

## The Syntactic and the Semantic Study of **Ought to** in Selected Texts of the Holy Bible

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### Abstract

This study explores **ought to** as one of the modal auxiliaries in English. **Ought to** is a special verb which behaves irregularly. It is followed by the verb in the infinitive. It is used to indicate modality. It gives additional information about the function of the main verb that follows it. It has a great variety of communicative functions.

For the sake of presenting and discussing **ought to**, the present paper aims at providing the syntactic and the semantic uses of this modal auxiliary. Moreover, it tries to make an analysis of **ought to** in some religious texts of the Holy Bible.

These aims can be carried out through the following hypotheses:

1. **Ought to** may be applied to certain religious texts by analyzing the syntactic and the semantic aspects.
2. Different types of sentences tend to be used.
3. **Ought to** may be realized through a wide range of meanings.

The procedures to be adopted revolve around two sections: theoretical and practical. The theoretical section deals with the investigating the syntactic and the semantic uses of **ought to**. The practical one is concerned with analyzing some religious texts taken from the Books of the 'Old Testament' and the 'New Testament' in the Holy Bible. The findings of the paper are summed up in the following conclusions:

1. **Ought to** can be applied to religious texts depending on two aspects of language.
2. **Ought to** is used with more than one sentence type such as: affirmative, negative and question.
3. Different meanings of **ought to** can be shown through this study.

**Key words:** Syntactic , Semantic, Study, Ought to, Selected, Texts, Holy, Bible

### الخلاصة

تبحث هذه الدراسة **Ought to** بوصفه احد الافعال المساعدة في اللغة الانجليزية . **Ought to** هو فعل غير منتظم من حيث استعماله مقارنة بالافعال الأخرى . يتبعه فعل في حالة المصدر . يستعمل هذا الفعل للدلالة على صيغة الفاعل . يعطي هذا الفعل معلومات إضافية حول وظيفة الفعل الرئيسي الذي يتبعه . يحتوى هذا الفعل على العديد من المعاني .

لغرض دراسة **ought to** ومناقشته، تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى إثبات الدراسة التركيبية والدلالية لهذا الفعل المساعد . فضلا عن ذلك، تحاول الدراسة تحليل الفعل في بعض النصوص الدينية .

يمكن الوصول إلى الأهداف المحددة لهذه الدراسة من خلال تقديم الفرضيات الآتية:

١. يمكن تطبيق **ought to** في بعض النصوص الدينية وذلك بتحليل النواحي التركيبية والدلالية .

٢. تستعمل أنواع مختلفة من الجمل للتعبير عن **ought to** .

٣. يُدرك **ought to** بواسطة معانٍ مختلفة .

بُنيت الدراسة على إتباع الخطوات المعتمدة على قسمين: نظري وعملي . حيث تناول الجانب النظري كشف النواحي التركيبية والدلالية للفعل . إما التحليل العملي فيتناول تحليل بعض النصوص الدينية المأخوذة من

"العهد القديم" و "العهد الجديد" من الكتاب المقدس. وقد أسفرت هذه الدراسة عن التوصل إلى الاستنتاجات الآتية:

١. يمكن تطبيق **ought to** في النصوص الدينية بالاعتماد على ناحيتين لغويتين.

٢. يمكن التعبير عن الفعل باستعمال الجمل المثبتة والمنفية والاستفهامية.

٣. من خلال هذه الدراسة بُيّنَت معانٍ مختلفة للفعل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: نصوص، مختارة، الكتاب، المقدس **Ought to** الدراسة، التركيبية، الدلالية

## 1. Introduction

Verbs are categorized into two main groups: lexical, and auxiliary. Lexical verbs are those which can act as the main verb in a verb phrase. They are capable of contrasts of tense, aspect, person, and number. Auxiliary verbs, on the other hand, are restricted both in form and in distribution (Finch,2000:130).

There are two kinds of auxiliary verb: primary and modal. The former are capable of acting both as auxiliaries and as lexical verbs (**be**, **have**, and **do** fall into this category). The latter, the modals, as their name suggests, are responsible for the particular mood of the verb phrase. Unlike primary auxiliaries, they can never occur as main verbs (ibid.).

