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Participant-external necessity verbs in Swahili

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This study set out to explore the contemporary usage and the historical background of the set of auxiliary(-like) verbs in Swahili – a Bantu language spoken across the East African region – that express the modal concept of participant-external (PE) necessity.

We conceptualize modality as the expression of non-factual status (Narrog 2012), and as a semantic space divided between expressions of possibility and necessity, further carved up into intersecting subcategories (see, e.g., van der

