

Research Article

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Modality in the Albanian language: A corpus-based analysis of administrative discourse

<https://doi.org/10.1515/opli-2025-0061>

received April 22, 2025; accepted July 2, 2025

Abstract: This article investigates modality as a central linguistic category in Albanian, arguing that it is a foundational element in how institutional authority, obligation, and procedural certainty are codified and framed linguistically in administrative discourse. Modality, which expresses the speaker's stance toward a proposition – covering obligation, possibility, necessity, permission, and evidentiality – is examined through both theoretical and empirical lenses. Building on frameworks from Jespersen to Kratzer and Palmer, the study traces the evolution of modality from mood-based approaches to formal semantic and discourse-functional models. The empirical analysis draws on ALDOC (Albanian Documents Corpus), a 1.5-million-token collection of institutional texts. Using LancsBox 6.0, the article examines modality as realized through verb moods (indicative, subjunctive, and imperative), modal verbs (*duhet*, *mund*, and *do*), modal particles (*nuk*, *mos*, *po*, and *jo*), and fixed modal expressions (e.g., *është e nevojshme* and *është e pamundur*). Findings show a strong preference for deontic and epistemic modality, reflecting the legalistic and depersonalized nature of administrative discourse. The study reveals that Albanian institutional texts employ a narrow, formal set of modal resources to ensure objectivity and clarity. Informal or subjective expressions are systematically avoided. This corpus-based analysis contributes to Albanian linguistics and cross-linguistic modality studies, emphasizing the need for typological and pragmatic integration in the study of institutional language.

Keywords: modality, Albanian language, deontic and epistemic modality, official discourse, modal verbs, corpus linguistics

1 Introduction

Modality is a central linguistic category that reflects a speaker's stance toward the content of a proposition, encompassing notions such as possibility, necessity, obligation, permission, and evidentiality. In essence, modality governs how speakers signal commitment, authority, or uncertainty about an utterance's truth value or its realization in the world. As such, it serves not only grammatical and semantic functions but also discursive and communicative roles.

In official and administrative texts, modality acquires distinct importance due to the specific pragmatic goals of the genre. These documents aim to prescribe behavior, establish norms, regulate actions, and legally bind agents – all of which require a precise and depersonalized register. Modal verbs, moods, particles, and expressions are used to encode legal obligation (*duhet të dorëzohet*), permission (*mund të kërkojë*), prohibition (*nuk lejohet*), or institutional authority (*është e nevojshme që*). This modal repertoire not only formalizes procedures but also eliminates ambiguity, subjectivity, and interpersonal nuance.

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Despite its importance, modality in the Albanian language, particularly in institutional and administrative discourse, remains underexplored, especially from a corpus-based perspective.

This study seeks to fill that gap by analyzing how modality operates in Albanian administrative texts through a corpus-driven approach. For this purpose, we compiled and examined the ALDOC (Albanian Documents Corpus) – a structured collection of over 1.5 million tokens sourced from formal legal, regulatory, and institutional documents. Using LancsBox 6.0, a corpus linguistics toolkit, we identify and analyze patterns of modality as realized through verb moods, modal verbs, modal particles, and fixed modal expressions.

The goal is twofold: first, to map the modal architecture of Albanian administrative discourse; and second, to evaluate how these linguistic choices align with broader typological and theoretical models of modality. Ultimately, this research contributes to both the descriptive grammar of Albanian and to the cross-linguistic study of modality in institutional registers, offering insights for linguists, communication sciences researchers, corpus analysts, and language technologists.

We chose to focus on modality because it plays a vital role in how institutions communicate authority, enforce legal obligations, and regulate procedures. In administrative language, modality influences the way rules are written, how permissions are given, and how duties are assigned. It is a crucial lens for understanding how language works in the context of governance and public administration.

2 Theoretical background

2.1 Evolution of modality in linguistics

The concept of modality has occupied a central place in linguistic theory for over a century, evolving from early grammatical classifications to complex semantic, typological, and pragmatic frameworks. This section outlines the major theoretical milestones in the study of modality, from Jespersen's foundational insights to contemporary cognitive and pragmatic models.

The modern linguistic study of modality begins with Jespersen in *The Philosophy of Grammar* (Jespersen 1924), where he distinguished between *mood* as a grammatical category and *modality* as a broader semantic concept reflecting the speaker's attitude toward the proposition. Jespersen classified modality into types such as necessity, possibility, obligation, and probability, emphasizing its role in expressing the speaker's stance and interpersonal communication. His work laid the foundation for subsequent theoretical treatments, particularly the now-standard distinction between epistemic modality (related to knowledge and belief) and deontic modality (related to obligation and permission).

In the mid-twentieth century, structuralist linguists extended Jespersen's ideas by focusing on the formal encoding of modality within the morphological and syntactic systems of languages. Harris (1951) and Hockett (1958) analyzed modality as part of verbal inflection and derivation, observing that modal meanings are often encoded alongside tense and aspect, particularly in Indo-European languages. Hockett's framework emphasized the systemic nature of modality as a grammatical category.

Jakobson (1957) offered a significant refinement by linking modality to communicative functions. He proposed a dichotomy between subjective modality (which reflects the speaker's internal state or intention) and objective modality (which pertains to truth-value or externally verifiable reality). Jakobson's work highlighted the role of modality in distinguishing types of meaning and illocutionary force in communication.

With the emergence of Transformational-Generative Grammar (TGG), Chomsky (1957, 1965) integrated modality into the syntactic structure of language. He treated modal auxiliaries such as *must*, *can*, and *should* as syntactic operators that affect the underlying (deep) and surface structures of sentences. Chomsky's framework viewed modal verbs as functional elements that alter the proposition's truth conditions and scope. This syntactic approach opened the way for formal semantic models that would subsequently deepen the interpretation of modal expressions.

Lakoff (1972), although aligned with generative approaches, reinterpreted modality through the lens of performative logic. He argued that modality should be understood in relation to speech acts, a move that

introduced pragmatic considerations into the analysis of modal expressions. His work laid the groundwork for later theories that focus on how modality functions in discourse and interaction.

A significant and important development in the formal analysis of modality was undertaken by Kratzer (1981, 1991), who proposed a possible semantic framework of worlds. Kratzer introduced two main distinctions:

- Modal Force: The strength of the modal operator, distinguishing between necessity (e.g., *must*, *duhet*) and possibility (e.g., *can*, *mund*).
- Modal Flavor: The type of modality being expressed, whether epistemic (knowledge-based), deontic (duty-based), or dynamic (ability-based).

Kratzer's relational theory of modality posits that modal meanings depend on contextually defined ordering sources and modal bases. This approach shifted the focus from isolated modal words to the interaction between modal expressions and contextual parameters, providing a precise, compositional model for interpreting modality in formal semantics. Her framework is widely adopted in contemporary theoretical linguistics and computational linguistics alike.

While Kratzer's approach dominates the formal semantic tradition, Palmer (1986, 2001) offers a typological and functionalist perspective, examining how modality is grammaticalized across languages. He distinguishes between:

- Epistemic modality: The speaker's judgment about the truth of a proposition (e.g., *She must be at home*).
- Deontic modality: Obligation, permission, or prohibition imposed by rules or authority (e.g., *You must leave now*).
- Dynamic modality: Internal capacities or volitional states (e.g., *He can run fast*).

Palmer's research is based on cross-linguistic comparison, demonstrating that languages vary significantly in how they encode modality – some using modal verbs (as in English and Albanian), others relying on inflectional morphology (e.g., Turkic languages) or particles (e.g., Mandarin Chinese). His work emphasizes the interaction between modality, tense, and aspect, and remains influential in both linguistic typology and language documentation.

Palmer's further research (2013) also explored the pragmatic role of modality, particularly its interaction with evidentiality. He argued that epistemic modality often overlaps with evidential markers, a topic further developed by Willet (1988) and Aikhenvald (2004).