### 1.1 Modals and Semi-modals

'Modal' is a term used in grammatical and semantic analysis to refer to contrasts in mood signaled by the verb and associated categories. In English, modal contrasts are primarily expressed by a subclass of auxiliary verbs, e.g., **may**, **will**, **can**, **ought to**. Modal verbs share a set of morphological and syntactic properties which distinguish them from other auxiliaries (see 1.2) (Crystal,1997:245).

On the other hand, Quirk et al (1985:135-38) and Biber et al(1999:483) agree that there are nine central modal auxiliary verbs used to express modality: **Can**, **could**, **may**, **might**, **shall**, **should**, **will**, **would**, **must**. And there is a handful of marginal auxiliary verbs such as **need (to)**, **ought (to)**, **dare (to)**, **used to**. These verbs can behave like modals in taking auxiliary negation and yes-no question inversion ( **needn't/ought we to...**, **she dare not**, etc.). These share some but not all of the characteristics of the modals are called semi modals. However, such constructions are extremely rare and largely confined to British English.

As far as the present study is concerned, the researcher deals with the modal auxiliary 'ought to' because of diversities of structure and meaning expressed by it.

### 1.2 Syntax of 'Ought to'

It is believed that in recent years, the grammar of modal auxiliaries has attracted a lot of attention particularly by transformational linguists who increasingly see them as part of the deep structure of sentences (Finch,2000:130).

Quirk et al (1985:127) add saying there are morphological and syntactic criteria which apply specifically to modal auxiliary verbs, as distinct from the primary verbs.

Modal auxiliaries are normally followed by the infinitive, which is bare i.e., the base form of the verb alone except with **used** and usually **ought**.

1. You ought to comb your hair.

2. You ought to stop smoking.

The **to** is also optional following **ought to** in ellipsis:

3. Yes, I think I ought (to). (ibid.:139)

After **ought**, the infinitive with **to** before other verbs is used which makes **ought** different from other modal auxiliaries and has exceptional behaviour (Tallerman, 2005:71).

A second difference between them is that modal auxiliaries can undergo inversion (and thereby moved to pre-subject position) in questions such as (4), and they can also appear in sentence-final tags, as illustrated by (5) and (6):

4. Ought we to go now?

5. We ought to make Helen, oughtn't we?

6. You ought to love your country, ought not you? (Not..., ought not you to) (Radford, 2004:41)

**To** is not used in question tags. This omission of **to**, however, is not common in English especially those with contractions (Swan, 2005:403).

A third difference is that auxiliaries can generally be directly negated by a following **not** (which can usually attach to the auxiliary in the guise of its contracted form n't), as in:

7. I oughtn't to rain today. (Radford, 2004:41)

In American English, interrogative and contracted negative forms of **ought to** are rare; **should** is generally used instead (see 1.3.2):

8. He ought to be here soon, shouldn't he?

In some English dialects, questions and negatives are made with **did** e.g., She didn't ought to do that, but this is not used in standard English (Swan, 2005:403).

Fourthly, modal auxiliaries are not inflected in the third person singular of the present tense: i.e., they have no -s form (Quirk et al, 1985:128). **Ought** does not change its form, so the third person singular form does not end in -s:

9. She ought to try a little harder. (Macmillan Dictionary, 2014:1)

They have not non-finite forms (present participle, past participle or infinitive). **Ought** has not past-tense equivalents, so it does not participate at all in the alternation of tenses for the other modal verbs. It behaves as present-tense verb (**English Grammar**, 2009:1).

### 1.3 Syntactic Uses of 'Ought to'

Most linguists believe that modal auxiliaries have the characteristics to form different types of sentences: Affirmatives, negatives, questions, reported speech and conditionals. Liles (1971:21) believes that modal auxiliaries are very important in English sentences because they are the carriers of the tense in these sentences. Thus, modal auxiliaries "must be contained in the verb phrase part of the sentence not in the noun phrase". (Thomas, 1965:32). Moreover, Collins and Carmella, (2000:68) state that the main difference between the syntactic use of modal auxiliaries and main verbs is in "the behaviour of the modals in the interrogative and negative sentences.", which is going to be discussed in the following sections.

