

The Category of Mood: Debated problems

1. **the character** of the category
2. **the starting point** of analysis
3. **the number** of moods
4. the existence of **the Imperative Mood**
5. the existence of **the Subjunctive Mood**
6. the nature of the forms
should/ would + infinitive

1. The Category of Mood: The Character (4)

- a purely morphological category
(A.I. Smirnitsky, B.A. Ilyish and M.Y. Bloch)
- a morphologico- semantical phenomenon
(O. Jespersen)
- semantico-syntactical phenomenon
(prof. R. Long):
distinctions between
 - *the actual and the hypothetical*
 - partly *distinctions between clause patterns*

1. The Category of Mood: The Character

- prof. R. Long distinguishes
 - *the indicative*
 - *the subjunctive*
 - *the infinitive*
 - *the gerundial*
 - *the participial* *moods*

1. The Category of Mood: The Character (4)

- a psychological phenomenon:

“Mood expresses images of the twilight world of imagination”

2. The Category of Mood: The Starting Point of Analysis

- ***forms*** which are to be systematized according to their meanings
- ***modal meanings*** which are to be classified according to their forms
- All attempts ***fail***
- no universally acceptable scheme

2. The Category of Mood: The Starting Point of Analysis

- *no correspondence between meaning and form*
- *One and the same meaning can be expressed variously*

2. The Category of Mood: **The Starting Point of Analysis**

- The meaning of **supposition**:
I suggest our going there.
I suggest that we should go there.
I suggest that we go there.
- The **concessive** meaning:
Whatever it be (can be, could be, may be, might be, should be, is)

2. The Category of Mood: The Starting Point of Analysis

- One and the same ***external sign (form)*** → ***different meanings: Were***

*E.g. If he **were** to come, I should be pleased.*

*He wondered whether she **were** in Spain.*

*I wish he **were** here.*

*Suppose he **were** here?*

*It is as if he **were** ill.*

2. The Category of Mood: The Starting Point of Analysis

- ***Had done***

in two semantically different structures:

*I wish you **had done** it.*

*I said he **had done** it.*

3. The Category of Mood: The Number of Moods

• *meaning* 10 → Moods:

The Hypothetical Mood - the Potential Mood,

The Optative Mood - the Voluntative Mood

The Permissive Mood - the Compulsory Mood

The Suppositional Mood

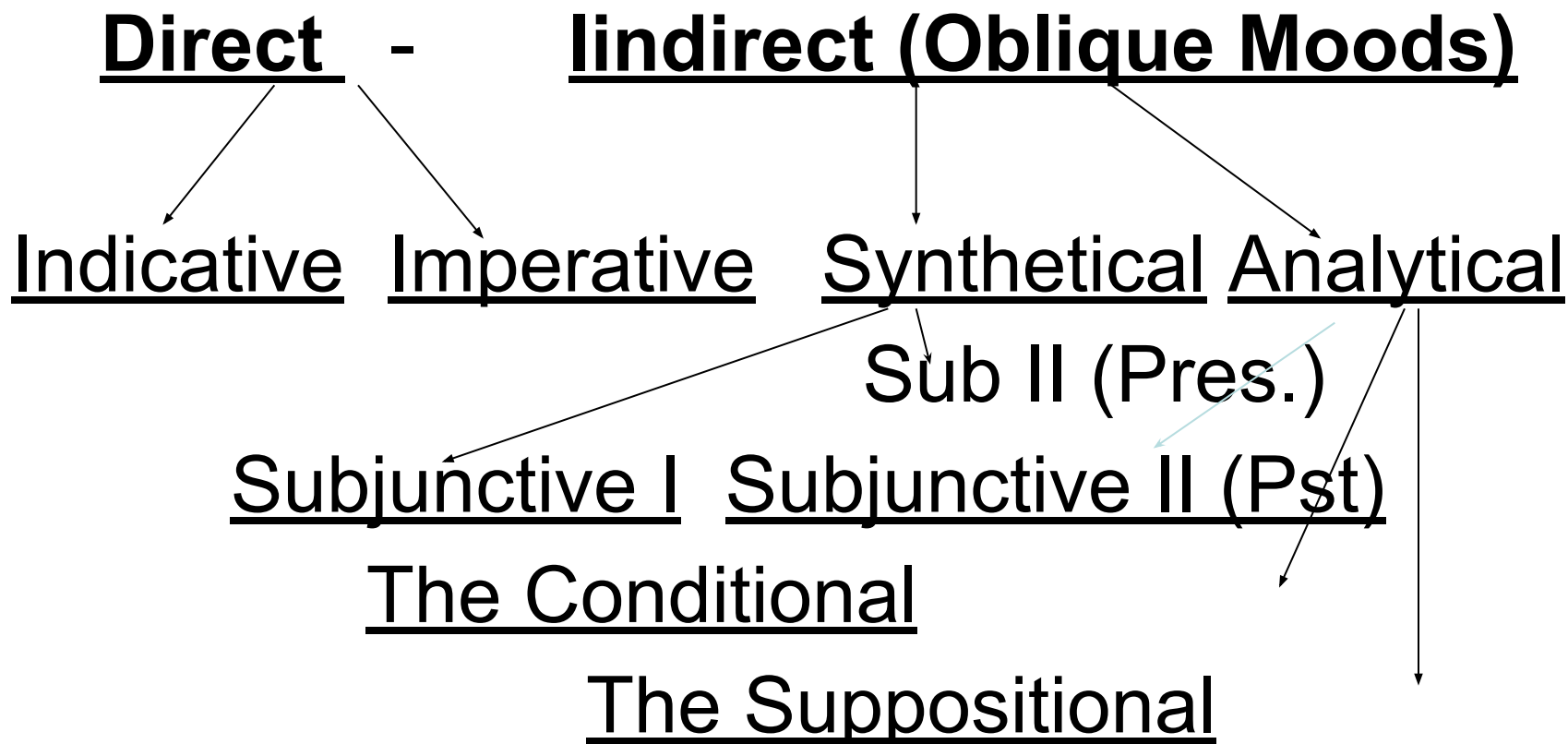
The Indicative Mood - the Conditional Mood

