cost of the oath), the outcome is that he might be less eager to pay the price.

AŤ

Appendix 46: “*Whatever you may believe of me, Lady Stark, I promise you this—I never bet against my family.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 388) – “*Ať už o mně věříš čemukoli, lady Stark, ujišťuji tě o tomhle, nikdy neuzavírám sázky proti členům své rodiny.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 229)

The particle *ať* is often translated as *let* or *MAY* in English. It is used to express a wish or a command and implies a sense of obligation or necessity. In the given sentence, “*Ať už o mně věříš čemukoli*” the particle *ať* introduces the conditional clause “*už o mně věříš čemukoli*”.

Appendix 170: *Fat and awkward and frightened he might be, but Samwell Tarly was no fool.* (Martin, 1996, p. 314) – *Ať si byl tlustý, neohrabaný a vystrašený, Samwell Tarly nebyl hloupý.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 184)

The word *ať* does not express any modality in this sentence. Instead, it possesses a syntactic function as a conjunction linking the subordinate and the main clauses.

FUTURE TENSE

Appendix 3: *The day may come when I will have no choice but to call the banners and ride north to deal with this King-beyond-the-Wall for good and all.*” (Martin, 1996, pp. 41-42) - *Přijde den, kdy nebudu mít jinou možnost, než pozvednout prapory a jet na sever, a vypořádat se s tím králem za Zdí navždy.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 18)

The future tense is used to express a prediction or possible intention for something that will happen. In this sentence, the speaker is predicting a potential future event, and using the future tense implies a sense of possibility.

Appendix 182: *Sansa looked at him and trembled, afraid that he might ignore her or, worse, turn hateful again and send her weeping from the table.* (Martin, 1996, p. 345) - *Sansa na něj pohlédla a zachvěla se, plná obav, že ji bude ignorovat nebo, což by bylo ještě horší, že se k ní opět bude chovat nenávislně a pošle ji s pláčem pryč od stolu.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 204)

The use of the future tense suggests that Sansa is afraid of what might happen in the future. It reflects uncertainty about the potential outcome. Using the future tense also emphasizes Sansa's fear and unpredictability of her situation.

LZE

Appendix 96: *“Only death may pay for life.”* (Martin, 1996, p. 802) – *“Za život lze zaplatit jedině smrtí.”* (Martin, 2000b, p. 154)

The adverbial *lze* implies that the only possible payment for life is death. The adverbial suggests a possible option, but in the sentence, it is combined with *pouze* (only), which makes that option the only option.

TŘEBAŽE

Appendix 57: *“Scum you may be, but you’re undeniably useful, and with a sword in your hand you’re almost as good as my brother Jaime.”* (Martin, 1996, p. 519) - *„Třebaže jsi špína, jsi nepopíratelně užitečný a s mečem v ruce jsi téměř stejně dobrý jako můj bratr Jaime.”* (Martin, 2000a, p. 308)

The conjunction *třebaže* shows more certainty in compassion to an English sentence. If future tense was also used in the Czech sentence, the sentence would show more hesitation.

Appendix 150: *Old he might be, but he was stubborn, and loyal to a fault.* (Martin, 1996, p. 205) - *Třebaže starý, byl tvrdohlavý a dokázal být věrný až za hrob.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 119)

Třebaže indicates that the speaker acknowledges the person's age, but it emphasizes other

qualities, such as being stubborn and loyal. *Možná byl strary-* this translation of might would imply possibility better.

MOŽNÉ

Appendix 33: “*There’s many a mile and many a hawk between here and King’s Landing, the message may not have reached them.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 280) – “*Mezi námi a Královým přístavištěm je tolik mil a tolik jestřábů a je možné, že naše zprávy k nim vůbec nedorazily.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 164)

In both sentences, *MAY* and *je možné* are used to express possible scenarios. They do not imply certainty but suggest a hypothetical situation that could have occurred. (The speaker admits the possibility that the message was not delivered.)

BEZTAK

Appendix 2: “*The pups may die anyway, despite all you do.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 36) – “*Ty štěňata beztak také brzy pojdou, ať děláte, co děláte.*”

In both cases, *MAY* and *beztak* are used to express uncertainty about the outcome. However, *beztak* adds a sense of resignation to the statement, suggesting that the speaker believes that the puppies will not survive regardless of what is done to save them.

SNAD

Appendix 174: “*It might make him more forthcoming.*” (Martin, 1996, p. 321) - “*Snad ho to učiní vstřícnějším.*” (Martin, 2000a, p. 188)

Both *MIGHT* and *snad* express the possibility of changing a person’s character. They do not imply certainty but potential change.

HODLAT

Appendix 172: *He had given no word as to when he might return.* (Martin, 1996, p. 321) - *Nezanechal po sobě žádný vzkaz ohledně toho, kdy se hodlá vrátit.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 188)

The verb *hodlat* in connection to *MIGHT* indicates that the person may have had some intention or plan to return, but there is no certainty or evidence about whether or when that may happen.

ABY

Appendix 117: *She prayed that it might quicken there.* (Martin, 1996, pp. 79-80) - *Modlila se, aby se v jejím lůně proměnilo v život.* (Martin, 2000a, p. 41)

Aby introduces the purpose clause in the Czech language. It can also express modality in specific contexts. However, in this particular sentence, it does not. In this example, *aby* is a conjunction that introduces a subordinate clause.

NESMĚT

Appendix 65: *“No one may carry a blade here or shed a man’s blood.”* (Martin, 1996, p. 563) – *“Nikdo tu nesmí nosit nůž, dýku ani meč a nikdo nesmí prolít lidskou krev.”* (Martin, 2000b, p. 20)

The verb *nesmět* means must not or is not allowed. The verb *nesmět* implies that the action (carrying a blade or shedding blood) is prohibited or not allowed.

OBÁVAT SE

Appendix 50: *“I fear you may not find your sister as helpful as you would like.”* (Martin, 1996, p. 420) *“Mám-li být upřímný, obávám se, že svoji sestru neshledáš tak... vstřícnou, jak by se ti líbilo.”* (Martin, 2000a, p. 242)

The verb *obávat se* in connection to *MAY* conveys a sense of concern or doubt about the likelihood of the sister being helpful, emphasizing the uncertainty or potential for disappointment in the situation.

ZAKAZOVAT

Appendix 10: *“Who are you to tell him he may not have an edge on his sword, ser?”* (Martin, 1996, p.96) – *“Kdo jsi ty, že se opovažuješ zakazovat mu bojovat ostrým mečem, sere!”* (Martin, 2000a, p. 51)

The verb *zakazovat* in Czech means to prohibit or to forbid. The sentence provides the idea of prohibition or restriction, emphasizing the authoritative or controlling nature of the person presenting the action.

5 CONCLUSION

This thesis aimed to explore the root and epistemic modality of the verb *MAY* and its various forms in the context of the Czech language. In order to establish a solid foundation for this investigation, the introductory part of the thesis presented the theoretical background related to modality, more specifically epistemic and root modality, modal verbs and their usage in linguistics, with particular attention drawn to the verb *MAY* and its tentative form *MIGHT*. The second part of the thesis was dedicated to a detailed analysis of sentences from a selected book. This analysis consisted of identifying sentences where the modal verb *MAY* or its variations, categorising them based on the type of modality being expressed, examining the Czech translation, and providing commentary.

