

# Linguistic Modalities in Editorials on National Dailies

**EDUARDO C. MIRA**

Jose Rizal Memorial State University – Dipolog Campus  
Zamboanga del Norte, Region IX

*Abstract* — This study aimed to look into the modals and phrasal modal counterparts employed in selected editorials of national dailies on the last quarter of 2015 (October to December) and on the first quarter of 2016 (January to March). The English modals and phrasal modals contained in editorial articles and their sorts when studied in form, meaning, and use were used in this study to conduct qualitative-quantitative research through contextual analysis and interpretation. This study analyzed fifty-seven (57) editorials from the three national dailies, namely, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, and Manila Bulletin. The study results showed that among the six (6) kinds of editorials, the editorial of argumentation registered the highest number of modals. Editorials with information and interpretation followed this. Further, the modal will was the most frequently used among the nine common modals, followed by can, would, and must.

Furthermore, compared to the historical past form, it was found out that historical non-past modals and phrasal modals had the highest number of occurrences. On the other hand, the national dailies used factual or predictive auxiliary modals like a will, can, should, would, and other types of modals. In editorial writing, it was also discovered that modals were preferred over phrasal modals. As a result, editorial writers can choose modals and phrasal modals in journalistic writing style with care and intention to suit the readers' needs.

*Keywords* — *modals, phrasal modals, factual or predictive, contextual analysis*

## Introduction

As a result of the rapid growth of technology, the majority of the public updates from social networking have become patrons, as one receives information instantly. The newspaper is one of the forms of mass media that has long been a part of people's daily lives. People read newspapers to keep up with current events both at home and abroad. It is one of the most powerful knowledge and information sources available. It collects information from all over the world and keeps you up to date with the latest headlines.

Writing editorials includes comprehensive critique and editing to a considerable extent; it expresses the viewpoint of the entire team and persuades readers of how specific issues affect them. When employing modals, each word in an editorial conveys meanings and interpretations. But, for example, "Are writers or editors using modals properly or are they abusing them?" In

composing essays, speeches, and reports, modal auxiliaries are frequently employed. The majority of these will help you understand how to use it better. There is a need to check if multiple modals are being used correctly in form, meaning, and use.

The editorial page is another essential portion of the newspaper. It is a page authored by the newspaper's top editors that express the paper's viewpoint on issues of national importance. This area is an important aspect of human life since it illuminates life by taking a stand on national issues that influence society.

The newspaper's soul expresses the most potent convictions or beliefs in various domains such as politics, economy, environment, sports, business, science, inventions, stock market, technology, education, film industry, achievements, and so on. The entire editorial board of the newspaper keeps individuals informed about their rights and any other relevant information.

Although understanding the forms and motivations of modal constructions is empowering for students and even professionals both in exploring the chosen text in a given language situation and then thinking about making a verdict in their writing, it is one of the most challenging concepts to teach as a researcher.

Because this research focuses on three national daily newspapers: The Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, and The Manila Bulletin, the most pressing problem is how grammar plays a dynamic role in determining suitability and meaning. Furthermore, this research aids in determining the amount to which expression is provided in an editorial setting.

This study is primarily anchored on Theory of Grammar by Michael Halliday (2002), which states that four fundamental categories like unit, structure, class, and system are of the highest order of abstraction, which is necessary to make possible a coherent account of what grammar is and of its language."

Referencing Halliday's main roles for language to accomplish, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual, the study's focus, modality, acts within the language's interpersonal function. It's the role we play in representing ourselves to others (Halliday, 2002).

Thus, as a realizer of the interpersonal function of language, modality may be used as a linguistic tool to direct and control people's behavior in line with this definition, considering the text as pieces of discourse representing values embedded in ideology, attitudes, or power relations outside of the text (Sulkunen and Torronen, 1997).

## **Literature Review**

Modality can be both epistemic and deontic (Palmer, 2003). Epistemic modality indicates how speakers or writers judge the truth of the propositions they utter/write. In other words,

language users use epistemic modality to make judgments about the possibility or necessity of an entire proposal (Palmer, 2003).

