## **Contents**

| Pre | Preface                   |   |          |
|-----|---------------------------|---|----------|
| 1.  | Introduction              |   | 1        |
|     | 1.1                       | The data  | 1        |
|     | 1.2                       | An exercise in corpus linguistics                               | 1<br>5   |
|     | 1.3                       |   | 6        |
|     | 1.4                       | 1   | 7        |
|     | 1.5                       | Regional and stylistic variation                                | 8        |
| 2   | Theoretical preliminaries |   | 11       |
|     | 2.1                       | Modality and mood   | 11       |
|     | 2.2                       | The modal auxiliaries   | 12       |
|     | 2.3                       | C   | 15       |
|     |                           | 2.3.1 Properties of the semi-modals                             | 16       |
|     |                           | 2.3.2 Properties of the lexico-modals                           | 17       |
|     |                           | 2.3.3 Grammaticalization and idiomaticity                       | 18       |
|     |                           | 2.3.3.1 Grammaticalization                                      | 18       |
|     |                           | 2.3.3.2 Idiomaticity  | 20       |
|     |                           | 2.3.3.3 Selection of quasi-modals for analysis                  | 21       |
|     | 2.4                       | Modal meanings: approaches and issues                           | 21       |
|     |                           | 2.4.1 Classifying modal meanings                                | 21       |
|     |                           | 2.4.2 Polysemy vs monosemy                                      | 23<br>24 |
|     | 2.5                       | 2.4.3 Negation and 'temporality' Further dimensions of modality | 25       |
|     | 2.3                       | 2.5.1 Modal strength  | 25       |
|     |                           | 2.5.2 Degree of modality  | 27       |
|     |                           | 2.5.2 Degree of industry  2.5.3 Subjectivity/objectivity        | 28       |
|     | 2.6                       | General aspects of the relationship between modals and quasi-   | 20       |
|     | 2.0                       | modals  | 29       |
| 3   | Necessity and obligation  |   | 33       |
|     | 3.1                       | Must  | 34       |
|     |                           | 3.1.1 Deontic must  | 35       |
|     |                           | 3.1.2 Epistemic <i>must</i>                                     | 38       |
|     |                           | 3.1.3 Dynamic must  | 40       |
|     |                           | 3.1.4 Time reference of situation                               | 41       |

|     | 3.1.5      | Must and negation                             | 43       |
|-----|------------|---|----------|
|     | 3.1.6      |   | 43       |
| 3.2 | Should     |   |          |
|     | 3.2.1      | Deontic should                                | 4.5      |
|     |            | Epistemic should                              | 46       |
|     |            | Should and temporality                        | 47       |
|     |            | Should and negation                           | 48       |
|     | 3.2.5      | Special 'low-degree' uses of should           | 48       |
|     | 3.2.6      |   | 51       |
|     | 3.2.7      | Should: regional and stylistic variation      | 52       |
| 3.3 | Ought to   |   |          |
|     | 3.3.1      | Deontic ought to                              | 53       |
|     | 3.3.2      | Epistemic ought to                            | 55       |
|     | 3.3.3      | Ought to and temporality                      | 56       |
|     | 3.3.4      | Ought to and negation                         | 56       |
|     | 3.3.5      | Ought to: regional and stylistic variation    | 56       |
| 3.4 | Need       |   | 57       |
|     | 3.4.1      | Meanings of need                              | 57       |
|     | 3.4.2      | Need: regional and stylistic variation        | 59<br>59 |
| 3.5 | Have to    |   |          |
|     |            | Deontic have to                               | 60       |
|     | 3.5.2      | Dynamic have to                               | 62       |
|     |            | Epistemic have to                             | 63       |
|     | 3.5.4      | Time reference of situation                   | 64       |
|     | 3.5.5      | Have to and negation                          | 66       |
|     | 3.5.6      | Have to: regional and stylistic variation     | 67       |
| 3.6 | Have       | got to  | 68       |
|     | 3.6.1      | Deontic have got to                           | 69       |
|     |            | Dynamic have got to                           | 70       |
|     | 3.6.3      | Epistemic have got to                         | 70       |
|     | 3.6.4      | Have got to and temporality                   | 71       |
|     |            | Have got to and negation                      | 72       |
|     | 3.6.6      | Have got to: regional and stylistic variation | 72       |
| 3.7 | Need .     | to  | 73       |
|     |            | Deontic need to                               | 73       |
|     |            | Epistemic need to                             | 75       |
|     |            | Dynamic need to                               | 75       |
|     |            | Need to and temporality                       | 75       |
|     |            | Need to and negation                          | 76       |
|     |            | Need to: regional and stylistic variation     | 76<br>77 |
| 3.8 | Had better |   |          |
|     |            | Meanings of had better                        | 77       |
|     |            | Had better: regional and stylistic variation  | 79       |
| 3.9 | -          | pposed to                                     | 80       |
|     | 301        | Meanings of he supposed to                    | ያበ       |