#### 1.3.1 Negatives with 'Ought to'

**Ought** forms its negative in a number of ways. **Ought not** occurs in all types of speech and writing and is fully standard: **The conferees ought not to waste time on protocol.** (Random House Dictionary, 2014:1).

Biber et al (1999:164) mention that there are two primary options in negative clauses for **ought to**:

A. Auxiliary construction (without do), as in:

10. So I think I oughtn't to spend more.

11. One ought not to complain.

B. Lexical verb construction (with do), as in:

12. He didn't ought to be doing that sort of job.

13. You didn't ought to have let that fire out.

In these examples, the past tense form of **do** that is chosen with **ought to**.

Negative forms of **ought to** is rare in all registers, in both American English and British English. But the only moderately common form is the auxiliary construction **ought not to** in British English fiction. Further, negative constructions are generally avoided with **ought to**. To some extent, alternative forms are used instead:

14. I don't think you ought to say that.

15. I don't think they ought to be there.

By the use of a superordinate clause with **think**, the speaker is able to avoid using a negative form of **ought to**. The use of **do** here, especially with **ought to**, is somewhat stigmatized (ibid.:165).

### 1.3.2 Questions with 'Ought to'

In questions, **ought to** has two main options:

A. Lexical verb construction (with do):

16. What do you think I ought to do ?

17. Did you used to play tennis?

B. Auxiliary construction (without do):

18. Ought I to take it? (Biber et al,1999:218)

19. What time ought I to arrive? (Swan,1984:233)

**Ought to** is rare in interrogative clauses, **ought to** is found only in British English fiction and only without **do**-insertion. It is worth noting that this verb is infrequent both in interrogative and negative clauses, perhaps because it is felt to be anomalous. When it does occur, preferences with respect to **do**-insertion are the same in both types of clauses: the auxiliary construction with **ought to** and the lexical verb construction with **ought to**. Examples such as the following illustrate the ways in which interrogative forms of **ought to** can be avoided:

20. He ought to sit down, shouldn't he?

21. It's turning cold. Don't you think you ought to put a jacket on? cf.

Oughtn't you to put a jacket on?

22. Do you think I ought to go then? cf. Ought I to go then?

23. I said he's he was jumping on the chair, should he ought to?

In (20), **should** replaces **ought to** in the question tag. In (21) and (22), the speaker avoids forming an interrogative structure with **ought to** by opting for a superordinate clause with **think**. (Possibly the unfamiliarity with **ought to** may result in the speaker using deviant combinations, as shown in (23), where it co-occurs with a modal just as a regular lexical verb) (Biber et al,1999:218).

The normal question forms of **ought to** are rather formal. In an informal style, they are often avoided, for example by using a structure with **think...ought** or by using **should**:

24. Do you think we ought to go now? (Less formal than Ought we to...?)

25. Should we go now? (Swan,2005:404)

In addition, adverbs of frequency occur in questions and affirmatives which usually come after the subject and they can also come before a **to**-infinitive, though this is formal : You ought always to check your facts when you write essays. (Alexander, 1988:134).

### 1.3.3 Reported Speech with 'Ought to'

One of the rules to change different types of sentences from direct to reported speech requires the change of the tense of sentences from present to past. This rule can also be applied to modal auxiliaries, even when the types of the modal auxiliary in the reported speech is not the past of the modal auxiliary in the direct speech. Quirk

and Greenbaum (1989:344) claim that "although 'He would go' is not the past of 'He will go', it is the back-shifted form in indirect speech".

Quirk and Greenbaum state that some modal auxiliaries in direct speech keep the same form in indirect speech. This takes place when several modal auxiliaries have no past tense: **Must, ought to, need, and had better**, as in: (ibid.)

26.a. He said, "I ought to leave"

b. He said that he ought to leave.

27.a. "You ought to slow down a bit", the doctor told him.

b. The doctor told him (that) he ought to slow down a bit. (Alexander, 1988:292)

Quirk et al (1985:1031-2) add that if they are followed by a perfective infinitive, modal auxiliaries in the reporting clause are counted, for purposes of back shift, as past tense forms:

28.a. "What are you doing?" I ought to have asked.

b. I ought to have asked what he was doing.

