

# **CONTENTS**

List of abbreviations ---- **9**

Acknowledgments ---- **10**

Preface ---- **12**

## **1. INTRODUCTION ---- 13**

### **1.1 Modality in language ---- 14**

    1.1.1 Modality in logic and formal semantics ---- **14**

    1.1.2 Modality in cognitive linguistics ---- **15**

    1.1.3 Modality from a cross-linguistic perspective and universal concepts ---- **16**

### **1.2 Zavadil's approach to modality ---- 17**

    1.2.1 Description of Zavadil's concept ---- **19**

    1.2.2 Verbal moods according to Zavadil ---- **20**

    1.2.3 Syntactic levels at which modality can be expressed ---- **22**

    1.2.4 Summary of Zavadil's approach to Spanish modality ---- **25**

### **1.3 Expressions of modality ---- 27**

    1.3.1 Suprasegmental features ---- **27**

    1.3.2 Morphological (morphosyntactic) features ---- **28**

    1.3.3 Lexical features ---- **28**

    1.3.4 Hypersyntactic and pragmatic features ---- **29**

### **1.4 Our approach to modality ---- 29**

    1.4.1 Theoretical basis ---- **29**

    1.4.2 Syntactic levels ---- **29**

    1.4.3 Expressions of modality ---- **30**

    1.4.4 Methodology ---- **30**

## **2. MODAL MEANING REAL → MODAL MEANING POTENTIAL ---- 33**

### **2.1 Scale of potentiality ---- 36**

#### **2.2 Criteria to find the position of an utterance on the axis ---- 36**

    2.2.1 Determination of *R* - the selection of lexical expression of reality ---- **37**

    2.2.2 Determination of *p* - the selection of lexical expression of potentiality ---- **38**

    2.2.3 Determination of *m* - mood selection after a lexical expression of MMP ---- **39**

2.3 Determination of <i>p</i> – analysis of concrete LPs ----	<b>41</b>
2.3.1 Adverbs expressing potentiality and non-personal expressions <i>parece que</i> , <i>puede ser que</i> , <i>es posible que</i> , <i>es probable que</i> ----	<b>41</b>
2.3.1.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>42</b>
2.3.1.1.1 <i>Quizá(s), tal vez, probablemente, posiblemente, acaso, seguramente,</i> <i>a lo mejor, parece que, puede ser que</i> ----	<b>42</b>
2.3.1.1.2 <i>Ser posible que, ser probable que</i> ----	<b>59</b>
2.3.2 Verbs expressing potentiality ----	<b>62</b>
2.3.2.1 LPs that allow the subjunctive in their affirmative form ----	<b>63</b>
2.3.2.1.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>64</b>
2.3.2.2 LPs that allow the subjunctive in their negative form ----	<b>72</b>
2.3.2.2.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>72</b>
2.3.2.2.1.1 <i>No estoy seguro/-a de que, no digo / estoy diciendo que, no creo que,</i> <i>no me parece que</i> ----	<b>82</b>
2.3.2.2.1.2 <i>(Yo) no sabía que</i> ----	<b>83</b>
2.3.2.2.1.3 <i>Dudo (de) que, no dudo (de) que</i> ----	<b>85</b>
2.4 Representations of utterances with the MMR and the MMP on the axis ----	<b>86</b>
2.5 Conclusion ----	<b>88</b>
<b>3. MODAL MEANING POTENTIAL → MODAL MEANING EVALUATIVE</b> ----	<b>91</b>
3.1 <i>Esperar</i> ----	<b>93</b>
3.1.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>94</b>
3.2 <i>Temer(se)</i> ----	<b>99</b>
3.2.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>100</b>
3.3 Conclusion ----	<b>102</b>
<b>4. MODAL MEANING EVALUATIVE → MODAL MEANING VOLITIVE</b> ----	<b>105</b>
4.1 LVs according to the level of <i>e</i> ----	<b>109</b>
4.2 Conclusion ----	<b>114</b>
<b>5. MODAL MEANING VOLITIVE → MODAL MEANING INTERROGATIVE</b> ----	<b>117</b>
5.1 Questions introduced by <i>poder</i> ----	<b>119</b>
5.1.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>120</b>
5.1.2 Corpus analysis n. 2 ----	<b>125</b>
5.2 Conclusion ----	<b>128</b>
<b>6. MODAL MEANING INTERROGATIVE → MODAL MEANING POTENTIAL</b> ----	<b>131</b>
6.1 Interrogative constructions with the probabilitive ----	<b>133</b>
6.1.1 Corpus analysis ----	<b>135</b>
6.2 Conclusion ----	<b>138</b>
<b>7. MODAL MEANING POTENTIAL → MODAL MEANING VOLITIVE</b> ----	<b>139</b>
7.1 Spanish modal verbs ----	<b>140</b>

7.2 Relationship between will and potentiality ---- **143**

7.3 Conclusion ---- **145**

**8. CONCLUSION ---- 147**

8.1 Combinations of MMs ---- **148**

  8.1.1 Scalar realization ---- **148**

  8.1.2 Confluence of MMs ---- **149**

  8.1.3 Blending of MMs in their basis ---- **150**

8.2 Summary ---- **150**

Bibliography ---- **152**

Appendix 1 ---- **156**

Appendix 2 ---- **159**