

Mood and Modality

VERBAL MOOD

MOOD relates the verbal action to conditions: **certainty, obligation, necessity, and possibility;**

- **INDICATIVE:** basic (unmarked) M of finite Vs; expressing facts and real situations; statements, questions
- **IMPERATIVE:** 2nd person sg/pl; commands base
- **SUBJUNCTIVE:** form; uncertainty, doubt, ...
- ****CONDITIONAL:*** *conditional sentences, ...*

IMPERATIVE

- **2nd person** sg/pl: the base of the V

- *Say it again!*

negation: do not (don't):

- *Don't do it!*

- ***other persons:**

periphrastic: **let** + **noun/pronoun** (in the object case) + **bare infinitive**

- *Let me explain*

- *Let him explain*

- *Let's explain how to do it*

- *Let them explain*

1st person pl:

- *Let us go* vs. *Let's go.*

2 negations: *Don't let's go there. Let's not go there.*

- **DO imperative:** we wish to add emphasis, e.g.:

- to be polite

Do sit down!

- to express impatience

Do go on!

- to persuade

Do have another!

- **Imperative with PRONOUNS** (2nd pers. or indefinite) to stress addressee and to make it more emotional (intonation) *You be quiet!*

- **Imperative with QUESTION TAGS** to change the command into a polite request

Close the window for me, will you?

- **DOUBLE IMPERATIVES** joined by **AND**; in American sometimes followed directly

Go fetch!

Shut up and leave!

USE OF IMPERATIVE

- 1. direct commands, requests, suggestions**
- 2. warnings**
- 3. directions**
- 4. instructions**
- 5. prohibitions (e.g. in public notices)**
- 6. advice (especially after always and never)**
- 7. invitations**
- 8. offers**
- 9. expressing rudeness**

SUBJUNCTIVE

- Subjunctive expresses **wished for or desired states, uncertainty** or also **doubt**
- After verbs such as: *insist, demand, recommend, require, stipulate.*
- We distinguish the **Present Subjunctive** and the **Past Subjunctive**.
- Present: **base of V** used in all the persons (*I inform, you inform, he inform, she inform, I be, you be, he be, ...*)
- Past: **past form of V**; identical with indicative except *be ... were* in all the persons (*I were, you were, he were, she were, ...*).

USE OF PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

- in that-clauses of the type:

It is necessary that every member inform himself of those rules.

(It is necessary for every member to inform himself.)

It's vital that an agreement be reached.

- in certain formulas:

Come what may, we will go ahead. God save the Queen!

Be that as it may ...

So be it.

USE OF PAST SUBJUNCTIVE

- to express a wish than cannot be fulfilled at present: *I wish I **were** dead. If only I **were** miles away.* (less formal: I was ...)
- to express hypothetical meaning in conditional (and some other) subordinate clauses:
*If it **were** not for you, I'd never finish it.*
*He spoke to me as if I **were** deaf.*

*~~CONDITIONAL~~ WOULD

two temporal forms of the conditional:

- ***Present Conditional**

I should/would write (psal bych)

Contracted forms: *I'd, you'd, he'd, she'd, it'd, we'd, they'd* and *who'd* are used.

- ***Past Conditional**

I should/would have written (byl bych psal)

You would have written

he would have written

Contracted as: *I'd've written ...*

*USE OF *~~CONDITIONAL~~ WOULD

*Conditional is used

- in conditional sentences

- in special uses:

Would you excuse me?

Every morning he would go for a walk.

That would be his mother.

- as a past equivalent of future expressed by **will** (sequence of tenses)

MODALITY

- system of linguistic options that allows for expressing a **speaker's general intention** as well as his/her **belief** in whether the proposition is **true, obligatory, desirable, actual ...**
- BROAD/NARROW M.
- DYNAMIC (FACTUAL) M.
- DEONTIC M.
- EPISTEMIC M.

BROAD (INTENTIONAL) MODALITY

... reflects the intention of the speaker/writer

- to simply convey information - **declarative sentence**
 - *Mary Smith is registered as your student.*
- to require information - **interrogative sentence**
 - *Is Mary Smith registered as your student?*
- to make a command - **imperative sentence**
 - *Register Mary Smith as your student!*
 - *Let Mary Smith be registered as your student.*
- to wish something - **desiderative sentence**
 - *If only Mary Smith were registered as your student.*

(There are differences in perception of modality in grammars)

NARROW MODALITY

... reflects the speaker's/writer's **attitude to conveyed information**.
Grammars usually distinguish: EPISTEMIC, DEONTIC (and also DYNAMIC)

- **EPISTEMIC modality**; EPISTEMIKOS (Anc. Greek): „scientific“ or EPISTEME „understanding“ or „knowledge“ ...
- shows **the status of the speaker's understanding** or knowledge, thus it expresses the attitude to the **validity** of conveyed information.

NARROW MODALITY

- **DEONTIC modality**; DEON (Anc. Greek) ... „duty, obligation“ ...
- shows **how things ought to be**; expresses attitudes such as: permission, obligation, request, etc.
- in Speech Acts (Theory) terminology: deontic COMMISSIVES (we commit ourselves to do something) and DIRECTIVES (we try to get our hearer to do things)

NARROW MODALITY

- **DYNAMIC or FACTUAL (DEONTIC) modality:**
- Some grammars understand it as a subset of deontic modality
- Used to describe properties or dispositions of persons:

Ability

*He **can** do a handstand.*

Ability

*Mary **can** (is able to) register as your student.*

Volition

*Mary **will** (wants to) register as your student.*

Ability

*Usain **can** run faster than anyone else.*

Volition

*I asked Jack to leave, but he **won't**.*

Allowance

*You **may** come in now.*

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form in the SUBJUNCTIVE mood.

1. Is it necessary that we _____(be) there until the end?
2. I propose that you _____(not / go) out after dark in this area.
3. It is important that Paul _____(attend) the meeting on Friday.
4. I suggest that we all _____(wait) in his apartment when he gets home.
5. They demanded that he _____(inform) immediately.

Translate with the use of subjunctive mood:

1. Trvám na tom, aby byl potrestán.
2. Kéž by byl doma.
3. Navrhla, aby byl odmítnut.
4. Kdyby tu byla, vzali bychom ji s sebou.
5. Doporučuji, aby byli posláni domů
6. Dokud nás smrt nerozdělí.