

The Mandative Subjunctive and Putative *Should*

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Abstract This paper is an attempt to clarify which of the two forms, the present subjunctive (the mandative subjunctive) and *should* (putative *should*) is more preferably used than the other in BrE and AmE in the subordinate clauses when the main clauses take such words as *suggest*, *necessary*, *proposition*, etc. This paper also tries to see how the frequencies of the above forms have changed in late ModE and tries to find out what caused the changes. The materials examined are 50 weeklies and monthlies, and five anthologies, which were published in Britain and the United States.

In BrE, the mandative subjunctive is used in approximately 40 percent of the instances; putative *should* is still used in about 60 percent. In current AmE, the mandative subjunctive is used in 83 percent of the instances, and the putative *should* is still used in 17 percent in AmE in 1993.

In BrE, putative *should* was more preferably used in the past. However, the mandative subjunctive has been on the increase in recent years in BrE. In AmE, the mandative subjunctive does not seem to have been used so often in the past, at least in writing. On the contrary, it seems to have been putative *should* that was used more predominantly in the past, and it was not until around 1950 that at length the mandative subjunctive replaced putative *should* and began to be used more saliently in AmE.

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1. In subordinate clauses *should*+bare infinitive, or the indicative, or the subjunctive is used after such verbs as *suggest*, *insist*, *demand*, etc., after such adjectives as *vital*, *necessary*, *advisable*, etc., and after such nouns as *eagerness*, *decision*, *proposition*, etc. (The following quotations are from Alexander (1988, 239) (1, 2), from Greenbaum and Quirk (1990, 296) (3. b) and from Quirk et al. (1985, 157 (3. ac)).

1. a. I suggest (that) he apply/not apply for the job. (Subjunctive)

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- b. I suggest (that) he should/shouldn't apply for the job.
 - c. I suggest (that) he applies/doesn't apply for the job. (Indicative)
2. a. It is vital (that) we be present. (Subjunctive)
- b. It is vital (that) we should be present.
 - c. It is vital (that) we are present. (Indicative)
3. a. Our decision is that the school remain closed. (Subjunctive)
- b. I can understand their eagerness that you should be the main speaker.
 - c. Our decision is that the school remains closed. (Indicative)

Quirk et al. call such a use of the present subjunctive “the mandative subjunctive” and such a use of *should* “putative *should*” respectively (1985, 156-57). They, however, include in putative *should* what is called “emotional *should*”, which is used in such a sentence as *I'm surprised that he should feel lonely*. In addition, they call such verbs as are used in the mandative subjunctive and in the constructions that use putative *should* “suasive verbs” and list a total of 36 such verbs (1985, 1182). Yet they make no reference to “suasive adjectives” or “suasive nouns”. If there are such verbs as “suasive verbs”, it would not be unreasonable to add the word “suasive” also to nouns and adjectives, like “suasive nouns” and “suasive adjectives”. I use these terms here. I use here also the words “putative *should*” in a narrower sense, that is, excluding emotional *should*. As a result, the “putative *should*” used here is confined to the kind that follows only suasive verbs, suasive adjectives and suasive nouns.

With respect to the difference in meaning between the mandative subjunctive and putative *should*, Curme says the mandative subjunctive implies “early and immediate execution” and it is used “especially when immediate action seems desirable” (1931 2: 403-04). However, Visser regards this as questionable, saying that the mandative subjunctive emphasizes “the futural and wished-for character of the action in the clause” (1966 2: 843). As for putative *should*, Greenbaum and Quirk say that it is used to convey “the notion of a ‘putative’ situation, which is recognized as possibly existing or coming into existence”, and the putative *should* used in this construction shows “nonfactuality” and conveys “the notions of necessity, plan or intention for the future” (1990, 295-96).

The objectives of this paper are, first, to examine the occurrences of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in current BrE and AmE prose, and, second, to see how the occurrences of these forms have changed over the years, and, third, to discover the causes of the changes. It goes without

saying that there are other ways than these two forms to express the notion that something should be done. First, as we have seen, there is an expression that uses the indicative (especially in BrE) (1c, 2c, 3c above), and second, there are expressions that use *to*-infinitive and *-ing* form: *He recommended me to go with him; He recommended my (me) going with him.* Therefore, the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* are by no means the only ways to express such a notion. And, likewise, the mandative subjunctive is by no means the only alternative to putative *should* and vice versa. Yet here we confine our attention to the mandative subjunctive and putative *should*. (For the materials examined here, see the list at the end of this paper.)