The data analysis was expected to show that the use of the modal verbs *MAY* and *MIGHT* in English can vary depending on the context of the sentences. Specifically, the study was expected to reveal that both root and epistemic modality are commonly used in sentences, but their frequency may vary depending on the sentence's intended meaning. The analysis of 185 example sentences from the book revealed that epistemic modality was used more frequently than root modality, with 91 examples being epistemic uses of *MAY* and only 13 classified as root uses. Similarly, there were 79 epistemic uses of *MIGHT*, compared to just two root uses. In conclusion, only 8% of the sentences use modal verbs to express permission, obligation, or prohibition, and the remaining 72% express some degree of uncertainty or possibility of the statement. The outcome of the first analysed feature is consistent with the theoretical information presented in the first part of this thesis and corresponds with the formal expected result. Those expectations suggest that permission or obligation expressed by *MAY* are very formal and not commonly used in everyday spoken English and, as detected, not even in written English. The verb can often be replaced with other modals, such as *CAN* to convey permission or *MUST* to convey strong obligation instead of *MAY NOT*. The most important factor that influenced the study was the theme of the book, the story is set in the mediaeval kingdoms, and the language chosen by the author is appropriate for that period. As a consequence, there could be a more significant occurrence of the verb *MAY* since it is used mainly in the formal language, which is nowadays less and less common.

The data analysis was also expected to reveal that other grammatical means, such as adverbs, auxiliary verbs, and adjectives, are frequently used to translate modality into the Czech language rather than relying only on modal verbs. The analysis of the Czech translations showed that the most common translation of the modal verbs *MIGHT* and *MAY* was the Czech modal particle *možná*, which was used in 75 sentences out of 185. The second most common translation was the Czech modal verb *moci*, which occurred in 64 sentences. The analysis also revealed that other grammatical structures than verbs were frequently used to express modality in Czech. This result suggests that modal verbs are not the only way to express modality in Czech and that other grammatical structures, such as particles, adverbials, or conditional mood, can be used to convey the intended meaning of the sentence, which is the most significant difference between the two languages in expressing modality.

RÉSUMÉ

The primary objective of this undergraduate thesis is to investigate the competition between epistemic and root modalities of *MAY* and *MIGHT* in English with respect to Czech. The thesis consists of two parts. The first deals with theoretical information, and the second is practical. In the first part, the basic terms regarding the English modal system (root/ epistemic modality, modal verbs). After, the Czech modal system is introduced, and some differences between the two languages are displayed. Finally, the practical part contains sentence analysis where the modality shown by the modal verbs is examined and described as how it is translated into the Czech language. It also contains explanatory commentary about the occurring features. The analysis revealed that epistemic modality in the studied text is more frequently used, contrary to the root modality. It also proved the statement claiming that the Czech language expresses modality through other grammatical means, such as adverbials or particles rather than verbs, as in English.

RÉSUMÉ IN CZECH

Cílem této bakalářské práce je prozkoumat výskyt záměrové a dispoziční modality anglických modálních sloves *MAY* a *MIGHT* s ohledem na češtinu. Práce se skládá ze dvou částí. První se zabývá teoretickými informacemi a druhá je praktická. Teoretická část se zabývá objasněním základních pojmů týkajících se anglického modálního systému jako například, druhy modality, klasifikace modality, nebo rozboru modálních sloves. Následuje představení českého modálního systému a rozdílů mezi těmito dvěma jazyky. Praktická část obsahuje analýzu vět, kde je zkoumána modalita, kterou modální slovesa vykazují a jakým způsobem je překládána do češtiny. Obsahuje také vysvětlující komentář k vyskytujícím se funkcím. Analýza odhalila, že záměrová modalita je ve studovaném textu používána častěji než dispoziční. Potvrdilo se i tvrzení, že modalita se v českém jazyce vyjadřuje pomocí jiných gramatických prostředků, jako jsou částice nebo adverbia spíše než slovesa, jako je tomu v anglickém jazyce.

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LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Figure 1 | 6 |
| Figure 2 | 7 |
| Figure 3 | 20 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Table 1 | 22 |
|---------------|----|

APPENDIX

All the English sentences were taken from the first book of the Game of Thrones series, The Song of Ice and Fire, written by G. R. R. Martin (1996). The Czech sentences from the following part are taken from the Czech version of the book named Hra o Trůny Píseň ledu a ohně, kniha první, část první.

1. Ser Waymar may have felt the cold that came with them, but he never saw them, never heard them. (p.25) - Ser Waymar cítil chlad, který přišel zároveň s nimi, ale neviděl je, neslyšel je. (p. 9)
 - Epistemic modality, past tense made by past infinitive verb phrase *may have felt*, past perfect aspect. The modal verb in the Czech language is omitted.
2. “The pups may die anyway, despite all you do.” (p. 36) – “Ty štěňata beztak také brzy pojdou, ať děláte, co děláte.”
 - Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *die*, simple aspect. The Czech modal verb is omitted, and modality is expressed with the adverb *beztak*.
3. The day may come when I will have no choice but to call the banners and ride north to deal with this King-beyond-the-Wall for good and all.” (pp. 41-42) - Přejde den, kdy nebudu mít jinou možnost, než pozvednout prapory a jet na sever, a vypořádat se s tím králem za Zdí navždy. (p. 18)
 - Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *come*, simple aspect. The modal verb in the Czech language is omitted, the future tense is used instead.
4. “In time you may even learn to like him.” (p. 56) – “Časem se ho možná naučíš mít ráda.” (p. 27)
 - Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *learn*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

5. “May I have some time to consider?” (p.67) – “Můžu mít nějaký čas na rozmyšlenou?”
- Root modality: polite request for permission, present tense expressed by verb phrase *may have*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
6. “All dwarfs may be bastards, yet not all bastards need be dwarfs.” (p.77) – “Všichni trpaslíci možná jsou bastardi, ale ne všichni bastardi jsou trpaslíci.”
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
7. “May I approach?” (p.82) – “Mohu přistoupit?”
- Root modality: polite request for permission, present tense expressed by verb phrase *may approach*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
8. “And even a bastard may rise high in the Night’s Watch.” (p.88) – “A dokonce i bastard to v Noční hlídce může dotáhnout daleko.” (p. 47)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may rise* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
9. “Robb may be a child,” Joffrey said. (p.96) – “Robb možná dítě je, “opáčil Joffrey. (p. 51)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
10. “Who are you to tell him he may not have an edge on his sword, ser?” (p.96) – “Kdo jsi ty, že se opovažuješ zakazovat mu bojovat ostrým mečem, sere!” (p. 51)
- Root modality: prohibition, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may not have*, simple aspect. The modal verb in the Czech language is omitted. The verb *zakazovat* is used instead.

