

berpantun, bersyair, and the marshall arts which are all learnt informally through apprenticeship and observing seasoned actors perform. It is, therefore, the actors who determine the terrain of performances through their improvisatory devices.

Such acting are, however, no longer in vogue, nevertheless, its influence was still visible in the stage, film and television acting up to the end of the 1960s.

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| 2. Nama Penulis: | Munir Shuib |
| Tajuk: | The use of central modals in research articles |
| Terjemahan: | Penggunaan modal-modal utama di dalam kertas kerja |
| Institusi diserahkan: | University of Sheffield, United Kingdom |
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| Jenis Ijazah: | Doktor Falsafah/Ph.D |
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The aim of this study is to compare how central modals are used in two subgenres of research articles: empirical and theoretical; and to provide a quantitative account of this usage. To achieve this objective, it investigates how the modals are distributed and what semantic and pragmatic functions they express within research articles in the journal *Applied Linguistics*. It also reviews how the research articles are constructed rhetorically and compares the distribution and the semantic and pragmatic functions of the central modals in each section of the two types of article.

The thesis consists of seven chapters. Chapter 1 outlines the motivation of the study and summarises the results obtained. Chapter 2 contains a review of the pertinent literature encompassing, firstly, previous work on the formal and semantic aspects of modals and, secondly, studies on the use of modals in various varieties of written English including academic research writing. Chapter 3 describes the

data and methodology employed in the study. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 describe the results of the study. Chapter 4 deals with the frequency of the modals examined both in the articles as a whole and in each individual section, chapter 5 deals with the various meanings of the modals, and chapter 6 deals with the hedging system of the modals. Chapter 7 brings together the results obtained, analyses them, and considers them in the light of existing research. This chapter ends with some concluding remarks and recommendations for future research.

The results of the study reveal that there are significant differences in the use of modals between the theoretical and empirical research articles as well as among the various sections in both types of article. Differences in the use of modals between the articles in the present study and those in previous studies are also noted. The principal contribution of the study is to demonstrate that the variations in the use of modals are related not only to fields of study, but also to types of research article in which they occur.

Objektif tesis ini ialah untuk membandingkan dan menyediakanuraian kuantitatif modal-modal utama di dalam dua jenis kertas kerja: empiris dan teoritis. Objektif ini dicapai menerusi penyelidikan terhadap distribusi modal utama dan fungsi semantik serta pragmatik modal-modal berkenaan di dalam kertas kerja-kertas kerja yang diterbitkan di dalam jurnal Applied Linguistics. Selanjutnya, untuk memenuhi tujuan yang sama, di samping meninjau cara bagaimana setiap kertas kerja berkenaan dibina secara retorik, tesis ini juga akan membandingkan distribusi dan fungsi semantik serta pragmatik modal-modal utama di dalam setiap bahagian kedua-dua jenis kertas kerja yang dimaksudkan.

Tesis ini mengandungi tujuh bab. Bab pertama memberi garis kasar tujuan tesis dan memberi ringkasan penemuan penyelidikannya. Bab kedua mengandungi ulasan latar bacaan yang merangkumi, pertama, kajian lalu yang membincangkan aspek formal dan semantik modal-modal utama, dan kedua, kajian lalu berkaitan penggunaan modal-modal berkenaan di dalam pelbagai jenis penulisan berbahasa Inggeris, termasuk penulisan kajian yang berbentuk ilmiah. Bab ketiga membincangkan data dan metodologi penyelidikan. Bab keempat,