

**Subject matter:** «Semantics of the language concept of knowledge and thinking in English».

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**Research relevance:** epistemic adverbs are words that function on the level of pragmatics; their research help identify the communicative situation and contribute into perception of the reality.

**Purpose:** to identify interrelation between means of epistemic modality and to define features of their functioning in a communicative discourse.

**Tasks:** to define a group of epistemic adverbs of English, analyze the definitional description of data of lexical item, determine semantic-syntactical contexts of functioning of the selected words.

**Theoretical and practical significance:** conclusions and results promote specification of a place of concept and extension of an epistemic modality of the general theory of a modality. Also conclusions can be used in theoretical courses on grammar, a lexicology, English stylistics, on practical and seminar training at these courses, and also when writing term, degree, master's and dissertation papers on problems of a modality of English and, in particular, an epistemic modality.

**Results of the research:** mental, or modal, verbs are considered in contexts of their functioning that allow to define their semantic and pragmatic functions as epistemic markers of discourse. Cognitive analysis of epistemic verbs makes it possible to classify them into 6 groups; each having a prototypical word (know, think, doubt, imagine, understand, feel), which forms a semantic-pragmatic field that comprises other verbs and correlated adverbs. The position of a word in a sentence influences the semantic-pragmatic interpretation of a lexeme.