In more recent research, modality has been explored through cognitive linguistics and pragmatics. Langacker (1999) argued that modality should be understood as a conceptual phenomenon, where speakers mentally construct scenarios based on their experience and knowledge.

Additionally, Van der Auwera and Plungian (1998) provided cross-linguistic studies on modal typology, demonstrating how different languages' structure modality according to their grammatical and cultural constraints.

The study of modality has evolved from early grammatical descriptions (Jespersen 1924) to formal semantic models (Kratzer 1981) and typological–functional perspectives (Palmer 2001). Contemporary research integrates these views, with cognitive and pragmatic theories offering new insights into how speakers use modality in discourse and mental representation.

Each approach has contributed essential insights that inform modality review in the Albanian in Albanian administrative discourse.

2.2 Modality in Albanian linguistics

The study of modality in Albanian has shifted from a peripheral grammatical concern to a central topic of linguistic inquiry. In earlier studies – most notably *Gramatika e Gjuhës Shqipe I – Morfologjia* (Agalliu et al. 1995) and *Gramatika e Gjuhës Shqipe II – Sintaksa* (Çeliku et al. 1996), published by the Academy of Sciences –

modality is acknowledged primarily through verb moods and modal expressions. However, these grammatical texts don't offer a comprehensive classification of modality, especially in its pragmatic and evidential dimensions, which are essential for analyzing language use in formal, legal, and administrative texts.

From a morphological perspective, modality is conceptualized as a grammatical category marked through mood distinctions. *Morfologjia* identifies six fundamental moods: indicative (factuality), subjunctive (possibility), conditional (hypothesis), admirative (surprise or evidentiality), optative (desire), and imperative (command). Modal verbs such as *mund*, *duhet*, and *do* supplement these moods by encoding notions of necessity, probability, and obligation (Agalliu et al. 1995). The most important aspect in describing modality in Albanian is the classification of moods that function at the intersection of aspect, evidentiality, and speaker stance. Traditionally, Albanian grammars have treated the admirative mood (*habitorja*) as an aspectual category, but more recent linguistic studies, particularly those of Friedman, suggest that it functions primarily as an evidential marker, indicating reported, inferred, or second-hand knowledge. However, this framework tends to overlook semantic shifts and the polyfunctionality of modal verbs in contemporary usage, particularly in epistemic and deontic contexts. Furthermore, it shows insufficient attention to the interaction between modality and aspect, limiting distinctions between speaker certainty, obligation, and reported knowledge – crucial distinctions in administrative discourse.

The syntactic perspective on *Sintaksa* (Çeliku et al. 1996) expands the analysis by distinguishing between realis and irrealis modality and highlighting the syntactic behavior of modal adverbs (e.g., *sigurisht*, *ndoshta*), modal constructions, and conditional structures involving conjunctions like *nëse*, *sikur*, and *po të*. Yet, the focus remains largely sentence-bound, lacking a discourse-level perspective that would account for strategies of argumentation, persuasion, and formality commonly found in official registers.

A more structured grammatical classification of modality is provided by Newmark et al. (1982), who organizes Albanian moods into categories such as indicative, admirative, subjunctive, optative, imperative, conditional, jussive, and subjunctive-admirative. He emphasizes functional dependencies, such as the reliance of the subjunctive on antecedent elements (e.g., *duhet*, *mund*, or conjunctions). Newmark's insights into modality–tense interaction, especially the future-reading of subjunctive and optative forms, align with cross-linguistic perspectives (Bybee et al. 1994, Palmer 2001). Nonetheless, his approach, though methodical, is limited to the morphosyntactic level and overlooks register-sensitive variation and the pragmatic dimensions of modality in institutional discourse.

Ismajli (2009) provides a critical perspective on the historical viewpoint of modality in Albanian, opposing traditional classifications that do not mention broader semantic and pragmatic functions. Comparing Riza's interpretation of habituality as referential with Victor Friedman's evidential reading of the admirative mood, Ismajli highlights how the admirative often expresses indirect knowledge, aligning with the evidential function of expressing sourced or reported information. This reinterpretation is particularly relevant in administrative and legal discourse, where such modal forms are used to imply reliance on external authority, precedent, or institutional knowledge.

Building on this evidential foundation, Hamiti (2012a, b) revisits Riza's systematization of modal verbs as *folje të pavetmjaftueshme marrëdhëniore*, or insufficient relational verbs, marking a departure from their classification as auxiliaries. Her comparative study between *mund* and German *können* reveals how modal meaning is shaped by relational function rather than by independent lexical content. This insight supports cross-linguistic approaches to modality and evidentiality, reinforcing the interpretive strategies speakers employ in formal contexts.

Ismajli (2016) further categorizes modality into dynamic, deontic, epistemic, and evidential, reflecting Palmer's (2001) typology. This approach differentiates between internal capacities (*dynamic*: *Ai mund të vrapojë...*), social norms (*deontic*: *Mund të hyni...*), and knowledge-based inference (*epistemic* and *evidential*: *Ai duhet të jetë në zyrë*, *Ana paska ardhur...*). Such distinctions are particularly useful when analyzing the nuanced modal expressions found in Albanian administrative texts.

Rugova (2017) challenges the traditional conflation of mood and modality, proposing a broader and more functional understanding. While grammars list six primary moods (indicative, admirative, subjunctive, conditional, optative, and imperative), Rugova emphasizes Breu's (2010), which introduces additional modal categories such as *posibitorja* (*mund + lidhore*), *obligativja* (*duhet + lidhore*), *volitivja* (*dua + lidhore*), and

hipotetikja (në ardhsha, po erdhja). These constructions are widely used in official discourse to convey inferred obligation, formal permission, or hypothetical outcomes – key elements in bureaucratic and legislative communication.

Moreover, Rugova emphasizes that modal meaning in Albanian is realized through a range of structures: verb moods, modal verbs, evidential markers, and periphrastic constructions (e.g., *kam për të punuar*). According to him, the pragmatic-functional approach, in line with frameworks such as Halliday (1985) and Huddleston and Pullum (2002), is vital for understanding the socio-discursive role of modality in administrative texts.

Dauti's research on modality in Albanian evolves from a structural focus on verbal mood to a more detailed analysis of specific modal markers. In his 2012 work, he presents mood and modality as interdependent, situating Albanian within cross-linguistic mood-modality frameworks. Building on this, Dauti (2013) analyzes *do* as both a future auxiliary and an epistemic modal, showing that it often functions beyond temporal categories, reinforcing its systemic modal role.

Furthering this discussion, Berisha and Binaj (2016) examine *do* in two constructions: *do + lidhore* (e.g., *do të punoj*) and *do + pjesore* (e.g., *do punuar*). While both can indicate futurity, the former typically expresses intention or prediction (epistemic), whereas the latter conveys necessity or obligation (deontic). They also highlight cases where *do + lidhore* implies present inference, as in *(Tani) Ajo do të jetë në shtëpi*, reflecting epistemic judgment.

Gashi (2020) builds on this by rejecting a purely temporal interpretation of *do*, framing it instead as a marker of modal probability and contextual inference. His findings align *do* with modal verbs like *mund* and *duhet*, reinforcing their role in expressing degrees of certainty and probability rather than future reference alone. These modal uses are prominent in administrative texts where nuanced distinctions of epistemic stance are necessary.

In his most recent work, Dauti (2025) adopts a Construction Grammar approach, synthesizing previous insights into a comprehensive framework that integrates morphology, syntax, and pragmatics. This constructional analysis helps clarify how modality functions as a layered system within the Albanian language, especially in contexts that require accuracy, authority, and source attribution.

