

THE ROLE OF CAUSATION IN THE SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE SENTENCES WITH  
DEBITIVE PREDICATES

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 debitive predicates 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); *Sorry, I’ve got to go* home to bed. *I’m the worker of the family* (M. Spark); 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: God, fate, “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), “Women like that,” he said, “*are bound to*

*have* history. Life will not pass them by” (A. Christie), “After all, it *had to happen* sooner or later” (S. Maugham).

The explicit and implicit means of expressing causative relations have been investigated.