2. 1 Historically, the mandative subjunctive is as old as putative *should*. Visser lists 10 instances of the mandative subjunctive in the OE period of the type: *I suggested that he go at once* (1966 2: 845), and 18 instances of putative *should* in the same period of the type: *He commaunded, that the ouen shulde be made seuen tymes hoter* (1969 3: 1655). Both of these forms existed already in OE. Therefore, as Visser also says (1966 2: 844), the mandative subjunctive is not the omitted form of putative *should*. As for the mandative subjunctive that uses adjectives in the main clauses, it seems to have developed in a much later period than the type that uses suasive verbs. In his four-volume works, Visser does not seem to make any reference to the suasive adjectives except *imperative*, giving its first instance of the use of the mandative subjunctive in early ModE (1966 2:824). However, there seem to be other suasive adjectives that appear somewhat earlier than *imperative*. Take, for instance, *necessary*. The *OED* (1989) gives an instance of the use of the mandative subjunctive of this adjective of about 1460 and an instance of the use of putative *should* of 1582 (*necessary* a. 1b):

c. 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* IV(1885) 118 Trewly it is veray necessarie that thay be alwey grete.

1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. Castanheda's *Conq. E. Ind.* We fought in open field, where it was necessarie there should be many.

The type that uses the negative "not": *I suggest that he not apply for the job* (1a above), and *It is (was) necessary that this not be done*, seems to have appeared in a still later period. Visser says that this use probably arose in the United States, giving an instance from the twentieth century (1966 2: 847).

2. 2 First, we would like to see how the frequency of the uses of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* underwent changes in later ModE, from around 1650 to 1900. The year 1650 was chosen because it seems to be around this time that the instances of the uses of the mandative subjunctive and puta-

tive *should* begin to appear in a written form in AmE. In examining these expressions, the anthologies that include the works of the major literary figures in English literature were made use of.

Here are part of the examples:

I covenant that your acquaintance be general. (William Congreve, *The Ways of the World* (1700), *Macmillan Anthologies of English Literature* [henceforth *Anthol*] 3 (London: Macmillan, 1989) 32.)/His character requires that he estimate the happiness and misery of every condition. (Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas* (1759), *Anthol* 3: 32.)/I resign him to capital justice, without making another demand in his favour than that ...; that his virtues be rated with his failings. (Samuel Johnson, "Preface to Shakespeare" (1765), *Anthol* 3: 340.)

He descended from the stage, and commanded that several ladders should be applied to my sides ... (Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), *Anthol* 3: 113.)/She often insisted that we should compose ourselves to sleep before I would consent to it. (James Boswell, *The Life of Johnson* (1763), *Anthol* 3: 492.)/ ... it is necessary that years should bring the philosophic Mind ... (John Keats, "Letter to Benjamin Bailey" (1817), *Anthol* 4 (London: Macmillan, 1989) 242.)/Mr Brooke proposes that I should stay in this neighbourhood. (George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1869), *Anthol* 4: 461.)

Putative *should* occurs rather frequently in this period. There are in total 23 instances of the use of putative *should* between around 1650 and 1900: two instances between around 1650 and 1700, 11 between 1701 and 1800 and 13 between 1801 and 1900. There are a surprisingly few instances of the mandative subjunctive: only three instances occur, and these three are all limited to the period between 1701 and 1800.¹ We can see from this that putative *should* was used approximately eight times as frequently as the mandative subjunctive in BrE between around 1650 and 1900.

2. 3 In order to see how the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* underwent changes in AmE between the period around 1650 and 1900, the anthologies that include the works of the major figures in American history were made use of.

The following are part of the instances beginning from the earlier stages of AmE:

I command that justice, peace and sobriety, be kept and practiced, both among the seamen and all the passengers. (Roger Williams, "Letter to the

Town of Providence" (1655), *The American Literature in Tradition* [henceforth *ALT*], 6th ed., 1 (New York: Random, 1985) 40.)/I affirm ... that none of the papists, protestants, Jews, or Turks, be forced to come to the ship's prayers or worship. (Roger Williams, "Letter to the Town of Providence" (1655), *ALT* 1:40.)/The true critic will but demand that the design intended be accomplished, to the fullest extent, by the means most advantageously applicable. (Edgar Allan Poe, "A Review" to *Twice-Told Tales* (1842), *Concise Anthologies of American Literature* [henceforth *CA*] 2nd ed. (New York: Macmillan, 1974) 431.)/It is desirable that a man be clad so simply that he can lay his hands on himself in the dark ... (Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1846), *CA* :431.)/ ... we require that all things be mysterious ... (Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1846), *CA* :783.)

