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**Contrastive Analysis of Use of Subjunctive Mood in  
Subordinate Nominal Clauses in Spanish and Italian Press  
with Reference to Polish Language**

**Summary**

The subject of the present dissertation is the use of subjunctive mood in the subordinate nominal clauses in Spanish and Italian language. The main purpose is to show differences between the use of this mood in both languages. The analysis has been conducted at syntactic and semantic-pragmatic levels. As a corpus, we have used articles from contemporary Spanish and Italian online press. We have also referred to Polish language, searching for the equivalents of subjunctive mood in Polish online newspapers.

For the purposes of the analysis, we have made use of the theoretical base and methodology of contrastive linguistics. This study has a synchronic character, given that the main objective is to describe similarities and differences in the modal alternation in contemporary language. We have employed a multilateral method, although the central part of the dissertation involves comparing Spanish and Italian language. The subordinate nominal clauses and the presence or lack of subjunctive have been assumed as *tertium comparationis*.

In the first, theoretical part we have concisely described the history and methods of contrastive studies, taking into account their strengths and weaknesses. We have discussed the problem of *tertium comparationis* and explained the utility of

conclusions drawn from contrastive studies, focusing not only on the benefits for glottodidactics but also on their cognitive value.

Considering the character of subjunctive mood, we have also mentioned some crucial pragmatics theories, such as speech acts according to Austin and Searle, conversational maxims of Grice, relevance theory or linguistic politeness. Such theoretical preparation seems indispensable for the study at the semantic-pragmatic level whose aim is to show how the modal use alters depending on the speaker's communicative intention and how the modal alternation can change the utterance meaning.

Additionally, we have concentrated on the mood and modality definitions and some theories related to the subjunctive mood, for example its syntactic dependence, assertion and presupposition according to Terrell and Hooper, Occurrence System, the mood from the point of view of relevance theory and cognitive concept of mental spaces, among others. We have briefly discussed the aspect definition, referring also to Polish language. The temporal systems in Spanish and Italian have been compared, as well as the tenses of subjunctive mood.

The contrastive analysis, divided into syntactic and semantic-pragmatic chapters, constitutes the central part of the dissertation. On the base of the examples gathered from the corpus, we have indicated the similarities and differences in the use of subjunctive in contemporary Spanish and Italian language, confronting it with the norm presented in the most important grammar books. The corpus consists of about seven hundred articles from Spanish and Italian online newspapers, above all *El País* and *La Repubblica*. In reference to Polish language, we have also used texts from Polish online press. The choice of such type of corpus enabled us to find examples from contemporary, live, written language. It is believed that, to a certain extent, press and media contribute to

creating and copying linguistic patterns. Furthermore, the hypothesis of disappearance of subjunctive mood in Italian language is also a relevant point in the present dissertation. We have tried to examine if the current tendency to linguistic economy and simplification has also afflicted the use of subjunctive mood in Spanish and Italian. Bearing glottodidactics in mind, we have observed possible errors and difficulties that stem from the interference of these two languages.

We have paid attention to unusual modal use, which is not always in accordance with norm, and, at the same time, tried to explain it. The objective of the dissertation is also to emphasize the cognitive value in order to understand better the studied languages and, above all, observe pragmatic differences connected with using or not using subjunctive mood, as well as its influence on the receiver. The semantic-pragmatic part has been divided according to types of predicates, for example doubt expression, feelings expression etc.