The study of modality in Albanian linguistics has moved from narrow grammatical analyses to a more comprehensive, multifunctional understanding. This evolution is especially pertinent to official and administrative registers, where modality conveys degrees of certainty, obligation, reported knowledge, and institutional stance. Recent research studies emphasize the need for models that integrate pragmatic, evidential, and register-specific perspectives. A refined classification system – grounded in corpus-based analysis and cross-linguistic comparison – will further illuminate the role of modality in shaping formal Albanian discourse.

3 Methodology

This study investigates the use of modality in formal Albanian administrative discourse through a corpus-based methodology grounded in empirical linguistic analysis. The primary resource for data collection and analysis is the ALDOC, which was purposefully constructed to capture a representative sample of official institutional language. The analysis is conducted using LancsBox 6.0, a corpus linguistics platform developed at Lancaster University, enabling advanced computational exploration of linguistic patterns.

3.1 The ALDOC corpus

The ALDOC corpus was developed to examine modality as it functions within official and administrative documents issued by Albanian public institutions. It consists of 128 curated files, with a total size of approximately 1,591,391 tokens, covering a wide range of administrative, legal, and regulatory texts. The corpus

includes a total of 44,667 unique word forms (types) and 42,486 lemmas, offering a linguistic dataset for analyzing frequency and variation in modal constructions.

The texts in ALDOC were selected from diverse public domains, ensuring a broad and balanced representation of institutional language. The documents included in the corpus are representative of various branches of public administration and legislation in Albania, offering a broad and balanced sample of formal written discourse used by state institutions. The corpus features a rich variety of official document types, including: *Thirrje* (Public Calls), *Udhëzime* (Guidelines), *Urdhra* (Orders), *Vendime* (Decisions), *Deklarata* (Declarations), *Kërkesa* (Requests), *Kontrata* (Contracts), *Ligje* (Laws), *Raporte* (Reports), *Relacione* (Explanatory Notes), *Rregullore* (Regulations), *Statute* (Statutes), and *Shkresa* (Official Letters). These texts reflect the highly codified, impersonal, and normative style that defines the linguistic identity of Albanian institutional communication.

ALDOC was developed as part of the national research project “Improving the quality of human resources in central and local public administration in the drafting and writing of official documentation,” funded by the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (AKKSHI) under the 2024–2025 Call for National Research and Development Projects. Coordinated by the Institute of European Studies at the University of Tirana, the project aimed to document and analyze the defining features of administrative language in Albania. Although ALDOC is not currently available as an open-access resource, it was created specifically for academic research and provides a structured foundation for studying the normative and institutional use of language in public administration.

3.2 Corpus tool: LancsBox 6.0

The corpus was processed and analyzed using LancsBox 6.0, a state-of-the-art corpus analysis tool designed for both qualitative and quantitative linguistic research. LancsBox offers a suite of functionalities that were central to this study, including:

- KWIC (Key Word in Context) concordance searches for contextual analysis of modal items,
- Collocation analysis to identify modal clusters and co-occurrence patterns,
- Frequency list generation (for word forms, lemmas, and n-grams),
- GraphColl for mapping collocational networks,
- Lemma-based searches to unify morphological variants of modal verbs and particles.

These tools enabled a detailed and multi-dimensional mapping of modality across the corpus, accounting for both grammatical categories and pragmatic functions.

3.3 Analytical focus: Modal categories studied

The analysis was guided by a typological–functional classification of modality. Specifically, the following four categories of modal expression were identified and systematically investigated in the corpus:

(1) Verb moods:

- Indicative (*dëftore*): used to express factuality and institutional authority.
- Subjunctive (*lidhore*): encoding obligation, necessity, and institutional possibility.
- Imperative (*urdhërore*): marking direct commands, especially in instructions and forms.

(2) Modal verbs:

- Mund (expresses possibility or permission).
- Duhet/lipset (express necessity or obligation).
- Do (expresses necessity in certain contexts).
- Jam/kam (when followed by a non-finite form, they express obligation).

(3) Modal particles:

- Affirmative (*po*), negative (*jo*, *nuk*, *mos*).
- These were analyzed for their roles in constructing formal affirmation, prohibition, and institutional negation.

(4) Modal expressions (*shprehje me vlerë modale*):

- Phrases such as *është e nevojshme*, *është e pamundur*, *nuk është e mundur*, *e ka të pamundur*, which frequently occur in formal justification, exception clauses, and procedural rules.

By targeting these categories, the study aims to capture the full range of modal resources employed in official Albanian discourse. This includes both grammaticalized markers and lexical-periphrastic constructions, with attention to their syntactic patterns, frequency of use, and discursive function. The findings aim to provide a comprehensive account of how modality operates in the legal-administrative register of the Albanian language.

4 Analysis of modality in Albanian administrative discourse

This section presents the core findings of this study, based on a detailed corpus analysis of how modality operates within Albanian administrative and legal texts. The investigation focuses on the specific linguistic forms and patterns used to encode obligation, permission, possibility, and institutional authority in a highly regulated and depersonalized style. Based on a representative corpus of official documents, this section presents the modal structures that dominate institutional written discourse, emphasizing how these constructions support and aid procedural clarity and legal formality in public communication.

4.1 Modality through verb moods

Although the Albanian language has six verb moods – indicative, admirative, subjunctive, conditional, optative, and imperative – only three are regularly found in official documents:

1. Indicative mood (*mënyra dëftore*),
2. Subjunctive mood (*mënyra lidhore*), and
3. Imperative mood (*mënyra urdhërore*).

These moods serve as the primary grammatical tools for expressing modality, that is, the degree of obligation, possibility, certainty, or command conveyed by a statement. In formal and institutional texts, each mood plays a specific role.

4.1.1 Indicative mood – modality of factuality and authority

The indicative mood is the dominant form in official documents. It is used to present factual statements, declare institutional decisions, define binding legal realities, and describe ongoing or routine processes.

Examples from the corpus ALDOC:

- An internal academic resolution adopted by a university board states:

“Vendimi është miratuar në mbledhjen e fundit të bordit akademik” (The decision was approved in the last meeting of the academic board) presenting institutional action through the indicative mood to convey factual and formal authority.

- Administrative process guidelines specify:

“Procedura nis pas regjistrimit të dokumentacionit” (The procedure starts after the registration of the documentation) marking procedural sequencing through an assertive, action-oriented indicative structure.

These examples illustrate truth modality, where the verb presents information as an established, official reality.

4.1.2 Subjunctive mood – *Modality of obligation, possibility, and necessity*

The subjunctive mood is widely used in formal documents to encode obligation or duties, possibility and permissions, and expected outcomes under official norms

It is commonly found after expressions such as *duhet* (must), *kërkohet që* (it is required that), *është e nevojshme që* (it is necessary that), or in impersonal passive constructions.

Examples from the corpus:

- A financial directive issued by a ministry to subordinate institutions states:
“Është e nevojshme të dorëzohet plani financiar brenda afatit” (It is necessary that the financial plan be submitted within the deadline) formalizes an institutional obligation, using impersonal language to reinforce procedural clarity.
- A public recruitment directive includes the formulation:
“Kërkohet që kandidati të përmbushë kriteret e përzgjedhjes” (It is required that the candidate fulfill the selection criteria) encodes institutional obligation through an impersonal subjunctive construction.
- A regulatory instruction from a central authority affirms:
“Duhet të sigurohet përputhja me legjislacionin në fuqi” (Compliance with the applicable legislation must be ensured) encodes mandatory institutional alignment through an impersonal modal construction.

The subjunctive is key in expressing impersonal necessity and institutional obligation, and allows for distancing the agent from the duty, which is typical of bureaucratic discourse.

4.1.3 Imperative mood – *modality of direct command*

The imperative mood appears less frequently in normative texts but is present in:

- Instructions,
- Application forms, and
- Procedural manuals.