11. “She may grow bolder now that he’s safe atop the Eyrie.” (p.106) – “Teď je možná odvážnější, když je v bezpečí nahoře na Orlím hnízdě.” (p. 58)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may grow bolder* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
12. “Why, only that Tommen may get his wish.” (p.114) – “Nu, jen to, že Tommenovi se jeho přání možná splní.” (p. 63)
- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *get*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
13. “The maester thinks the boy may yet live.” (p.114) – “Mistr si myslí, že chlapec by to mohl přežít.” (p. 63)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may live* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
14. “A lesser man may beg a favor from the *khal*, but must never presume to berate him.” (p.126) – “Méně významní mužové mohou od khala žádat službu, ale nikdy se nesmějí uchýlit k tomu, že by ho začali častovat výčtkami.” (p. 71)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may beg* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
15. “Your Grace, may I speak frankly?” (p.142) – “Tvoje Výsosti, mohu mluvit upřímně?” (p. 81)
- Root modality: polite request for permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may speak*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
16. “A saddle of my own design, you may be interested to know.” (p.152) – “Sedlo mého

vlastního návrhu, kdyby tě to zajímalo.” (p. 87)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in the Czech language is omitted.

17. “Well, my legs may be too small for my body, but my head is too large, although I prefer to think.” (p.152) – “Moje nohy jsou na moje tělo příliš malé, ale hlavu mám až moc velkou, třebaže si rád říkávám, že na moji mysl je velká akorát.” (p. 87)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in the Czech language is omitted.

18. “Winterfell may have need of all its swords soon, and they had best not be made of wood.” (p.167) – “Zimohrad možná brzy bude potřebovat všechny svoje meče a bude lépe, nebudou-li vyrobeny ze dřeva.” (p. 96)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have need* is constructed from modal and atelic verb *need*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

19. “Her voice may be needed.” (p.185) – “Jejího hlasu možná bude zapotřebí.” (p. 107)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be needed* is constructed from modal and atelic verb *need*, passive. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

20. “He may know the blade, yes... but, my lady, the moment we go ashore we are at risk.” (p.201) – “Možná tu dýku zná, ano... ale moje paní, od okamžiku, kdy vystoupíme na břeh, budeme vystaveni nebezpečí.” (p. 117)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may know* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

21. “Yet first, if I may be so bold, there is the matter of the second half of the payment we agreed upon.” (p.203) – “Ovšem nejdříve, mohu-li být tak troufalý, je zde záležitost

vyplacení druhé půle platby, na níž jsme se dohodli.” (p. 118)

- Root modality: polite request for permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may be*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

22. “Even in a place like this, one never knows who may be watching.” (p.204) – “Ani na tomto místě jeden nikdy neví, kdo ho může sledovat.” (p. 119)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be watching* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, progressive aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

23. “You may wait outside while I dress.” (p.205) – “Mohli byste počkat venku, než se obléknu?”

- Root modality: permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may wait*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

24. “They may have clacked a few sticks together before they came here, but I promise you, not one in twenty was ever rich enough to own a real sword.” (p.218) – “Možná se cvičili v souboji s holemi, než sem přišli, ale ujišťuju tě, že žádný z nich nikdy nebyl tak bohatý, aby si mohl dovolit vlastnit opravdový meč.” (p. 127)

- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have clacked*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

25. “You may count on it.” (p.228) – “Na to se můžeš spolehnout.”

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may count* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

26. “A fool I may be, Stark....” (p.236) – “Blázen možná, Starku...” (p. 138)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb

phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect.

Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

27. “He may decide that you have convinced me to take the black.” (p.240) – “Mohl by si pomyslet, že jsi mne přemluvil, abych se dal k černým.” (p. 141)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *decide*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

28. “Your warhorse, now, he may not be the best one for the joust.” (p. 254) – “Vaši váleční oři teď možná nejsou v tom nejlepší stavu pro klání.” (p. 150)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may not be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

29. “May I be excused, please?” (p. 256)- “Omluvíš mne, prosím?” (p. 151)

- Root modality: very polite request, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may be excused*, passive. A modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.

30. “You may not,” the septa said (p. 256) – “Ne, neomluvím,” odpověděla septa. (p. 151)

- Root modality: very strong prohibition, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may not*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.

31. “You may be as different as the sun and the moon, but the same blood flows through both your hearts.” (p. 261) – “Možná se od sebe lišíte jako slunce a měsíc, ale vašimi srdci protéká stejná krev.” (p. 154)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

32. . “He may be too shamed to come back.” (p. 271) – “Možná se bude příliš stydět, než aby se vrátil.” (p. 159)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
33. “There’s many a mile and many a hawk between here and King’s Landing, the message may not have reached them.” (p. 280) – “Mezi námi a Královým přístavištěm je tolik mil a tolik jestřábů a je možné, že naše zprávy k nim vůbec nedorazily.” (p. 164)
- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may not have reached*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by *možné*.
34. “I may have been hasty with you.” (p. 286) – “Já... možná jsem se k tobě choval ukvapeně.” (p. 168)
- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have been*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
35. “I may even find a comely wench to warm the sheets for me.” (p. 286) – “Za pár měďáků si možná dokonce najdu vstřícnou děvku, aby mi zahřála lože.” (p. 168)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may find* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
36. “You may go.” (p. 293) – “Můžeš odejít.”
- Root modality: formal mean of expressing permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may go*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
37. “If an old man may be forgiven his blunt speech, let me say that grief can derange even the strongest and most disciplined of minds, and the Lady Lysa was never that.” (p. 295) – “Pokud lze starému muži odpustit jeho neomalené řeči, dovol mi říci, že žal dokáže zatemnit dokonce i ty nejsilnější a nejdisciplinovanější z myslí a lady Lysa mezi ně nikdy nepatřila.” (p. 172)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb

phrase *may be forgiven* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb passive. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the adverbial *lze*.

38. “Yet someday he may be the lord of a great holdfast and sit on the king’s council.” (p. 298) – “Avšak může někdy být pánem velké pevnosti a zasedat v královské radě.” (p. 174)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

39. And may he choke on it, Catelyn though. (p. 336) - *At’ se tím zadusí, pomyslela si Catelyn.* (p. 198)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may choke* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. A modal verb is in Czech translation omitted, and the particle *at’* expresses modality.