On the other hand, deontic modality is concerned with the criterion by which speakers/writers decide which future events are necessary, possible, desirable, and others. It is the "expression of the judgment of possibility including permissibility or necessity including obligation of an action, state, or event by a speaker in which control of the action, state, or event is external to the subject of the clause. In general, deontic modality is "dependent on some kind of authority, often the speaker." In other words, the ability of an event to occur comes from the permission granted by the speaker or some other authority as opposed to the subject (Palmer, 2007).

In applying different expressions, must and have to are called "strong" necessity modals. They are distinguished from their weak counterparts ought to and should (Rubinstein, 2012). Aside from must and have to, there are various terms for need and obligation, including need, necessary, ought, and should.

Forming the interrogative through inversion rather than using the auxiliary verb do like so Can I? rather than Do I can? while in forming the negative, the modal rather than using the auxiliary verb do for example, You must not and not You don't must. The selection of verbs in the first question shows that the distinction between ought to and should, and must and have to, respectively, is the crucial point in teaching the modals. This also indicates that the students in question have a good command of the English language.

As for the newspaper editorials, the finding of Qun's (2010) study also indicated that should and could were the prominent modals in editorials. A possible reason for this preference was that most editorials tried to comment on events that have already happened. Thus the past tense was preferred. On the other hand, though editorial writers tried to show their position unambiguously, they did not intend to offend readers. Thus, they preferred mitigating modals could and might.

The three dimensions of grammar, form, use, and meaning, are all present in the modality of editorials. The formation of patterns in some structures is referred to as form. Meaning is related to what some structures mean, while use is regarding with when and why some particular structures, and used related with social context (Murcia as cited by Frodesen 2006).

In the book Grammar Dimension by Frodesen (2006), form is a structure that contains lexical and phonological forms that tell us how a particular grammar structure is constructed and how it is sequenced with other structures in a sentence or text. If the teacher decided that the challenge of a particular structure lies in the semantic dimension, then a different sort of practice should be actively planned. It reflects that to get used to the meaning, and there is a need to take closely how these forms are being used and how they are handled in understanding modality.

Furthermore, Veltman (2012) disclosed in his book Logic, Language, and Meaning that modals may, might, and might have been natural language. Drawing a pie chart with three wedges

can help you visualize the concept that grammatical structures have forms, meanings, and uses. One is for form, which is concerned with accuracy; another is for meaning, which is concerned with meaningfulness; and yet another is for use, which is concerned with appropriateness. They should be taught since they were learned differently.

## **Methodology**

To investigate the modes in editorials in national daily newspapers, this study used both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The researcher acquired material and used a grammar technique to analyze, interpret, and critically evaluate the examined aspects by doing library and internet searches based on M. K. Halliday's Theory of Grammar and F. R. Palmer's Study of Mood and Modality.

As the first modality analysis of select editorial articles from three national daily, this study extensively studied and interpreted selected editorial articles in terms of the use of modals and phrasal modals and the types of modals. It focused on the October to December 2015 and January to March 2016 issues of Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star, and the Manila Bulletin. The researcher chose each daily newspaper's editorial items. There were 57 editorials in total that were examined. Because the study simply required data-mining all editorial articles published in national dailies during the inquiry period, the research itself was the lone respondent in this study.

## **Results and Discussion**

Shown in Table 1 are the kinds of editorial by circulation taken from the three national dailies, namely, the Editorial of Argumentation registered the highest number of editorials with eighteen (18) articles. Eight articles were from Daily A, six were from Daily B, and four were from Daily C. Next was the editorial of information with seventeen (17) articles. Five articles were from Daily A, three were from Daily B, and nine were from Daily C.