It expresses direct commands and requests, typically directed toward individuals or subordinate entities.

Examples from the corpus:

- A standardized form from the Ministry of Education includes the instruction:
“Plotësoni formularin sipas udhëzimeve të mëposhtme” (Fill out the form according to the following instructions), issuing a direct command through the imperative mood typical of administrative templates.
- Document submission procedures published by the Ministry of Health state:
“Dorëzoni dokumentet në formatin e kërkuar” (Submit the documents in the required format) articulates institutional instruction through a clear and concise imperative structure.

Unlike the subjunctive, the imperative targets a specific subject and is typically found in administrative checklists or official notices, rather than legal acts.

4.2 Modality through modal verbs

4.2.1 *Duhet*

In official Albanian documents, the modal verb *duhet* is one of the most frequently used tools for expressing obligation and institutional necessity. According to the ALDOC corpus, *duhet* appears 4,137 times across 78 of 128 documents, underscoring its central role in administrative and legal discourse. It is most used in two syntactic constructions: *duhet* + *subjunctive verb* and *duhet* + *participle*, both of which serve to articulate formal requirements, rules, and responsibilities in a highly codified and impersonal tone.

The *duhet* + *subjunctive* construction is prevalent in contexts where institutional duties or expectations are directed toward specific actors, often implicitly. Frequent collocations include *duhet të jenë* (must be), *duhet të përmbajë* (must contain), *duhet të paraqesë* (must submit), *duhet të përdoret* (must be used), and *duhet të dorëzohet* (must be delivered). Figure 1 visualizes the institutional distribution of corpus texts containing the modal verb *duhet*.

These forms appear in legal requirements, procurement procedures, and official guidelines. For example:

- Procurement guidelines by the Public Procurement Agency require that,
“Dokumentet duhet të jenë gjithmonë në dispozicion të çdo operatori ekonomik” (The documents must always be available to every economic operator) emphasizing continuous institutional obligation through a deontic construction.
- In a tender regulation issued by the Public Procurement Agency of Albania,
“Autoriteti kontraktor duhet të përdorë dokumentet standarde të tenderit” (The contracting authority must use the standard tender documents) expresses mandatory procedural compliance through a deontic modal structure.

In contrast, the *duhet* + *participle* construction is used to create impersonal passive statements, ideal for legal and normative formulations where the focus is on the action, not the agent. This structure is particularly common in formulations such as *duhet miratuar* (must be approved), *duhet dorëzuar* (must be submitted), *duhet respektuar* (must be respected), and *duhet zbatuar* (must be implemented). These constructions allow institutions to impose obligations while maintaining an objective and non-personalized register. Examples:

- As part of a local governance act from the Municipality of Tirana,
“Vendimi duhet miratuar nga Këshilli Bashkiak” (The decision must be approved by the Municipal Council) encodes institutional obligation through an impersonal deontic passive construction.

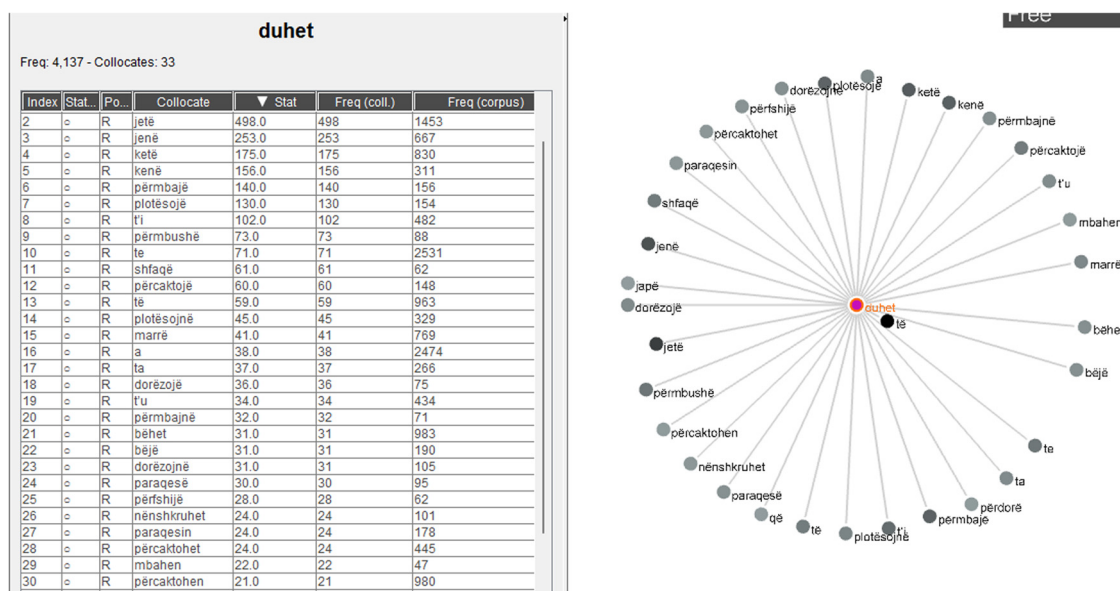


Figure 1: GraphColl network for ‘duhet’ in ALDOC, showing its top collocates.

- Within a citizen service directive published by the National Agency for Information Society, “*Kërkesa duhet dorëzuar brenda afatit të përcaktuar*” (The request must be submitted within the defined deadline) establishes procedural obligation using an impersonal deontic construction.
- According to a regulatory manual of the Energy Regulatory Authority, “*Të gjitha rregullat duhet respektuar rreptësisht nga operatorët*” (All rules must be strictly respected by the operators) conveys non-negotiable institutional compliance through a depersonalized modal expression.

In both constructions, the modality expressed by *duhet* is predominantly deontic, indicating that the action is mandatory, often under legal or procedural authority. Occasionally, *duhet* also conveys epistemic modality, when used to infer logical or expected outcomes, though this use is less common in administrative writing.

4.2.2 *Mund*

The modal verb *mund* plays a key role in expressing modality within Albanian institutional discourse, appearing 3,512 times across 82 of 128 documents in the ALDOC corpus. While less frequent than *duhet*, *mund* remains central to the formal and normative style of administrative texts. It typically occurs in the construction *mund* + *subjunctive verb*, a productive syntactic pattern used to express *possibility*, *permission*, and *potential outcomes* in a non-committal and impersonal tone. Collocational analysis reveals that *mund* often co-occurs with verbs such as *kërkoj* (request), *ushtroj* (exercise), *akordoj* (grant), *përdoret* (is used), and *përcaktoj* (determine), placing it firmly within a deontic framework for granting authorization and outlining procedural allowances. At the same time, *mund* is widely used in epistemic contexts, co-occurring with verbs like *shërbejë* (serve), *bëhet* (becomes), *ekuivalentohet* (is considered equivalent), and *realizohen* (are realized), to express institutional possibility, projected outcomes, or conditional developments – often in legal or policy documents. Less frequently, *mund* appears with verbs such as *përfitojë* (benefit) and *vendosë* (decide), signaling dynamic modality related to eligibility or capacity. These patterns demonstrate *mund*’s essential function in constructing nuanced, non-absolute statements that allow institutions to maintain procedural clarity while introducing measured flexibility. Figure 2 shows the frequency of modal verbs across the ALDOC corpus, specifically focusing on the use of the verb *mund*.

Examples from the corpus illustrate these uses:

- Under the tender documentation issued by the Public Procurement Agency, “*Autoriteti kontraktor mund të kërkojë dëshmi shtesë*” (The contracting authority may request additional evidence) illustrates institutional discretion through epistemic possibility.
- In a model agreement template approved by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, “*Kontrata mund të lidhet ndërmjet disa autoriteteve*” (The contract may be concluded between several authorities) presents optional procedural flexibility using modal possibility.
- According to financial assessment criteria set by the Ministry of Finance, “*Bilanci negativ mund të shërbejë si tregues për paaftësinë*” (The negative balance may serve as an indicator of incapacity) introduces evidential evaluation via an epistemic modal construction.
- In a funding eligibility notice issued by the Ministry of Education and Sports, “*Studenti mund të përfitojë nga këto burime financimi*” (The student may benefit from these funding sources) expresses conditional access through epistemic possibility.

