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The modal and quasi-modal verbs of obligation and necessity in the English Varieties of Singapore, India and the Philippines.

GlobE

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Outline

- Introduction
- Data and methods
- Results
- Conclusion
- References



Introduction

- Our focus in this paper is the use of modal and quasi-modal verbs of obligation and necessity in the varieties of English spoken in Singapore, Philippines and India.
- The “source” varieties, British and American English, have been included in the study for point of reference.



Introduction

- In this presentation we focus on the modals *should*, *must*, *need* and *ought to*, and the quasi-modals *have to*, *have got to*, *need to*, *be supposed to* and *had better*



Introduction

- Variation and change in the use of modals and quasi-modals in different varieties of English has received considerable attention recently.
- Leech et al. (2009) focused on short term diachronic developments in the use of modals in British and American English (in the Brown family of corpora).
- "In broad terms, our findings have been that the core modals have been significantly declining in use, whereas the semi-modals have been significantly increasing."
(Leech et al. 2009: 71)

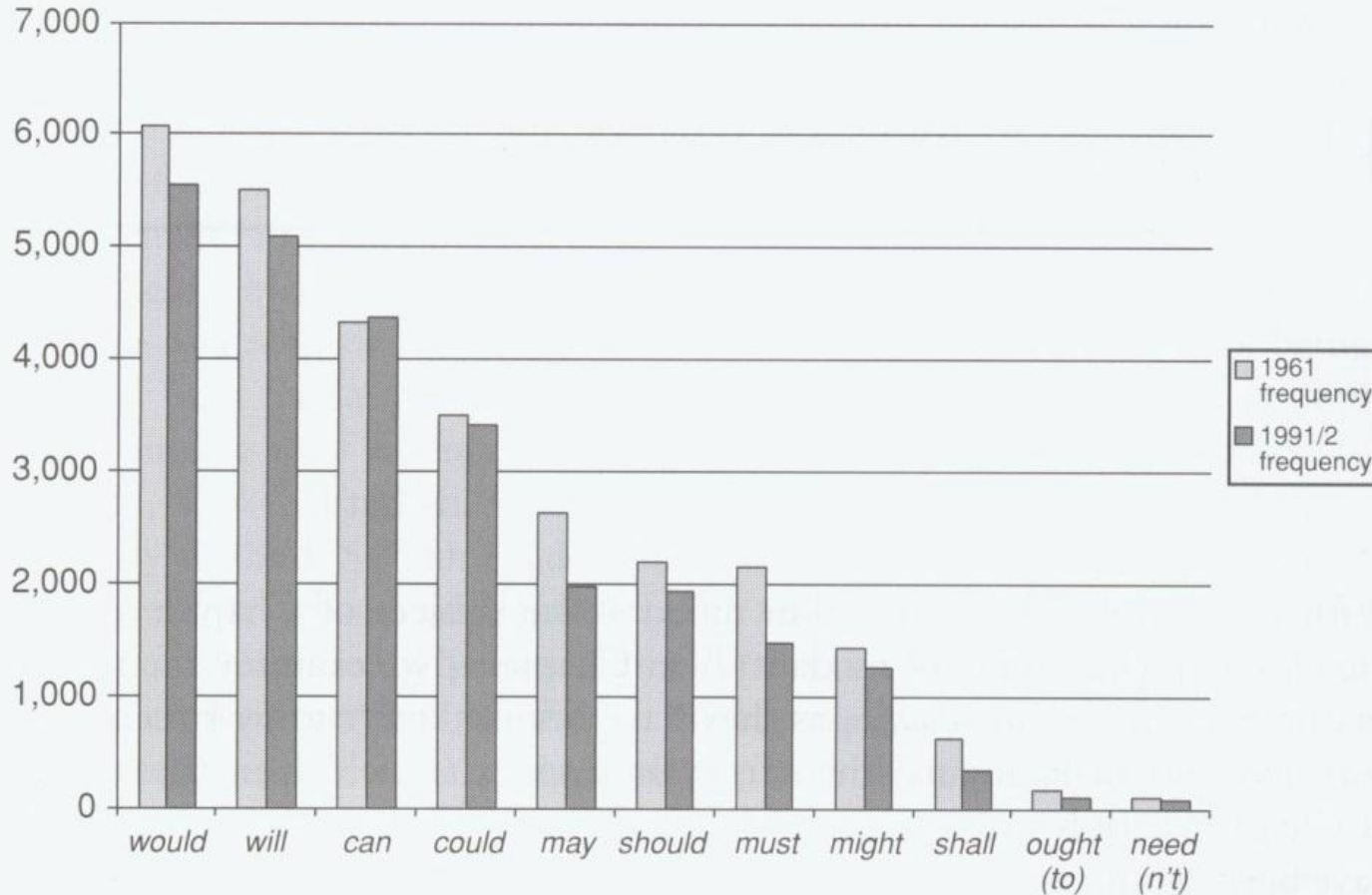


Figure 4.1 Frequencies of modals in the four written corpora: comparing 1961 with 1991/2