40. “I may need to kill my brother tomorrow.” (p. 348) – “Příliš jsem pil, a zítra možná budu muset zabít svého bratra.” (p. 205)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may need* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

41. “I know... he would not kill you, not even for his queen, and there may lie our salvation.” (p. 370) – “Ale ty, lorde Starku... myslím si... ne, vím..., že tebe nezabije, dokonce ani kvůli královně, a právě v tom možná spočívá naše spása.” (p. 218)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may lie* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

42. “But my little birds will be listening, and together we may be able to forestall them, you and I.” (p. 371) – “Ovšem moji malí ptáčekové budou naslouchat a společně jim možná budeme schopni jejich plány překazit, ty a já.” (p. 219)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
43. “Lady Stark, whatever you may believe of me, I am not a stupid man.” (p. 380) – “Lady Stark, čemukoli o mně možná věříš, nejsem hlupák.” (p. 224)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may believe* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
44. “If we linger here, they will be on us again for a certainty, and we may not live through a second attack.” (p. 387) – “Když se tu budeme zdržovat, určitě na nás zaútočí znovu, a podruhé už bychom to nemuseli přežít.” (p. 228)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may not live* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The conditional mood is used in the Czech translation.
45. “We may have need of it if we are attacked again.” (p. 387) – “Možná ji bude potřebovat, až nás znovu napadnou.” (p. 228)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
46. “Whatever you may believe of me, Lady Stark, I promise you this—I never bet against my family.” (p. 388) – “Ať už o mně věříš čemukoli, lady Stark, ujišťuji tě o tomhle, nikdy neuzavírám sázky proti členům své rodiny.” (p. 229)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may believe* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted, and the particle *ať* expresses modality.
47. “If he does not bestir himself soon, it may be too late.” (p. 396) – “Pokud se nerozhýbe brzy, možná pak už bude příliš pozdě.” (p. 233)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
48. “We may not have a fortnight.” (p. 408) – “Dva týdny možná mít nebudeme.” (p. 241)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
49. “We may not have a day.” (p. 408) – “Možná nebudeme mít ani den.” (p. 241)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
50. “I fear you may not find your sister as helpful as you would like.” (p. 420) “Mám-li být upřímný, obávám se, že svoji sestru neshledáš tak... vstřícnou, jak by se ti líbilo.” (p. 242)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may not find* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted. The verb *obávat se* is used to show uncertainty instead.
51. “The Lannisters may have their pride, but the Tullys are born with better sense.” (p. 428) – “Lannisterové možná mají svou hrdost, ale Tullyové zas pobrali víc rozumu. Jsem na cestě celý den a po většinu noci.” (p. 253)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
52. “Ned thinks it may come to war.” (p. 431) – “Ned si myslí, že možná dojde k válce.” (p. 254)
- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *come*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle

možná.

53. “Then you may leave... by one door or the other.” (p. 480) – “Potom můžeš odejít... jedněmi dveřmi, nebo druhými.” (p. 285)

- Root modality: formal permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may leave*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

54. “One or two may even be worth the price of piss.” (p. 507) – “Jeden nebo dva z nich možná budou mít cenu chcánků.” (p. 301)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

55. “Some of us may be sent away to Eastwatch or the Shadow Tower.” (p. 510) – “Někteří z nás možná budou posláni pryč, do Východní hlídky nebo Stínové věže.” (p. 302)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

56. “Only he may say when a boy is ready to swear his vow, as you surely know.” (p. 512) – “Jenom on může rozhodnout, zda je chlapec připraven složit přísahu, jak jistě víš.” (p. 304)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may say* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

57. “Scum you may be, but you’re undeniably useful, and with a sword in your hand you’re almost as good as my brother Jaime.” (p. 519) - „Třebaže jsi špína, jsi nepopíratelně užitečný a s mečem v ruce jsi téměř stejně dobrý jako můj bratr Jaime.” (p. 308)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted. The word *třebaže* is used instead.

58. “You may get that chance one day.” (p. 523) - „Možná jednoho dne dostaneš svou šanci.” (p. 311)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may get* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

59. “Half a man I may be,” Tyrion said, “yet I have the courage to face my enemies.” (p. 524) - „I když možná jsem polomuž,” řekl Tyrion, „mám odvalu postavit se svým nepřátelům.” (p. 312)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

The Czech sentences from the following part are taken from the Czech version of the book written by George R. R. Martin named *Hra o Trůny Píseň ledu a ohně, kniha první, část druhá*.

60. And that may be precisely what Lord Tywin wants, Ned thought to himself, to bleed off strength from Riverrun, goad the boy into scattering his swords. (p. 533) - A to je možná přesně to, co lord Tywin chce, řekl si Ned v duchu, vykřáčet síly Řekotočí, přimět toho chlapce rozptýlit svoje meče. (p. 5)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

61. “The king is hunting across the river and may not return for days,” (p. 534) – “Král je na lovu za řekou a nevrátí se možná celé dny,” přerušil ho lord Eddard. (p. 5)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *return*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

62. “May the gods take pity on his soul.” (p. 535) – “Ať se bohové slitují nad jeho duší.”

(p. 6)

- Wish sentence, *may take* works as a means of the sentence modality. In Czech, particle *at'* expresses the modality.

63. "You may learn that one day to your sorrow." (p. 539) – "Jednoho dne se to ke svému zármutku možná dozvíš." (p. 7)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *learn*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

64. Shattered legs may heal in time, but some betrayals fester and poison the soul. (p. 548)

- Zlámané nohy se časem zhojí, ale některé zrady podebírají duši hnisem a vyplavují do ní jed. (p. 12)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *heal*, simple aspect. The future tense expresses modality in Czech.

65. "No one may carry a blade here or shed a man's blood." (p. 563) – "Nikdo tu nesmí nosit nůž, dýku ani meč a nikdo nesmí prolít lidskou krev." (p. 20)

- Root modality: formal prohibition, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may carry*, simple aspect. In Czech is, the prohibition expressed by the verb *nesmí*.

66. May the gods forgive me. (p. 573) - *At' mně bohové odpustí.* (p. 25)

- A wish sentence, *may forgive* works as a means of the sentence modality, in Czech, is modality expressed by particle *at'*.

67. "At once may be too late." (p. 577) – "Okamžitě je možná příliš pozdě." (p. 28)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

68. "The gods may spare him." (p. 578) – "Bohové ho možná ušetří." (p. 28)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may spare* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
69. “By the time Robert dies, it may be too late... for both of us.” (p. 578) – “Než Robert zemře, bude možná příliš pozdě... pro nás oba!” (p. 28)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
70. “They may be wary of unexpected visitors.” (p. 579) – “Možná budou vůči neočekávaným návštěvníkům obezřetní.” (p. 29)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may spare* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
71. “And for all I know, her brother Jaime may be riding for King’s Landing even as we speak, with a Lannister host at his back.” (p. 582) – “A podle všeho, co vím, její bratr Jaime možná právě teď, zatímco spolu mluvíme, směřuje do Králova přístaviště, s lannisterskou armádou za zády.” (p. 31)
- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
72. “You may take your vows here at evenfall, before Septon Celladar and the first of your order.” (p. 586) – “Svoje přísahy odříkáte zde po západu slunce, před septonem Celladarem a představeným vašeho řádu.” (p. 32)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may take* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.
73. “May all the gods preserve you, brothers.” (p. 588) – “Ať vás bohové ochraňují, bratři.” (p. 33)