It seems to be a thing in itself fit and desirable that the glorious perfections of God should be known ... (Jonathan Edwards, *Dissertation* (1765), *ALT* 1: 192.)/It is essential to a true theory of nature and of man, that it should contain somewhat progressive. (Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature* (1836), *CA* : 466.)/... is it fitting that a father in the church should leave a shadow on his memory ...? (Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Minister's Black Veil" (1836), *CA*: 563.)/It is not important that he should mature as soon as an apple tree or an orange. (Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1846), *CA* : 787.)/It is altogether fitting and desirable that we should do this. (Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" (1863), *ALT* 1: 691.)

As in the case of BrE, the occurrences of the mandative subjunctive are exceedingly rare. In my examination, there are altogether but five instances of the use of the mandative subjunctive between the period around 1650 and 1900: two instances between 1650 and 1700 and three instances between 1801 and 1900. No instances occur between 1701 and 1800. Visser gives only one instance of the mandative subjunctive in this period, and that is from Louisa M. Alcott's *Little Women* published in 1868 (1966 2: 846).

Putative *should* occurs more frequently: there are in all 39 instances between around 1650 and 1900: 21 instances between 1701 and 1800 and 18 instances between 1801 and 1900. The proportion of the mandative subjunctive to putative *should* between around 1650 and 1900 in AmE is exceedingly similar to that in BrE in the same period (in AmE 11.3 percent of the mandative subjunctive as against 88.6 percent of putative *should* ; in BrE 10 percent of the mandative subjunctive as against 90 percent of putative *should*.) There seems to be a general notion that as in the case of the word "fall", the mandative subjunctive became out of general use in BrE in the early stages of ModE, eventually

surviving in AmE, where it was used frequently. However, this might be an erroneous notion, for, as shown above, in AmE there are a surprisingly few examples of the mandative subjunctive between around 1600 and 1900.

3. 1 In all, 13 monthlies and weeklies published in Britain in 1993 were looked into in order to examine the uses of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in current BrE. The reason for my choice of a somewhat large number of materials is that they make it much easier to grasp the language change.

Here are typical examples from BrE:

Another fan of super-301, Senator Max Baucus, is also keen that the United States impose a tax on cross-border trade as a way of offsetting the cost of the dislocation caused by free trade in North America. (*Economist* [henceforth *EC*] 10th-16th Apr.: 34.)/Michelle Pfeiffer was insisting that M. A. C. products be used as props in *Batman II*. (*Tatler* [henceforth *TAT*] Feb.: 32.)/The proper procedure ... is to demand that the senior serviceman present identity himself. (*Spectator* [henceforth *SP*] 17 Apr.: 47.)

The Nikkeiren, which speaks for employees, proposed that workers *should* get nothing. (*EC* 3rd-9th Apr.: 31.)/... he decided that ... they should take a different route. (*TAT* Apr.: 134.)/Lord Deedes does not suggest anything should be done about that. (*SP* 24 Apr.: 8.)

The number of instances of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* that occur in the materials published in Britain in 1993 is given in Table 1.

Table 1

	The mandative subj.	Putative <i>should</i>
<i>Economist</i> 3rd-9th Apr., 10th-16th Apr., 17th-23rd Apr., 24th-30th Apr., 1st-7th Apr.	16	23
<i>Tatler</i> Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr.	3	2
<i>Spectator</i> 3 Apr., 10 Apr., 17 Apr., 24 Apr.	8	16
Total	27 (39.7%)	41 (60.3%)

It is clear from Table 1 that, as might be expected, in current BrE there are more instances of putative *should* than those of the mandative subjunctive. However, it should be noted at the same time that a fairly large number of

the mandative subjunctive are also used in BrE now.

3. 2 To see more clearly the present situations of the uses of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in BrE, here we take a brief look at the situations in the period between 1910 and 1993. Three monthlies and weeklies published in Britain in each of the following years were examined: 1910, 1930, 1950 and 1970.