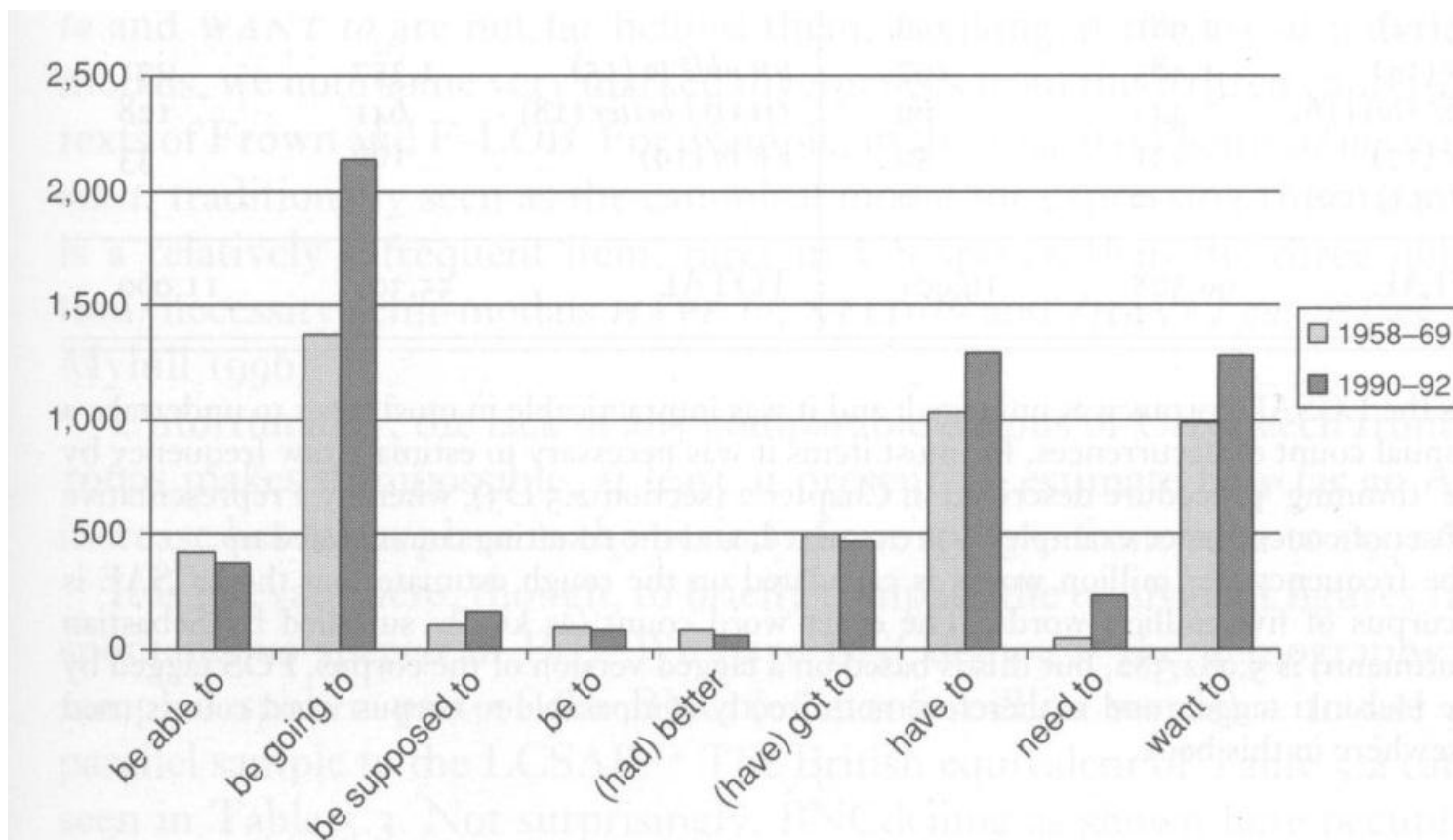


Figure 5.3 Frequency of semi-modals in spoken British English: increase in use based on the comparison of the DSEU and DICE mini-corpora

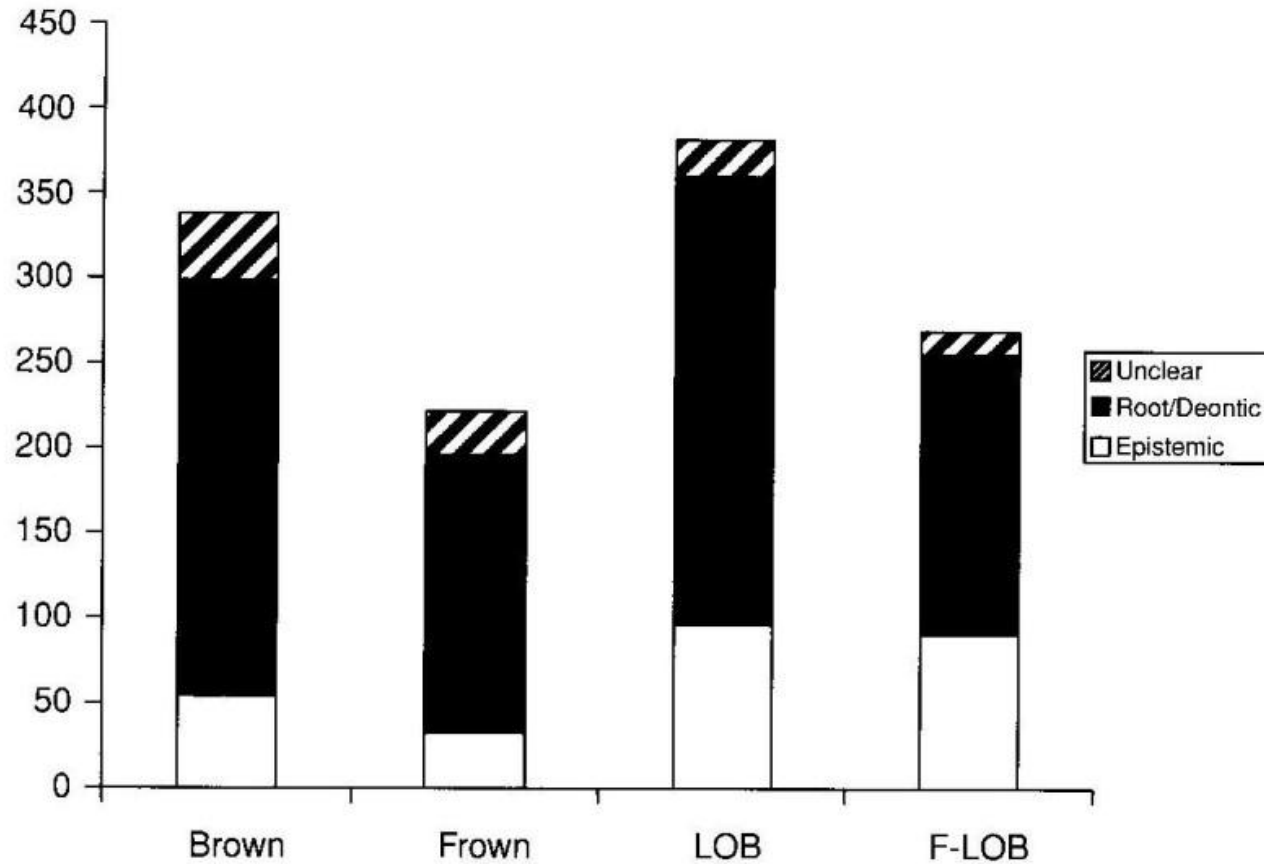


Figure 4.7 *Must* – change in frequency of senses (analysis of every third example) in the Brown family of corpora