- Wish sentence, *may preserve* works as a means of the sentence modality, in Czech, does particle *at'* express modality.
74. "It may be your palate will be some help to Cotter Pyke when merchant galleys come trading." (p. 588) - "Možná se ti bude zamlouvat být pomocníkem Cottera Pykea, když připlují obchodovat kupecké galéry." (p. 33)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
75. "She is a sweet thing now, but in ten years, who can say what treasons she may hatch?" (p. 624) – "Teď je to takové milé stvoření, ale kdo může vědět, jakých zrad se dopustí za deset let?" (p. 51)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may hatch* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
76. Whatever may come, they cannot take that away from me. (p. 636) - Cokoli se možná stane, už nikdy mi to nevezmou. (p. 57)
- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *come*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
77. "How may I serve you?" (p. 664) - "Čím ti mohu posloužit?" (p. 71)
- Root modality: formal suggestion to help, present tense, active aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
78. "Illyrio may have sent a letter." (p. 665) – "Illyrio možná poslal dopis." (p. 71)
- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have sent*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
79. "My speech may be Tyroshi, and my garb Dothraki, but I am of Westeros, of the Sunset Kingdoms," Dany told him. (p. 669) – "Moje řeč je možná tyrošská a můj oděv

dothracký, ale já jsem ze Západozemí, z Království zapadajícího slunce,” řekla mu Dany. (p. 74)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

80. “Some may even go over to the Lannisters.” (p. 683) - “Někteří možná dokonce přejdou k Lannisterům.” (p. 80)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *go*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

81. “Cersei is wise enough to know that she may need them to make her peace, should the fighting go against her.” (p. 683) – “Cersei je natolik moudrá, že ví, že je možná bude potřebovat k vyjednání míru, kdyby se boj měl obrátit proti ní.” (p. 80)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may need* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

82. “This Lord Derik and a few others may have escaped, no one is certain, but Ser Raymun was killed, and most of our men from Winterfell.” (p. 684) – “Tomu lordu Derikovi a pár ostatním se možná podařilo uprchnout, nikdo si tím není jistý, ale ser Raymun byl zabit a také většina našich mužů ze Zimohradu.” (p. 80)

- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have escaped*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

83. “My father may be dying behind the walls of Riverrun.” (p. 687) – “Můj otec možná umírá za zdmi Řekotočí.” (p. 83)

- Epistemic modality, present continuous tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be dying* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, progressive aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

84. “He’s taller as well, you may have noticed.” (p. 694) – “On je taky vyšší, jak sis možná všiml.” (p. 86)

- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have noticed*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

85. “The boy may hang back or lose his courage when he sees our numbers,” Lord Tywin replied. (p. 698) – “Ten chlapec by mohl couvnout nebo ztratit odvahu, až uvidí naše vojsko,” namítl lord Tywin. (p. 89)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may hang back* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

86. “In the place of the traitor Stannis Baratheon, it is the wish of His Grace that his lady mother, the Queen Regent Cersei Lannister, who has ever been his staunchest support, be seated upon his small council, that she may help him rule wisely and with justice.” (p. 704) – “Dále je přáním Jeho Výsosti, aby místo v králově malé radě namísto zrádce Stannise Baratheona zastávala jeho matka, královna regentka Cersei Lannister, která mu vždy byla tou nejspolehlivější oporou, aby mu pomáhala vládnout moudře a spravedlivě.” (p. 91)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may help* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.

87. “You may remove your helm.” (p. 705) – “Můžeš si sundat přilbici.” (p. 91)

- Root modality: formal permission, present tense expressed by the verb phrase *may remove*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.

88. “Only death may relieve the Lord Commander of his sacred trust.” (p. 705) – “Pouze smrt může lorda velitele zprostit jeho svatého poslání.” (p. 92)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase

may relieve is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

89. “Stannis may win the throne, but only your rotting head will remain to cheer unless you guard that tongue of yours.” (p. 719) – “Stannis možná získá trůn, ale pokud nebudeš držet jazyk za zuby, uvítá ho tu místo tebe jen tvoje hlava hnijící na kůlu.” (p. 100)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may win* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

90. “Lord Walder may need help keeping faith.” (p. 735) – “Lord Walder možná bude potřebovat pomoc ohledně zachování své věrnosti.” (p. 109)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may need* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech expressed, by the modal particle *možná*.

91. “They came from a hundred quarrelsome kingdoms, and they knew times may change, but men do not.” (p. 749) – “Pocházeli ze sta svárlivých království a věděli, že časy se mohou změnit, ale muži ne.”

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may change* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

92. “Still, there may be as many as ten thousand captives.” (p. 754) – “Přesto je tu možná až deset tisíc zajatců.” (p. 120)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

93. “I am no man,” she whispered, “so you may lean on me.” (p. 760) – “Já nejsem muž, „pošeptala, „takže o mne se opřít můžeš.” (p. 123)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may lean* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect.

The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

94. “You may have lopped the head off the snake, but three quarters of the body is still coiled around my father’s castle.” (p. 791) – “Možná jsi odsekl hlavu hada, ale tři čtvrtiny jeho těla jsou stále omotané kolem hradu mého otce.” (p. 140)

- Epistemic modality, past tense made by a past infinitive verb phrase, *may have lopped*, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

95. “Ser Jorah, I may have need of your blade.” (p. 801) – “Sere Jorahu, možná budu potřebovat tvůj meč.”

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may have* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

96. “Only death may pay for life.” (p. 802) – “Za život lze zaplatit jedině smrtí.” (p. 145)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may pay* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by adverbial *lze*.

97. “You may learn that one day to your sorrow.” (p. 842) – “Jednoho dne se to ke svému zármutku možná dozvíš.” (p. 166)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may learn* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

98. “That may be as it may be,” answered Mirri Maz Duur. (p. 854) – “To je docela možné,” odpověděla Mirri Maz Duur. (p. 173)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by *možné*.

99. “Their combined power may exceed our own.” (p. 868) – “Jejich kombinovaná síla by

mohla převýšit naši vlastní.” (p. 180)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may exceed* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

100. “Tell them they may ride with Vargo Hoat and plunder as they like—goods, stock, women.” (p. 868) – “Řekni jim, že mohou jet s Vargem Hoatem a drancovat, jak chtějí - zboží, zásoby, ženy.” (p. 181)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may ride* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

101. “They may take what they want and burn the rest.” (p. 868) – “Mohou si vzít, co budou chtít, a zbytek spálit.” (p. 181)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *take*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

102. “This time the Night’s Watch will ride in force, against the King-beyond-the-Wall, the Others, and anything else that may be out there.” (p. 884) – “Tentokrát pojede Noční hlídka v celé armádě, proti králi za Zdí, proti Jiným a čemukoli dalšímu, co tam venku možná čeká.” (p. 190)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context since the verb phrase *may be* is constructed from the modal and atelic verb, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

103. “Whatever you may decide for yourselves, I shall never call a Lannister my king,” declared Marq Piper. (p. 898) – “K čemukoli jinému se sami rozhodnete, já nikdy nebudu zvat Lannistera svým králem,” prohlásil Marq Piper. (p. 197)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *decide*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted.

104. “Whatever may come?” (p. 904) – “Ať přijde cokoli?” (p. 199)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *come*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted, and the particle *at'* expresses modality.

105. “Whatever may come.” (p. 904) – “At’ přijde cokoli,” (p. 199)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by *may* combined with a telic verb *come*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in the Czech translation omitted, and the particle *at'* expresses modality.

MIGHT

The Czech sentences from the following part are taken from the Czech version of the book written by George R. R. Martin named *Hra o Trůny Píseň ledu a ohně, kniha první, část první*.

