

## LINGUISTICS

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## POSSIBILITY AND NECESSITY IN GERMAN DERIVATIVES

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**Annotation.** The aim of our article is to show how the word-formative meanings of possibility and necessity are expressed in German derivative words; to determine the internal structure of appropriate derivative models as well as to outline ways of their realization; to ascertain the structural and semantic features of the corresponding word-building constructions; to describe the inventory of word-building tools and their relationship; to classify word-building affixes according to formal, content-wise and pragmatic characteristics; to analyze the derivatives collected from dictionaries, magazines, various artistic fiction works, in which the word-building meanings of possibility and necessity are manifested.

In the article we use different methods of research, namely, Immediate Constituent Analysis (IC Analysis), transformation, contrast, description and substitution methods, but we mainly rely on the principles of content-oriented word formation and on descriptive methods.

Results of the research are as follows: suffix derivatives are used in the German language to express the lexical meanings of possibility and necessity. We have considered up to 120 word-building constructions, in which different semantic nuances are revealed, in particular, the nuances of active and passive possibility, as well as necessary need and duty. We have separately analyzed each of the word-building suffixes involved in the formation of the word-building meanings of possibility and necessity.

The material discussed in the article leads to the conclusion that despite the different ways of formation, all the derivatives discussed by us serve to express the literal meanings of possibility and necessity. The base component is also different in them: it can be a noun or a root of a verb.

**Keywords:** Derivational model, suffix, word-formative meaning, possibility, necessity

## ВОЗМОЖНОСТЬ И НЕОБХОДИМОСТЬ В НЕМЕЦКИХ ПРОИЗВОДНЫХ СЛОВАХ

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**Аннотация.** Цель нашей статьи - показать, как словообразовательные значения возможности и необходимости выражаются в немецких производных словах; определить внутреннюю структуру соответствующих производных моделей, а также наметить пути их реализации; установить структурные и семантические особенности соответствующих словообразовательных конструкций; описать перечень словообразовательных средств и их взаимосвязи; классифицировать словообразовательные аффиксы в соответствии с формальными, содержательными и

прагматическими характеристиками; проанализировать дериваты, собранные из словарей, журналов, газет, различных художественных произведений, в которых проявляются словообразовательные значения возможности и необходимости.

В статье мы используем различные методы исследования, в частности, трансформационный метод, анализ по непосредственно составляющим (IC Analyse), сопоставительный, описательный и субституционный методы, но в основном опираемся на принципы и методы описания контент-ориентированного словообразования.

Результаты исследования таковы: для выражения словообразовательных значений возможности и необходимости в немецком языке используются суффиксальные производные. Нами обсуждается около 120 словообразовательных конструкций, в которых раскрываются различные смысловые оттенки, в частности, нюансы активной и пассивной возможности, а также необходимой потребности и долга. Мы отдельно проанализировали каждый из словообразовательных суффиксов, участвующих в формировании словообразовательных значений возможности и необходимости.

Из материала, рассмотренного в статье, следует вывод, что, несмотря на различные способы образования, все обсуждаемые нами производные служат для выражения словообразовательных значений возможности и необходимости. В них базовый компонент также отличается: это может быть существительное или корень глагола.

**Ключевые слова:** Деривационный модель, суффикс, словообразовательное значение, возможность, необходимость

## **შესაძლებლობა და აუცილებლობა გერმანულ დერივატებში**

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**ანოტაცია.** ჩვენი სტატიის მიზანია აჩვენოს, თუ როგორ გამოიხატება გერმანულ ნაწარმოებ სიტყვებში შესაძლებლობისა და აუცილებლობის სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობა; განსაზღვროს სათანადო დერივაციული მოდელების ინტერნული სტრუქტურა და მათი რეალიზაციის გზები; დაადგინოს შესაბამისი სიტყვაწარმოებითი კონსტრუქციების სტრუქტურული და სემანტიკური თავისებურებები; აღწეროს სიტყვაწარმოებითი საშუალებების ინვენტარი და მათი ურთიერთმიმართება; მოახდინოს სიტყვაწარმოებითი აფიქსების კლასიფიკაცია ფორმალური, შინაარსობრივი და პრაგმატული მახასიათებლების მიხედვით; გაანალიზოს ლექსიკონებიდან, ჟურნალ-გაზეთებიდან, სხვადასხვა მხატვრული ნაწარმოებიდან ამოკრეფილი დერივატები, რომლებშიც ხდება შესაძლებლობისა და აუცილებლობის სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობის მანიფესტაცია.