Introduction

- Leech et al.: over 30% decline in the deontic use of *must* in both BrE and AmE.
- Socio-cultural reasons as a possible explanation for the decline, cf. Myhill (1995), who argued that ""old" modals [*must, should, may, shall*] had usages associated with hierarchical social relationships" in 19th c. AmE.
- Leech et al.: "a similar 'democratization' trend in society has been taking place in the later twentieth century."



Introduction

- Collins (2005, 2009a), focus on British, American, Australian (and New Zealand English), both form-based and semantic analysis
- Collins (2009b), a form-based analysis in British, American, Australian, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indian and Kenyan English



Data and methods

- ICE-SIN
- ICE-IND
- ICE-PHI
- ICE-GB
- Santa Barbara corpus of spoken American English (SBC)
- Freiburg-Brown corpus of American English (Frown)



Data and methods

- The following text types were included from the ICE-Corpora:
 - Spoken: S1A001-090 (Direct Conversations)
S1A91-100 (Distance Conversations)
 - Written: W1B001-015 (Social Letters)
W2C001-020 (Press News Reports)
W2F001-020 (Novels/Stories)



Data and methods

- WordSmith Tools 5.0 (+AntConc 3.2.4 for SBC and Frown)
- Positive & negative forms
- Full & contracted forms
- Semantic analysis: focus on deontic and epistemic modality. For the moment we have decided not to include the category of dynamic modality in our analysis



Data and methods

- Deontic (root)
 - Relates to the world of duties and directives (Collins 2005, 251)
 - What is obligatory or forbidden (Palmer 1979, 70)
 - All laws must be enforced strictly. (ICE-SIN:W2C-006)
 - I've got to start working on my grade cards, too (SBC0019)
- Epistemic
 - Expresses the speakers attitude towards the factuality or likelihood of the action expressed (Declerk 1992, 351)
 - They must have taken some hard hitting decisions (ICE-IND:S1A-041)
 - No one else has read it so it has to be advisory doesn't it (ICE-GB:S1A-068)



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Results



Modals: *should*

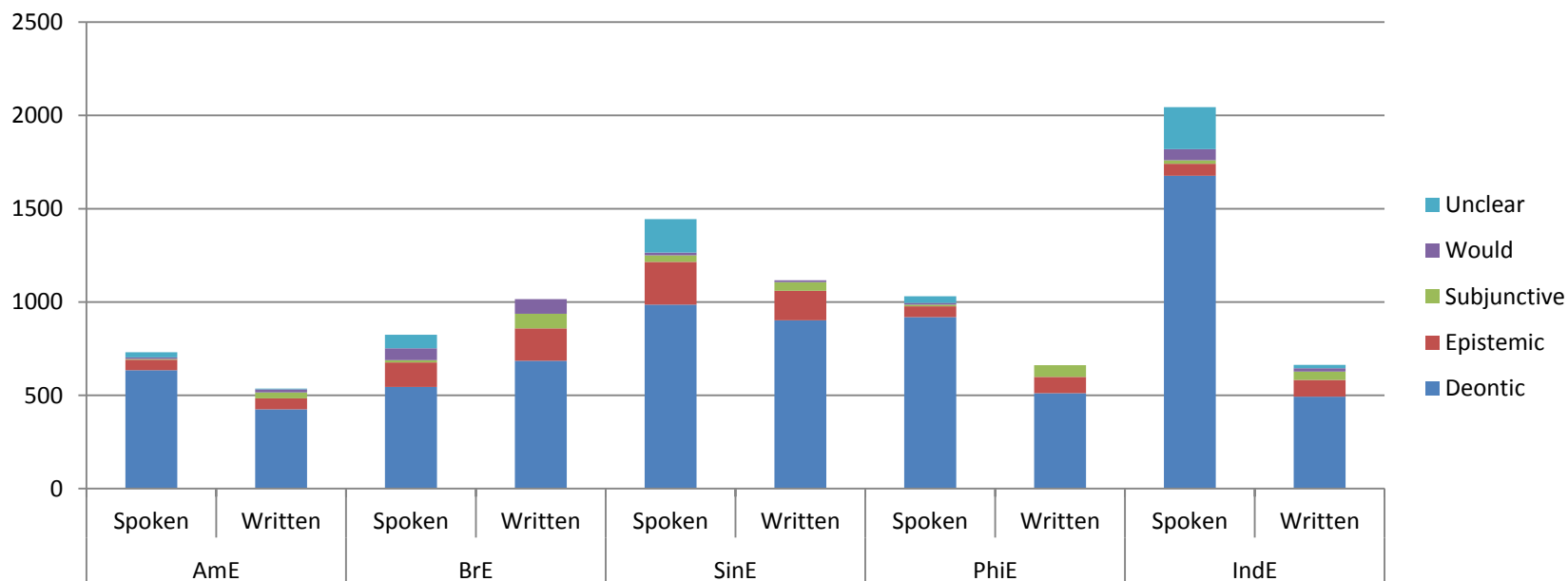


Figure 1. Deontic, epistemic, subjunctive and *would* uses of *should* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE		
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	
Deontic	634.9 (159)	425.4 (146)	544.7 (112)	685.3 (79)	986.0 (198)	902.2 (97)	919.1 (206)	511.8 (65)	1676.7 (365)	493.0 (55)	
Epistemic	55.9 (14)	58.3 (20)	131.8 (33)	173.5 (33)	229.1 (46)	158.1 (17)	58.0 (13)	86.6 (11)	64.3 (14)	64.6 (10)	
Subjunctive	4.0 (1)	32.0 (11)	12.0 (3)	78.1 (9)	34.9 (7)	46.5 (5)	8.9 (2)	63.0 (8)	18.4 (4)	44.8 (5)	
Would	8.0 (2)	16.0 (4)	63.2 (13)	78.1 (9)	14.9 (3)	9.3 (1)	8.9 (2)	0.0 (0)	59.7 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Unclear	28.0 (7)	4.0 (1)	72.9 (15)	0.0 (0)	179.3 (36)	0.0 (0)	35.7 (8)	0.0 (0)	225.1 (49)	17.9 (2)	