The Imperative Mood - The Irrealis

etc.

3. The Category of Mood: The Number of Moods

A.I. Smirnitsky: 6 Moods



3. The Category of Mood: The Number of Moods

- **3 Moods:**
 - The Indicative
 - The Imperative
 - The Subjunctive

The Indicative Mood

- ***Semantically*** - the most objective mood
- ***Morphologically*** - the most developed

The Imperative Mood

- **expresses** order, command, a stimulus;
- the **least developed** mood resembling in form Subjunctive I and the infinitive;
- Hence, some scholars **do not recognize** its existence.

The Imperative Mood

- undeveloped
- Still: very **peculiar forms** in syntagmatics
E.g. Have done it by the time he comes.
(the perfect form of the imperative);
Be always searching for new sensations.
(the continuous form of the imperative)

The Imperative Mood

- **polysemantic**
- develops the meanings of condition or concession:

E.g. **Make me do these things and you would destroy me.** (J.London) →
If you make me do these things, you will destroy me.

The Subjunctive Mood

- the most ***confusing*** mood
- In Old English:
a fully inflective Subjunctive
comparable with Latin or German
- denoted ***problematic, hypothetical***
and purely ***imaginary*** actions

The Subjunctive Mood

- in a state of *decay* :
- The simple Subjunctive (Subjunctive I) is being supplanted (вытеснять) by the forms:

lest he should die or that he may die

- Subjunctive II is being supplanted by:
was (I wish he was in Hell.)

The Subjunctive Mood

- *few formal distinctions:*

E.g. God bless my wife.

I wish he were here.

The Subjunctive Mood: The existence of the category

- The *difference* between the Indicative mood and the Subjunctive mood has practically come to be *blotted out*

E.g. If I wasn't your friend, I think I'd blame you.

! O. Jespersen, L. Barchudarov:
do not recognize

The Subjunctive Mood

The existence of the category

- O. Jespersen's theory of *the imaginative use of tenses*:
- past tenses indicate, in certain syntactic conditions,
hypothesis
supposition
problematicity

E.g. He smiles as if he had never heard about it .→ before past time expressing unreality

O. Jespersen's theory of the imaginative use of tenses

- In the complex sentence in the contaminated clause, embracing the properties of two sub-clauses (*a predicative clause* and *an adverbial clause of unreal comparison*) before past time expresses unreal comparison:
It is as if he had never been there.

O. Jespersen's theory of the imaginative use of tenses

- the absence of *the Subjunctive* is made up for by
 - some stereotyped phrases
 - grammatical idioms (*so be it*) - combinations of modal verbs and infinitives
 - the imaginative use of past tenses (times) which become modally coloured in some patterns (*I wish he had done it*)

The Subjunctive Mood: The nature of the category

- Eric Partridge: the Subjunctive is ***not an extinct*** (вымирающий) mood.
- ***a living mood***
- in different ***patterns*** of simple sentences, in complex sentences

E.g. God bless you.

If he knew, he would come. (a cond. cl.)

Even if he had come he wouldn't have understood. (a concessive clause)

I wish he came. (an object clause)

The Subjunctive Mood

The nature of the category

- Eric Partridge: The Subjunctive, depending upon syntactical patterns, embraces different forms:
might, came, should, had come, were, be
- a semantic-syntactic- morphological category

The Subjunctive Mood

The nature of the category

- M.Y. Bloch distinguishes **3 Subjunctives**:
 - The Stipulative (Subjunctive II):
E.g. I wish he came.
 - The Spective (Subjunctive I) :
E.g. God bless him.
 - The Consecutive (Subjunctive III):
E.g. He would have refused.

The Subjunctive Mood

A.I. Smirnitsky's classification of moods

- ***most convenient*** for practical analysis
- ***formal criteria***
- ***peculiar models*** on the level of the simple and complex sentences

The Subjunctive Mood: A. I. Smirnitsky's classification

- Subjunctive II on the level of the simple sentence :

E.g. Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand. (W.Shakespeare)

Oh, if he were here.

Oh, that he were here.

If only he were here.

Were he only here!

The Subjunctive Mood

A. I. Smirnitsky's classification

- Subjunctive II on the level of the complex sentence:

E.g. It is as if he were here.

If he were here, he would understand.

Even if he were here he wouldn't understand.

I wish he came.

The Category of Mood

- ***hard*** to represent in terms ***of binary oppositions***
- Prof. Zandvoort:
he play :: he plays (non-fact :: fact)
one integral form of the Indicative is
opposed to
one integral form of the Subjunctive

The Category of Mood Conclusion

- not yet stabilized
- still in the making