POSSIBILITY AND NECESSITY IN SAMISH

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The "equipollent" modal operators of modal logic

1) P_p = $- N - p$ "It is possible that p iff it is not necessary
that not p"

2) N_p = $- P - p$ "It is necessary that p iff it is not possible
that not p"

Some structurally simple ways to express possibility

3)	a.	he may go	English	AUX modal
	b.	quizás ira	Spanish	Adverb
	c.	yiguuz yiruuH	Egyptian Arabic	Verb
	d.	'i'wáw3 yé'	Samish	Sentence Particle

Epistemic vs. Deontic readings: knowledge and control

4)	a.	He may leave.	a.	Possibility	(E)
			b.	Permission	(D)
	b.	He must speak English.	a.	Inference	(E)
			b.	Obligation	(D)

Second position particles in Samish

Epistemic č3'

5. '3w̓ ye'-č3'-s3n 'ai   I'm supposed to go.

6. '3w̓ si'ém-č3,   He's real rich, it seems.

7. ní-č3' kʷ3' '3w̓ 'i' '3n'é   Evidently someone will
                                      come.

Deontic y3q

8. čpú:t-y3q-s3n 'ai   I wish I had a boat.

9. čpú:t-y3q-sxʷ 'ai   I wish you had a boat.

10. '3w3-y3q-sxʷ 'ai s-i-yé'   I hope you don't go.

Epistemic y3xʷ

11. '3w̓ čpú:t-y3xᴺ 'áč3   Why -- he's got a boat!

12. stéŋ-y3xʷ 'áč3   I wonder what it is?

13. '3xén-y3xʷ-χ 'áč3   I wonder where we are?

Deontic '3sk̓w3́y

14. '3sk̓ʷ3́y kʷ3-stíl3ms   He can't sing.

15. '3sk̓ʷ3́y-s3n   I'm real sick.

Necessity/Obligation

"...we find that, in the most diverse languages of the
North Pacific Coast, commands are given in the peri-
phrastic form, 'It would be good if you did so and so...'"

(Boas, 1911, p. 44)

16. 'áy kʷ3 s-yé'-s   It is good that he go.
                                       (He should go.)

17. '3w3 s-'áy kʷ3 s-yé'-s   It's not good that he go.
                                       (He shouldn't go.)

18. '3sk̓ʷ3́y kʷ3 s-3w3s '3w̓ yé'   It's impossible for him not
                                       to go. (He has to go.)

19. '3sk̓ʷ3́y kʷ3 s-3w3s '3w̓ lé'ts It needs fixing. (recorder)

Loan Translation?

20. '3w̓ '3́w3n3 'al kʷ3s šlé'es kʷ3n3s-yé'

    It's not important that I go.

21. '3́w3n3 kʷ stéŋ šlé'es   It doesn't mean a thing.

22. '3́y kʷ šlé'e·   It's a good place.

23. '3w3 kʷ3 s-nił n3-šlé'e.   I don't belong here.

24. nił n3-šlé'e   That's where I come from.

25. '3́w3n3 kʷ stéŋ '3n̓-šlé'e   You've got nothing to do with it.