



 Research Article

## SYNCRETISM AND POLYFUNCTIONALITY OF THE GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY OF MOOD

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### ABSTRACT

The article discusses the issues of syncretism and polyfunctionality of verbs in English and Uzbek languages. It reviews different definitions for the category of mood, its various interpretations and types, and presents the results of the functional analysis of forms of the grammatical mood in these languages.

### KEYWORDS

Mood, a speaker's attitude, modality, English, Uzbek, the indicative mood, the imperative mood.

### INTRODUCTION

The grammatical category of mood, being relevant for verbs in the most languages of the world, can be defined differently: "Mood. Grammatical category of verbs which expresses the subjective attitude of the speaker towards the state of affairs described by the utterance" (Bussmann, 2006:765). "Mood. Grammatical

category of the verb expressing the relation of the content of the utterance to the real existence" (Akhmanova, 1969:248). "Mood of the verb. Expression of a speaker's attitude to the action understood from the verb" (Mahkamov & Ermatov, 2013:34). As can be seen from the definitions, the grammatical category of mood



indicates the attitude of a speaker towards the action expressed by the verb.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In linguistics, there are several researches that study syncretism and polyfunctionality in different aspects and of various linguistic units. Bloomfield (1933), Jacobson (1936), Kurylowicz (1962), Chomsky (1964), Kasevich (1977), Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), Iskandarova (2020), Nabieva (2020), Ganieva (2021) explore issues of functional properties of linguistic units in general. Gvishiani (1979) studies polyfunctionality of English words, Baerman et al (2005) investigate syncretism from the syntax-morphology perspective, Krifka (2009) analyses this linguistic phenomenon on the basis of cases, Pavljukovets (2009) explores functional aspects of morphological and syntactic syncretism in the English language, Ganieva (2011, 2019, 2022) investigates manifestation of these two phenomena in English and Uzbek verb forms, Stump (2014) associates polyfunctionality with inflectional economy, Sims (2017) examines syncretism as an example of a form-meaning mismatch.

Hojiev writes about the types of mood in Uzbek: “The category of mood shows the relationship between the action and the subject to reality. There are several types of this connection and relationship, and the meanings specific to each type are expressed through special forms. However, there are different views concerning the issue of types of moods in the study of Turkic languages, including Uzbek linguistics. Some

works show three types of mood, while others state that there are four, five or even more types. In works on the Uzbek language, mainly three types of mood are determined: 1) indicative mood, 2) imperative mood, 3) conditional mood” (Hojiev, 1973:112). Later, expressing his attitude towards the term "indicative mood" and types of moods, he says that there are five verb moods in the modern Uzbek literary language and lists the following types of moods: 1) imperative-optative mood, 2) conditional mood, 3) subjunctive mood, 4) hortative mood, 5) indicative mood (Hojiev, 1973:115).

Some linguists classify the mood forms of the verb in the Uzbek language into the following types: 1) imperative-optative mood; 2) conditional mood; 3) indicative mood (Tursunov et al, 1992:327). Later, Rakhmatullaev, one of the authors of the aforementioned textbook, writes: “According to which modal meaning is expressed in Uzbek language, optative mood, hortative mood, conditional mood, imperative mood are distinguished” (Rakhmatullaev, 2010:206).

There are not many types of moods in English. The main reason for this is that in this language, the attitude of the speaker towards the action can be expressed not only with the grammatical category of mood, but also with the help of modal verbs. According to Declerck: “The terms ‘mood’ and ‘modality’ are not always kept apart. Strictly speaking, however, mood is the grammatical term which is used to indicate the inflectional verbal categories whose function it is to express



(non)modality, viz. the indicative (mood), the subjunctive (mood) and the imperative (mood). Modality is a semantic term relating to the meanings which are usually associated with mood. The relation between mood and modality is therefore similar to that between tense and time” (Declerck, 1991:285). A Russian researcher Khomutova in her article "Mood and modality in Modern English" reviews the views of linguists who have studied the grammatical category of mood in English. For example, researchers such as Whitehall, Plotkin, Palmer, relying only on verb forms, expressed their opinion that the mood category has disappeared in modern English, according to Smirnitsky, there are 6 moods in the English language, they are indicative, imperative, subjunctive I, subjunctive II, suppositional, and conditional moods, however, the most common systems in the traditional grammar are declarative, imperative, and subjunctive moods (Khomutova, 2014). We also support the three abovementioned types of verbs in English basing on the traditional grammar literature.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The type of mood that expresses an action or state with the time of its performance is called the indicative mood. The modern Uzbek language does not have special formants that form this type of mood. Even in modern English, as a result of the loss of formative suffixes in words, verbs are not marked in the mood of the message. Also, this tendency is directly related to the category of time.