4.2.3 *Do*

Unlike other modal verbs that overtly signal obligation or possibility, the verb *do* in Albanian official documents often functions more subtly, conveying institutional intention, procedural certainty, and a sense of formal commitment. Although its most common grammatical role is to form the future tense (*do* + *të* + *verb*), many instances in administrative and legal texts go beyond simple futurity. In these contexts, *do* acquires a quasi-modal value, not merely forecasting events, but asserting what must or will inevitably occur as part of a

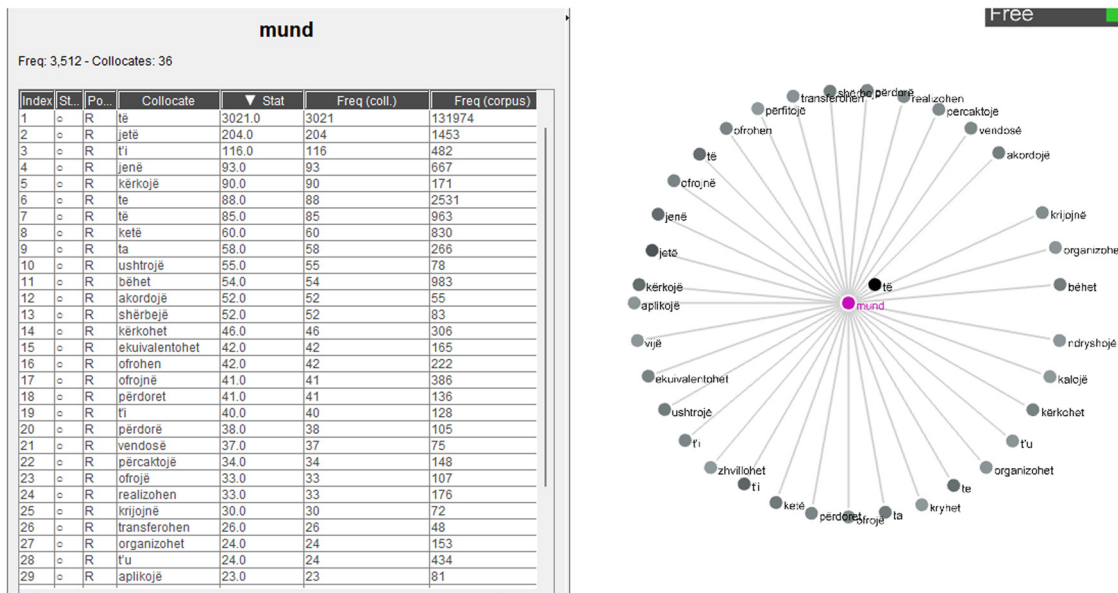


Figure 2: GraphColl network for 'mund' in ALDOC, showing its top collocates.

rule-governed institutional process. Based on the ALDOC corpus, *do* appears 2,235 times across 76 documents. While a large portion of these reflect standard future constructions, a significant number clearly express anticipated obligations, procedural requirements, or institutional expectations, particularly in legislative acts, contracts, reports, and administrative guidelines.

When excluded from cases where *do* serves purely to form the future tense, the remaining modal uses often appear in contexts where an institutional actor signals a pre-defined course of action or a planned obligation, framed in an assertive but not directly prescriptive manner. This gives *do* a nuanced modal role – positioned between epistemic certainty (what will happen) and deontic commitment (what must happen institutionally). Typical collocations include *do të zbatohet* (will be applied), *do të përfshihet* (will be included), *do të përcaktohet* (will be defined), *do të paguhet* (will be paid), and *do të kërkohet* (will be required). These expressions are frequent in laws, decisions, and contractual clauses, where they express the formalization of institutional procedures.

These structures are particularly common in laws, decisions, guidelines, and contracts, where they signal procedures, actions, or definitions that the institution is committed to enforce.

Examples from the ALDOC corpus:

- A procedural clause in the standard contract framework of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy specifies:
“Kjo procedurë do të zbatohet edhe për kontratat sektoriale” (This procedure will be applied also to sectoral contracts), outlining institutional applicability through predictive indicative mood.
- According to a reimbursement provision issued by the National Tourism Agency,
“Çdo shumë e mbledhur do të jetë e kthyeshme në rast anulimi” (Any collected amount will be refundable in case of cancellation) introduces conditional restitution through a future-tense indicative construction.
- A contractual draft template approved by the Ministry of Finance states:
“Afati i njoftimit do të përcaktohet në kontratë” (The notification deadline will be determined in the contract) signaling forward-planned procedural determination through a passive future construction.
- In a payment obligation clause regulated by the Tax Administration,
“Shuma do të paguhet brenda 30 ditëve nga data e faturimit” (The amount will be paid within 30 days from the invoicing date) expresses standardized financial obligation via a passive predictive structure.

In these cases, *do* functions not merely as a future auxiliary but as a marker of planned, regulated action, contributing to the normative modality of institutional language. It conveys that the stated action is not only

expected in the future but is institutionally established, often implying non-negotiable outcomes governed by rules or agreements.

4.2.4 JAM and KAM

In the analysis of Albanian administrative and legal documents, modal constructions involving the verbs *jam* and *kam* followed by non-finite verb forms – such as *është për t'u parë* or *ka për të bërë* – were not attested in the official texts examined. Although these structures are recognized in the Albanian language for expressing mild obligation, intention, or expectation, they appear to be excluded from the standardized repertoire of institutional discourse. The absence of these forms underscores the formal preference for more codified and depersonalized modal constructions. Among these, only the *KA + PËR* structure was consistently observed across the corpus, functioning as a key modal strategy in the expression of institutional purpose, duties, and legal mandates. This construction will be analyzed in detail in the following section.

4.2.5 The use of the construction KA + PËR

In Albanian administrative and legal discourse, the construction *KA + PËR*, when followed by a noun or a non-finite verb form, operates as a distinct modal mechanism. It is predominantly employed to articulate institutional purpose, designated responsibilities, official mandates, or procedural functions. This structure plays an essential role in encoding duties, goals, and expectations within a depersonalized and formally regulated linguistic register, emblematic of bureaucratic communication.

Functioning as a conventionalized modal device, the *KA + PËR* construction merges declarative precision with normative authority. It facilitates the formalization of institutional objectives and obligations in a clear, impersonal, and non-negotiable manner. As such, it exemplifies how modality, in the context of legal and administrative texts, reinforces legal responsibility, procedural transparency, and the neutral tone characteristic of official language.

4.2.5.1 Modality of institutional purpose and mission

One of the most frequent uses of *ka për* is to state the purpose or mission of a legal act, administrative body, or institutional program:

- The preamble of the Law on Higher Education affirms:

“Ky ligj ka për qëllim përcaktimin e parimeve themelore të funksionimit të institucioneve të arsimit të lartë” (This law aims to define the fundamental principles of the functioning of higher education institutions), framing institutional purpose through a declarative structure in the indicative mood.

- A mission statement issued by the National Agency for Scientific Research declares:

“Agjencia Kombëtare e Kërkimit Shkencor ka për mision të nxisë inovacionin dhe zhvillimin shkencor” (The National Agency for Scientific Research has the mission to promote innovation and scientific development), conveying institutional intent through a purpose-oriented indicative construction.

In these examples, *ka për qëllim* and *ka për mision* introduce institutional statements of intent, formalizing their declared goals within a normative framework.