The editorial of interpretation came in third with the most articles. Eleven (11) articles were published. Daily A and B contributed four pieces, while Daily C contributed three. With eight (8) articles published, the Editorial of Persuasion came in fourth place. Daily A had one article, Daily B had five articles, and Daily C had two pieces. The Editorial of Commendation followed this with two (2) published articles. Out of 57 articles, Dailies A and B published no article in an editorial of special occasion. Daily C, on the other hand, published one. The Editorial of Argumentation received the most attention, while the Editorial of Special Occasion received the least attention, with only one item.

**Table 1. Kinds of Editorials by Circulation**

Kinds of Editorials	Coding of National Dailies			
	A	B	C	TOTAL
Interpretation	4	4	3	11
Information	5	3	9	17
Argumentation	8	6	4	18
Commendation	1	1	0	2
Persuasion	1	5	2	8
Special Occasion	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>

*A – Philippine Daily Inquirer      B – Philippine Star      C – Manila Bulletin*

Table 2 shows the modals employed in selected editorial on national dailies in the last quarter of 2015 (October to December) and in the first quarter of 2016 (January to March). The modals, may, might, must, shall, should, can, could, will, and would were used in the different editorials: interpretation, information, argumentation, commendation, persuasion, and special occasion.

There were fifty-eight (58) modals employed in the interpretation editorial, putting it in third place among the types of editorial. In general, the modal can have the most occurrences in the editorial of interpretation across newspapers, followed by will, and shall have the least instances. Then, Daily A registered the most numbered modals with twenty-five (25) occurrences, while Dailies B and C had twenty-three (23) and ten (10) occurrences, respectively.

On the other hand, Editorial of Information, which gave information about a certain subject solely, was the second most popular modal. Ninety-three (93) times it was incurred. In addition, the modal will was largely used in a few editorial writings.

Editorial of Argumentation was the type of editorial with the most numbered modals, with 134 instances. The majority of the articles gave compelling arguments to persuade the reader to support the newspaper's editors and their values.

Out of 136 used modals, will topped the list with twenty-six (26) occurrences. There were 19 from Daily A, 5 from Daily C, and 2 from Daily B. Can ranked second with twenty-five (25) occurrences, 19 were from Daily A and 3 were from Daily B. Each editorial article focused on the ability, attitude, probability, duty, obligation, showing disapproval, necessity, strong determination, and logical deduction.

Based on that account, modal will had the most numbered occurrences with twenty-six while modal shall was the least used. Moreover, this modal was not employed in the editorial of argumentation. Then, Daily A ranked first in the use of the modal with seventy-seven (77) occurrences in these kinds of editorial followed by Dailies B and C with forty (40) and seventeen (17) times, respectively.

On the other hand, the editorial of commendation registered nine (9) modals, indicating that it is infrequently used based on selected editorial articles. In addition, the three Dailies were essentially divided into issues that were contentious and contested. In contrast to this editorial, this usually focuses on compliments as a homage to accomplishments and successes. Editorial of Special Occasion was ranked lowest as to the number of occurrences from the studied editorials with seven (7) modals. The results showed that the dailies were not focused on writing special events like "Heroes Day," "Independence Day," "Valentine's Day," and the like.

Among the modals across the kinds of editorials, it was modal will which was found to be the most commonly used among the identified nine (9) modals with eighty (80) occurrences or 24.32 percent. Of the expressions, most of the excerpted lines used will to express determination, intention, promise, or certainty from the three national dailies. This modal was used 45 times in Daily C, 7 times in Daily B, and 28 times in Daily A. Second commonly used was the modal can that expressed ability, permission, and degree of probability with 69 occurrences or 20.97 percent. With those numbers of occurrences, 33 of which were from Daily B, 30 were in Daily A, and 6 were in Daily C. On the other hand, the historical past form modal would ranked third in use with forty-five (45) occurrences or 13.68 percent comprising 33 from A, 8 from B, and 4 from C. Modals might and shall were in the least used modals with three and one occurrences both from Dailies A. B. Daily C did not use the two modals at all.