### 1.3.4 Conditional with 'Ought to'

'Conditional' is a term used in grammatical description to refer to clauses whose semantic role is the expression of hypotheses or conditions. In English, these are introduced by **if**, and **unless**. The traditional grammatical notion of 'conditional tense' (using **would, should**) is usually interpreted in terms of modal verb forms in analysis of English (Crystal, 1997:80).

According to Alexander (1988:275-78), conditional sentences are usually divided into three basic types referred to as Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3 respectively.

Type 1 is used to describe what will or will not happen if a future event is probable:

Type 1: If + present + modal

If-clauses: present tense                      main clauses: modal

Conditional to be satisfied-----likely outcome

Simple present    If she finishes early,                      she

Present progressive    If she is arriving today,                      ought

Present perfect    If she has arrived,                      to

Present perfect progressive    If she has been waiting,                      phone

Can, must            If she can't understand it,                      me

In this type, **ought to** is used to express the idea of advisability instead of **will**, as in :

If it is fine tomorrow, we ought to go out.(it is advisable)

Type 2: If + past +modal. Conditionals are used to talk about imaginary situations in the 'if-clause' and speculate about their imaginary consequences in the main clause.

**Ought to** can replace **would** in this type when it refers to duty, as in: If he failed, he ought to/should try again. (duty).

Type 3: If + past perfect +modal. Conditionals assume something purely imaginary in the 'if-clause' and consider the imagined consequences in the main clause. It refers to consequences which did not and could not ever happen because they refer to something that didn't happen in the past. They are hypothetical conditions. **Ought to** is used in this type to refer to duty: If he had received a present, he ought to/should have thanked her.

### 1.4 Semantic Use of 'Ought to'

Semantically, a wide range of meanings is involved especially attitudes on the part of the speaker towards the factual content of the utterance. The semantic analysis of modal verbs, and the study of their distribution in everyday speech, is a topic which has attracted a great deal of recent attention in linguistics, and several classifications

involving such notions as necessity, possibility, certainty have been proposed (Crystal, 1997: 247).

The researcher has classified the meanings expressed by the modal **ought to** as follows:

#### 1.4.1 Obligation

**Ought to** has several functions but its most common uses seem to be to express some kind of obligation or to make a deduction. Obligation indicates the necessity in which the action in question is performed. When a person feels that he/she is obliged to do something, he/she must be perceived to have the ability to carry out the required action. Two degrees of obligation may be distinguished: (**Modal Verbs in English**, 2013:1)

1. Strong obligation, which indicates that the speaker not only entitled to lay obligation, but he/she also has the authority to ensure compliance. Such obligation is usually expressed by the modal **must** or **shall**.

2. Weak obligation, which indicates that the speaker implies that things are not suggested, that the event does not or will not take place. Such moral obligation is usually expressed by the modal **shall** or **ought to**, as in:

29. People ought to drive more carefully (Swan and Walter, 1997:110)

Unfulfilled obligation, present and past, is expressed by the expressions 'should/ought to +be +v (ing)', and 'should/ought to + have +v(ed)' respectively, as in:

30. I should/ought to be reading my assignment.

31. I should/ought to have read my assignment. (Eastwood, 1999:118)

**Ought't** has no past form, but it can be used with have + past participle to talk about things which were supposed to happen but did not:

32. I ought to have phoned Ed this morning, but I forget. (Swan, 2005:404)

Further, **should** and **ought to** frequently refer to the future in another structure, e.g.:

33. The job should/ought to be finished by next Monday. (Qurik et al, 1985:227)

Although **ought to** and **should** both denote obligation and logical necessity, yet there is sometimes a small difference. **Should** is used when speakers are talking about their own feelings (i.e., subjective opinion), but they prefer **ought** when they are talking about 'outside' rules, laws, moral duties. (i.e., has objective force):

34. Everybody ought to give five per cent of their income to the

Third World. (Swan, 1984: 295)

**Ought** is considered to be the stronger word, as it carries with it a tinge of obligation. **Should** implies a lesser obligation. In other words, **ought** is used when the action described is urgent, **should** is used when the action described is merely desired.