სტატიაში ვიყენებთ კვლევის სხვადასხვა მეთოდს, კერძოდ, ტრანსფორმაციის, უშუალო შემადგენელი კონსტიტუენტების (), შეპირისპირებით, აღწერილობით და სუბსტიტუციის მეთოდებს, მაგრამ ძირითადად ვეყრდნობით შინაარსზე ორიენტირებული სიტყვაწარმოების პრინციპებსა და აღწერის ხერხებს.

კვლევის შედეგები მდგომარეობს შემდგომში: შესაძლებლობისა და აუცილებლობის სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობის გამოსახატავად გერმანულ ენაში გამოიყენება სუფიქსური დერივატები. ჩვენს მიერ განხილულია 120-მდე სიტყვაწარმოებითი კონსტრუქცია, რომლებშიც ვლინდება სხვადასხვა სემანტიკური ელფერი, კერძოდ, აქტიური და პასიური შესაძლებლობის, ასევე აუცილებელი საჭიროებისა და მოვალეობის ნიუანსები. ჩვენ ცალ-ცალკე გავანალიზეთ თითოეული სიტყვაწარმოებითი სუფიქსი, რომლებიც მონაწილეობენ შესაძლებლობისა და აუცილებლობის სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობის ჩამოყალიბებაში.

სტატიაში განხილული მასალიდან გამომდინარეობს დასკვნა, რომ წარმოქმნის განსხვავებული ხერხების მიუხედავად ჩვენს მიერ განხილული ყველა დერივატი შესაძლებლობისა და აუცილებლობის სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობის გამოხატვას ემსახურება. მათში განსხვავებულია ბაზისური კომპონენტიც: იგი შეიძლება იყოს არსებითი სახელი ან ზმნის ფუძე.

**საკვანძო სიტყვები:** დერივაციული მოდელი, სუფიქსი, სიტყვაწარმოებითი მნიშვნელობა, შესაძლებლობა, აუცილებლობა

## INTRODUCTION

There are derivational models in the German language that use the Germanic and borrowed suffixes *-bar*, *-lich*, *-sam*, *-abel/-ibel* to express the word-building meanings of possibility and necessity. In the present article, we will separately consider the formal, semantic and distributional features of each of them, we will analyze the common characteristics and content-related differentiation of the derivatives produced by them. Our area of interest is to reveal the nuances of passive and active possibility in word-building constructions of possibility, as well as to find ways and means to separate the nuances of necessary need and duty within the word-building meanings of necessity. We will consider word-building constructions from the point of view of the basic components as well. In accordance with different semantic nuances, the base word of different morphological classes is found in them. The article provides rich illustrative material to characterize each individual semantic shade.

## REVIEW OF THE ISSUE

Theoretical basis for the separation of semantic-word-building categories is given in the works of L. Weisgerber. He separates word niches (*Wortnischen*) in word-building models within the same parts of speech, and then combines these niches into word blocks (*Wortstände*).

A word niche is a designation of a group of derivatives that have a formally similar structure and are semantically related to each other. The scope of word niches is mainly limited to derivatives and they are considered as tightly related groups in terms of content (cf. Metzler 2016). Such a systematic arrangement of derivational types into niches is oriented on the phonological side, insofar as formal groups are the starting point, although the ultimate goal is content-oriented analysis. In order to discuss content-related problems, there must be found the methods of content-oriented analysis. L. Weisgerber discusses adjectival derivatives with the suffixes: *-bar* and *-lich*. He classifies adjectives formed from transitive verbs within two derivational types, which express the suitability of an object for a certain action. L. Weisgerber calls them *-bar* and *-lich* niches (Weisgerber 1971, 219). For example, *brauchbar*, *denkbar*, *verkäuflich*, *begreiflich*. One group includes only formations with *-bar* suffix: *essbar*, *trinkbar*, *brennbar*, *dehnbar*. In the second group, only formations with the suffix *-lich* are found: *glaublich*, *erhältlich*, *erträglich*. Finally, we may encounter parallel formations of both types: *erklärbar* – *erklärlich*, *vernehmbar* – *vernehmlich*; Or even *-bar* suffixed constructions that could be matched with negative *-lich* suffixed constructions: *vergleichbar* – *unvergleichlich*, *ersetzbar* – *unersetzlich*. The distribution of suffixes *-bar* and *-lich* in transitive verbs is not arbitrary, but is related to the manner how events are reflected in the verb. Formations with the suffix *-bar*

indicate that the object is permissible and useful for action, and formations with the suffix *-lich* specify that the object can become realized as a result of a certain action.