**Table 2. Modals employed in editorials on national dailies**

Modals	Modals employed in editorials on the national dailies in the last quarter of 2015 and in the first quarter of 2016																		
	Interpretation			Information			Argumentation			Commendation			Persuasion			Special Occasion			Total
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
<b>will</b>	5	3	5	2	1	32	19	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	<b>80</b>
<b>can</b>	8	9	1	9	7	2	13	9	3	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	<b>69</b>
<b>would</b>	5	2	0	6	0	2	19	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	<b>45</b>
<b>should</b>	0	3	3	3	1	2	12	3	2	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	<b>37</b>
<b>must</b>	2	4	0	1	2	0	2	14	1	1	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	1	<b>37</b>
<b>may</b>	1	2	1	2	0	11	2	3	5	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	<b>34</b>
<b>could</b>	3	0	0	1	3	5	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
<b>might</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>shall</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>329</b>

## Will

### In Terms of Form

With 80 instances in the dailies evaluated in the study, *will* had the highest number of modals. *Will* was utilized as the principal manifestation in each speech as articulated in the historical non-past form by the writers of the editorial articles.

However, *will not* is in the negative form that conveys different meaning (1) while the rest were mainly utilized in a positive form as the contraction is discouraged in formal writing (Silk, 2016). This is evident in the editorial of C dated November 22, 2015 issue that follows:

(1) “*We hope the mercy and compassion now being shown to the thousands of refugees in Europe will not be set back by the terrorist attacks in Paris.*”

### In Terms of Meaning

The modal *will* has been a very active and overused modal in essays, letters, articles, and other types of writing. It is constantly there, especially when a futuristic feat or action is involved. This modal is used by writers for a variety of purposes.

*Will* is used to express determination like following excerpted lines taken from the (C, October 25, 2015) issue. The modal *will* is grammatically distinctive in the examples below:

(2) “*The journey will continue.*”

(3) “*On December 8, Pope Francis will launch the year-long “Jubilee of Mercy”.*”

These sentences show strong impact in doing something, although there were some utterances that this modal connotes promises and intention as well; for example:

(4) “*In other words, the political class will make sure that 2016 will continue to be a year of high political toxicity.*” (A, January 01, 2016)

(5) “*And those violators will be punished with one to six years in jail, the loss of voting rights, and removal from office.*” (A, February 28, 2016).

Since the Extract 3 tackled the theme of "Hopeful about 2016" and "Election eyesore," there were great manifestations that the thought implied promises and intention gearing to have a good outcome shortly that is why *will* gives more emphasis regardless of their kinds of editorials.

### In Terms of Usage

There are numerous lexical categories and grammatical expressions that can be combined with this modal to make each speech more strong and significant. In a statement like this, the modal behaves like a regular verb:

(10) *“He should move to implement better systems and procedures that will reduce opportunities for graft” (B, December 20, 2015)*

(11) *There are bills on these pending in Congress and there is still time to act on them if the legislators will it. (C, October 18, 2015).*

(12) *But in the precinct itself, the voter will see his vote recorded and that is something we never had in 2010 and in 2013.” (C, March 22, 2016).*

(13) *In a little more than a month, the Christian world will be celebrating the birth of Christ, the young refugee of long ago from Herod’s terrorism. (C, November 22, 2015).*

(14) *There is indeed great need for an emergency program for the OFWs who will soon be returning in great numbers from the Middle East,” (C, February 20, 2016)*

(15) *There is a need for common forums where they will have equal opportunities to present themselves, their opinions, and their programs of government if elected. (C, February 11, 2016)*

Extract 10 showed that the modal *will* is part of the dependent clause because it begins with a subordinating conjunction *that* and it cannot stand alone, but the idea shows determination. However, Extract 11 indicated conditional clause wherein the modal *will* is found in the subordinating clause from the conjunction *if* and the meaning of the sentence using *will* changed.

