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Modal flavor/modal force interactions in German

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Von Fintel and Iatridou (2008) show for a range of languages that counterfactual morphology, added to a strong necessity modal like *must*, leads to the weak necessity (WN) reading of English *ought*. We generalize the analysis of Rubinstein (2012) for this phenomenon and analyze German *müssen* and *sollen* against this background, building on Ehrlich (2001), among others. German shows interaction with modal flavor and allows WN readings only in the synthetic form [modal_{KONJ,II}], not with analytic forms [*würde*_{KONJ,II} + modal]. For *müssen* we find the expected WN reading with epistemic flavor as in (1b).

- (1) a. Peter muss in der Küche sein. (only option given the evidence)
 b. Peter müsste in der Küche sein. (not only option)
 c. #Peter würde in der Küche sein müssen. (*würde* + modal: *WN)

However, the deontic use of *müssen* does not have such a WN alternative, as shown in (2b). We find instead a WN politeness reading, as indicated in (2b). The analytic form is again not possible, cf. (2c).

- (2) A: Wie komme ich nach Amherst?
 a. B: Du musst Rt. 9 nehmen. (presented as only road to A.)
 b. B: Du müsstest Rt. 9 nehmen. (presented as only road to A., Konj.II adds an element like ‘if you don’t mind’) ≠ You ought to take Rt. 9. (pres. as best but not only road t.A.)
 c. #B: Du würdest Rt. 9 nehmen müssen. (*würde* + modal: *WN)

The analytic form [*würde* + modal] is possible where Konj.II is licensed by a counterfactual conditional and does not have a WN reading:

- (3) Wenn er ein Auto hätte, würde er es anmelden müssen.

References: • Ehrlich, V. (2001): Was nicht müssen und nicht können (nicht) bedeuten können (...). LB Sonderheft 9, 149-176. • von Fintel, K. & S. Iatridou (2008): How to say ought in foreign. In *Time and Modality*, Dordrecht, Springer Netherlands, 115-141. • Rubinstein, A. (2012): *Roots of Modality*. Ph.D. dissertation, UMass, Amherst.