#### 1.4.2 Advisability

Advisability is expressed with the modal auxiliaries **should**, **ought** and **had better**. English speakers use **ought to** to say that something is a good (or bad) idea or good advice, as in:

35. My clothes are dirty I ought to wash them. (Azar, 2003:202)

36. You ought to give up smoking. (=It's a good idea) (Sawm, 1984:295)

In the above examples, **ought to** is followed by the simple form of a verb: 'ought + to + simple form of a verb'.

**Ought to** is also used to say what is the best thing to do or to give recommendations:

37. The weather in Malta is perfect. You ought to come over for a holiday.

Azar (2003:202) mentions that the use of **may be** with **ought to** is to soften advice:

38. a. I'm tired today.

b. May be you ought to go home and take a nap.

In (38.a): Speaker b is a suggestion: going home for a nap is one possible way to solve speaker a's problem.

**Ought to** is also used in questions to ask for advice, as in:

39. It's a difficult problem. How ought we to deal with it? (Eastwood, 1999:118)

After **ought to**, one can also use a continuous form (be + an ing-form):

40. Why are you sitting here doing nothing? You ought to be working.

All-time and future affirmative statements of advisability are expressed with the expressions: 'should/ought to + be + adj' and 'should/ought to + v(infinitive)' respectively, as in:

41. You really ought to/should be more careful. (all time)

42. She should/ought to see a doctor next week. (future) (Yule, 2006:41)

Sometimes, one may express all-time and future negative statements of advisability, simply by adding the negative particle **not** to advice against doing something, although Americans prefer the less formal forms **should not** or **had better not**:

43. You oughtn't to be careless. (all time)

44. You ought not to wait. (ibid.)

In addition to present and future, **ought to** is used in the past form to give advice: 'ought to + have + participles':

45. He ought to have completed the work before he left.

46. I ought to have been leaving London before 9. (Alexander, 1988:

230)

Further, **ought to** is used to express advisability on a scale which reflects a degree of choice. The scale may vary according to the subjective point of view of the speaker. When **ought to** means it is advisable or it is duty, it can be slightly stronger than **should** in that it is sometimes used to refer to regulations or duties imposed from the outside as: You ought to vote (=it is your public duty) (ibid.).

### 1.4.3 Probability

**Should** and **ought** can be used to talk about something that is probably happen or that it is true:

47. Henry ought to be at home now. (=There is a good reason to think he's at home)

48. You should/ought to receive an answer by next week. (Swan, 1984: 295)

'Ought to + have + past participle' are used to talk about something that was expected to happen in the past. This structure can be used to talk about things which were supposed to happen but did not:

49. We ought to have finished by the afternoon yesterday.

50. I ought to have written to my parents, but I forgot. (**English Grammar**, 2009:2)

**Ought not to have** can be used to talk about things that happened unnecessarily:

51. They ought not to have told her about Jenny and Steve. (Probability resulting from an action in the past-she is upset or angry)

52. We ought not to have wasted so much time over it.

To ask for what has probably happened or is probably true, **ought** can be used:

53. Oughtn't the water to have boiled by now? (**Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary**, 2013:1)

Swan (2005:520) states that **must** has similar meanings to **should** and **ought to**, but it is stronger or more definite. It expresses great confidence that something will happen, or that something is true; **should** and **ought** express less confidence:

54. The doctor said I must give up smoking. (an order which is likely

to be obeyed)

55. You really ought to give up smoking. (a piece of advice which may or may not be followed)

#### 1.4.4 Expectation

Expectation is expressed with the modal auxiliary **ought to** which is used to say what one expects or would like to happen:

56. Children ought to be able to read by the age of 7.

57. Jim ought to get the promotion. (It is expected because he deserves it) (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2013:1)

To show expectation, **ought to** is found in the present and past forms as in the following:

58. You ought to receive my letter in two days.

59. You ought to have received my letter two days ago.

#### 1.4.5 Desirability

When expressing that an action or event would have been desirable, one can use either **ought to**:

60. You ought to have come along.

or **should**: You should have stayed home. (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2013:1)

#### 1.4.6 Possibility

Possibility indicates the occurrence of possible actions or happenings. Possibility can be expressed with **should** and **ought to** by using two forms: Present and past:

61. John should/ought to be at home.

62. John should/ought to be working.

63. John should/ought to have left by tomorrow. (Alexander, 1988:219)

However, because **should** and **ought to** also express obligation they can be ambiguous, they are not used as much as **may/might/could** to express possibility. For example, He should have arrived (ought to have arrived) yesterday, could mean 'I think he probably has arrived' or 'He failed in his duty to arrive yesterday'.