## **Can**

### **In Terms of Form**

*Can* ranked second most numbered modals with sixty-nine (69) occurrences from the 329 modals present in editorial articles. This modal denotes various reasons expressing in historical non-past form (present tense). However, there were some sentences that a writer used a negative form cannot (formal writing) that manifested different meanings in the whole concept of the article like for examples in the following lines:

(16) *“Remarriage for many of these couple poses problems for the church as they cannot be officially welcomed” (C, October 25, 2015)*

(17) *“The actions of two individuals cannot be blamed on an entire class or group. (C, December 13, 2015).*



These two utterances (16 and 17) had either negative or positive impacts in the context of the article. On the other hand, *can* is basically employed in a non-past form of happening (18).

(18) *Modern-play peoples can do worse than to learn how the societies of old understood that a better life depended on living in sync with the planet instead of leeching it dry.” (A, November 15, 2015)*

### **In Terms of Meaning**

One of the most common modals in editorial articles is *can*. The authors use the word *can* to suggest that certain words convey capacity, condition, or authorization. Furthermore, most of the statements are more forceful in terms of a person's, place's, or situation's ability to act with a goal.

Most of the utterances showed the ability which the subject will take action on it and *can* is more appropriate to be employed than the other modals.

(19) *“Some protection program can mean better infant and maternal nutrition. (B, October 18, 2015)*

(20) *“The government can do more to bring down the level of election violence, which gives Philippine democracy a bad name. (B, February 24, 2016).*

Extracts 19 and 20, although possess different themes, indicate that the two subjects (program and government) will render their respective responsibilities; hence, they must act upon.

On the other hand, although *can* is usually employed as ability but this modal (21 and 22) manifested condition and a degree of opportunity as part of the whole sentence based on the given theme.

(21) *“If detected early, dengue can be fought; medical attention can lower the mortality rate from over 20 percent to under 1 percent,” (A, December 27, 2015)*

(22) *If those summoned ignore the chance to explain their side, they can still be indicted in court.” (Philippine Star, January 26, 2016). In other side, “Can a leopard change its sports?” (A, March 22, 2016)*

### **In Terms of Usage**

The writers employed *can* in various language applications to indeed persuade the readers of the context's meaning. Lines 23 and 24 exhibited active form, where the subject is the doer of the action and can be a part of it, which had a big influence on the readers. However, line 24 demonstrated passivity, where the subject is the receiver of the action, as shown below:

(23) “Harassment of voters and election officers can involve violence including assassination, which is the worst form of undermining a free vote” (B, February 24, 2016)

(24) Users can replenish the saltwater solution by dissolving two tablespoons of salt in a glass of water.” (Philippine Daily Inquirer, November 22, 2015)

(25) Arrest warrants can be issued and they can be tried in absentia.” (B, January 26, 2016)

*Can*, as part of the adjective clause, describes a noun or a pronoun because it adds more forceful meaning and interpretation in the whole idea of the article. As a noun clause that begins with a relative pronoun as seen from lines 26 and 27 that may be found in the usual position of nouns in a sentence, negative form *cannot* was part of it as reflected in Extract 28.

(26) “Pope Francis has once more appealed for the refugees of the world today and all people of goodwill to join in hoping that the leaders of nations which can provide them refuge will heed Pope Francis’ call.” (C, November 22, 2015)

(27) “This is one campaign that can work and deserves widespread support.” (B, February 11, 2016)

(28) “What we cannot understand is how, when the controversial VFA was drafted.” (A, December 06, 2015)

Moreover, *can* was also utilized in *if-clause* as part of the sentence (29) because if the thought gave conditional statement, the independent clause with the modal *can* gave more emphatic denotation.

(29) ” If those summoned ignore the chance to explain their side, they can still be indicted in court.” (B, January 26, 2016)

## **Would**

### **In Terms of Form**

The historical past form modal was the third most popular modal and one of the most extensively used modals, appearing in editorials, essays, short tales, and letters alike. For example, consider the following excerpts:

(30) “It would find fertile ground in some areas and among some groups in Mindanao,” (C, March 07, 2016)

(31) “The project would use land owned by the National Kidney and Transplant institute. (B, November 22, 2015)

Extracts 30 and 31 used *would* to express habitual action in the past indicating that the event or the thought took place already.

