COMPLETION REPORT

The Subjunctive Mood in Japanese and Korean Englishes across Time: Is There Diachronic Change in the Grammar of Expanding Circle Englishes?

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The subjunctive mood has been a developmentally interesting realization in the English grammatical category of mood. With the language's general shift from a primarily synthetic to presently primarily analytic language, Old English's ability to morphosyntactically realize the subjunctive has significantly disappeared, as modality has primarily been realized through modals and other expressions, with the morphologically-dictated subjunctive reduced to a few construction types.

The present analysis provides a diachronic account of the use of the subjunctive mood in Japanese and Korean Englishes. The present study is the first of its kind that takes the analysis of this developmentally interesting verbal category – the subjunctive mood – in the Expanding Circle Englishes and using the lens of diachrony. The study is based on an analysis of a 250,000-word purposely-compiled corpora of newspapers written in the two Englishes in question between 1970s and 2000s.

The mandative subjunctive after suasive expressions is stable in Japanese English within the four-decade period while its modal alternatives have decreased, with *should* being completely unattested at the turn of the millenium. Meanwhile, Korean English records almost a three-quarter increase in the use of the mandative subjunctive. While *should* also disappears at the turn of the century in Korean English, other modal alternatives remain strong in 2000s. Hypothetical subjunctives in Korean English have vanished within the four-decade period though the frequency of *was* has also decreased by almost half. Both *were* and *was* are not attested in the 2000s data for Japanese English.

Leech, Hundt, Mair, and Smith (2009) say that American English is leading the revival of the mandative subjunctive and Philippine English, being an American-lineage variety, follows such revival of the mandate subjunctive and is, in fact, reviving the synthetic construction at a much faster rate than its parent (Collins, Borlongan, Lim, & Yao, 2014). A revival also seems to be observed in the two Expanding Circle Englishes, at which the mandative subjunctive has gained equal footing with the modal alternatives in the later years. Not much can be said about the (mis)fortunes of the hypothetical subjunctive, though it appears that the British-led decline in its use is also apparent in the Expanding Circle Englishes. As the revival of mandative subjunctives is more visible than the decline of hypothetical subjunctives, the Expanding Circle patterns then stand closer to American patterns than British ones, but this is still too much a generalization if the subjunctive were the only data at hand.

Finally, to answer the question posed by this study, whether there exists diachronic change in the grammar of Expanding Circle Englishes: As far as the subjunctive mood is concerned, yes, indeed, there is. But it is in much a state of dynamism as how Schneider (2014) describes Expanding Circle Englishes in his conception of transnational attraction.

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