

Subjunctive mood in Polish

Subjunctive mood in West and East Slavic languages is a rather rarely studied and a not well understood grammatical phenomenon. The aim of this paper is to provide a new perspective on its main characteristic feature – the irrealis mood particle *by*. I argue that *by* should be analyzed as an element moved to C^0 from a lower position, which can explain why there are certain syntactic restrictions on subjunctive clauses in North Slavic (Polish in comparison to Czech, Slovak and Russian data will be discussed). Treating *by* in subjunctive complementizers as a moved operator lends support to the theories positing a null-operator movement for the derivation of conditionals (Bhatt & Pancheva, 2006, Haegeman, 2007). Overt movement of the irrealis morpheme is argued to account for a crucial property of subjunctive clauses, namely, their close integration with matrix clauses. Conditional adverbial clauses are thus allowed to be temporally underspecified with respect to the matrix clause, while subjunctive complements may be equivalent to infinitival complements. I will show that the properties of both internal and external syntax of subjunctive clauses follow from an operator movement analysis.

Selected references:

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