### In Terms of Meaning

*Would*, the past form of the modal *will*, is widely used in writing various genres. Like in editorials, the writers usually utilized *will* to show in an unreal condition after a conditional clause, determination, wish or desire, and to show simple conditional. From those editorials, expressions ‘to show determination and to show simple condition’ are extensively used (Ananca & Redoblado, 2015) like in Extracts 32 and 33.

(32) “They would see all the endemics in one day. (A, October 11, 2015)

(33) “The report described how the children suffered from “moments of fear” that they would drown. (A, October 4, 2015).

However, Extracts 34 and 35 used *would* as to give condition of circumstances to the direct subject.

(34) “If social media were a mosquito-borne virus, it would truly be Dengue Philippines.” (A, December 27, 2015)

On the other hand, *would* also utilize as wish or desire as the subject had the aspiration of doing something (36).

(35) “He would have been saved from execution if his family had been able to raise the P50 – million “blood money” for the victim’s family.” (C January 05, 2016).

(36) “We would like to hear both the senators asking the questions and the members of the executive branch in attendance express real concern for the communities adversely affected by the incident. (A, January 27, 2016)

### In Terms of Usage

Like any other modals, *would* can be used in any form of syntax position as writers have different style of conveying the readers as long as it is relevant to the editorial theme.

(37) “He would make the passage of the FOI bill a priority,” (A, March 22, 2016)

(38) “The WFP estimates that the ranks of the world’s hungry could be reduced by up to 150 million if women farmers would have the same access to resources as men. (B, October 18, 2015).

Extract 37 used *would* as part of the natural order or in an active voice where the subject is the doer of the action while Extract 38 was in the if-clause giving alternative meaning of the context.

In addition, Extract 39 used modal *would* as part of the adjective clause; thus, there was a great appearance that an independent clause would be accompanied with a dependent using adjective clause.

(39) “*Megawide secured loans from three government banks earlier this year to finance the PPP project, which would give it a 25-year concession to run the renovated hospital.* (B, November 22, 2015)

(40) “*The National Housing Authority had promised that new homes for Alaga and others would be completed by Oct. 15.*” (A, November 08, 2015)

Extract 40 was structured as a compound sentence that contains two independent clauses. There is a great impact of this modal because the meaning of the sentence is greatly changed from the meaning and usage.

## ***Must***

### **In Terms of Form**

Out of the 57 editorial articles, some editors focused on specific concerns, using appropriate modals to gauge reader satisfaction. Through this, 37 modal *must*, which is placed fourth among the most numbered modals, conveys moral obligations (good or wrong) and absolute determination, all of which are articulated in the non-past tense, as in Extracts 41 but in 42, there is a resiliency of doing actions that has to be acted upon. Such as used below:

(41) “*The government must also deal better with airport congestion, which continues to delay flights and adds to the costs of airline operators.* (B, October 15, 2015).

(42) “*Every effort must be made to ensure that the worst fears do not materialize.*” (B, February 24, 2016)

However, Extract 43 used *must* in a negative form giving much more stress in the context of each statement.

(43) “*That lesson must not be wasted.*” (B, November 08, 2015)

### In Terms of Meaning

To make each speech more persuasive and substantial, the modal *must* convey a strong responsibility that must be shadowed in order to give good convictions beyond the context of the topic.

Like in Extracts 44 and 45, *must* is utilized as a mixed duty and obligation whether it brings assertion or disavowal.

(44) *“Bust as the HRW report proves, the government must do more because whatever its not got going simply isn’t enough,” (A, October 4, 2015)*

(45) *“The government must provide jobs for able-bodied parents so they do not send their children to a slow death, as well as education for the young, so that they may give themselves a chance for a bright, horror-free future.” (Philippine Daily Inquirer, October 4, 2015)*

### In Terms of Usage

To be more emphatic, there are selected utterances that the modal *must* can be found in various grammatical expressions.