According to Hojiev, in the Uzbek linguistics, the imperative-optative mood is referred as the optative mood, in some sources as the imperative mood, and as for professor Reshetov, he uses three separate categories for three persons (Hojiev, 1973:117). The suffix -(a)y, sometimes the suffix -(a)yin serve to form the first person singular form of this mood. The primary function of this formant is to express a desire to perform an action:

Avvalo shuni aytib quyay, bu yerda ellik-oltmish chogli ishchilar brigidasi allaqachon shakllanib bulgan (Z.Kurolboy)

Hojiev writes the following about another function of this suffix: “In cases where the first person form is addressed to another person, it can also denote a command, intimidation” (Hojiev, 1973:117).

Also, this formant is used in interrogative sentences to clarify the speaker's performance of a certain action or to know the listener's attitude towards the action: Kimdan suray?

Mehmoningiz borga ukhshaydi, choy hozirlaymi?

In this sentence, this form of the imperative-optative mood is used to express the meaning of the speaker expecting the listener to confirm the action he wants to perform.

Men kanday bilay, bolajon! – dedi buvim. – menga bergan bulmasang (Sh.Kholmiraev)

In this example, the imperative form -(a)y is used to form the indicative mood.

In the following clause, this formant precedes the suffix -mikin and performs the function of expressing the meaning of assumption: ertaga boraymikin?



If there is one of the words *kancha*, *kanchalik* in the sentence with this form of the mood, it loses its meaning of desire and serves to imply the meaning of concessiveness:

Jiddiy Kabul kilishga *kancha* urinmayin, bu yerdagi gayritabiiy hol meni har kadamda hayratga solardi (Z.Kurolboy)

The suffix *-(a)ylik* is used to form the first person plural form of the imperative. Its primary function is also to express the meaning of desire: *ishni okhiriga yetkazaylik*.

In the following example, the speaker uses this form to urge the listeners to take action: *Misol uchun Nuralini olaylik. U duradgor edi*.

The second person singular form of the subjunctive is formed using the form of the verb stem without any formative suffix and the plural form *-ing(lar)*. The primary function of these forms of the verb is to convey a meaning of command:

*Bu yerda hangoma kilish uchun kelmagansanlar, gapni bas kilib, ishga kirishinglar! – dedi u* (Z.Kurolboy).

In the above sentence, the verb *ishga kirishinglar* is expressing a command.

*Sen begona doktorlardan sura, bolam. Dardim nima ekan?* (Sh.Kholmirzaev)

In this example, the verb form *sura* is denoting a request.

Third-person forms of the imperative-optative mood with suffixes *-sin*, *-ishsin*, *-sinlar* also function to express such meanings as urging to action, desire, command:

*Aslida Hakim Nazarich ham khuddi Matchonov singari menga begona, kolaversa, uning masalihatiga kunim kolgani yuk, kolmasin ham!*

Another function of the abovementioned mood forms is stated in the textbook "Modern Uzbek Literary Language" published in 1992: "The third person form combined with the auxiliary *deb* and indicates the purpose of the action" (Tursunov et al, 1992: 329):

*Ha-a! – chol hikillab kulib yubordi. – Kuzdan panada tursin deb-a?* (Sh.Kholmirzaev)

Also, this formant is used with the suffix *-mikin* after it to express the meaning of assumption: *shall I go together?*

Another function of this third-person subjunctive is that it is sometimes used in relation to the second person. In this case, the speaker uses this form to show respect to the listener, and sometimes it implies irony:

*Pakhta yigim-terimini kanday uyushtirish kerakligi hakida gapirib bersinlar*.

In the following sentence, we can see the meaning of this form in the function of expressing a wish: *Ovlar baror olsin! – dedi u*.

In English, imperative and subjunctive moods are two separate moods. The most common form of the imperative is the infinitive form of the verb without *to*: *Pass me the sauce*.

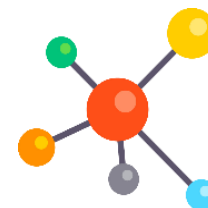
This form of the imperative has a syncretic nature, and its various functional properties are manifested in the context.

*Put down the gun!*

In this example, the infinitive form of the verb in this mood is used to express a command.

*Don't go too close to the tiger*.

In this sentence, this form of imperative mood is performing the task of expressing the meaning of advice.



Install the file, then restart your computer.

In the example above, the imperative verb is used to give instructions.

Come to the party tomorrow.

In this sentence, the verb in this form expresses a proposition.

Have a nice trip!

In this example, the verb indicating the imperative mood in the form of a bare infinitive is fulfilling the function of expressing the meaning of desire.