4.2.5.2 Modality of assigned duties and institutional responsibilities

The expression *ka për detyrë* (has the duty to) encodes deontic modality, referring to responsibilities assigned by legal or administrative authority:

- An internal regulation issued by the Ministry of Justice states:

“Drejtoria Juridike ka për detyrë të mbulojë aspektet ligjore të veprimtarisë” (The Legal Directorate is

tasked with covering the legal aspects of the activity), outlining designated institutional responsibilities through a purpose-driven indicative construction.

- According to a normative framework of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MAS),
“MAS ka për detyrë të hartojë rregulloret për zbatimin e ligjit” (The Ministry of Education has the duty to draft regulations for the implementation of the law) articulates legal obligations through an indicative expression of institutional mandate.

This construction explicitly signals institutional obligations and expectations, framed as mandates that stem from legal authority.

4.2.5.3 Modality of scope and operational focus

The phrase *ka për objekt* (has as its object) defines the area of competence, operational focus, or domain of activity of an institution or administrative body:

- A foundational statute of the Center for Educational Services specifies:
“Qendra e Shërbimeve Arsimore ka për objekt ofrimin e shërbimeve për qytetarët” (The Center for Educational Services has as its objective the provision of services to citizens), framing institutional function through a clearly defined indicative construction.
- In the mission framework of the National Agency for Scientific Research,
“Institucioni ka për objekt mbështetjen e kërkimit shkencor” (The institution has as its objective the support of scientific research) conveys strategic orientation through an indicative structure centered on institutional purpose.

These phrases show how *ka për objekt* delimits the official field of activity or jurisdiction of a public institution.

4.2.5.4 Modality of legal entitlement and procedural rights

When *ka për* is followed by a non-finite verb form, it expresses entitlement, procedural authority, or legal self-binding, often related to rights and responsibilities under formal legal frameworks:

- According to procedural guarantees outlined by the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data,
“Subjekti ka për të inspektuar dosjen e procedimit” (The subject has the right to inspect the case file) expresses individual entitlement through a modal construction denoting institutional access rights.
- As stated in the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure,
“Individi ka për t’u mbrojtur në përputhje me Kodin e Procedurës Administrative” (The individual is entitled to defend themselves in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure) affirms legal protection through a purpose-oriented modal structure expressing fundamental rights.

This construction expresses a form of modality that bridges obligation and permission, granting access or legal standing while retaining a formal and impersonal register. It is especially common in declarations, legal attestations, and administrative procedures involving rights or responsibilities of the individual. The classification of modal constructions is summarized in Table 1.

4.3 Modality through modal particles

4.3.1 *Po*

The particle *po* appears in several functions, but when we exclude its role as a progressive marker (*po + verb*), it retains an important and recognizable affirmative use, expressing confirmation, agreement, or emphasis in

Table 1: Frequency of core modal verbs across the ALDOC corpus

Modal verb	Frequency	Documents appeared in	Primary modal flavor
duhet	4,137	78/128	Deontic (Obligation)
mund	3,512	82/128	Deontic/Epistemic
do	2,235	76/128	Epistemic/Procedural certainty
ka për	892	64/128	Deontic/Institutional purpose

both declarative and interactive institutional contexts. According to the ALDOC corpus, *po* occurs 249 times across 33 documents, and a significant subset of these occurrences represents its use as an affirmative modal particle, rather than a grammatical aspect marker.

As an affirmative, *po* is used in a range of institutional documents – particularly in laws, reports, administrative forms, and correspondence – to explicitly confirm a statement, acknowledge information, or respond affirmatively to a procedural or declarative context. It often precedes or echoes elements from the previous clause or context, contributing to the textual cohesion and logical structure of official discourse.

Some of the most frequent structures include *Po, në këtë rast...* (Indeed, in this case...), *Po ashtu...* (Likewise/ Additionally), *Po kështu...* (Similarly), and *Po në atë vit...* (In that year as well...)

These uses can be found in administrative letters and reports, such as:

- A summary report issued by the Ministry of Education and Sports notes:
“Po ashtu, janë shfrytëzuar të dhëna statistikore nga vlerësimet ndërkombëtare” (Likewise, statistical data from international assessments have been used), reinforcing evidence-based policy references through a passive indicative structure.
- A national teacher training strategy highlights the requirement:
“Po kështu, mësuesit duhet të aftësohen të punojnë me fëmijë me nevoja të veçanta” (Similarly, teachers must be trained to work with children with special needs), expressing institutional obligation through a modal construction aimed at inclusive education.

In these cases, *po* serves a modal-discursive function, rather than a grammatical one. It expresses a form of discourse-level modality – affirming facts, aligning statements with institutional knowledge, or reinforcing procedural actions. The extended uses of *po ashtu*, *po kështu*, and *po në këtë rast* are especially common in formal reports and legal narratives, where they introduce additional arguments or parallel facts, often to support conclusions or policy implications.

4.3.2 *Jo*

The particle *jo* plays a critical role in expressing negation, restriction, and formal exclusion, serving as a central marker of negative modality. According to the ALDOC corpus, *jo* appears 1,520 times across 79 documents, underscoring its widespread use in institutional discourse. Unlike other modal verbs that encode obligation or permission, *jo* functions as a negative particle with both syntactic and pragmatic roles, especially in legal, administrative, and regulatory texts where clarity of exclusion or limitation is crucial.

The most common and structurally consistent use of *jo* is found in comparative and restrictive expressions, such as *jo më vonë se...* (no later than...), *jo më pak se...* (no less than...), *jo më shumë se...* (no more than...), *jo më herët se...* (not earlier than...), and *jo vetëm... por edhe...* (not only. but also...).

These constructions are pervasive in legal timelines, procedural definitions, eligibility criteria, and quantitative thresholds. For example:

- According to an application guideline issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
“Kërkesa duhet të dorëzohet jo më vonë se 10 ditë nga data e shpalljes” (The request must be submitted no later than 10 days from the date of the announcement) specifies a strict procedural deadline through a negative temporal constraint combined with a deontic modal.

- A higher education accreditation document states:
“Studimet zgjasin jo më pak se tri vite akademike” (Studies last no less than three academic years), establishing a normative minimum duration through a negatively quantified temporal construction.
- A civil service regulation issued by the Department of Public Administration notes:
“Leja e zakonshme nuk mund të zgjasë jo më shumë se 30 ditë” (Ordinary leave cannot exceed more than 30 days), expressing a maximum entitlement restriction through double negation and epistemic modality.
 In more complex constructions, *jo* is used in logical oppositions and clarificatory contexts, such as:
- In a bilateral cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Education and an international donor,
“Jo vetëm studentët, por edhe mësuesit do të përfitojnë nga kjo marrëveshje” (Not only students, but also teachers will benefit from this agreement) expands the scope of institutional beneficiaries using an inclusive predictive construction that emphasizes shared entitlement.
 Occasionally, *jo* is used for emphatic negation, where it marks categorical rejection or exclusion, particularly in declarative statements:
- In a disciplinary report drafted by the Human Resources Department of a public institution,
“Punonjësi jo vetëm që nuk ka përmbushur detyrën, por ka shkelur dhe rregullat e brendshme” (The employee not only failed to fulfill the duty but also violated internal rules) intensifies institutional disapproval through a contrastive construction combining negation and cumulative infraction.

The modality expressed by *jo* is predominantly prohibitive and restrictive, contributing to the formalization of boundaries, exclusions, and legal obligations. Its high frequency and structural regularity show that negation in institutional language is not simply a matter of opposing statements, but a way to specify limits, define scope, and prevent misinterpretation in high-stakes documents.

4.3.3 Nuk

In Albanian institutional documents, the particle *nuk* is the most frequent means of expressing negation, with a dominant role in shaping the prohibitive and deontic modality of administrative, legal, and procedural language. According to the ALDOC corpus, *nuk* appears 3,607 times across 80 out of 128 documents, making it one of the most frequently occurring particles in official discourse.