(46) *“So authorities must apprehend the suspects.”(B, January 26, 2016) and “If the government wants to encourage more PPP projects, it must measure investors that the hospital deal is the exception rather than the rule in doing business in this country. (Philippine Star, November 22, 2015)*

(47) *“Every effort must be made to ensure that the worst fears do not materialize.”(Philippine Star, February 24, 2016)*

Extract 46 used *must* as part in an active form which the subject is the doer of the action; thus, the modal *must* serves as a helping verb adds strongest meaning in each statement.

**Table 3. Phrasal modals employed in editorials on national dailies**

Phrasal Modals	Phrasal modals employed in editorials on the national dailies in the last quarter of 2015 and in the first quarter of 2016																		
	Interpretation			Information			Argumentation			Commendation			Persuasion			Special Occasion			Total
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
have to	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
need to	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
used to	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
had to	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
are supposed to	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
has to	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
are going to	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>

### *Have to*

#### **In Terms of Form**

*Have to* registered five occurrences topping the list among the seven phrasal modals. This modal is used to express in the non-past form similar to the modal *should* and *might* depends on understanding of each context.

#### **In Terms of Meaning**

Some statements used *have to* to show clarity and precision. These are shown in Extracts 48 and 49 below:

(48) “People have to be educated on the necessity of clean surroundings, with no stagnant water in which the deadly mosquitoes can breed.” (A, December 27, 2015)

(49) “They can be amusing in the beginning, but soon enough – once the taps run dry, as they inevitably will – what’s left is a foul mess that other people have to clean up while the protagonists swagger away.” (A, December 20, 2015)

This phrasal modal is also used to show necessity (50) which it denotes strong obligation to do such things while Extract 51 expressed possibility or a certain event might happen (Hernandez, 2007). These are found below:

(50) “People have to be educated on the necessity of clean surroundings, with no stagnant water in which the deadly mosquitoes can breed,” (A, December 27, 2015)

(51) “The traditional reunions will just *have to be cut* this year- perhaps with greater emphasis on the religious observance of all Saint’s Day.” (C, November 01, 2015)

### **In Terms of Usage**

*Have to* has different functions when it comes to grammatical expressions as it denotes varied meanings and interpretations like its partners, *should* and *might*. Some of which that corresponds the ‘*be*’ form will serve as one grammatical unit.

Extract 50 used *have to* right after the subject and usually followed by ‘*be*’ and past participle acted as one grammatical unit while the number 51 implied futuristic action placing it before the modal *will*.

### **Need to / Needed to in Terms of Form**

This phrasal modal is somewhat equivalent to ‘*shall*’ or ‘*should*’ expressing both in historical past and in non-past form.

### **In Terms of Meaning**

*Need to*, registering three occurrences, implied non-past form opposite from the phrasal modal *needed to* which means necessity. Extracts 52 and 53 illustrate this:

(52) “But the anode *needs to be replaced* every six months.” (A, November 22, 2015)

(53) “In fact, she and brother Ralph had to crowd source the funds *needed to meet* their goal of providing salt lamps to the Hanunuo Mangyan tribe of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.” (A, November 22, 2015)

This phrasal modal is one of the important verb phrases that accentuate meaningful manifestation in writing editorial. Similar to the modal ‘*Shall*’ or ‘*Should*,’ ‘*Need to*’ is used to show possibility, advice, necessity, duty, obligation, command, or intention. Extract 52 shows advice that there is a need to be done like while the number 53, the excerpted line expressed both obligation and necessity. Meanwhile, *need to* can also indicate duty (54) making the whole context more forceful.

(54) “Filipinos *need to prepare* for what comes next and to work to reverse the effects of climate change. (A, November 29, 2015)

### **In Terms of Usage**

This phrasal modal mainly acts as a verb phrase that shows action in each sentence (52, 53, and 54). These three sentences followed a base form of the verb.

#### *Had to*

### **In Terms of Form**

The phrasal modal *had to* with two happenings was formed equivalent to ‘*Should*’ to ensure that a verb in the base form follows it expressing in the past tense.

