Record Nr. UNINA9910455552203321 Modality in English [[electronic resource]]: theory and description // **Titolo** edited by Raphael Salkie, Pierre Busuttil, Johan van der Auwera Pubbl/distr/stampa Berlin; ; New York, : Mouton de Gruyter, c2009 **ISBN** 1-282-29651-5 9786612296512 3-11-021333-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (390 p.) Collana Topics in English linguistics, , 1434-3452;; 58 Classificazione HD 135 Altri autori (Persone) SalkieRaphael BusuttilPierre AuweraJohan van der Disciplina 425/.6 Soggetti English language - Modality Modality (Linguistics) Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Towards a typology of modality in language -- 'Not-vet-factual at time t': a neglected modal concept -- Semantic ascent, deixis, intersubjectivity and modality --Degrees of modality -- Another look at modals and subjectivity -- For a topological representation of the modal system of English --Epistemic might in the interrogative -- MAY in concessive contexts --When may means must: deontic modality in English statute construction -- Legal English and the 'modal revolution' -- Posteriority in expressions with must and have to: a case of interplay between syntax, semantics and pragmatics -- Using the adjectives surprised/surprising to express epistemic modality -- Commitment and subjectivity in the discourse of a judicial inquiry -- Hearsay adverbs and modality -- When Yes means No, and other hidden modalities -- Modality and the history of English adhortatives -- On the "great modal shift" sustained by come to VP -- Backmatter

This volume presents two kinds of studies on English modality. On the

one hand, there are strongly empirical, corpus-based studies of

Sommario/riassunto

individual uses of English modal auxiliaries and modal constructions, such as may in interrogatives, might in concessive clauses, shall and may vs must in legal English, the use of surprised if and surprising if constructions, the use and history of adhortative constructions, or the modal-aspectual use of come to in I came to realize that X. The book also contains work that presents new views on some of the classical issues, like the relations between modality and time, modality and commitment, modals and (inter)subjectivity. A special place is given to work that approaches the English modals from the perspective of the 'Theory of Enunciative Operations' developed by the French linguist Antoine Culioli and his colleagues. Thus the book provides new perspectives and answers on basic questions about modality, in general, and its expression in English, in particular.