106. “What do you think might have killed these men, Gared?” Ser Waymar asked casually. (p. 20) - “Co si myslíš, že ty lidi mohlo zabít, Garede?” zeptal se ser Waymar nenučeně. (p. 5)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with a past infinitive *have killed* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

107. For her sake, Ned had built a small sept where she might sing to the seven faces of god. (p. 40) - Ned kvůli ní nechal postavit malé septum, kde mohla zpívat sedmi tvářím boha. (p. 17)

- Epistemic modality, past tense, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

108. “It’s all the same when they start sweating and the cloth sticks to their skin, they might as well be naked.” The king laughed happily. (pp. 60-61) - “U všech je to stejné, když se začnou potit a látka se jim lepí na kůži. Mohly by docela dobře chodit nahé.”

Král se šťastně zasmál. (p. 29)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

109. They were words he had to say, and so he said them, apprehensive about what might come next. (pp. 65-66) - Byla to slova, která musel říci, a tak je řekl, pln strachu z toho, co možná bude následovat. (p. 32)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by verb phrase *might come*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

110. “You might at least humor me with a smile.” (p. 67) - “Mohl bys mě alespoň oblažit úsměvem.” (p. 33)

- Epistemic modality, future tense expressed by verb phrase *might humor*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

111. “My Joff and your Sansa shall join our houses, as Lyanna and I might once have done.” (p. 67) - “Můj Joff a tvoje Sansa spojí naše rody, tak jako jsme to kdysi měli udělat Lyanna a já.” (p. 33)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have done* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is omitted in the Czech translation.

112. As he filled his wine cup once more from a passing flagon, it struck him that this might be one of them. (p. 69) - Když si naléval víno do svého poháru od jednoho ze sluhů procházejících kolem se džbánem, napadlo ho, že právě teď je jedna z nich. (p. 35)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is omitted in the Czech translation.

113. “But tonight Lady Stark thought it might give insult to the royal family to seat a bastard among them.” (p. 73) – “Ale dnes večer si lady Stark myslela, že by to mohlo

být chápáno jako urážka královské rodiny, kdyby mezi nimi seděl bastard.” (p. 37)

- Epistemic modality, present tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might give*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

114. “You might, if you knew what it meant,” Benjen said. (p. 75) – “Možná by záleželo, kdybys věděl, co to znamená,” řekl Benjen. (p. 38)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb *might*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

115. “If you knew what the oath would cost you, you might be less eager to pay the price, son.” (p. 75) – “Kdybys věděl, co tě ta přísaha bude stát, méně bys dychtil zaplatit tu cenu, synu.” (p. 38)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. In Czech, modality is expressed by conditional mood.

116. “Might I have a closer look at your wolf?” (p. 76) - “Mohl bych se na tvého vlka podívat zblízka?” (p. 39)

- Root modality: a very polite way of asking for permission, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

117. She prayed that it might quicken there. (pp. 79-80) - Modlila se, aby se v jejím lůně proměnilo v život. (p. 41)

- Epistemic modality, past tense in a dependent objective clause, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conjunction *aby*.

118. “Sansa might someday be queen.” (p. 80) – “Sansa se jednoho dne možná stane královnou.” (p. 42)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal

particle *možná*.

119. He was welcome to whatever solace he might find between battles. (p. 86) - Přála mu jakoukoli útěchu, které se mu mezi bitvami mohlo dostat. (p. 46)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might find*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
120. She might have overlooked a dozen bastards for Ned's sake, so long as they were out of sight. (p. 87) - Kvůli Nedovi by kolem sebe strpěla i tučet bastardů, pokud by jí nebyli na očích. (p. 46)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have overlooked* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conditional mood.
121. He might have said more, and worse, but Maester Luwin cut in. (p. 87) - Možná by řekl víc, nebýt mistra Luwina, který do jejich rozhovoru zasáhl. (p. 47)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have said* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
122. He would father no sons who might someday contest with Catelyn's own grandchildren for Winterfell. (p. 88) - Nezploďí žádné děti, které by jednoho dne mohly ohrožovat nárok Catelyniných vlastních vnoučat na Zimohrad. (p. 47)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might contest*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
123. Arya glanced furtively across the room, worried that Septa Mordane might have read her thoughts, but the septa was paying her no attention today. (p. 90) - Arya pokradmu pohlédla na druhý konec místnosti, s obavami, že septa Mordane by mohla číst její myšlenky, ale septa jí dnešního dne vůbec nevěnovala pozornost. (p. 48)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have said* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and

conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

124. He hadn't been up to the broken tower for weeks with everything that had happened, and this might be his last chance. (p. 101) - Nebyl nahoře na polozbořené věži už celé týdny, protože se dělo tolik zajímavých věcí, a tohle možná bude jeho poslední příležitost. (p. 55)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
125. They might glimpse his feet if he tried to swing by. (p. 105) - Mohli by zahlédnout jeho chodidla, kdyby se pokusil přehoupnout. (p. 57)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might glimpse*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
126. “The king might as easily have named one of his brothers, or even Littlefinger, gods help us. “(p. 105) - “Král mohl docela dobře jmenovat pobočníkem jednoho ze svých bratrů nebo možná dokonce Malíčka, bohové, chraňte nás.” (p. 57)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have said* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
127. It was too narrow to land on, but if he could catch hold as he fell past, pull himself up... except that might make a noise, draw them to the window. (p. 106) - Byla příliš úzká, než aby na ní mohl přistát, ale kdyby se mu podařilo chytit se jí, až by letěl kolem, pak se vytáhnout nahoru... Až na to, že by ho přitom mohli uslyšet a přejít k oknu. (p. 58)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might make*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
128. “The Starks can count past six. Unlike some princes I might name.” (p. 111) –

“Starkové umějí počítat víc než do šesti. Na rozdíl od některých princů, které bych mohl jmenovat.” (p. 61)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might name*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

129. “Do you know where I might find my brother?” (p. 112) – “Nevíš náhodou, kde bych našel svého bratra?” (p. 62)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might find*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conditional mood.

130. “I would be most interested to hear what he might have to say.” (p. 115) “Nesmírně by mne zajímalo, co by k této naší rozpravě mohl říct on.” (p. 65)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might have to say*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

131. Jon climbed the steps slowly, trying not to think that this might be the last time ever. (p. 118) - Jon pomalu vycházel po schodech a snažil se přitom nemyslet na to, že už je to možná naposledy. (p. 66)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

132. Part of him wanted only to flee, but he knew that if he did he might never see Bran again. (p. 119) - Část v něm se chtěla otočit a utéci, jak nejrychleji by mohl, jenomže Jon věděl, že když to udělá, už by Brana nemusel nikdy spatřit. (p. 66)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might see*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

133. Once that might even have made him cry. (p. 119) - Kdysi by se kvůli nim dokonce

rozplakal. (p. 66)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have made* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conditional mood.