### **In Terms of Meaning**

*Had to*, similar to ‘*Should*,’ shows advice, necessity, duty, obligation, and intention. But Extract 93 showed advice while the other one expressed obligation (54).

(55) “Residents of a Kalinga village had to shell out P40 every two days for kerosene.” (A, November 22, 2015)

(56) “*In fact, she and brother Ralph had to crowd source the funds needed to meet their goal of providing salt lamps to the Hanunuo Mangyan tribe of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.*” (A, November 22, 2015)

### **In Terms of Usage**

Extract 53 used *had to* as a simple predicate that tells something about the subject.

#### *Used to*

### **In Terms of Form**

*Used to*, literally, had two occurrence which were used to express a past form. Example of this is found in Extract 57.

(57) “*Birders used to be rewarded with sighting of the wonderful creatures that made their home in Bislig- blue fantails, writhed hornbills, fowls-fronted tailorbirds, brown tit-babblers and leafbirds.*” (A, October 11, 2015)



### In Terms of Meaning

This phrasal modal indicates less forceful compared to other phrasal modals in expressing thoughts. This is shown in Extract 57.

### In Terms of Usage

However, *used to* is used to simply tell what the subject is doing; thus, there is a significance in every utterance as shown in Extract 57, while in Extract 58, *used to* can be used within the subject after the WH-question like below:

(58) “What used to be considered extreme weather has become the new normal.”(Philippine Star, November 15, 2015)

complete subject

### *Are supposed to*

### In Terms of Form

There is only one sentence with a phrasal modal that is supposed to be found in the editorial. In this formation, are supposed to from the phrasal modal 'be supposed to' expressed in the non-past habitual action.

(59) “The dead are supposed to rest in peace.”(B, November 01, 2015)

### In Terms of Meaning

This sentence *is supposed to* indicate expectations about the scheduled event.

### In Terms of Usage

This phrasal modal simply acts as a verb (one grammatical unit).

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The researchers concluded from the study's findings that media practitioners use a variety of English modals and phrasal modals, as evidenced by chosen editorials in a national daily. Furthermore, modals and phrasal modals can be used in a variety of editorials. In terms of form and use, modals and phrasal modals are used correctly and appropriately; nonetheless, their meaning varies depending on editorial issues. In writing editorials, on the other hand, modals are favored over phrasal modals. Furthermore, editorials are written with a variety of terms and

discoursal functions and the right language modality to make the text more interesting, suggestive, and meaningful. The following recommendations are made after a thorough assessment of the findings and conclusions: editorial writers may carefully and purposefully choose modals and phrasal modals in the journalistic writing style. Phrasal modals can be thoroughly investigated in terms of form, meaning and use as modal substitutes to avoid the recurrence of language modalities.

## References

- Ananca, A. and Redoblado, S. V. (2015). *Exploring Literature and Grammar*. Quezon City: Brilliant Creations Publishing, Inc.
- Frodesen, J. (2005). *Grammar Dimensions: Form, Meaning, and Use*.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (2002). *Modes of Meanings and Modes of Expression. Types of Grammatical Structure and Their Determination by Different Semantic Functions (1979)*. In J. Webster (ed.), *On Grammar*. London: Continuum
- Murcia, M. C. (2002). *Teaching as a Second or Foreign Language*.
- Palmer, F. R. (2007). *Mood and Modality*. Beijing: World Book Publishing Company.
- Palmer, F. R. (2003). *Modality in English*. In: The Facchinetti, R., M. Krug, and F. R. Palmer (Eds.), *Modality in Contemporary English*. Berlin. Mouton de Gruyter.
- Qun, Z. (2010). *Modality and generic features in Chinese EFL Writing*. *Chinese Journal of Applied Linguistics*.
- Rubinstein, A. (2012). *Roots of Modality*. USA: University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Sulkunen, P. and Torronen, J (1997). *The Production of Values: The Concept of Modality in Textual Discourse Analysis*.
- Veltman, F. (2012), *Logic, Language, and Meaning*. University of Amsterdam.