L. Weisgerber concludes that accurate content-related determination is possible through the interaction of several different niches. He refers to this event with the term "blocks of words" (*Wortstände*) and considers it as the main term for the content-related grouping of derivatives (Weisgerber 1971, 223).

The notion of word blocks helps us make observations systematically. Research on word blocks is mainly focused on derivatives. Within all derived types, there are instances of the same content. On the other hand, there are differences in the overall composition. Thus, the block of words is built with different ways of formation, which are based on different formal expressions and, at the same time, include variants of one basic meaning. A separate block of words may include words that are formed by different derivational means, i.e. represent different word niches, and vice versa, the same derivational type or word niche can participate in different word blocks.

### METHODS OF RESEARCH

In the article we use different research methods: during the analysis of specific material, we apply the methods of transformation, direct constituents, contrast, description and substitution, but we mainly rely on the principles of content-oriented word-building and on the descriptive methods.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*-bar* is one of the most productive suffixes in the German language. It joins both the verb base and the noun and adjective. In some derived words there is a double relation. In such cases, both a verb and a noun can be considered as a basis, for example, *streitbar*, *dankbar* (Elsen 2011, 159). Derivatives with the *-bar* suffix almost always have a passive meaning. They express the usefulness or applicability of something: for example, *brauchbar* – *was gebraucht werden kann* ("usable – something that can be used"). Similarly: *trinkbar*, *drehbar*, *essbar*, *waschbar*, *dehnbar*, *messbar*, *rührbar*, etc. This is the main word-building meaning of complex words with the suffix *-bar*, which, at the first glance, seems to leave a general, common impression. Yet, if we look carefully, there is still a difference, and this difference depends on whether the base verb is transitive or intransitive.

Transitive verbs are most often found in *-bar* suffixed derivatives as a base: *auffindbar*, *matschbar*, *zerlegbar*, *handhabbar*, *erfahrbar*, *ermittelbar*, *durschschaubar*, *verfügbar*, *aufklappbar*, *nachvollziehbar*, *abretzenbar*. In addition, the word-building construction contains a verb form with a passive-potential meaning. Along with the passive meaning, the modal nuance in the sense of the modal verb 'können' often comes to the foreground. This or that action expressed by the verb can be performed in relation to a certain object: *heilbare Krankheit* – *die Krankheit kann geheilt werden* (curable disease – the disease that can be cured); *zusammenklappbare Stühle* – *die Stühle können zusammengeklappt werden* (foldable chairs - the chairs that can be folded); *essbare Früchte* – *die Früchte können gegessen werden* (edible fruit – the fruit that can be eaten); Similar word-building constructions are: *benutzbar*, *singbar*, *deutbar*, *schlachtbar*, *erfassbar*, *auseinanderschließbar*, *ausführbar*, *befahrbar*, *analysierbar*, *entzifferbar*, *herstellbar*, *faltbar*, *bezwingbar*, *überbrückbar* and so on. It is the meaning of passive possibility that occupies the central place

in derivatives with the suffix *-bar*. Through such formations, there becomes possible the event that the verbal formation turns into the substantive and is conveyed in the form of a name: *machen – machbar – Machbarkeit; brauchen – brauchbar – Brauchbarkeit; verwerten – verwertbar – Verwertbarkeit*.

