2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 The Definitions of Modals

There are many definitions of modals which are proposed by grammarians, such as Biber and Lingga.

Biber states that modals are a type of auxiliary verb that is used to indicate modality that is likelihood, ability, permission, and obligation.

Examples:
1. I write (as auxiliary verb without modal auxiliaries).
2. I shall write (modal auxiliary for future tense).
3. I can write (modal auxiliary for ability).
4. He could have written (modal auxiliary for possibility).

Lingga (2002:174) states that there are nine modals. As their name suggests, they are largely concerned with expressing ‘modality’, such as possibility, necessity, prediction, and volition. The modals are: *can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, and should.*

Each modal in lower row is historically the past tense of will, can to could, shall to should, may to might but must has no matching historical past tense.

In practice the modals can be regarded as invariable functions words, with no inflections such as –ing and –ed. The modals will and would have contracted forms (‘ll and ‘ed), and most modals have a contracted negative form ending in n’t such wouldn’t. Modals occur as the first verb in a clause, and are followed by the base form of another verb, usually the main verb.
2.2 The Usage of Modals

Modals can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, and should have
same usage such as:

2.2.1 Uses of Modal Can

There are some uses of modal “can” namely such as:

1) To express ability

Examples:

1. An eagle can fly higher than other birds.

2. He can speak English.

3. The jug can contain three litres of milk.

2) To express permission

Examples:

1. Can I smoke here?

2. Can I borrow your books?

3. Can I talk to my friends in the library waiting room?

3) To express possibility

Examples:

1. Weather can be very bad here sometimes.

2. This news can’t be true.

3. A book of grammar can be interesting.

4) To express action

Examples:

1. I can’t see anyone on the road.
2. Can you hear the noise?

2.2.2 Uses of Modal Could

There are some uses of modal “could” namely such as:

1) To express ability

Examples:

1. I could always beat you at tennis when we were kids.
2. I could run fast when I was a child.
3. I tried but I couldn’t carry the luggage.

2) To express polite request in present/future.

Examples:

1. Could I borrow your pen?
2. Could you help me?
3. Could wait a moment, please?

3) To express permission

Examples:

1. Could I smoke here?
2. You could go now.
3. He asked if he could leave a little earlier.

4) To express possibility

Examples:

1. Don’t touch these wires. It could be dangerous.
2. One man couldn’t make so many mistakes.
3. This news couldn’t be true.
2.2.3 Uses of Modal May

There are some uses of modal “may” namely such as:

1) To express permission. It’s more polite than Can or Could.

Examples:
1.  May I come in?
2.  May we leave now?
3.  May I know your name?

2) To express possibility in present/past tense.

Examples:
1.  It **may rain** tonight.
2.  Be prepared. The enemy **may attack** any time.
3.  She **may be** at home.

3) To express wish and hope.

Examples:
1.  May God bless you!
2.  May you have a long and happy life!
3.  May God rest my soul!

4) To express purpose.

Examples:
1.  She worked hard so that she **may** pass.
2.  Your mother **may** allow you to come home a little late.
2.2.4 Uses of Modal Might

There are some uses of modal “might” namely such as:

1) To express permission in present

Examples:

1. The boss said that he **might not leave** yet.

2. Uncle said we **might take** his car for an outing.

2) To express polite request.

Examples:

1. **Might** I come with you?

2. **Might** I go now?

3. **Might** we stay a little longer?

3) To express possibility.

Examples:

1. He said that it **might** rain.

2. We though they **might** not come.

3. I though she **might** be at home.

4) To express wish and hope.

Example:

1. She wishes that she **might** get well soon.

2.2.5 Uses of Modal Must

There are some uses of modal “must” namely such as:

1) To express obligation

Examples:
1. A judge must be just.
2. We must obey the laws of our country.
3. Children must respect their teachers.

2) To express possibility or certainty.

Examples:

1. You must be hungry.
2. She must have finished her work by now.
3. He must be very fond of her.

3) To express advice.

Examples:

1. You must see the new film Brad Pitt.
2. You must study regularly.
3. Candidates must write on both sides of the answer books.

4) To express prohibition.

Examples:

1. You must not pluck flowers here.
2. Passengers must not carry pets.
3. Citizens must not throw rubbish on the streets.

2.2.6 Uses of Modal Will

There are some uses of modal “will” namely such as:

1) To express polite request

Examples:

1. Will you please shut the door?
2. **Will** you please help me?

3. **Will** you send me a list of your books?

2) To express promise

Examples:

1. I’**ll** get back to you first thing on Monday.

2. I **will** reward you for your faithfulness.

3. I **won’t** come late again, mother.

3) To express command

Examples:

1. All students **will** attend the morning prayer regularly.

2. Everybody **will** reach the parade ground at nine sharp.

4) To express invitation

Examples:

1. **Won’t** you step in?

2. **Won’t** you have some more tea?

2.2.7 **Uses of Modal Would**

There are some uses of modal “would” namely such as:

1) To express polite request

Examples:

1. **Would** you mind switching on the light?

2. **Would** you please close the window?

3. **Would** you open the door?

2) To express permission
Examples:

1. **Would** you like a drink?
2. **Would** you like to come with me?
3. **Would** you mind if I smoke?

3) To express action in past tense

Examples:

1. When we were young, grandfather **would** often tell us stone.
2. The old man **would** often invite his neighbours to take tea with him.
3. He **would** take a morning walk everyday.

4) To express wish and hope

Examples:

1. **Would** that I were rich.
2. **Would** that I were healthy.

5) To express statement that possible situation.

Examples:

1. Without him, life **would** not be so sweet.
2. If you could lend me the money, I **would** be very grateful.

### 2.2.8 Uses of Modal Shall

There are some uses of modal “shall” namely such as:

1) To express suggestion, advice and asking polite.

Examples:

1. **Shall** I help you to carry it?
2. **Shall** I meet you at 3.00?
3. **Shall** I close the door?

2) To express command, warning.

Examples:

1. No one **shall** leave this place, understand?
2. You **shall** stay here till I come back.
3. You **shall** fell sorry for your rudeness.

3) To express willingness.

Examples:

1. You **shall** have all comforts.
2. They **shall** get their prizes.

### 2.2.9 Uses of Modal Should

There are some uses of modal “should” namely such as:

1) To express obligation, action.

Examples:

1. We **should** be honest.
2. You **should** have done your duty.
3. You **shouldn’t** speak rudely to your parents.

2) To express advice

Examples:

1. You **should** plan the whole tour before starting.
2. You **shouldn’t** try to do too many things at the same time.
3. **Should** I join the army?

3) To express possibility.
Examples:

1. She **should** be in the library now.

2. Our new furniture **should** be ready by now.

3. If I **should** meet her, I shall recognize her at once.