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## The Modal Auxiliaries of Obligation in *Pride and Prejudice*

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Haruka Yamauchi

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In this study, I considered the use of modal auxiliaries of obligation in *Pride and Prejudice*. The modal auxiliaries serve functions of adding various meanings, so that when they are used, the user's thoughts or feelings are reflected in that use. Thus, one of the aims of this thesis is to examine the relationship between the obligatory meanings or usages of modal auxiliaries and the situations in which they occur in *Pride and Prejudice*, and the other aim of this thesis is to consider how the modal auxiliaries of obligation are employed by the main characters.

In Chapter I, I defined the meanings of modal auxiliaries as well as discussing the preceding studies about the modal auxiliaries of obligation in Jane Austen's works. I adopted Coates's (1983) classification and decided to focus on *must*, *should*, and *ought* as the modal auxiliaries of obligation in this thesis. In addition, the preceding studies suggested that the uses of the modal auxiliaries in the novel should be connected with specific situations or with characters' personalities.

In Chapter II, I discussed the obligatory meanings of the three modal auxiliaries above and considered the relationship between their uses and the situations in *Pride and Prejudice*. The obligatory meanings of *must* express strong obligation and necessity. The obligatory meanings of *should* express duty, obligation, and propriety. The obligatory meanings of *ought* express moral obligation, or what is befitting the situation.

Next, consideration of the relationship between the uses of the modal auxiliaries of obligation and situations in the story revealed that when the situation or the speaker's will impose obligation or necessity, the speaker uses *must*. When the speaker refers to obligation from moral or social points of view, however, *should* tends to be employed. *Ought* is occasionally used in cases where some actual moral imperfection in a particular person is censured. In the other examples, the speaker's thoughts or feelings are reflected in the use of the modal auxiliaries of obligation.

In Chapter III, I considered modal auxiliaries of obligation used by the following central characters: Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy, Jane Bennet, Mr.

Bennet, Mrs. Bennet, Lydia Bennet, and Lady Catherine de Bourgh. This analysis suggested that their uses of the modal auxiliaries of obligation reflect their personalities.

Elizabeth's use of the modal auxiliaries of obligation shows her characteristic of having her own ideas firmly and proudly. Mr. Darcy's use reveals his character, especially his pride and his change of mind. Jane's gentle character and her consideration for others appear in her utterances and her uses of the modal auxiliaries of obligation. Mr. Bennet's cynical character, as well as his sense of responsibility as a father and the head of the family, appears in his uses of them. In Mrs. Bennet's use of *must*, rather than showing obligation or duty, she expresses request or necessity. Moreover, the analysis reveals that almost all her utterances show her obsession with the business of her life, which is to get her daughters married. In Lydia's uses of the modal auxiliaries of obligation, I can find her impudent character. In addition, especially after Lydia's marriage, it appears that her impudence increases over time. Lady Catherine's characteristic of liking to give an order to someone is shown in her use of them. In addition, her haughty manner and obsession with her social rank can be observed in her choice of the modal auxiliaries of obligation.

In this thesis, I dealt with *must*, *should*, and *ought*, and considered the relationship between the use of their obligatory meanings and the situations or the characters' personalities in *Pride and Prejudice*. Although the situations or the characters' personalities do not appear only in the use of modal auxiliaries, focusing on the modal auxiliaries may be able to deepen our understanding of the novel.