The Category of Mood

- a wide notion of ***modality***
- an indispensable attribute of each sentence
- ***the attitude*** of a speaker towards a happening
- whether he finds it ***a fact*** or ***a non-fact***, i.e. ***imaginary,*** ***hypothetical*** ***desirable***

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**:   <u>Were</u>

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

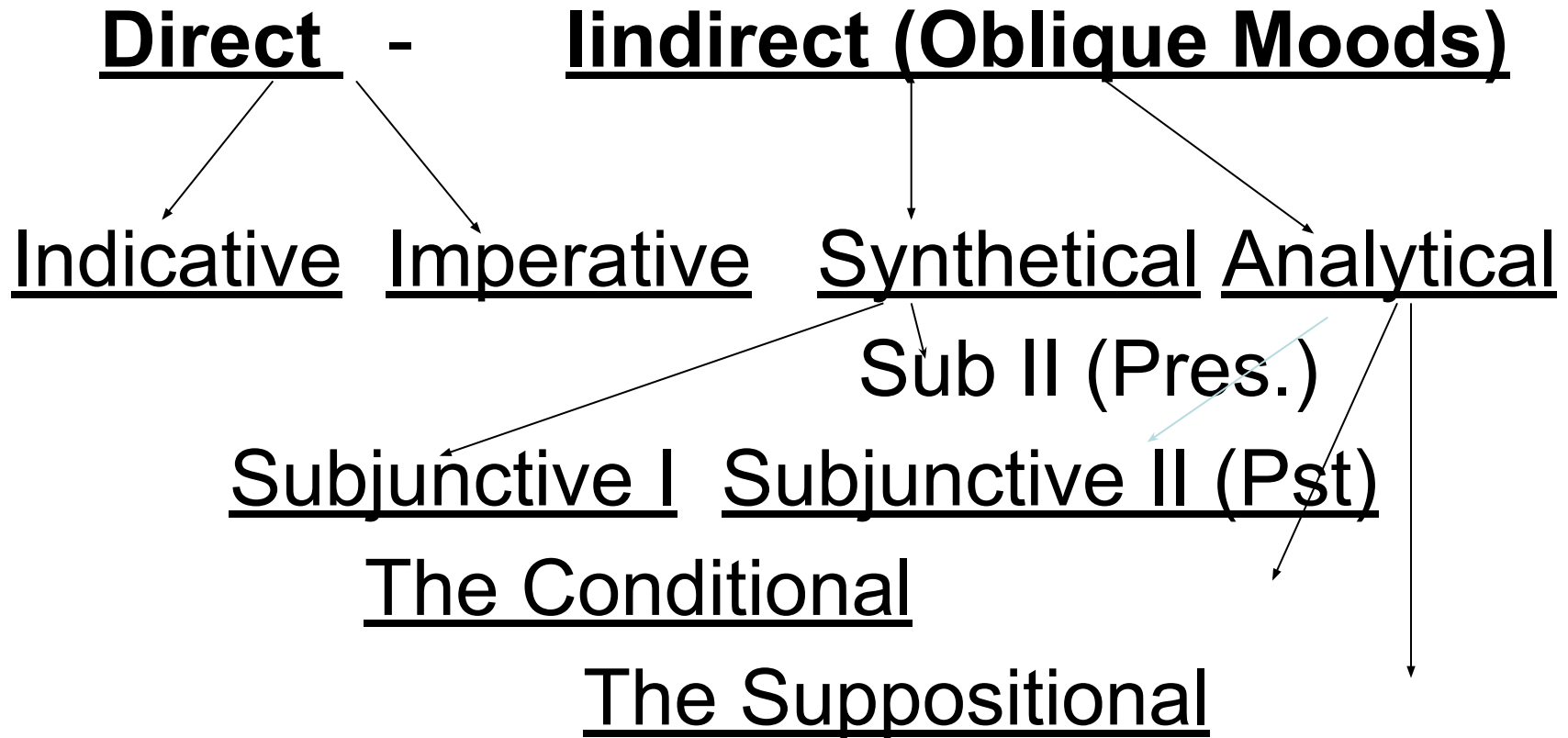*The Permissive Mood - the Compulsory Mood*

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**

Direct   -   **Iindirect (Oblique Moods)**

Indicative Imperative   Synthetical Analytical

Sub II (Pres.)

Subjunctive I Subjunctive II (Pst)

The Conditional

The Suppositional

3. The Category of Mood: The Number of Moods

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

The Indicative Mood

- ***Semantically*** - the most <u>objective</u> mood
- ***Morphologically*** - the most <u>developed</u>

The Imperative Mood

- **expresses** order, command, a stimulus;
- the **least developed** mood resembling in form Sujunctive 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 <u>bless</u> my wife.

  I wish he <u>were</u> 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 <u>wasn't</u> your friend, I think I'd blame you.

! <u>O. Jespersen, L. Barchudarov</u>:

   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

problemacity

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 <u>bless</u> you.*

If he <u>knew</u>, he would come. (a cond. cl.)

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

I wish he <u>came.</u> (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

- <u>M.Y. Bloch</u> distinguishes **3 Subjunctives**:
  - The <u>Stipulative</u> (Subjunctive II):

  E.g. I wish he <u>came.</u>

  - The <u>Spective</u> (Subjunctive I) :

  E.g. *God <u>bless</u> him.*

  - The <u>Consecutive</u> (Subjunctive III):

  E.g. *He <u>would have refused</u>*.

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 <u>the simple sentence</u> :

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

  Oh, if he were here.

  Oh, that he <u>were</u> here.

  If only he <u>were</u> here.

  <u>*Were*</u> *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 <u>were</u> here.

If he <u>were</u> here, he would understand.

Even if he <u>were</u> here he wouldn't understand.

I wish he <u>came</u>.

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