Even when speakers are asking about possibility, they do not normally use **should** and **ought to** in affirmative questions about possibility because of the risk of confusion with obligation.

#### 1.4.7 Suggestion

Suggestion is expressed with **ought to** which means someone should do something but he/she does not have to do it, e.g.,:

64. We ought to clean the house tonight.

65. I ought to do my homework. (I don't have to if I don't want to, but I feel I should do it because I want to do well in the class) (Macmillan Dictionary, 2014:2)

#### 1.4.8 Prohibition

Alexander (1988:233) mentions that **oughtn't to** and other modals are used to give the meaning of prohibition in the present and future, although it does not have future form:

66. You oughtn't to be late for meetings. ('present/habitual')

67. You oughtn't to be late tomorrow. (future)

**Oughtn't to** can be replaced by: It won't be advisable (for her) to play games for the next month.

#### 1.4.9 Duty and Necessity

Finally, **ought to** expresses ideas such as: duty and necessity. It is not as forceful as **must**, but it is stronger than **should**:



68. We ought to help the poor and the needy. (Duty)

69. We ought to exercise regularly. (Necessity) (English Grammar, 2009:2)

### 2.1 Application

This section is devoted to the syntactic and the semantic analysis of the modal auxiliary **ought to** in some religious texts taken from the Books of the 'Old Testament' and the 'New Testament' in the Holy Bible. Such religious texts are chosen because they represent the standard form of language and include a considerable number of illustrations which manifest the syntactic and the semantic uses of **ought to**.

#### Text 1

**For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction-because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.** (Malachi,2:7)

It was the priest's duty to study the Law and to teach it faithfully, as it is said of Aaron, in Eccles,45:17, "**He gave unto him his commandments, and authority in the statutes of judgments, that he should teach Jacob the testimonies, and inform Israel in his laws.**" The priest was the appointed interpreter of the Law. He is the messenger of the Lord and announces God's will to men and explaining it to meet the varied circumstances which occur in daily life. So he intervenes between God and man and offering man's worship to the Lord (**Pulpit Commentary**,2014:3).

From a syntactic viewpoint, the modal auxiliary **ought to** is used with affirmative sentence as in: **a priest ought to preserve knowledge**. Semantically speaking, advisability is expressed with **ought to** which is followed by simple form of a verb: **ought to preserve**. It's a good idea or a recommendation that people ought to follow the priest's instructions and advice since he is God's messenger. Priest ought not to keep knowledge from his people, but keep it for them. Preserving and giving them knowledge of themselves and of the truths of the Gospel.

#### Text 2

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.** (Romans,8:26)

Though the infirmities of Christians are many and great, they would be overpowered if left to themselves, yet the Holy Spirit supports them. The Spirit, as an enlightening Spirit, teaches people what to pray for; as a comforting Spirit, silences their tears and helps them over all discouragements. The Holy Spirit is the spring of all desires toward God, which are often more than words that can utter (Henry,n.d:1233)

In this verse, negative clause for **ought to** is used to indicate that **ought to** works as a lexical verb construction syntactically as in: **We do not know what we ought to pray**. At the semantic implication, possibility can be expressed with **ought to** in its present form. People have weakness not only in their bodily afflictions, but also in internal corruptions so they look for the help from the Holy Spirit of God himself. It is not the proper matter of prayer that believers look for but to ask for the right and possible things as they ought to do.

#### Text 3

**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought? But rather**

**think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.** (Romans,12:3)

Pride is as in Man by nature; they need to be cautioned and armed against it. All the saints make up one body in Christ, who is the Head of the body, and the common Center of their unity. In the spiritual body, some are fitted for one sort of work; others for another sort of work. They are to do all the good they can, one to another, and for the common benefit. But they must not be proud of their talents (Henry,n.d.:1243).