134. The horselords might put on rich fabrics and sweet perfumes when they visited the Free Cities, but out under the open sky they kept the old ways. (p. 127) - Při návštěvách Svobodných měst se páni koní možná halili do bohatých látek a voněli se těžkými parfémami, ale venku pod širým nebem zachovávali svoje staré zvyklosti. (p. 72)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might put on*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

135. She did her best to hide them, knowing how angry Viserys would be if he saw her crying, terrified of how Khal Drogo might react. (p. 127) - Snažila se ze všech sil, aby je ukryla, vědouc, jak rozzuřený by Viserys byl, kdyby ji viděl plakat, plna strachu, jak by mohl reagovat khal Drogo. (p. 72)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might react*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

136. Illyrio had told her that might happen. (p. 128) - Illyrio ji varoval, že k něčemu takovému možná dojde. (p. 73)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might happen*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.

137. She was afraid of her brother, of what he might do if she failed him. (p. 129) - Bála se svého bratra, toho, co by mohl udělat, kdyby ho zklamala. (p. 73)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might do*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

138. "Would that I might forget him," Ned said bluntly. (p. 139) – "Kéž bych tak na něho mohl zapomenout," řekl Ned odměřeně. (p. 79)

- Root modality: expressing speakers' desire for something to happen, subjunctive construction, present tense, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
139. “As you might have noticed, I’m small.” (p. 149) – “Jak sis možná všiml, jsem poněkud menšího vzrůstu.” (p. 85)
- Epistemic modality *might* combined with the past infinitive *might have noticed* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
140. “Had I been born a peasant, they might have left me out to die, or sold me to some slaver’s grotesquerie.” (p. 152) - “Kdybych se narodil v rodině sedláka, možná by mě vyhodili a nechali zemřít nebo by mě prodali do nějakého potulného cirkusu.” (p. 87)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have left* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the modal particle *možná*.
141. She wondered whether they might move his bed under the window, so he could get the morning sun. (p. 158) Napadlo ji, zda by neměla jeho postel přestěhovat pod okno, aby k němu mohlo dopolední slunce. (p. 90)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might move*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conditional mood.
142. “I have prepared a list of those we might wish to consider for the vacant offices,” he said. (p. 159) – “Vypracoval jsem seznam těch, kdo by mohl přicházet v úvahu na uvolněné úřady,” řekl. (p. 90)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might wish to consider*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
143. “Someone is afraid Bran might wake up,” Robb said. (p. 165) – “Někdo se bojí, že Bran by se mohl probudit,” řekl Robb. (p. 94)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might wake up*,

simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

144. It was a great honor to ride with the queen, and besides, Prince Joffrey might be there. (pp. 170-171) - Byla to pro ni velká čest cestovat s královnou, a kromě toho, možná tam bude i princ Joffrey. (p. 98)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

145. Sansa would have thought that might have taught her a lesson, but Arya laughed about it. (p. 173) - Sansa si říkala, že si z toho možná vezme ponaučení, ale Arya se tomu jen smála. (p. 99)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have taught* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

146. He and Robert might have been able to settle the matter amicably. (p. 186) - On a Robert by celou záležitost mohli vyřešit přátelsky. (p. 107)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have been* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

147. Lord Renly wore a half smile that might mean anything. (p. 186) - Lord Renly měl na tváři poloúsměv, který mohl znamenat cokoli. (p. 108)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might mean*, active aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

148. He saw Hodor, the simple giant from the stables, carrying an anvil to Mikken's forge, hefting it onto his shoulder as easily as another man might heft a bale of hay. (p. 195) - Viděl Hodora, prostoduchého obra nesoucího kovadlinu do Mikkenovy kovárny, zvedajícího si ji na rameno tak lehce, jako by si jiný muž zvedl pytel sena. (p. 113)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might heft*, simple

aspect. In Czech translation, conditional mood is used to express modality.

149. “I know of several establishments that might suit your needs.” (p. 203) - “Znám několik podniků, které by mohly vyhovovat tvým potřebám.” (p. 118)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might suit*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

150. Old he might be, but he was stubborn, and loyal to a fault. (p. 205) - Třebaže starý, byl tvrdohlavý a dokázal být věrný až za hrob. (p. 119)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. The modal verb is in Czech translation omitted the word *třebaže* is used instead.

151. “You never know what you might learn.” (p. 219) - “Nikdy nevíš, čemu se můžeš přiučit.” (p. 128)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might learn*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

152. “Uncle Benjen said they might search as far as the Shadow Tower.” (pp. 221-222) - “Strýc Benjen řekl, že možná budou muset jet pátrat až ke Stínové věži. To znamená celou cestu vzhůru do hor.” (p. 129)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might search*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

153. “Perhaps we might begin soon,” the Grand Maester said. (p. 228) – “Snad bychom mohli co nejdříve začít,” řekl velmistr. (p. 133)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might begin*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

154. If so, he might be hours behind, but he would still be here too soon for Ned’s

liking. (p. 231) - Pokud je tomu tak, může dorazit o celé hodiny později, ale přesto zde bude mnohem dřív, než by se Nedovi zamlouvalo. (p. 135)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

155. “You might send young Snow.” (p. 243) – “Mohl bys poslat mladého Sněha.” (p. 143)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might sent*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

156. “Tell Robb that I’m going to command the Night’s Watch and keep him safe, so he might as well take up needlework with the girls and have Mikken melt down his sword for horseshoes.” (p. 249) – “Řekni Robbovi, že budu velet Noční hlídce a udržím ho v bezpečí, takže klidně může s děvčaty začít vyšívat a svůj meč dát Mikkenovi, aby ho roztavil a nadělal z něj koňské podkovy.” (p. 147)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might take up*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.

157. “I decline to deliver any message that might get me killed.” (p. 249) – “Odmítám mu předat zprávu, po které by mě mohl nechat popravit.” (p. 147)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might get*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

158. Another day it might be Hullen with his endless horse talk, or Septon Chayle from the library, or Jory, or Ser Rodrik, or even Old Nan with her stories. (p. 255) - Dalšího dne k sobě pozval Hullena s jeho nekonečnými řečmi o koních nebo septona Chaelyho z knihovny nebo Joryho nebo sera Rodrika nebo dokonce starou chůvu s jejími vyprávěnkami. (p. 150)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is omitted in the Czech translation.