Table 1. Deontic, epistemic, subjunctive and *would* use of *should* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



Modals: *must*

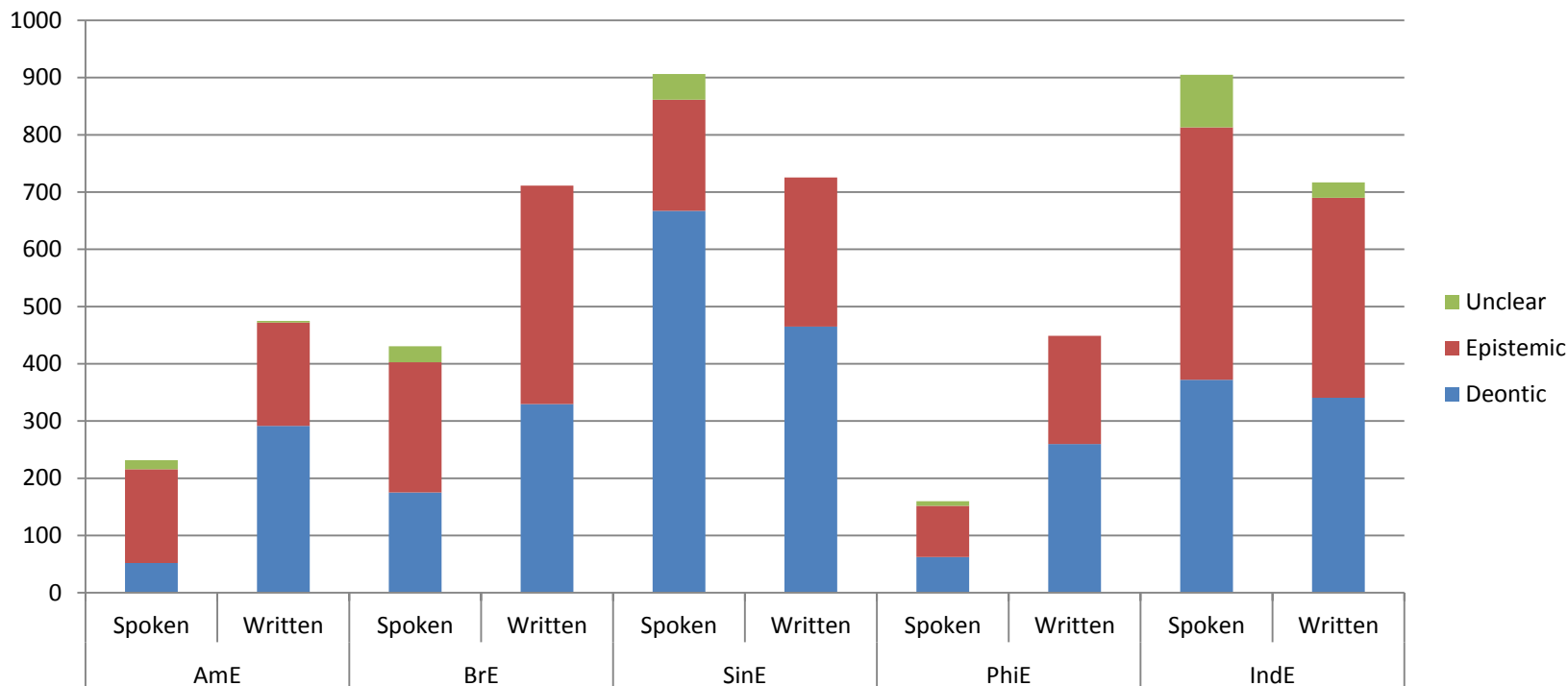


Figure 2. Deontic and epistemic *must* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	51.9 (13)	291.4 (100)	175.1 (36)	329.7 (38)	667.3 (134)	465.1 (50)	62.5 (14)	259.9 (33)	372.1 (81)	340.6 (38)
Epistemic	163.7 (41)	180.6 (62)	227.6 (57)	381.7 (44)	194.2 (39)	260.4 (20)	89.2 (20)	189.0 (24)	441.0 (96)	349.6 (39)
Unclear	16.0 (4)	2.9 (1)	28.0 (7)	0.0 (0)	44.8 (9)	0.0 (0)	8.1 (2)	0.0 (0)	91.9 (20)	26.9 (3)

Table 2. Deontic and epistemic *must* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