Syntactically speaking, an interrogative structure with **ought to** is used with the superordinate clause with **think...ought**. From a semantic point of view, **ought** is used here to express the meaning of desirability since people have a desire to accomplish knowledge of the spiritual gifts which assist them in affirming the will of God at various points in their life. They will also use their time more effectively by focusing on the things they have been equipped and desired to do well rather than expending their energy in areas of minimum potential.

#### **Text 4**

**The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.** (1Corinthians,8:2)

There is no proof of ignorance more common than conceit of knowledge. Much may be known, when nothing is known to good purpose. And those who think they know anything are likely to make good use of their knowledge. Satan hurts some as much by tempting them to be proud of mental powers, as others, and by alluring to sensuality. Knowledge which puffs up the possessor is as dangerous as self-righteous pride though what he knows may be right (Henry,n.d.:1381).

Syntactically speaking, **ought to** is used here in negative clause as a lexical verb with **does**: **he does not know as he ought to know**. From a semantic use, **ought to** denotes moral obligation in the present form: **he ought to know**. True knowledge has an element of moral obligation. Anyone is conceited with his own knowledge and fancies that he knows more than he does which is the case of those that are elated with their knowledge and treats others with contempt. Therefore, whatever knowledge he may have, he ought to be put down for a man that knows nothing as he should do.

#### **Text 5**

**For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.** (1Corinthians,11:10)

According to this verse, the woman was made subject to man because she was made for his help and comfort. And she should do nothing in Christian assemblies which looked like a claim of being equal. She ought to have power, that is, a veil on her head because of the angels(Tertullian, 2014:5).

At the syntactic use, **ought to** is used with affirmative sentence to express the meaning of suggestion. It is suggested that women ought to cover their heads with respect to angels who attend the assemblies of the saints and observe the behaviour of the worshippers. They ought not to give offence to those pure spirits by an indecent appearance since their presence should keep Christian from wrong when they worship God. Nevertheless, men and woman were made for one another. They were to be mutual comfort and blessings.

#### **Text 6**

**We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and**

**the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.** (2Thessalonians,1:3)

Where there is the truth of grace, there will be an increase of it. The path of the just is as the shining light, which shines more and more unto the perfect day. Where faith grows, love will abound for faith works by love (Henry,n.d.:1343).

Adverb of frequency, always, comes before a to-infinitive of **ought** in affirmative sentence to express the syntactic form of this verse. From a semantic perspective, 'ought to + simple present form' is used to express the sense of probability since faith and love grow more and more which are something that are probable or expected to happen because of the grace that God gives it to true believers. So they ought to thank and glorify God for His grace.

**Text 7**

**Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.** (2Peter,3:11)

From the doctrine of Christ's second coming, people are exhorted to purity and godliness. This is the effect of real knowledge. True Christians look for new heavens and a new earth and freed from the vanity things and the sin they are polluted with (Henry,n.d.:1418).

In this verse, **ought to** is used syntactically to form two types of sentences: affirmative and question, as in: **You ought to live** and **what kind of people ought you to be?**. In the latter, **ought to** is found in an interrogative clause as an auxiliary construction without **do**. Semantically speaking, prohibition is expressed with the modal auxiliary **ought to** in the present form to indicate that people are prohibited to live in vain and commit sin. They ought to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and sanctified by the Holy Ghost and shall be admitted to dwell in this holy place.

**Conclusion**

The study has arrived at the following conclusions:

- 1.The analysis of the English religious texts clarifies that **ought to** can be applied to these texts by analyzing the syntactic and the semantic aspects since such religious texts give suitable samples of **ought to**.
- 2.With regard to the syntactic use of **ought to**, it is realized that **ought to** cannot only be determined by affirmative sentence but also by other sentence types such as: negative and question.
- 3.It is also concluded that **ought to** is one of the modal auxiliary verbs that combines with another verb to indicate mood or modality. Unlike other modals, **ought to** has no -s, -ing or infinitive without **to** forms.
4. The paper has concluded that **ought to** is expressed by more than one meaning such as: obligation, advisability, probability, expectation, desirability, possibility, suggestion, prohibition, duty and necessity which are important in English communicative functions.

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