

Title: Temporal Interpretation of Subjunctive Complements in Bulgarian  
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This paper examines how subjunctive complements in Bulgarian (BG), as in (1), are temporally interpreted.

(1) Iska-m                                      [da                      uč-a].  
    want.IMPERF-1SG.NPAST    DA.SUBJ    study. IMPERF-1SG.NPAST  
    'I want to study.'

In this study I have examined the effect of over 50 BG verbs on the temporal interpretation of the subjunctive complements they select. The study shows that unlike in main clauses, the non-past forms in subjunctive complements do not have fixed temporal reference, and that the same complement can denote an event preceding, following or overlapping with the main clause event, depending on the tense of the selecting verb and its lexical semantics. In order to account for the established temporal dependency, I adopt a three-parameter theory of time in the spirit of Klein 1994, and assume that the temporal relation between the main and subjunctive clauses in BG is encoded in the semantics of the selecting verbs as a relation between the Reference Times (RT) of the two clauses.

The proposed model has several advantages over the analyses proposed by Krapova 2001 and Giannakidou 2006. In particular, temporal interpretation of subjunctive complement clauses is derived from the independently needed assumptions about the lexical semantics of the selecting verbs. I show that the previous analyses, in which subjunctives are uniquely associated with irrealis or future-oriented reading, can only explain a subset of data, and that unlike Romance languages BG subjunctives do not necessarily have irrealis interpretation.

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Krapova, Iliyana. 2001. "Subjunctives in Bulgarian and Modern Greek." in Rivero and Ralli (eds.) *Comparative Syntax of Balkan Languages*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 105-126.