Here are examples from each of these years:

Battleaxe requested that the payment be made in two cheques of ten pounds each. (*Blackwood's Magazine* [henceforth *BW*] Jan. 1910: 142.)/Mr Truman has lately demanded that a "positive one" be produced out of the hat. (*EC* 7 Jan. 1950: 22.)/Soon after I have returned to England, my London club circulates members with the suggestion that the Women's Services be admitted to full membership of the Ladies' Side. (*BW* Jan. 1950: 85.)/Thus it recommends that the Upper Tyrrhenian ports of Genoa ... be developed in concert, each with its own special functions. (*EC* 3 Jan. 1970: 44.)/I asked that this ceremony be held in Salisbury because my passport will get me practically nowhere. (*SP* 3 Jan. 1970: 29.)

It is desirable that a strong hand power should keep a hand on Nicaragua. (*EC* 1 Jan. 1910: 4.)/... the suggestion that she too should adopt a Russian system. (*English Review* [henceforth *ER*] Jan. 1930: 67.)/...arguing that doctrines should be invented for the express purpose of producing good works. (*Times Literary Supplement* [henceforth *TLS*] 6 Jan. 1950: 9.)/It was necessary not merely that we should be strong but others should realise the fact. (*SP* 3 Jan. 1970: 7.)/It is clearly essential that these different activities should be mutually compatible. (*Listener* [henceforth *LI*] 8 Jan. 1970: 54.)

The number of occurrences since 1910 is shown in Table 2. The figures in 1993 were added from Table 1 merely for the sake of comparison.

Table 2

	The mandative subj.	Putative <i>should</i>
<i>Economist</i> 1 Jan. 1910 <i>Blackwood's Mag.</i> Jan. 1910 <i>English Review</i> Jan. 1910	0 (0%)	18 (100%)
<i>Economist</i> 4 Jan. 1930 <i>Blackwood's Mag.</i> Jan. 1930 <i>English Review</i> Jan. 1930	1 (4.3%)	22 (96.7%)

<i>Economist</i> 7 Jan. 1950 <i>Blackwood's Mag.</i> Jan. 1950 <i>Times Lit. Sup.</i> 6 Jan. 1950	2 (8.7%)	21 (91.3%)
<i>Economist</i> 3 Jan. 1970 <i>Spectator</i> 3 Jan. 1970 <i>Listener</i> 8 Jan. 1970	3 (13.6%)	19 (86.4%)
(1993)	(27) (39.7%)	(41) (60.3%)

If we take a look at the figures in Table 2, especially the changes in percent, we will find that they reveal the facts of much interest: that in BrE the occurrences of the use of the mandative subjunctive have been increasing in a regular fashion year by year since 1910, and that, conversely, the figures of the use of putative *should* have been decreasing in a regular fashion year by year since 1910.

3. 3 As in the case of BrE, in examining the current uses of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in AmE, in all 13 monthlies and weeklies published in the United States in 1993 were made use of.

Here are part of the instances:

He recommended that Jeremy serve at least 25 years in jail. (*Reader's Digest* [henceforth *RD*] Jan.: 71.)/Hard-liners ... have renewed demand that Rabin quit talking to "terrorists". (*Newsweek* [henceforth *NW*] 12 Apr.: 33.)/ ... it is important that the number be secret. (*Harper's Magazine* [henceforth *HM*] Mar.: 46.)/She suggested that I take some pictures of her without her clothes on. (*TIME* 12 Apr.: 54.)/I had specifically requested that he come by my office and do some magic while I took notes. (*New Yorker* [henceforth *NY*] 5 Apr.: 93.)

My youngest son suggested we should test the new video camera on the butterflies feeding on our buddleias. (*RD* Mar.: 96.)/When Florida's Department of Motor Vehicles decreed that all rental cars should bear licence plates beginning with Y or Z,... (*NW* 19 Apr.: 93.)/The National Advisory Council advises ... that Iraq should receive the first half for 1990. (*HM* Jan.: 64.)

Table 3 gives the figures of the instances in AmE in 1993.

Table 3

	The mandative subj.	Putative <i>should</i>
<i>Reader's Digest</i> Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr.	13	6
<i>Newsweek</i> 5 Apr., 12 Apr., 19 Apr., 26 Apr.	15	1
<i>Harper's Magazine</i> Jan., Feb., Mar.	12	2
<i>TIME</i> 12 Apr.	2	0
<i>New Yorker</i> 5 Apr.	2	0
Total	44 (83%)	9 (17%)

It should be noted from Table 3 that although in current AmE the mandative subjunctive is used about five times as often as putative *should*, as yet putative *should* has not disappeared completely from AmE: it is still used in 17 percent of all the occurrences.