The use of *nuk* is primarily tied to its function as a syntactic negator, preceding verbs in the indicative or subjunctive mood, and is especially common in prohibitive constructions, exclusion clauses, and legal limitations. Typical and recurring structures include *nuk mund të...* (cannot/may not), *nuk duhet të...* (must not/should not), *nuk lejohet të...* (it is not allowed to), *nuk është e mundur...* (it is not possible), and *nuk zbatohet...* (is not applied).

These forms serve to prohibit actions, reject obligations, or limit rights, thus functioning within a deontic framework that enforces rules and institutional boundaries.

Examples from the corpus:

- According to a public procurement directive issued by the Public Procurement Agency,
“Asnjë kontratë publike nuk mund të ndahet për shmangien e kufirit” (No public contract may be split to avoid the threshold) imposes an explicit institutional prohibition through a negative epistemic-deontic modal construction.
- In a procedural instruction from the Ministry of Infrastructure,
“Kjo procedurë nuk duhet të përdoret për punë, mallra apo shërbime që nuk janë planifikuar” (This procedure must not be used for work, goods, or services that are not planned) conveys a strong restriction via a deontic negation targeting unplanned expenditures.
- A regulatory framework by the Ministry of Finance states:
“Nuk lejohet përcaktimi i kufijve monetarë që tejkalojnë vlerat e lejuara” (The definition of monetary thresholds exceeding allowed values is not permitted), enforcing institutional limits through a passive construction of prohibition.

- In a notification timetable regulation issued by a contracting authority,
“Afati i njoftimit nuk duhet të jetë më shumë se 20 ditë” (The notification deadline must not exceed 20 days) communicates maximum temporal boundaries through a negative modal clause.
- According to a legal compliance guideline published by the Ministry of Justice,
“Nuk është e mundur të ndryshohet kontrata pa dakordësim paraprak” (It is not possible to change the contract without prior agreement) formalizes procedural inflexibility through an epistemic impersonal construction.

These examples illustrate how *nuk* structures non-negotiable legal or procedural restrictions, and how it interacts with other modal verbs (like *duhet*, *mund*, *lejohe*) to shape formalized institutional norms. In doing so, *nuk* becomes a crucial grammatical and discursive element for expressing prohibition, impossibility, and formal constraints in the Albanian administrative-legal register.

While the Albanian language also uses the shortened variant *s'* (a contracted form) to express negation, this form is almost entirely absent from administrative texts. The particle *s'* is characteristic of informal, narrative, or spoken registers, and its elliptical tone is deemed inappropriate for the precision, neutrality, and formality required in official writing. In legal and bureaucratic discourse, where clarity and unambiguous interpretation are critical, *nuk* remains the exclusive negator, fully aligned with the stylistic and normative expectations of institutional language.

4.3.4 *Mos*

The particle *mos* is a key marker of prohibitive and negative deontic modality, used to express what must not or should not be done according to legal, institutional, or procedural norms. Based on the ALDOC corpus, *mos* appears 259 times across 47 documents, demonstrating its consistent presence in formal writing, especially in regulatory texts, labor codes, statutes, and administrative guidelines.

The typical construction involves *mos* + verb in subjunctive or infinitive form, and often follows or is governed by modal or auxiliary verbs like *duhet* (must), *mund* (may), or appears independently in imperative contexts or passive constructions. Common patterns include *duhet të mos...* (must not), *mund të mos...* (may not), *për të mos...* (in order not to), and *në rast të mos...* (in case of non...)

These structures are used to set conditions, limit permissions, and define obligations in a negative frame, forming a key part of the modality system in legal and institutional discourse.

Examples from the ALDOC corpus:

- In a financial compliance instruction issued by the Public Procurement Agency,
“Lëshuesi i sigurimit të ofertës duhet të mos vendosë asnjë kusht për pagimin” (The issuer of the bid security must not impose any condition for payment) prohibits conditionality using a modal negation that reinforces unconditional institutional obligation.
- A legal opinion by the Ministry of Justice concerning contractual validity notes:
“Kontrata në fjalë duhet të mos jetë objekt shqyrtimi administrativ apo gjyqësor” (The contract in question must not be subject to administrative or judicial review) expresses procedural closure through deontic modality and institutional restriction.
- In a labor regulation issued by the State Labor Inspectorate,
“Për të mos dëmtuar të ardhmen ekonomike të punëmarrësit, duhet të përshkruhet qartë lloji i veprimtarisë” (In order not to harm the employee's economic future, the type of activity must be clearly described) encodes precautionary institutional obligation through an infinitival construction of preventive intent.

These examples show how *mos* functions to regulate behavior and prevent prohibited actions, embedding the logic of institutional control in clearly defined linguistic forms. The modality it expresses is predominantly deontic, centered on what is forbidden, not acceptable, or not permitted under formal regulations.

While Albanian features a wide range of modal particles – including affirmative, negative, interrogative, doubt, and softening particles – not all of them are commonly used in official documents. As shown in the

analyses above, institutional discourse primarily employs a limited subset of these particles to maintain clarity, formality, and neutrality. For example, particles like *nuk*, *jo*, *mos*, and *po* (in its affirmative use) appear frequently and serve essential modal and discursive functions in expressing prohibition, negation, confirmation, or procedural affirmation. This is summarized in Table 2, which presents the frequency and function of the four most common modal particles in the ALDOC corpus. However, more conversational or subjective particles such as *vallë*, *as*, *që*, *s'*, *ndoshta*, *le* are almost entirely absent from administrative texts, as they introduce elements of doubt, emotion, or informality that are incompatible with the precise and impersonal style of legal and bureaucratic language. Therefore, although Albanian modality is grammatically rich, official documents rely selectively on a restricted set of modal particles – those that reinforce certainty, regulate permission, or enforce obligation – while excluding those that reflect personal stance, supposition, or rhetorical nuance.

4.4 Modality through modal expressions

4.4.1 VERB + adjective I PAMUNDUR

In Albanian official documents, the adjective *i pamundur* (*impossible*) is used as part of specific constructions to express the modality of impossibility, typically within procedural, legal, and administrative frameworks. According to the ALDOC corpus, *pamundur* occurs 41 times across 18 documents, and it appears consistently in contexts where institutional actors or legal provisions must acknowledge that a particular action, obligation, or process cannot be carried out due to objective constraints.

The most common structure is the phrase *është e pamundur* (it is impossible), often modified with adverbs like *objektivisht* (objectively) or followed by *të + subjunctive verb*, forming constructions such as *është e pamundur të kryhet...* (it is impossible to carry out...), *është objektivisht e pamundur të përcaktohet...* (it is objectively impossible to determine...), *e ka të pamundur pjesëmarrjen* (he/she is unable to participate), and *e bën të pamundur...* (makes it impossible...).

These expressions are used to justify exceptions, terminate procedures, or acknowledge constraints, often in official decisions, procurement guidelines, legal exemptions, or internal regulations. They convey a clear sense of epistemic modality, stating that the action in question lies outside the scope of institutional feasibility, and occasionally serve deontic functions by suspending obligations when impossibility is demonstrated.

Examples from ALDOC:

Kur është e pamundur të ndiqet procedura standarde, prokurimet mund të kryhen me procedura të veçanta (When it is impossible to follow the standard procedure, procurement may proceed through special procedures.)

Në rast se kjo është e pamundur, nëpunësit regjistrohen në një listë pritjeje. (If this is impossible, the civil servants are placed on a waiting list.)

Në kushtet aktuale të buxhetimit është e pamundur të implementohet kjo gjë. (Under current budget conditions, it is impossible to implement this.)