| Contents | vii |
|----------|-----|
|          |     |

| 3.10 Be to              |   | 82         |
|-------------------------|---|------------|
|                         |   | 83         |
|                         | gs of <i>be to</i>                              | 83         |
|                         | egional and stylistic variation                 | 86         |
| 3.11 Be bound to        |   | 86         |
|                         | gs of be bound to                               | 87         |
| 3.11.2 Be boun          | d to: regional and stylistic variation          | 88         |
| Possibility, permission | and ability                                     | 91         |
| 4.1 <i>May</i>          |   | 92         |
| 4.1.1 Epistemic         | тау   | 92         |
| 4.1.2 Deontic m         |   | 95         |
| 4.1.3 Dynamic           |   | 95         |
|                         | onal and stylistic variation                    | 96         |
| 4.2 <i>Can</i>          |   | 97         |
| 4.2.1 Epistemic         |   | 98         |
| 4.2.2 Deontic $c$       |   | 100        |
| 4.2.3 Dynamic           |   | 101        |
|                         | Theoretical possibility                         | 101        |
|                         | Ability   | 103        |
|                         | Dynamic implication                             | 104        |
|                         | onal and stylistic variation                    | 104        |
| 3.3 Might and could     | inhana and and a makenite fermin                | 105        |
|                         | ight and could as preterite forms Cemporal uses | 105        |
|                         | Iypothetical uses                               | 105<br>106 |
|                         | of might and could                              | 108        |
|                         | Epistemic possibility                           | 100        |
|                         | Dynamic possibility                             | 113        |
|                         | Deontic possibility                             | 117        |
|                         | night: one lexeme or two?                       | 117        |
|                         | could: regional and stylistic variation         | 118        |
| 4.4 Be able to          |   | 119        |
| 4.4.1 Meanings          | of be able to                                   | 119        |
|                         | : regional and stylistic variation              | 122        |
| Prediction and volition |   | 125        |
| 5.1 <i>Will</i>         |   | 126        |
| 5.1.1 Epistemic         | will  | 126        |
| 5.1.2 Dynamic           |   | 131        |
| 5.1.3 Deontic w         |   | 134        |
| 5.1.4 Will: region      | onal and stylistic variation                    | 135        |

## viii Contents

|            | 5.2   | Shall   | 135 |  |  |
|------------|-------|---|-----|--|--|
|            |       | 5.2.1 Epistemic shall                               | 136 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.2.2 Dynamic shall                                 | 137 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.2.3 Deontic shall                                 | 137 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.2.4 Shall: regional and stylistic variation       | 138 |  |  |
|            | 5.3   | Would   | 139 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.3.1 Temporal would                                | 140 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.3.2 Hypothetical would                            | 141 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.3.3 Would: regional and stylistic variation       | 143 |  |  |
|            | 5.4   | Be going to   | 143 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.4.1 Epistemic be going to                         | 144 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.4.2 Dynamic be going to                           | 147 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.4.3 Deontic be going to                           | 148 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.4.4 Be going to: regional and stylistic variation | 149 |  |  |
|            | 5.5   | Want to   | 150 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.5.1 Dynamic want to                               | 152 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.5.2 Deontic want to                               | 152 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.5.3 Epistemic want to                             | 153 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.5.4 Want to: regional and stylistic variation     | 153 |  |  |
|            | 5.6   | Be about to   | 155 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.6.1 Meanings of be about to                       | 155 |  |  |
|            |       | 5.6.2 Be about to: regional and stylistic variation | 156 |  |  |
| 6          | Conc  | clusion   | 159 |  |  |
| Appendix   |       |   |     |  |  |
| References |       |   |     |  |  |
| Ind        | Index |   |     |  |  |