3. 4 Then, has the mandative subjunctive been consistently and predominantly used in AmE from earlier times down to the present? To understand the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in current AmE in a more clear perspective, altogether 12 monthlies and weeklies published in the United States from 1910 to 1970 were looked into. These were published in each of the following years: 1910, 1930, 1950 and 1970.

The following are typical instances from each of these years:

Soon after he arrived in the city he directed that the house be turned over to him as it stood. (*HM* Jan. 1910: 172.)/General Jackson ... made a special request that I be sent to his division in the Dieppe area. (*The Atlantic Monthly* [henceforth *AM*] Jan. 1930: 49.)/The United Nations demanded that the attackers desist. (*NW* 3 July 1950: 5.)/The dissenters are ... very anxious that the distinctions among them be understood. (*AM* Jan. 1970: 4.)

It is not necessary that he should know anything about newspaper production. (*AM* Jan. 1910: 64.)/He insisted that the states ... should control in the making of tariff schedules. (*HM* Jan. 1930: 145.)/The integration of the iron, steel and coal industries would require that the less efficient units should close down ... (*NW* 3 July 1950: 23.)/Thieu made an emotional statement suggesting that the three should be "beaten to death like dogs". (*NW* 5 Jan. 1970: 18.)

The figures of the instances of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* that appear in AmE from 1910 to 1970 are given in Table 4. The figures in 1993 were merely added from Table 3 above just for comparison.

Table 4

	The Mandative subj.	Putative <i>should</i>
<i>Harper's Mag.</i> Jan. 1910 <i>Atlantic Mon.</i> Jan. 1910 <i>Atlantic Mon.</i> Feb. 1910	7 (36.8%)	12 (63.2%)
<i>Harper's Mag.</i> Jan. 1930 <i>Atlantic Mon.</i> Jan. 1930 <i>American Mercury</i> Jan. 1930	10 (40%)	15 (60%)
<i>Harper's Mag.</i> Jan. 1950 <i>Atlantic Mon.</i> Jan. 1950 <i>Newsweek</i> 3 July 1950	15 (78.9%)	4 (21.1%)
<i>Harper's Mag.</i> Jan. 1970 <i>Atlantic Mon.</i> Jan. 1970 <i>Newsweek</i> 5 Jan. 1970	31 (81.6%)	7 (18.4%)
(1993)	(44) (83%)	(9) (17%)

It is obvious from Table 4 that, although in AmE the mandative subjunctive is predominantly used in 1993, this was not always the case. Namely, until around 1930, putative *should* was more frequently used than the mandative subjunctive, and it was only between 1930 and 1950 that the mandative subjunctive began to be used more frequently, one giving place to the other.² Besides, as in the case of BrE, the changes in percent show interesting facts: that, as the years go by, the occurrences of the mandative subjunctive tend to increase in a regular fashion year by year, and that conversely, those of putative *should* tend to decrease in a regular fashion year by year. This trend is exactly the reverse of BrE as we have already seen in Table 3 above.

4. In the mandative subjunctive and putative *should*, suasive verbs, suasive adjectives, and suasive nouns are used. Then, in current BrE and AmE, what verbs, adjectives and nouns are in more actual use than the others? In order to examine this, the same 13 monthlies and weeklies published in Britain and the United States in 1993 as listed above, in Tables 1 and 3, were also used here.

Taken as a whole, suasive adjectives and suasive nouns are less frequently used than suasive verbs. In the following enumerations, each figure after a word indicates the occurrence of the word, and this figure includes both the occurrences of the mandative subjunctive and putative *should*.

In BrE, the suasive verb most often used is *suggest* (14), followed by *insist* (11), *demand* (7), *propose* (5), *decide* (3), *recommend* (3), *direct* (2), *advise* (1), *claim* (1), *require* (1). In AmE, the suasive verb most often used is *suggest* (13), followed by *demand* (6), *insist* (6), *recommend* (6), *request* (5), *urge* (2), *advise* (1), *decide* (1), *declare* (1), *decree* (1), *proclaim* (1), *propose* (1), *require* (1). Therefore, the suasive verbs used in BrE and AmE are much the same. *Suggest* is the word most often used commonly in both BrE and AmE. Other verbs used relatively commonly in both sides of the Atlantic are *insist*, *demand*, and *recommend*.

