

The category of mood

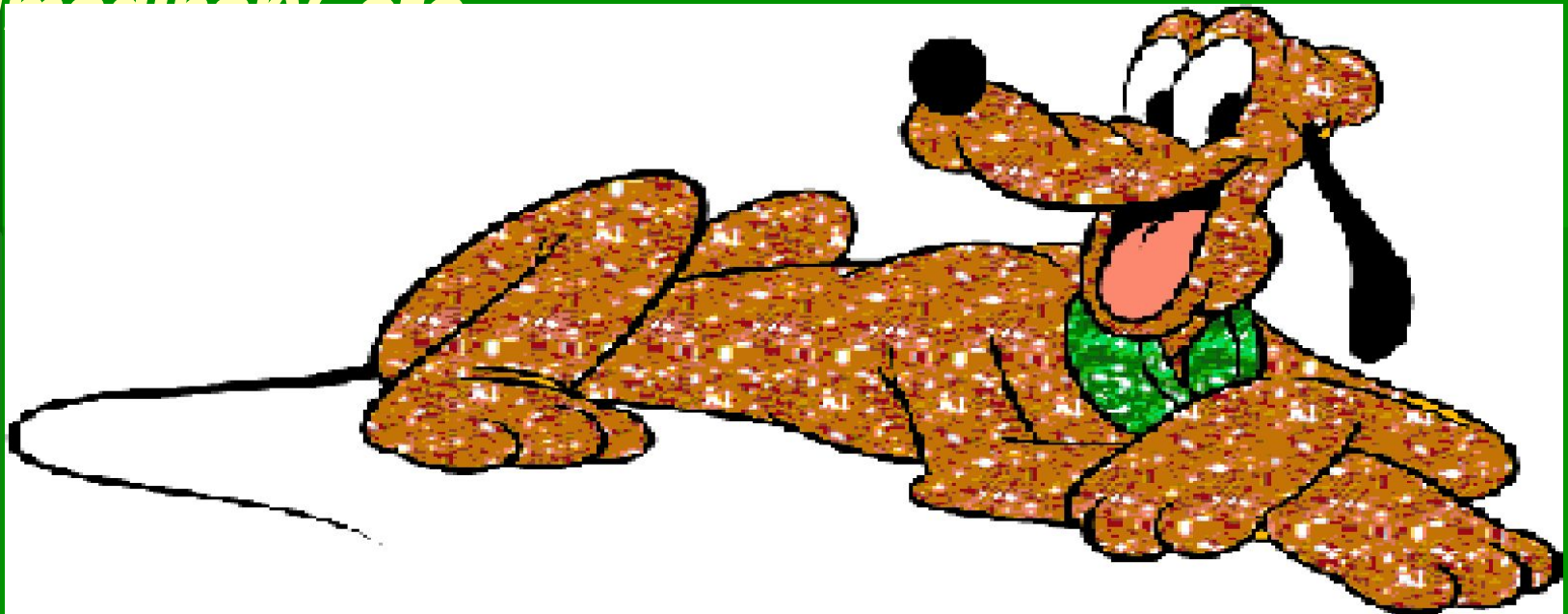


The category of mood is an explicit verbal category expressing the relation of the action denoted by the predicate to reality as stated by the speaker. It is one of the most important means of expressing modality

Presumably, in Modern English there are the Indicative Mood, the Imperative Mood and the so-called Oblique Moods:

- the Subjunctive I
- the Subjunctive II
- the Suppositional Mood
- the Conditional Mood

When using the Indicative Mood the speaker represents the action as really taking place, as a real fact; when he uses the Imperative Mood the speaker directly induces the listener(s) to produce the action required; but when he uses an oblique mood he represents the action not as a real fact but only as desirable, necessary, possible, imaginary, etc.



Example:



- 1) *I wish I were sixteen.*
- 2) *It is necessary that you should go there immediately.*
- 3) *If it were summer now we would go to the Crimea.*

The problem of the number of moods in Modern English



- German grammarian M.Deutchbein-16 moods
- Russian scholar L.S.Barkhudarov-no oblique moods at all
- A.I. Smirnitsky-4 Oblique moods
- I.B.Khlebnikova - 5 oblique moods

Oblique Moods

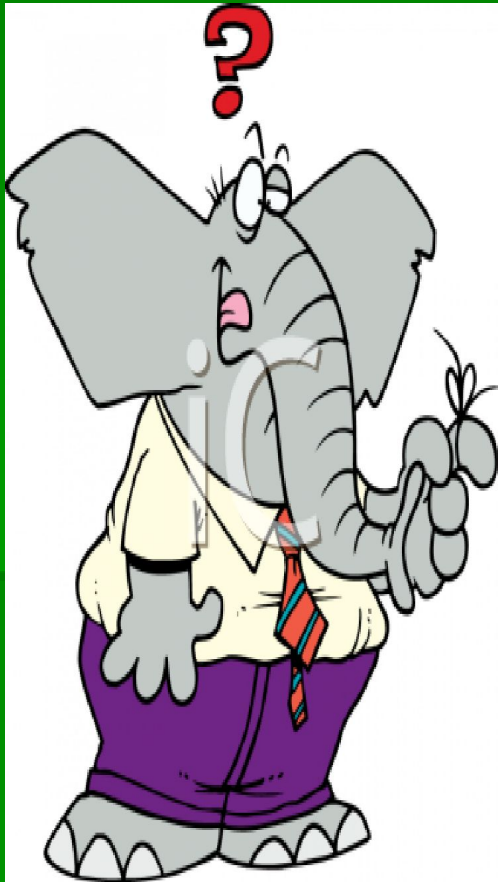
- absence of direct correspondence between the form and meaning
- Examples:
 1. *It's necessary that I should go there tomorrow (the Suppositional Mood)*
 2. *If I knew about it I should go there tomorrow (the Conditional Mood)*
 3. *I should go there tomorrow (a modal phrase)
= I must go there tomorrow.*
- the same meaning may be rendered by different grammatical forms.
- Examples:
 - *It is necessary that you should go there (the Suppositional Mood)*
 - =
 - *It is necessary that you go there (the Subjunctive I).*

The problem of polysemy and homonymy of mood forms.

- There are no homonymous forms - the very existence of the oblique moods as a special morphological category becomes doubtful
- There are forms of special moods which are distinguished from each other according to the category of correlation.
- the Indicative Mood in a special use can be observed.
- Examples:
 1. He knew everything and told her about it;
 2. If I knew about it I should tell her everything



Questions for self-correction:



- 1) What type of expressing modality do you know?
- 2) What is the category of mood? Give a definition.
- 3) How many moods are there in Modern English and Ukrainian?
- 4) What is the reasons for the existing controversy of views on the essence and number of moods in Modern English?
- 5) What can you say about the problem of polysemy and homonymy in the system of moods in Modern English?
- 6) Do any implicit lexico-grammatical categories restrict the realization of the category of mood in Modern English and Ukrainian?

The End