Quasi-modals: *have to*

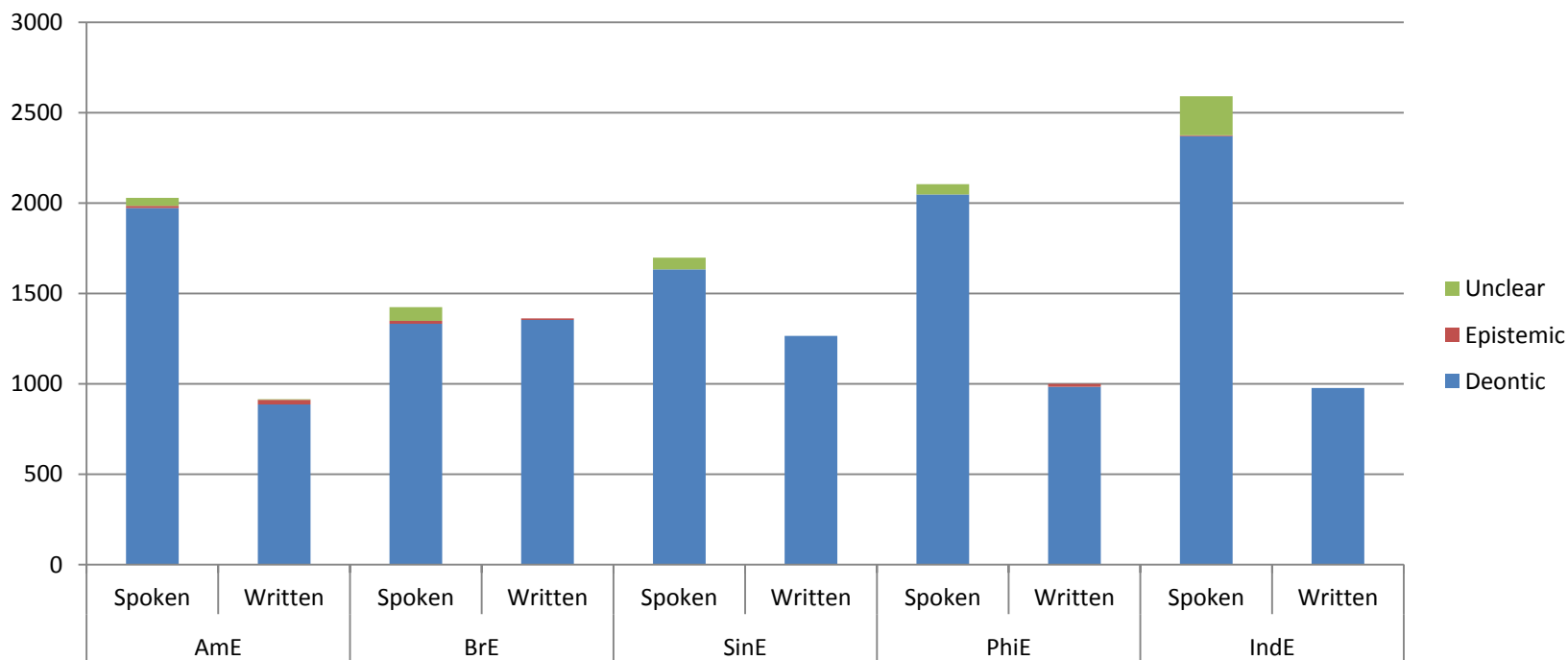


Figure 3. Deontic and epistemic *have to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	1972.7 (494)	885.7 (304)	1332.5 (274)	1353.3 (156)	1633.4 (328)	1265.0 (136)	2047.9 (459)	984.2 (125)	2370.4 (516)	977.0 (109)
Epistemic	12.0 (3)	25.2 (9)	16.0 (4)	8.7 (1)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	15.7 (2)	4.6 (1)	0.0 (0)
Unclear	43.9 (11)	2.9 (1)	75.9 (19)	0.0 (0)	64.7 (13)	0.0 (0)	56.9 (14)	0.0 (0)	215.9 (47)	0.0 (0)

Table 3. Deontic and epistemic *have to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