Also, the imperative in this form is used in road or other warning signs, where the function of this form is to express a caution:

Stop!

Sometimes the command, request or suggestion in the verb form of an infinitive without to is directed to the the third person through the second person: Let them eat cake.

The word let's can be used to form the imperative mood. The conjugation form of this word is usually used to express a suggestion in the first person plural rather than a command: Let's buy a drink.

Another mood in English is the subjunctive mood. One of the most common forms of subjunctives is sentences formed with the conjunction if. Such sentences are usually called conditional sentences. Also, the word subjunctive is used in the sense of 'presumably', 'possibly'. And in the semantic content of the word if, the meaning of 'condition' is stronger than 'assumption'. But there are some examples with this word, which we will analyze below, in which the meaning of 'desire' is recognised. Thus, the polyfunctional nature of such sentences with the same structure is also seen in their naming. For example:

If the temperature drops below 32 degrees, water freezes.

In this sentence, a general situation or facts are described, and the original meaning of the conjunction, that is, the condition, affects the general meaning of the sentence.

If I study a lot, I will get good grades.

In the above example, the subjunctive mood is denoting that another action is required for the real possibility of doing something.

If I earned more money, I would buy a new car.

In this sentence, the subordinate clause with the conjunction if performs the function of expressing the meaning 'assumption': If I had known, I would have gotten you a present.

If I were you, I would go there.

In this sentence, the if-clause is used to show the meaning of wanting something.

Also, a subordinate clause formed with such a conjunction can also appear in the function of a complete sentence. In this case, the particle only should be used in the sentence after the conjunction if: They are always busy. If only they had more time.

The subjunctive form if only can be used with modal verbs could and would and signifies intention for the future: I always have to get home early. If only my parents would let me stay out later.

Moreover, this form is used with the Past Simple or the Past Continuous and performs the function to denote the desire at the present time:

I'm freezing. If only it wasn't so cold.

Furthermore, in Modern English another form of the subjunctive form is formed with the verb wish



and is usually used in complex sentences. There are syncretic cases in this form of the subjunctive too and they are manifested as polyfunctionality in the speech process.

I wish I had known Charlie was coming. I would have invited Jane.

In the above sentence, this form of the subjunctive is used to express a desire for an action that could have happened in the past but did not happen.

I wish I had his mobile phone number; we could tell him the good news.

The subordinate clause formed with the help of wish in this compound sentence is performing the function of denoting regretfulness for the current reality, imagining that things could be different.

Also, this form of subjunctive can be used with the auxiliary verb would to express anger about an event that will or will not happen in the present or future:

I wish you wouldn't come through the kitchen with your dirty boots on.

In the above example, the conjunction I wish is used to express the wish that the event that is happening in the present tense would not happen, and that he is angry about what is happening.

In modern Uzbek, conditional verbs are formed by adding the suffix -sa to the stem. The main function of this conditional form is to indicate that the execution or non-execution of the action expressed by this form is a condition for the execution of another action:

Bolishi baland. Unga suyanib, boshini kutarsa, bog'ni kuradi (Sh.Kholmirzaev).

The -sa form of this declension can also act as a participle of the main clause. In this case, its

function of expressing the meaning of desire is stronger than expressing the meaning of condition:

Lekin qayerga ketsayam, boshi bog'lik bulib ketsa degandim. Keyin ukishini sirtkiga utkazish mumkin (Sh.Kholmirzaev).

The verb form with the suffix -sa has the function of asking for something or making an offer: shu suratni menga bersangiz.

Also, this form of the subjunctive can perform the function of expressing another meaning with the help of some accompanying words:

Ikkinchi yoki uchinchi smenada ishlash masalasiga kelsak, ikki barobar kup hak uchun har kanday kiyinchilikka chidashga tayyor bulsam-da, negadir kunglim chopmayotgan edi (Z.Kurolboy).

In the above sentence, it is used together with the particle -da to indicate that the action represented by this formant form could not prevent an event from happening.

Nahotki bu habarni eshitmagan bulsangiz?

Because the word nahotki is used in this example, the verb form formed with the suffix -sa is performing the function of expressing senses of suspicion and surprise.

Goh urtoklar bilan chiksak, goho...yakka uzim chikardim.

In this sentence, the form with the formant -sa is used to express the relation to the time.

Also, when the verb in this form is used with the word kerak, it can imply the sense of uncertainty: Odam hamma narsaga chidasa ham, yolgizlikka chidamasa kerak.

## CONCLUSION



In the Uzbek and English languages that belong to different systems, the forms characteristic to the grammatical category of mood have a syncretic nature, and this aspect is manifested in them through certain functions performed in different contexts.

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