Derivatives with the suffix *-bar* express the address of the subject and predicate. Even separate, isolated unusual formations become comprehensible in context (Poethe 1988, 342). For example, ‘tanzbar’: *Wie tanzbar ist unsere Tanzmusik?* (How danceable is our dance music?) In some cases they give a precise semantic evaluation in the sense of "good" or "easy": *(gut) lesbares Buch* - "a book that is well read" (synonymous with ‘lesenswert’). Similar cases are: *(leicht) beeinflussbarer Mensch; (gut) hörbare Töne, (leicht) biegbares Material*. Parallel formations with the suffix *-lich* are common, in which the nuance of evaluation is more pronounced: *erklärbar – (leicht) erklärlich, begreifbar – (leicht) begreiflich, bewegbar – (leicht) beweglich*. The passive-modal meaning is so typical that it makes up the vast majority of derivatives with the *-bar* suffix.

In contrast, the model of derivatives made from intransitive verbs is unproductive. The word-building meaning here is "possibility", "potentiality". The passive form of the verb cannot be transformed: *brennbarer Stoff – der Stoff kann brennen* (combustible substance – the substance that can burn). In the same manner: *gerinnbare Flüssigkeit, streitbare Person*. The negative variants of such derivatives are produced with the prefix *un-*: *unentrinnbares Schicksal – Schicksal, dem man nicht entrinnen kann* (inescapable fate -- destiny that cannot be escaped); *unnahbare Person – Person, der man sich nicht nähern kann* (unapproachable person – person who cannot be approached). It is worth noting the singular lexicalized formations, most of which are used in a special context denoting management: *alle verfügbaren Mittel – Mittel, über die verfügt werden kann* (all available funds – all resources that can be disposed of). In the similar manner: *eine unkündbare Angestellte, mein unverzichtbares Recht, ein unfehlbarer Rat*.

Among the *-bar* suffixed derivatives there are word-formative constructions in which the modal component is not always the modal verb ‘können’, but the modal verb ‘müssen’. In this case, it is not a possibility, but a need, a necessity. Accordingly, these constructions manifest the meaning of necessity: *Er ist für Schäden haftbar – muss haften* (He is liable for damage – must be liable) (Fleischer/Barz 2012, 333). New derivatives are no longer created with this model.

The word-building meaning of necessity, duty also occurs in denominative derivatives with the *-bar* suffix, although the mentioned model is almost unproductive today: *akzisbar – Akzise müssen gezahlt werden* (The excise must be paid). Just in the same way: *steuerbar, zollbar, zinsbar*. The word-making meaning of destination can be distinguished: *jagdbare Tiere, schiffbare Flüsse, gangbarer Weg, anflugbare Orte*; as well as the meaning expressing ability, possibility: *fruchtbar – fähig, Frucht hervorzubringen* (capable of bearing fruit). These are also similar: *flugbare Vögel, sichtbare Erfolge, milchbare Kühe, heubare Felder*.

It should be noted here that derivatives with *-bar* suffix carrying the passive-modal meaning are also called adjectives of purpose. They indicate what the value given in the relative word is suitable or fit for, what action can be taken in relation to it: *annehbare Lösung – eine Lösung, die man annehmen kann* (an

acceptable solution – a solution that can be accepted); *die sich annehmen lässt*; *die angenommen werden kann* (acceptable issue – the issue which can be accepted). Therefore, they are close to the word-building meaning of the destination. But they still have different semantic nuances, for example, *heilbare Krankheit* – ‘a disease that can be cured’, ‘a disease that is subject to cure’, i.e. which represents the subject of the action, and *schiffbarer Fluss* – ‘a navigable river’ which is the means of navigation. Therefore, we considered it possible to separate these two meanings characteristic of the *-bar* suffix - the object of influence and the means of influence – separately (Kruashvili 2013, 124).

The next suffix, which participates in the construction of the word-building meaning of possibility, is *-lich*. The realization of the mentioned word-building meaning is mainly carried out by attaching it to the verb base, which can be represented by the infinitive or by the base of the verb, although the infinitive models are already unproductive today: *flehentlich*, *hoffentlich*, *wissentlich*, *gelegentlich*, *versehentlich*. Derivatives with the suffix *-lich* mostly have a prefixed verb as a base. The word-building meaning of possibility is created by transitive verbs with the meaning "*die Verwendbarkeit für etwas als möglich*" (the usability for something as possible) (Weisgerber 1971: 220). That is, the construction expresses that the action indicated by the verb can be performed with respect to a certain object (thus the *-lich* suffix approaches the *-bar* suffix, although *-bar* is still characterized by more productivity): *erträglich* = *was ertragen werden kann* (what can be endured). Quite in a similar way: *begreifliche Zusammenhänge*, *bestechliche Angestellte*, *beweglich*, *entbehrlich*, *fasslich*, *verkäuflich*, *vernehmlich*, *verzeihlich*, *zerbrechlich*.