159. “Lyanna might have carried a sword, if my lord father had allowed it.” (p. 259) – “Lyanna by určitě nosila meč, kdyby jí to můj otec dovolil.” (p. 152)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have carried* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. In Czech translation, conditional mood is used to express modality.
160. Behind them the great horde might tear the earth and muddy the rivers and send up clouds of choking dust, but the fields ahead of them were always green and verdant. (p. 68) - Velká horda za nimi mohla rozdírat zemi, kalit řeky a vysílat k nebi oblaka dusivého prachu, ale pole před nimi byla vždy bujná a zelená. (p. 157)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might tear*, simple aspect. The modal verb in Czech is translated as *moci*.
161. “If you are a lord, you might learn a lord’s courtesy,” the little man replied. (p. 283) – “Pokud jsi zde pánem, měl by ses naučit panské zdvořilosti,” odpověděl malý muž. (p. 166)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might learn*, simple aspect. In Czech translation, conditional mood is used to express modality.
162. “Down here, might be that’s true, Maester,” Yoren said. (p. 289) – “Tady dole je to možná pravda, mistře,” řekl Yoren. (p. 170)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
163. “He was purging Lord Arryn with wasting potions and pepper juice, and I feared he might kill him.” (p. 294) - “Pročišťoval lorda Arryna projímavými nápoji a paprikovou šťávou a já se obával, že by ho tím mohl zabít.” (p. 172)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might kill* simple active aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.
164. Lady Lysa would not permit the boy to enter the sickroom, for fear that he too

might be taken ill. (p. 294) Lady Lysa by chlapci nikdy nedovolila vstoupit do místnosti s nemocným, ze strachu, že by také mohl onemocnět. (p. 172)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be taken ill*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

165. “If there is any other service I might perform, you need only ask.” (p. 296) –
“Pokud je zde jiná služba, ve které bych ti mohl být nápomocen, stačí jen říct.” (p. 173)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might perform*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

166. He might raise castles like Brandon the Builder, or sail a ship across the Sunset Sea, or enter your mother’s Faith and become the High Septon. (p. 298) - Mohl by stavět hrady jako Brandon Stavitel nebo se plavit na lodi přes Moře zapadajícího slunce, nebo se dát na víru tvé matky a stát se nejvyšším septonem. (p. 174)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might raise*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

167. The question of who might win the tourney interested Eddard Stark not in the least. (p. 299) - Otázka, kdo by mohl vyhrát chystaný turnaj, Eddarda Starka nezajímala ani v nejmenším. (p. 175)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might win*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

168. I’m afraid of what might be waiting for me. (p. 310) - Bojím se, co by tam na mě mohlo čekat. (p. 182)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be waiting*, progressive aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

169. Whatever pride his lord father might have felt at Samwell's birth vanished as the boy grew up plump, soft, and awkward. (p. 311) - Jakoukoli pýchu jeho otec možná cítil při Samwellově narození, vytratila se, když z dítěte vyrostl otlýlý, útlocitný a neohrabaný chlapec. (p. 182)
- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have felt* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
170. Fat and awkward and frightened he might be, but Samwell Tarly was no fool. (p. 314) - Aťsi byl tlustý, neohrabaný a vystrašený, Samwell Tarly nebyl hloupý. (p. 184)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. A modal verb is in Czech translation omitted, and modality is expressed by particle *ať*.
171. The grey walls of Winterfell might still haunt his dreams, but Castle Black was his life now, and his brothers were Sam and Grenn and Halder and Pyp and the other cast-outs who wore the black of the Night's Watch. (pp. 314-315) - Šedé zdi Zimohradu ho možná stále strašily ve snech, ale jeho životem byl nyní Černý hrad a jeho bratry se stali Sam, Grenn, Halder, Pyp a ostatní vyvrženci, kteří nosili čern Noční hlídky. (p. 185)
- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might still haunt*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.
172. He had given no word as to when he might return. (p. 321) - Nezanechal po sobě žádný vzkaz ohledně toho, kdy se hodlá vrátit. (p. 188)
- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might return*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by the verb *hodlá*.
173. "The gods are doing their best to vex us. Lady Lysa, Maester Colemon, Lord Stannis... everyone who might actually know the truth of what happened to Jon Arryn is a thousand leagues away." (p. 321) – "Bohové se činí ze všech sil, aby nám náš úkol co nejvíc znesnadnili. Lady Lysa, mistr Colemon, lord Stannis... každý, kdo by mohl

znát pravdu o tom, co se stalo Jonu Arrynovi, je na tisíc lig daleko.” (p. 188)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might know*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

174. “It might make him more forthcoming.” (p. 321) - “Snad ho to učiní vstřícnějším.” (p. 188)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might make*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by adverbial *snad*.

175. He might have changed his views, to be sure. (p. 322) - Možná změnil názor. (p. 189)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have changed* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

176. “Is there any other service I might perform?” (p. 322) – “Je zde nějaká další služba, kterou bych pro tebe mohl vykonat, můj pane?” (p. 189)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might perform*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

177. He had no notion who the boy might be. (p. 325) - Neměl ponětí, o jakého chlapce by se mohlo jednat. (p. 191)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

178. If only her father had been stronger, she might have chanced it, but Hoster Tully had been bedridden these past two years, and Catelyn was loath to tax him now. (p. 332) - Kdyby jen její otec byl silnější, možná by se o to pokusila, ale Hoster Tully byl poslední dva roky upoután na lůžko a Catelyn nesnášela pomýšlení, že by ho měla

něčím obtěžovat. (p. 195)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have chanced* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

179. She might have the very proof that Ned needed to bring the Lannisters to ruin, and if it came to war, they would need the Arryns and the eastern lords who owed them service. (p. 322) - Možná má přesně ten důkaz, který Ned potřebuje, aby mohl Lannistry popohnat k zodpovědnosti a zničit je, a kdyby došlo k válce, potřebovali by Arryny a východní lordy, kteří jim byli povinováni věrností. (p. 195)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might have*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

180. “It might be safer if we were not knight and lady until we pass the Neck,” she told him. (p. 333) – “Možná by bylo bezpečnější, když nebudeme rytířem a lady, dokud nepřejedeme Šíji,” řekla mu. (p. 196)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might be*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

181. “I might have a copper or two, but I’d sooner toss it down a well than pay for your howling,” Ser Rodrik groused. (p. 335) – “Možná i mám měďák či dva, ale raději bych je hodil do studny než poslouchat to tvoje vytí,” zabručel ser Rodrik. (p. 198)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might have*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.

182. Sansa looked at him and trembled, afraid that he might ignore her or, worse, turn hateful again and send her weeping from the table. (p. 345) - Sansa na něj pohlédla a zachvěla se, plná obav, že ji bude ignorovat nebo, což by bylo ještě horší, že se k ní opět bude chovat nenávislně a pošle ji s pláčem pryč od stolu. (p. 204)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might ignore*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by future

tense- *bude ignorovat*.

183. She was wondering whether she might attempt a third when the king began to shout. (p. 347) - Začínala přemýšlet, zda by zvládla třetí, když tu se král dal do křiku. (p. 204)

- Epistemic modality, future tense deduced from the context expressed by verb phrase *might attempt*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by conditional mood.

184. The queen's face was a mask, so bloodless that it might have been sculpted from snow. (p. 347) - Královnin obličej byl maskou, tak bezkrevnou, že by mohla být vymodelována ze sněhu. (p. 205)

- Epistemic modality, *might* combined with past infinitive *have been* express possible action in the past, perfect aspect. A combination of the verb *moci* and conditional mood is used in Czech translation.

185. Other men might reconsider words spoken in drunken bravado, but Robert Baratheon would remember and, remembering, would never back down. (p. 354) - Ostatní muži možná zapomínali na věci vyřčené v opileckém chvástání, ale Robert Baratheon si je bude pamatovat, a když si je bude pamatovat, nikdy před tím, co řekl, necouvne. (p. 209)

- Epistemic modality, present tense expressed by verb phrase *might reconsider*, simple aspect. Modality is in Czech, expressed by modal particle *možná*.