

CAUSATION IN THE SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE SENTENCES WITH DEBITIVE PREDICATES

Tron O.A. (Ivano-Frankivsk)

The category of debitive modality as a functional-semantic field consists of six microfields – the concepts of debitive modality (expediency, obligation, duty, compulsion, necessity, inevitability). Each concept has its own means of expression – mainly modal verbs as part of compound debitive predicates.

As causation is a complicating component of the semantic structure of the sentence, the research investigation offers the semantic characteristics of the debitive situations taking into consideration the determining factors. In the semantic structure of the sentences with predicates of expediency, obligation, duty and necessity the following determining factors can be singled out: a) laws: “– *Father, all deaths **must be investigated**, whether they are murder or suicide. That is the law” (E. Robinson), “The law was the law, and we **had to abide** by it (A. Christie); b) rules, agreements: “Remember, Joe, you **are to run** to the laundry according to those old rules you used to lay down” (J. London), “According to the agreement rent was to be paid strictly in advance (Ibid.); c) duties: The duty of the soldier was plain: the man **must be shot** dead from ambush, ... he **must be sent** to his account (A. Bierce), Bob **has to be** on duty at the hospital at nine o'clock (F. King); d) instructions, principles: Instructions from his local board were that he **was to complete** his studies in Zurich and take a degree as he had planned (F. Scott Fitzgerald), ... several children and babies who had been brought along on the principle that children **should** neither **be left** behind, ever, nor ever stopped-in for, followed the famous actress up the stairs (M. Spark); e) customs, traditions: You **are to buy** a turkey for tomorrow: Thanksgiving is coming (V. Woolf). In the sentences with the predicates of inevitability the determining factors can be: a) God: She was a barren woman and, even though it was clearly **God's** will that she **should be childless**, she could scarcely bear to look at little children sometimes, her heart ached so – the tears rose to her eyes and one by one, slowly, rolled down her cheeks (W. Maugham); b) fate: The world is hard and cruel. We are here none knows why, and we*

go none knows whither. We **must be** very humble. We **must see** the beauty of quietness. We **must go** through life so inconspicuously that **Fate** does not notice us (W. Maugham), Philip realized that he **must live** two years with a tormentor from whom there was no escape (W. Maugham), This was the hand that life had dealt her, and she **had to live** through it, if only for her children (D. Steel), “Women like that,” he said, “**are bound to have** history. Life will not pass them by” (A. Christie); c) “laws of nature”, e.g.: *The old must die* (S. Maugham), “If the thing **was to happen**, it **was to happen** in this way...” (E. Wharton), “That’s the cycle of life, Taylor,” she said. “The old **has to pass** on before the new can come around” (B. Kingsolver), You **must lie** on the bed that you have made (W. Maugham), If you’ve made a fool of yourself you **must eat** humble pie (J. Galsworthy), It occurred to Dick suddenly, as it might occur to a dying man that he had forgotten to tell where his will was, it occurred to him also that there would be so much she **would have to be told** (F. Scott Fitzgerald), He knew that all things human are transitory and therefore that it **must cease** one day or another (W. Maugham); d) predestination, presentiment: *I know I’m right. I know it. I feel it. Something terrible will happen* to us (W. Maugham), *I knew that in the end I must meet you* (J. Galsworthy), Sooner or later he **would marry** some honest soul in Holland, and I felt sure he would be happy (W. Maugham).

In the last sentence the modality of inevitability is intensified by the modifier *sooner or later*. The same is observed in the next sentences: *After all, it had to happen sooner or later* (S. Maugham), *You’ve got to face it sooner or later* (H. Lee).

Besides the determining factors in the semantic structure of the sentences with debitive predicates can be: a) a person or group of persons: Harry, you **have to find** that bracelet and find out why it was worth torturing and killing a man for (M. Connelly); b) social position: A general’s **got to know** a hell of a lot (E. Hemingway); c) concrete situation: Daddy is out of work, – she said brightly. – That’s why my mommy had to go and stay with Antie Em to have the baby (S. King).

There are explicit and implicit means of expressing causative relations in the semantic structure of the sentences with debitive predicates.