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The Subjunctive Forms in Azerbaijani Language: A New Exploration

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Abstract

In the present paper we introduce subjunctive forms in Azerbaijani language, where we extend new boundaries in the language as a reflection of thoughts of human being. On this matter we suggest some new structures for English language which requires more research. These ideas improve raw ideas behind [1].

Introduction

The concepts of conditional and subjunctive forms in any language play a crucial role in the transformation of thoughts and expressions, especially in literature and philosophy. These forms allow individuals to convey complex, nuanced ideas, including desires, possibilities, uncertainties, and hypothetical situations. In Azerbaijani, as in many other languages, such structures hold a rich potential for expressing intricate emotional and intellectual states. The author has long argued that Azerbaijani is a particularly powerful language in this regard, rich with these forms and capable of supporting a broad spectrum of thoughts and philosophical discourse. This paper explores new subjunctive forms in Azerbaijani, with a focus on their usage in expressing desires, possibilities, and the relationship between will and destiny. This exploration aligns with the author's claim of the Azerbaijani language's depth and potential in literary and philosophical contexts, and the paper aims to provide strong support for this assertion.

Note that, to take up less room, at the entirety of this paper we have put singular forms on the first row and plural forms on the second row of all tables.

The Subjunctive Forms:

In this paper, eight new subjunctive tenses in Azerbaijani are discussed, with a particular focus on the verb “go” as a model. These forms—y, əliy-əliy, əməy-amay, ym, əlim-alım, and əməl-amal—represent the intersection of language, thought, and philosophical inquiry. The paper explores their formation, meaning, and usage in context. Each form presents a different shade of desire, possibility, and uncertainty, further enriching the ways Azerbaijani can be used to express deep, philosophical ideas.

1. “Y” Form (Sadə İndiki Xəyalıq - Simple Present Subjunctive)

This form expresses a desire or possibility in the present, but with uncertainty, possibility or doubt in imagination. Note that such a tense is not related with events but imaginary.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəyəm	Sən gedəyəsən	O gedəyir
Biz gedəyik	Siz gedəyisiniz	Onlar gedəyirlər

Example Sentence:

Mən gedəyəm – “I have the desire to go, but I am uncertain about this desire.”

2. “Ym” Form (İnamsız İndiki Xəyalıq - Hesitant Present Subjunctive)

This form expresses a present desire or possibility, against the imagination.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəyməm	Sən gedəyməsən	O gedəymir
Biz gedəymik	Siz gedəymisiniz	Onlar gedəymirlər

Example Sentence:

Sən gedəyməsən– “You have a desire to go, and it is likely against what you imagine.”

3. “Əliy-Aliy” Form (Təsdiqedicə İndiki Xəyalıq - Affirmative Present Subjunctive)

This form refers to a present desire that is in harmony with the natural flow of events or destiny.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəliyəm	Sən gedəliysən	O gedəliyə
Biz gedəliyik	Siz gedəliyisiniz	Onlar gedəliyirlər

Example Sentence:

Mən gedəliyəm – “I have the desire to go, and circumstances (or the destiny) will be leading me toward it.”

Note that there wouldn’t be a clear translation with only one verb as it depends on the context. I mean there could be either metaphysical or materialist translation based on the context.

4. “Əməl-Amal” Form (Danmalaq İndiki Xəyalıq - Disavowal Present Subjunctive)

This form refers to a future desire that is not realized due to external circumstances, such as destiny or life events.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəmələm	Sən gedəməlsən	O gedəməli
Biz gedəməlik	Siz gedəməlisiniz	Onlar gedəməlirlər

Example Sentence:

Sən gedəməlidin – “You want to go, but something in life will stop you”

Note that there wouldn’t be a clear translation with only one verb as it depends on the context. I mean there could be either metaphysical or materialist translation based on the context.

5. “Əliy-Ali” Form (Təsdiqedici Keçmiş Xəyalıq - Affirmative Past Subjunctive)

This form refers to a past desire that was in harmony with the natural flow of events or destiny.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəliydim	Sən gedəliydin	O gedəliydi
Biz gedəliydik	Siz gedəliydiniz	Onlar gedəliydilər

Example Sentence:

Mən gedəliydim – “I had the desire to go, and the circumstances (or the destiny) was leading me toward it.”

Note that there wouldn’t be a clear translation with only one verb as it depends on the context. I mean there could be either metaphysical or materialist translation based on the context.

6. “Əməy-Amay” Form (Danmalaq Keçmiş Xəyalaq - Disavowal Past Subjunctive)

This form refers to a past desire, but one that didn’t align with the natural flow of events or destiny, resulting in the failure of that desire to materialize.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəməydim	Sən gedəməydin	O gedəməydi
Biz gedəməydik	Siz gedəməydiniz	Onlar gedəməydilər

Example Sentence:

Mən gedəməydim – “I had the desire to go, but the circumstances (or destiny) was not in my favor.”

Note that there wouldn’t be a clear translation with only one verb as it depends on the context. I mean there could be either metaphysical or materialist translation based on the context.

