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Abstract

*Subjunctive mood, forms of unreality, mandative Subjunctive, scientific prose, belles-lettres style*

The research is dedicated to the analysis of the means serving to express unreality, probability and supposition, namely the Subjunctive mood, in English belles-lettres style and scientific prose in the 18th and 21st cc. The usage of the Subjunctive mood in conditional clauses, wish-sentences and in [subordinate clause](http://grammar.about.com/od/rs/g/subclterm.htm)s that follow an expression of command, demand, or recommendation has been examined in the course of the research. The principal aim of this paper is to show basic changes in the treatment of the Subjunctive mood as an inflectional category of the verb in its specific manifestations.

As the topic of the Subjunctive mood has always been rather debatable, there is still no unified opinion among modern grammarians. It gives way to further investigation and makes my research relevant and valuable.

The paper consists of two parts: the theoretical one where the overview of the treatment of the category mood and the Subjunctive mood by different grammarians is presented and practical where the analysis of the samples is provided. The research is based on the analysis of 192 samples selected from English fiction and scientific prose. The methods of research are samples collection, analysis and comparative analysis.

Results indicate that the usage of the Subjunctive mood has undergone considerable changes since the 18th c. The amount of analyzed data is not sufficient to speak about any consistent trends in modern usage of the Subjunctive mood, but might serve as a material for further research.

The paper is valuable for teaching and learning English, as the perceiving of the Subjunctive mood from the historical point of view facilitates the understanding of the phenomenon.