



## 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*

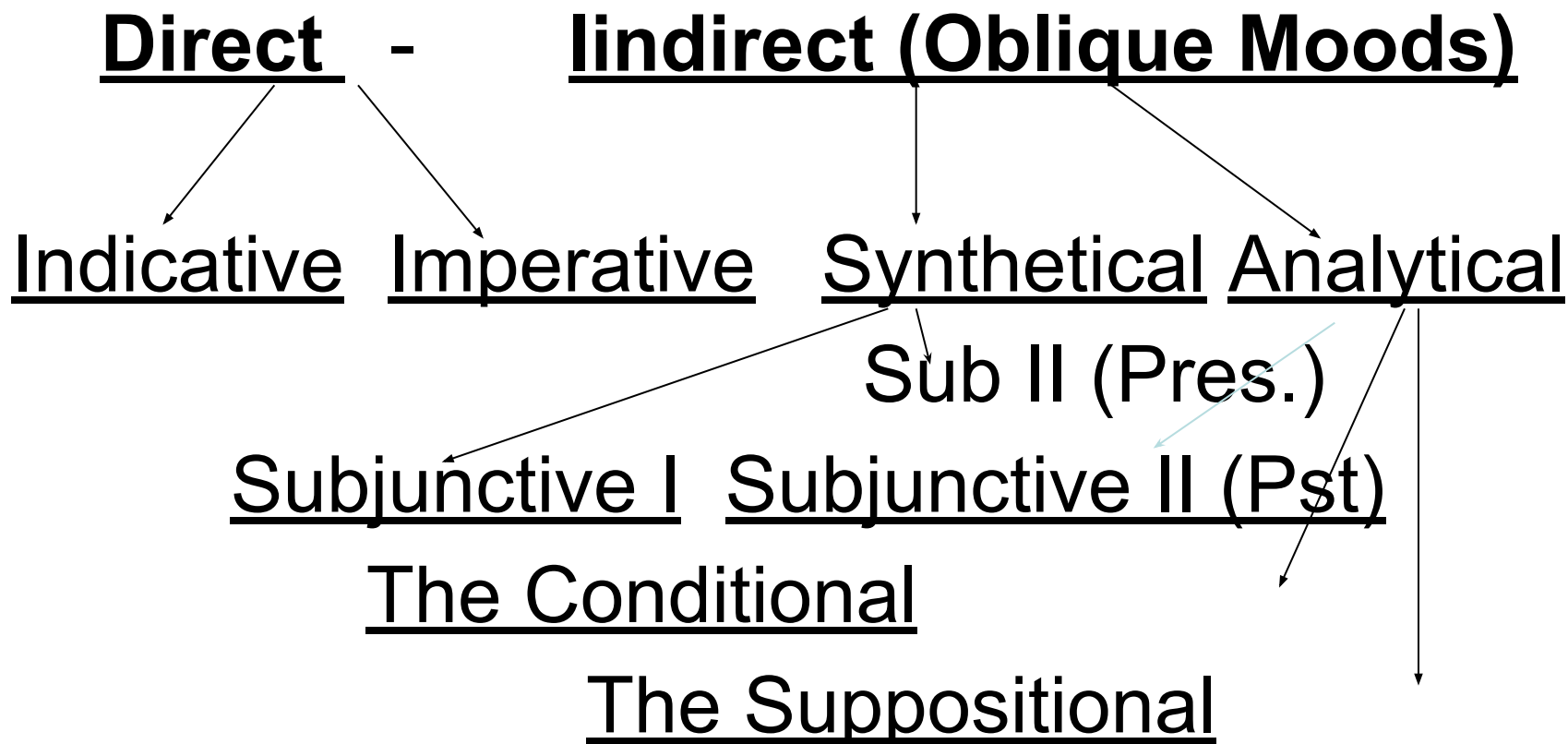
*The Indicative Mood - the Conditional Mood*

*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 bleess 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