Quasi-modals: *have got to*

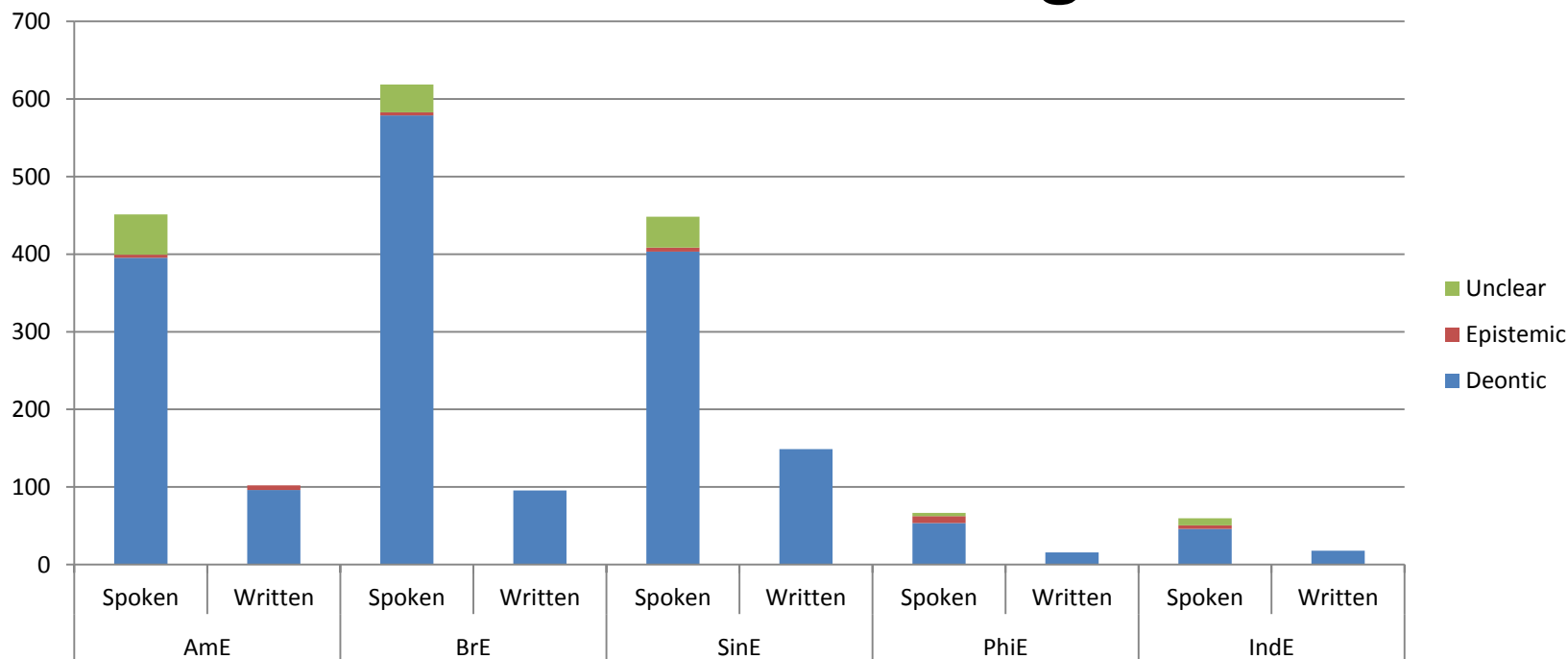


Figure 4. Deontic and epistemic *have got to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE
(freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	395.3 (99)	96.1 (33)	578,7 (119)	95.4 (11)	403.4 (81)	148.8 (16)	53.5 (12)	15.7 (2)	45.9 (10)	17.9 (2)
Epistemic	4.0 (1)	5.8 (2)	4.0 (1)	0.0 (0)	5.0 (1)	0.0 (0)	8.9 (2)	0.0 (0)	4.6 (1)	0.0 (0)
Unclear	51.9 (13)	0.0 (0)	35.9 (9)	0.0 (0)	39.8 (8)	0.0 (0)	4.1 (1)	0.0 (0)	9.2 (2)	0.0 (0)

Table 4. Deontic and epistemic *have got to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE
(freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



Quasi-modals: *supposed to*

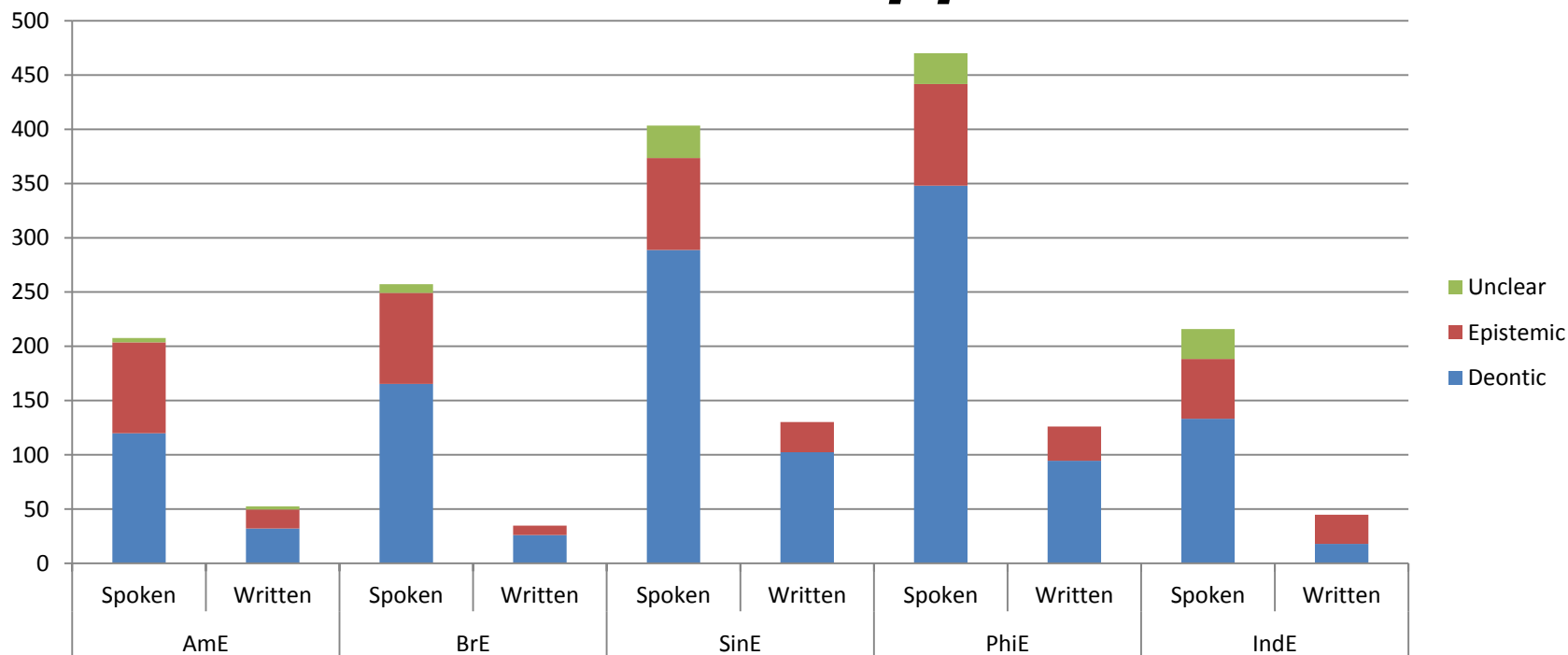


Figure 5. Deontic and epistemic *supposed to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

<i>Supposed to</i>	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	119.8 (30)	32.0 (11)	165.3 (34)	7.1 (3)	288.8 (58)	5.1 (2)	348.0 (78)	2.2 (1)	133.2 (29)	2.5 (1)
Epistemic	83.9 (21)	17.5 (6)	83.9 (21)	2.4 (1)	84.7 (17)	0.0 (0)	93.7 (21)	4.5 (2)	55.1 (12)	7.4 (3)
Unclear	4.0 (1)	2.9 (1)	8.0 (2)	0.0 (0)	29.9 (6)	0.0 (0)	28.5 (7)	0.0 (0)	27.6 (6)	0.0 (0)

Table 5. Deontic and epistemic *supposed to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