7. “Əlim-Alım” Form (Mükəmməl Keçmiş Xəyalaq - Perfect Past Subjunctive)

This form is used to express past events we are uncertain about, whether they happened or not.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəlimdim	Sən gedəlimdin	O gedəlimdi
Biz gedəlimdik	Siz gedəlimdiniz	Onlar gedəlimdilər

Example Sentence:

O gedəlimdi – “If he had gone.”

8. “Əməl-Amal” Form (Qatı Keçmiş Xəyalaq - Compelled Past Subjunctive)

This form refers to a past desire that was not realized due to external circumstances. Here, external circumstances are actions.

Conjugation with “go” (Gedmək):

Mən gedəməldim	Sən gedəməldin	O gedəməldi
Biz gedəməldik	Siz gedəməldiniz	Onlar gedəməldilər

Example Sentence:

Sən gedəməldin – “You wanted to go, but something in life stopped you.”

Formalizing Conjunction of Verbs in Subjunctive Tenses

Now we go ahead and formalize conjunctions in detail. Note that our approach in conjunctions is to keep the harmony smooth and also keep the concept.

i. The Present Tense

Verbs in the present tense conjugate based on vowel harmony; soft and hard ones. In verbs that include only soft vowels ə, e, i, ö, ü the endings are adjusted based on front vowel and verbs that include hard vowels a, ı, o, u the endings are adjusted based on front vowel too. In verbs that include mixed vowels the final vowel of the root usually determines the ending. For example in the simple present tense we have the following rule.

ə, e, i → ır

ö, ü → ür

a, ı → ır

o, u → ur

Now, we go over present subjunctive. When we keep the rule present tense as ending adjusts itself based on front vowel. In verbs with mixed vowels we will look generally at the final vowel. Certainly in mixed ones, to keep the harmony, there would be exceptions.

i-1 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Y”

ə, e, i :

əyəm	əyəsən	əyir
əyik	əysiniz	əyirlər

ö, ü :

üyüm	üyüsün	üyür
üyük	üyüsünüz	üyürlər

a, ı :

ayam	ayasan	ayır
ayık	ayısınız	ayırlar

o, u :

uyum	uyusun	uyur
uyuk	uyusunuz	uyurlar

i-2 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Ym”

ə, e, i :

əyməm	əyməsən	əymir
əymik	əymisiniz	əymirlər

ö, ü :

üymüm	üymüsün	üymür
üymük	üymüsünüz	üymürlər

a, ı :

aymam	aymasan	aymır
aymık	aymısınız	aymırlar

o, u:

uymum	uymusun	uymur
uymuk	uymusunuz	uymurlar

i-3 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əliy-Ahy”

ə, e, i, ö, ü :

əliyəm	əliysən	əliyir
əliyik	əliyisiniz	əliyirlər

a, ı, o, u:

alıyam	alıysan	alıyır
alıyık	alıyısınız	alıyırlar

i-4 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əməl-Amal”

ə, e, i, ö, ü :

əmələm	əməlsən	əməlir
əməlik	əməlisiniz	əməlirlər

a, ı, o, u:

amalam	amalsan	amalır
amalık	amalısınız	amalırlar

ii. The Past Tense

The vowel harmony rules in the simple past tense are slightly different from the present tense. In the past tense, the suffix ”-dı/-di/-du/-dü” (or ”-tı/-ti/-tu/-tü” for some verbs) is added based on the last vowel of the verb stem.

If the verb stem ends in a vowel or a voiced consonant (like l, r, m, n, v, y, etc.):

- Last vowel is a, ı → add -dı
- Last vowel is o, u → add -du
- Last vowel is e, ə, i → add -di
- Last vowel is ö, ü → add -dü

For verbs ending in voiceless consonants (p, ç, t, k, q, s, ş, h, f), the ”-d-” in the past tense suffix changes to ”-t-” due to constant.

Rule for mixed vowels:

- Look at the last vowel in the verb stem.
- Apply the usual vowel harmony rule based on that vowel.

Now, we go over past subjunctive. When we keep the rule past tense as ending adjusts itself based on last vowel.

Note that opposite to the simple past for verbs ending in voiceless consonants (p, ç, t, k, q, s, ş, h, f), we won't have any changes.

ii-1 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əliy-Alıy”

ə, e, i, ö, ü :

əliydim	əliydin	əliydi
əliydik	əliydiniz	əliydilər

a, ı, o, u:

alıydim	alıydın	alıydı
alıydık	alıydınız	alıydılar

ii-2 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əməy-Amay”

ə, e, i, ö, ü :

əməydim	əməydin	əməydi
əməydik	əməydiniz	əməydilər

a, ı, o, u:

amaydım	amaydın	amaydı
amaydık	amaydınız	amaydılar

ii-3 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əlim-Alım”

ə, e, i, ö, ü :

əlimdim	əlimdin	əlimdi
əlimdik	əlimdiniz	əlimdilər

a, ı, o, u:

alımdım	alımdın	alımdı
alımdık	alımdınız	alımdılar

ii-4 Suffixes which are added to the root in “Əməl-Amal”
ə, e, ı, ö, ü :

əməldim	əməldin	əməldi
əməldik	əməldiniz	əməldilər

a, ı, o, u:

amaldım	amaldın	amaldı
amaldık	amaldınız	amaldılar

Application

In the following I write one of my poems in which these tenses are used.