Autori ka të pamundur të sigurojë kopje të krijimit nëpërmjet kanaleve të zakonshme. (The author is unable to obtain copies of the work through regular channels.)

Table 2: Frequency and function of the four most common modal particles in the ALDOC corpus

Modal particle	Frequency	Documents appeared in	Primary modal function
<i>nuk</i>	3,607	80/128	Negation, prohibition (deontic)
<i>jo</i>	1,520	79/128	Restriction, exclusion (negation/comparative)
<i>mos</i>	259	47/128	Prohibition (subjunctive/infinitive negation)
<i>po</i>	249	33/128	Affirmation, procedural agreement

These constructions help formalize exceptions to rules or procedures in a controlled and documentable manner, often accompanied by justifications or conditional clauses. They maintain the formal, impersonal tone characteristic of institutional discourse while signaling clearly that constraints have overridden obligations.

4.4.2 The verb TO BE + adjective I NEVOJSHËM

In official Albanian documents, the adjective *i nevojshëm* (necessary) is a highly recurrent lexical item used to express deontic modality, particularly in the context of institutional necessity, procedural requirements, and conditional actions. According to the ALDOC corpus, the word *nevojshme* appears 86 times across 26 documents, typically in constructions where an action or condition is described as required, either absolutely or under certain circumstances.

The most frequent and productive structure is *është e nevojshme* (subjunctive verb). This construction is used to mandate or justify institutional actions, to define conditions under which actions may be taken, or to signal procedural flexibility depending on contextual needs. Variants like *nëse është e nevojshme* (if necessary) and *kur është e nevojshme* (when necessary) are commonly used to introduce conditional clauses, allowing legal and administrative texts to remain both precise and adaptable.

Examples from the corpus:

Nëse është e nevojshme, komisioni i vlerësimit kërkon sqarime nga ofertuesit. (If necessary, the evaluation commission requests clarifications from the bidders.)

Kur është e nevojshme, departamenti ngre grupe me karakter kërkimor-mësimor. (When necessary, the department establishes research-teaching groups.)

Paga konsiderohet e paprekshme në masën që është e nevojshme për të siguruar jetesën e punëmarrësit. (The salary is considered untouchable to the extent necessary to ensure the employee's livelihood.)

The modality expressed by these structures containing the adjective *i nevojshëm* is primarily deontic, as it indicates what must be done, either as a mandatory requirement or conditionally, depending on the specific context or institutional evaluation.

While the Albanian language offers a rich variety of modal expressions – used to convey possibility, certainty, obligation, advice, impossibility, preference, and doubt – not all of these expressions are typically found in official documents. As highlighted in the analysis above, institutional and administrative texts tend to favor a restricted and highly formal set of modal structures, often relying on expressions such as *është e nevojshme*, *nuk është e mundur*, *është e pamundur*, or *duhet të*, which clearly reflect deontic and epistemic modality in a neutral and objective tone. On the other hand, more subjective or informal expressions like “Ka të ngjarë që...” (*It is likely that...*), “Pa dyshim që...” (*Without a doubt...*), “Është e sigurt që...” (*It is certain that...*), “Do të ishte më e udhës të...” (*It would be wiser to...*), “S’ka shans që...” (*There is no chance that...*), “Do të më pëlqente të...” (*I would love to...*), and “Ka mundësi që...” (*There is a possibility that...*) are generally absent from the language of laws, contracts, decisions, and public administration. These expressions, while common in spoken or literary contexts, introduce personal stance, uncertainty, or emotional coloring – features that are typically avoided in the precise, impersonal, and norm-driven style of official discourse. Thus, although the Albanian language provides a wide modal repertoire, official documents selectively employ only those expressions that align with institutional formality, procedural clarity, and legal authority.

5 Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that modality in Albanian official and administrative discourse serves as a core mechanism for expressing institutional obligation, possibility, and projected outcomes, thereby reinforcing the authority, objectivity, and clarity characteristic of bureaucratic communication.

The ALDOC corpus-based analysis, using tools such as LancsBox 6.0, confirms a clear predominance of deontic and epistemic modalities, with modal verbs such as *duhet*, *mund*, and *do* being central to this

repertoire. These verbs encode institutional necessity, permission, and predictive force, often within impersonal constructions that contribute to the detached and prescriptive tone of administrative texts. In particular, *duhet* consistently marks high modal force with a deontic flavor, while *mund* allows for both epistemic possibility and deontic permission, aligning with Kratzer's distinction between modal force and modal flavor.

Crucially, the restricted modal inventory of this register – marked by the near-total absence of subjective, interpersonal, or emotionally inflected expressions such as *ndoshta*, *vallë*, *më duket se*, and modal particles like *s'* – demonstrates a deliberate exclusion of speaker stance. This supports a normative discourse style rooted in legal formality, procedural precision, and institutional neutrality, consistent with global tendencies in official communication.

The avoidance of the admirative mood, despite its evidential and pragmatic value in other Albanian genres, further underscores the institutional prioritization of unambiguous truth-value over interpretive nuance. Thus, modality in administrative Albanian is not only linguistically encoded but also culturally and institutionally shaped.

From a theoretical standpoint, the findings align with both Kratzer's semantics of modality and Palmer's typological-functional classifications, illustrating how Albanian draws on a highly conventionalized set of modal forms to meet the communicative demands of governance. The convergence with international patterns of formal modality reveals that, despite its unique morphosyntactic features, Albanian institutional discourse adheres to shared cross-linguistic principles of clarity, authority, and normativity.

Future research should explore register-sensitive and pragmatic dimensions of modality, particularly in legal, judicial, and interpretive texts where evidentiality and argumentative modality may emerge more prominently. Additionally, these findings support the development of computational tools for legal and administrative Albanian, encouraging the creation of annotated corpora with modal categories to support applications in AI-driven legal analysis, machine translation, and cross-linguistic comparison.

One limitation of this study is its exclusive focus on written institutional texts, leaving out other important genres such as judicial decisions or spoken administrative discourse. Although the ALDOC corpus offers wide coverage of Albanian institutional language, future research could benefit from building subcorpora that distinguish between different types of official texts – such as legal drafting, internal guidelines, and public-facing communications. It would also be valuable to investigate how modality interacts with evidentiality and politeness strategies, especially in formal correspondence, where language often balances authority with diplomatic tone. Finally, future studies might consider tracking diachronic changes in modal usage to see how linguistic expressions of obligation, possibility, or authority evolve in response to shifts in policy, institutional norms, or public expectations.

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Agjencia Kombëtare për Kërkimin Shkencor dhe Inovacionin (AKKSHI) for the support provided through the project “*Rritja e cilësisë së burimeve njerëzore të administratës publike, qendrore dhe lokale, në konceptimin dhe shkrimin e dokumentacionit zyrtar*,” implemented by the Institute of European Studies at the University of Tirana. We also extend our appreciation to the colleagues and administrative staff who contributed to the successful organization of training modules, data collection, and project coordination. Their valuable insights, logistical support, and professional dedication played a key role in the successful completion of this research.

Funding information: This research was carried out within the framework of the project “*Rritja e cilësisë së burimeve njerëzore të administratës publike, qendrore dhe lokale, në konceptimin dhe shkrimin e dokumentacionit zyrtar*,” funded by the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (AKKSHI), under the coordination of the University of Tirana, Institute of European Studies.

Author contributions: All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and consented to its submission to the journal, reviewed all the results, and approved the final version of the manuscript. A.Ç. and R.R. led the theoretical framework and contributed extensively to the literature review and typological analysis of modality. A.Ç. was responsible for corpus compilation, data analysis using LancsBox 6.0, and the interpretation of empirical findings. Both authors jointly developed the structure of

the article, discussed the implications of the results, and contributed equally to the writing and revision of the final manuscript.

Conflict of interest: The authors state no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement: The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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