

Tense and mood in complement clauses in Georgian

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The Georgian verb distinguishes the indicative and subjunctive moods. The present study investigates their distribution in complement clauses in the light of temporal and epistemic (realis vs. irrealis) relationships between the two situations expressed in the matrix and complement clauses, respectively. The mood of the complement verb must be indicative, when the complement clause has realis modality; while it must be subjunctive, when the complement clause has dependent time reference (i.e. the time reference of the complement clause cannot precede that of the matrix clause). In other cases, the use of the subjunctive mood is essentially optional. Some matrix predicates that govern the subjunctive mood also determine the aspect of the complement verb. Such conditions on the mood and aspect of the complement verb are considered to reflect the degree of integration of the two clauses.