All modals and quasi-modals

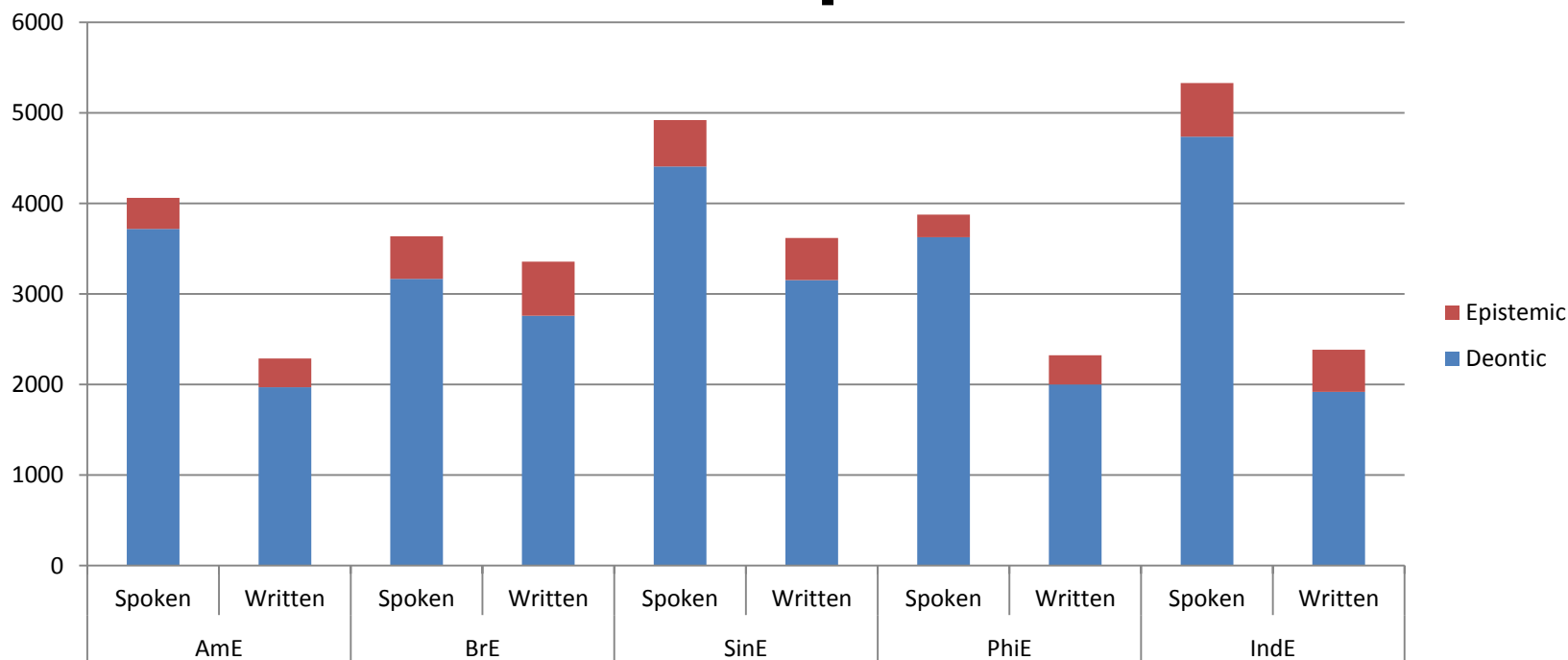


Figure 7. All Deontic and epistemic use of modals and quasi-modals in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	3717.8 (931)	1969.6 (676)	3165.9 (651)	2758.7 (318)	4407.3 (885)	3153.1 (339)	3627.2 (813)	1999.9 (254)	4736.2 (1031)	1918.1 (214)
Epistemic	343.4 (86)	317.6 (109)	471.2 (118)	598.6 (69)	512.9 (103)	465.1 (50)	249.8 (56)	322.8 (41)	592.6 (129)	466.1 (52)

Table 7. All Deontic and epistemic *need to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