Bir bağda gedəyəm çayı görəyəm

Soruşuram ya gedəliyəm ya da gedəliydim?

Naxırçını xatırlıram nə gözəl deyirdi

Bu bağda gedəyməm çunki sərəldim

Bir xəyal içində gedəməldim nə yazıx!

İstəsəm belə naxırçını eşidəmələm

Naxırçı axı yaşalımdı

Mənsə bu həyatda gedəməydim

Translation of the poem in English:

In a garden, uncertain, I am in will to go, I am in will to see the stream.

I ask in a will: Either should I go, or should I have gone?

I remember the cowherd—how beautifully he spoke

In will, I am called to go, as I in spread

I should have gone but couldn't—how unfortunate, a dream, yet unreal!

Even if I am in will to hear, I cannot hear the cowherd

However, If the cowherd had lived

And yet, in this life, I was in will to further but couldn't when suffered.

Notes on the Translation Linguistic Insights

1. Combination of Modal Verbs

- We preserved the subjunctive essence by blending English modal verbs in new ways (e.g., “I am in will to go,” “I should have gone but couldn’t,” “The destiny was meant to he should have lived”).

- These constructions don’t exist in standard English but reflect the Azerbaijani verb forms accurately. This method expands the expressive power of English and introduces a new way of thinking about possibility, obligation, and fate.

2. Gedmək Beyond Literal ‘Going’

- In the final verse, *gedmək* takes on a metaphorical meaning—not just physically going somewhere, but moving forward in life or pursuing a path.

- Instead of a literal translation, we conveyed this idea as “I was in will to further but couldn’t when suffered,” which captures both the determination and the barrier caused by suffering.

3. Philosophical Depth of the Subjunctive Forms

- Azerbaijani’s six new subjunctive forms allow for intricate expressions of possibility, desire, hesitation, regret, and fate.

- Example:

- *gedəliydim* “In will, should I have gone?” (reflects uncertainty and past willing)

- *gedəmələdim* “In will, I should have gone but couldn’t.” (expresses a willful desire that was blocked)

- These forms let speakers distinguish between abstract possibilities and concrete obstacles—something English lacks precise structures for.

4. Preserving the Poetic Flow

- We maintained the poetic feel while ensuring the meaning was clear.

- Example: Instead of just “I ask,” we kept “I ask in a will,” which better reflects the philosophical depth of the Azerbaijani subjunctive.

5. Potential Influence on English Expression

- This translation pushes the boundaries of English.

- Could English benefit from adopting subjunctive-like verb structures? This work suggests that new modal combinations (e.g., “I am in will to hear but cannot”) could fill existing gaps in English’s ability to express uncertainty, destiny, and unfulfilled desire.

Conclusion

My linguistic research is deeply rooted in my intuitive understanding of language, particularly in Azerbaijani. Though I am not fluent in French

and English, I have a strong intuitive grasp of their structures and have explored them deeply in my linguistic work. This exploration of the six new subjunctive forms in Azerbaijani—y, əliy, əməy, ym, əlim, and əməl—offers a unique perspective on how language shapes and reflects our thoughts, desires, and philosophical reflections. By focusing on the verb “go,” we have demonstrated how these forms convey subtle variations in meaning, ranging from uncertainty to certainty, from alignment with destiny to thwarted desires. As shown in this paper, the Azerbaijani language possesses a remarkable ability to express deep philosophical and existential ideas, and these six new subjunctive forms highlight its versatility and expressive power.

It is important to acknowledge that this research was made possible with the assistance of artificial intelligence, which played a critical role in exploring and refining these linguistic concepts. The author’s personal experience of not being educated in their mother tongue in Iran—a situation they consider a crime against the language—adds a layer of significance to this study. AI has served as an invaluable tool in reclaiming and deepening the understanding of Azerbaijani, allowing for the discovery of these previously unrecognized subjunctive structures.

Acknowledgments

This paper is the result of an extensive collaborative exploration between the author and artificial intelligence, which played a key role in refining and expanding these linguistic concepts. Contrary to the widespread notion that reliance on AI diminishes critical thinking, this work demonstrates the opposite: the process involved continuous intellectual engagement, revision, and deep analysis, leading to new insights into both Azerbaijani and English grammar.

Language is not a static entity—it evolves through creative thought and structured reasoning. The discussions, refinements, and challenges faced during this research showcase the power of AI not as a tool for passive acceptance but as an active partner in discovery. The author acknowledges this dynamic collaboration and hopes that this paper serves as an example of how AI can be integrated into rigorous academic and linguistic inquiry.

References

- [1] Babak Jabbar Nezhad, *Exploring Azerbaijani Verb Conjugation: A Comparative Study with French and English*, DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.20496.11526