

Abstract

This MA thesis explores the English modal verbs *ought to*, *had better*, and *be supposed to*, focusing on their deontic meaning of weak obligation. The primary objective is to identify and analyze the most frequent Czech translation counterparts of these selected verbs.

The theoretical chapter introduces the category of modality, detailing the formal properties of modal verbs and explaining the concept of weak obligation. It also provides a detailed overview of the selected modals and their specific features. Additionally, the chapter outlines the approaches to modality in Czech, highlighting the typical methods of expressing weak obligation. The method used in the empirical part of the present thesis is corpus-based research. The analysis is based on 210 authentic Czech translations of the English modals *ought to*, *had better*, and *be supposed to*, extracted from the parallel corpus *InterCorp*.

The study examines these modals from three perspectives: the types of sentences in which they occur, the source of obligation they convey, and the most common methods used to translate them into Czech.