must, should, have got to and supposed to

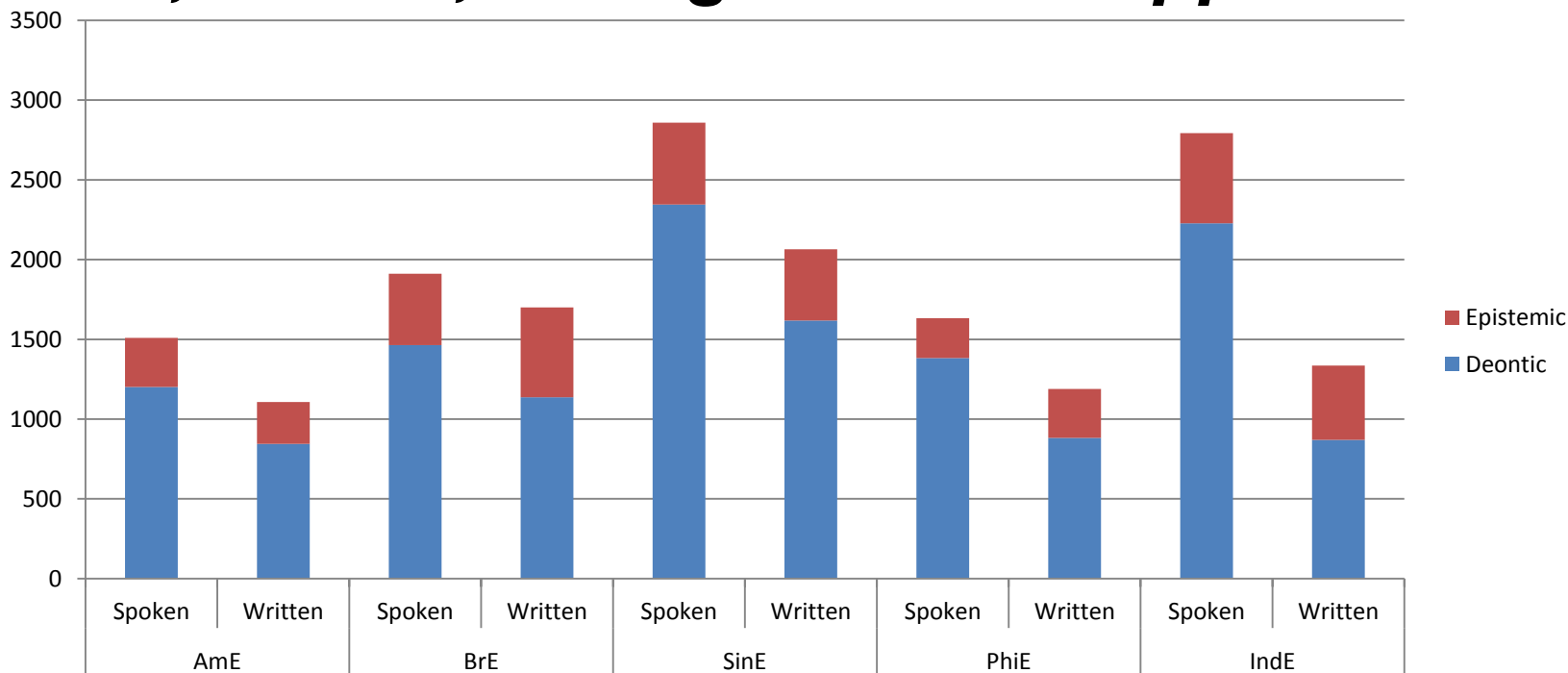


Figure 8. Deontic and epistemic use of *must, should, have got to and supposed to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
deontic	1202.0 (301)	844.9 (290)	1463.8 (301)	1136.5 (131)	2345.6 (471)	1618.4 (174)	1383.1 (210)	881.8 (112)	2228.1(485)	869.4 (97)
epistemic	373.5 (77)	262.2 (90)	447.3 (112)	563.9 (65)	512.9 (103)	446.5 (48)	249.8 (56)	307.1 (39)	565.0 (123)	466.1 (52)

Table 8. Deontic and epistemic use of *must, should, have got to and supposed to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words, absolute figures in parentheses)



need, need to, had better, have to, ought to

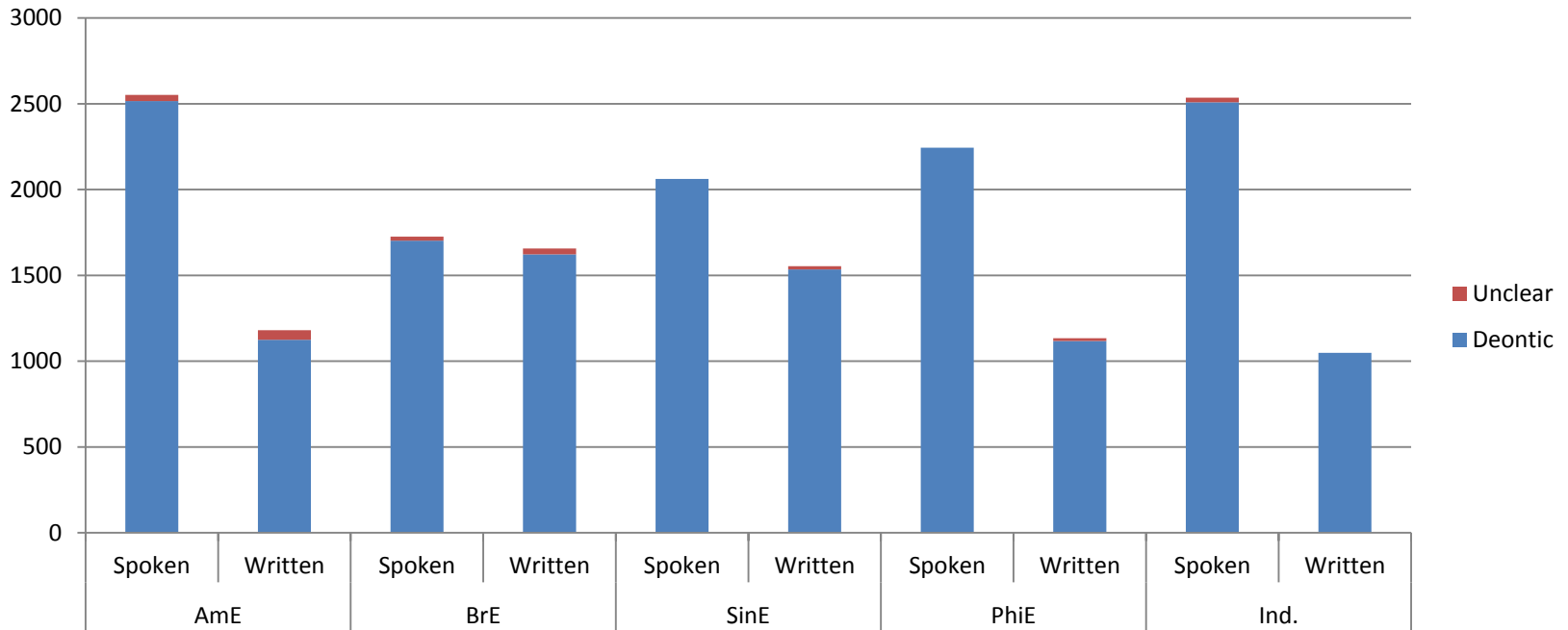


Figure 9. Deontic and epistemic use of *need, need to, had better, have to* and *ought to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)

	AmE		BrE		SinE		PhiE		IndE	
	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Written
Deontic	2515.8 (630)	1124.6 (389)	1702.1 (350)	1622.3 (187)	2061.7 (414)	1534.7 (165)	2508.1 (503)	1118.0 (142)	2508.2 (546)	1048.7 (117)
Epistemic	35.9 (9)	55.3 (19)	24.0 (6)	34.7 (4)	0.0 (0)	18.6 (2)	0.0 (0)	15.7 (2)	27.6 (6)	0.0 (0)

Table 9. Deontic and epistemic use of *need, need to, had better, have to* and *ought to* in AmE, BrE, SinE, PhiE and IndE (freq. normalised per 1 mio words)



Conclusion

- During the past decades, there has been a decrease in the use of modals and an increase in the use of quasi-modals in AmE and BrE.
- Many Asian varieties examined here appear to favour the use of modals and quasi-modals which are used to express stronger obligation, whereas in AmE and BrE the trend is the opposite –more informal forms are used.
- The differences in the patterns of using modals and quasi-modals of obligation and necessity could be caused by cultural differences: Western speakers of English strive for consensus, while Asian speakers of English are more accustomed to expressions of obligation and authority.



References

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