In some cases, not possibility, but necessity (passive or active) is expressed: „*Verwendbarkeit für etwas als notwendig*“ (Availability for something as necessary). For example, *bedauerlich* = *was bedauert werden muss* (regrettable = what has to be regretted), *beachtliche Erfolge* = *die Erfolge sollen (müssen) beachtet werden* (remarkable achievements = the success that should be considered). In a very much similar way: *erforderliche Maßnahmen*, *ergötzliche Lektüre*, *förderliche Ratschläge*, *verwerfliche Pläne*, *befremdliche Äußerungen*.

Intransitive verbs always express the active relation: *ein abkömmlicher Mitarbeiter - er kann (leicht) abkommen* (an off-duty employee who can easily be consented). In the same style: *verderbliche Speisen*.

In some constructions there is a double relationship: they can be connected to both, the substantive and the verb base, e.g. *leidlich* – (*leiden, Leid*), *löblich* – (*loben, Lob*). Similarly: *sträflich*, *verständlich*.

It should be noted that a large number of derivatives with the suffix *-lich* can only be found in the form of the prefix *-un*: *unausstehlich*, *unermüdlich*, *unerschöpflich*, *unsäglich*, *unübertrefflich*, *unüberwindlich*, *unvergleichlich*, *unvermeidlich*, *unwiederbringlich*, *unzertrennlich*. There are also parallel derivatives with and without the prefix *un-*. The derivatives with the prefix *un-* have a passive meaning, such as, for example, *unvergesslich*, *untröstlich*. On the other hand, the *non-*prefixed base words have an active meaning: *Ich bin vergesslich* – *\*dieses Erlebnis ist vergesslich*; *\*ich bin unvergesslich* – *dieses Erlebnis ist unvergesslich* (Schneider 2019: 19). The prefix *un-* can also be characterized by an amplifying meaning. In this case, the derivatives contain the semantic component "too much", "very much" (Lohde 2006, 210), and they are used mainly in a figurative sense: *unaussprechlich*, *unbeschreiblich*.

Word-building constructions with the suffix *-sam* also express the possibility. Adjectives with the *-sam* suffix are mainly used to describe the characteristics and behavior of a person: *strebsam, duldsam, schmiegsam, schweigsam, folgsam, fühlsam, beredsam, erholsam, beharrsam, fügsam*. If the basic component is a transitive verb, then the construction expresses a passive possibility: *biegsam – Ein biegsamer Stab kann gebogen werden* (Donalies 2005, 113); *was leicht gebogen werden kann* (flexible -- which can be bent easily). In the same way: *einprägsam, bildsam, pflugsam, lernsam*.

Deverbal constructions of passive meaning with the suffix *-sam* sometimes correspond to constructions carrying passive meaning with the suffix *-bar*:

*ein lenksamer Mensch (ein Mensch kann gelenkt werden)* – a tractable man (a man that can be steered); *ein gut lenkbarer Wagen (der Wagen kann gut gelenkt werden)* – a well steerable car (the car can be steered well).

*ein unbeugsamer Wille (der Wille kann nicht gebeugt werden)* – an indomitable will (the will that cannot be bent); *ein unbeugbarer Charakter (der Charakter kann nicht gebeugt werden)* – an unbendable character (the character that cannot be bent).

*ein unaufhaltsamer Aufstieg (der Aufstieg kann nicht aufgehalten werden)* – an unstoppable rise (the rise that cannot be stopped); *unaufhaltbare Fortschritte (die Fortschritte können nicht aufgehalten werden)* – unstoppable advances (the advances that cannot be stopped).

Similarly: *bildsam – bildbar, regsam – regbar, ehrsam – ehrbar, furchtsam – furchtbar*.

Yet, in derivatives with the suffix *-sam*, there are also formations expressing active meaning, which are opposed by passive derivatives with the *-bar* suffix:

*Atshtsam (sorgfältig auf alles atshtend)* (attentive) - *atshtbar (geatshtet)* (respectable, honorable, noteworthy);

*achtsam mit etwas umgehen* (to treat with attention) – *achtbar handeln* (to behave decently);

*ein heilsamer Schock (der Schock heilt)* (curative shock) – *eine heilbare Krankheit (die Krankheit kann geheilt werden)* (curable illness);

*eine äußerst mitteilsame Person (die Person teilt gern mit)* (an open and cheerful person) - *kein mitteilbares Ergebnis (kann nicht mitgeteilt werden)* (unspoken story) (Weinrich 1993:1001);

*ein duldsamer Mensch (der Mensch, der duldet)* (a patient, enduring person) - *duldbare Zustände (die Zustände können geduldet werden)* (tolerable circumstances);

*eine fühlsame Person (eine Person, die mitfühlt)* (a sympathizing person) - *ein fühlbarer Fortschritt (der Fortschritt, den man fühlen kann)* (perceptible success);

*ein arbeitsamer Mensch (der Mensch, der viel arbeitet)* (a hard-working man) - *(be)arbeitbares Thema (das Thema kann bearbeitet werden)* – (a topic that can be processed).

In its meaning, the German suffix *-bar* is related to the suffix *-abel/-ibel*, which came to German from Latin (*-ābilis/-ibilis*). It produces adjectives from borrowed verbs with the *-ier* suffix, while the *-ier* element is usually elided before the suffix *-abel/-ibel*: *diskutieren – diskutabel, disponieren – disponibel*. Similarly: *akzeptabel, respektabel, kompensabel, variabel, transportabel, appellabel*.

Just like the Latin forms, the basic word can be found in different variations: *explodieren – explosibel, praktizieren – praktikabel, komprimieren – kompressabel, expandieren – expansibel*.

In derivatives with the suffix *-abel/-ibel*, the base word of which is a transitive verb, the word-building meaning of potential-passive possibility is distinguished: *imitabel – was imitiert werden kann* (imitable – what can be imitated); similarly: *konvertibel, tolerabel, disponibel, respektabel, praktikabel*.

If the basic word is an intransitive verb, then the potential-active meaning is shaped out: *explosibel – kann explodieren* (explosive – something that can explode). Analogically: *repräsentabel, profitabel, appellabel, blamabel, rentabel*.

As we have already mentioned, along with the suffix *-abel/-ibel*, we often find *-bar*: *reparabel – reparierbar, deklinabel – deklinierbar, explosibel – explodierbar, akzeptabel – akzeptierbar*. But the *-bar* suffix is more frequently used, for example, verbs ending in *-isieren* and *-ifizieren* have *-bar* and not *-abel/-ibel*: *qualifizierbar, kristallisierbar, monopolisierbar, polarisierbar, ätherisierbar, magnetisierbar, analysierbar, verifizierbar*.

### CONCLUSION

The word-building meaning of possibility and necessity is expressed in the German language by the suffixed derivatives *-bar, -lich, -sam* and *-abel/-ibel*. Despite the unity of content in all analyzed derivatives, two somewhat different nuances are distinguished: passive and active possibility. Passive possibility is expressed by the constructions with *-bar, -sam, -abel/-ibel* suffixes, the *-lich* suffix is close to the *-bar* suffix, although the latter is characterized by more productivity; and in the *-sam* and *-abel/-ibel* suffixed constructions, derivatives indicating both active possibility are used together with derivative indicating the passive possibility. All the mentioned derivatives have a verbal base.

The block of necessity is formed by word-building constructions with *-bar* and *-lich* suffixes. This block is characterized not only by scarceness of niches included in it, but also by the small number of derivatives in these niches. In the *-bar* niche, we have separated the necessity (*haftbar, verwesbar*) and duty (*zollbar, akzisbar, zinsbar, steuerbar*) separately. But the mentioned constructions are so close to each other that we considered it possible to combine them in the duty-necessity block. Derivatives of this block express a necessary need, which can sometimes be a duty, too. In accordance with the different semantic tone of the *-bar* niche, the base words of the derivatives are also different, in particular, in the *-bar* suffixed formations expressing duty, the base is a noun, and in the *-bar* suffixed constructions denoting necessity, the base is a verb. Derivatives expressing necessity with *-lich* suffix are also characterized by verbal bases.



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