In BrE, the following suasive adjectives are used: *anxious* (1), *fitting* (1), *insistent* (1), *keen* (1). In AmE, there is only one suasive adjective, and that is *important* (1).

In BrE, the following suasive nouns are used: *proposal* (2), *suggestion* (2), *decree* (1), *instruction* (1), *ruling* (1), *stipulation* (1). In AmE, the following suasive nouns are used: *demand* (2), *requirement* (2), *proposal* (1), *recommendation* (1).

5. Concerning the mandative subjunctive and putative *should* in BrE and AmE, my survey can be briefly summed up as follows:

(a) In BrE, although putative *should* has been consistently used more frequently than the mandative subjunctive, in recent years the mandative subjunctive has come to be used in a much larger proportion year by year, and there is even a sign that putative *should* may be displaced by the mandative subjunctive in the future.

(b) In AmE, it is not true that only the mandative subjunctive has been exclusively used in the past. On the contrary, it was putative *should* that was used almost exclusively in the earlier period, and it was not until the years between 1930 and 1950 that the mandative subjunctive became more dominant than putative *should*, and that this subjunctive began to be used more frequently. In recent years the mandative subjunctive has come to be used almost exclusively in AmE, which, however, does not mean that putative *should* is not used in current AmE. In 1993 it is still used approximately one fifth times as frequently as the mandative subjunctive. However, there is a tendency that this figure may further dwindle in the future in AmE.

Then, why in BrE has the mandative subjunctive of late come to make up such a large proportion? There is a consensus in regard to this (Visser 1966 2: 844; Foster 1968, 212): it is because of an American influence, which began to be felt most strongly in the twentieth century.

With respect to AmE, two questions arise. First, why did the mandative subjunctive come to be used more frequently, seemingly all of a sudden in the twentieth century? Second, why are there so many instances of the man-

dativative subjunctive instead of putative *should* now? Concerning the first question, Visser surmises that in AmE the mandative subjunctive must have been preserved in spoken use, and that it revived in a written form in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century, probably because at that time there existed many other subjunctives than the mandative subjunctive (1966 2:843):

The revival (that is, of the mandative subjunctive), in the United States, since the beginning of the twentieth century in the written records seem to show that the idiom must have been preserved in spoken use among the Pilgrim Fathers. The cause of the promotion, there, from "spoken" to "written" is of course hard to ascertain. But it is well-known that at the time the use of the modally marked form in other cases was more extensive in America than in England.

Then, why in AmE are there currently so many instances of the mandative subjunctive? As Foster also suggests (1968, 212), it derives from the tendency of the Americans to prefer simplified forms. (As indicated above, strictly speaking, the mandative subjunctive is not the simplified, that is, the omitted, form of *should*.) Quirk et al. say that the mandative subjunctive is "formal and legalistic in style" (1985, 157). If so, it follows that most Americans have chosen a more formal way of speaking than an informal one. However, formality seems to have played little role here. What mattered here most was merely that the mandative subjunctive was a more simplified way of speaking.

Underlying their preference for a simpler form is the tendency of the Americans to be impatient: they prefer a simpler form because they tend to be impatient. As quoted above, Curme says that the mandative subjunctive implies "early and immediate execution" and it is used "especially when immediate action seems desirable". Curme's theory is of especial interest when we consider that he is an American himself, and that his theory vividly illustrates the strong tendency of the Americans to be impatient and their urgent wish that things be done immediately without delay. Their increasing uses of such convenient modern inventions as automobiles, personal computers, etc. may have contributed to their becoming more impatient than before, and it in turn may be one of the reasons why there is such a growing use of the mandative subjunctive in AmE. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that words or expressions come to be widely used because everyone else is using them, because it is the fashion of the times to use them. Thus, the character of the Americans, combined well with the ethos of the times,

made them choose the mandative subjunctive rather than putative *should* in a large number of cases.

Notes

¹ Visser also points out the scarcity of the occurrences of the mandative subjunctive in this period. Making reference to the type: *I suggested that he go at once*, he says, "It is, however, a fact that the idiom can be traced back to Old English and that it remained in use in Middle and early Modern English. After about 1600 instances become rarer and rarer in the extant literature". He gives four instances of the use of the mandative subjunctive of the above type between 1500 and 1600 including two instances from Shakespeare; two instances between 1601 and 1700; one instance between 1701 and 1800; and two instances between 1801 and 1900. If we limit the occurrences to the period between 1650 and 1900 in order to make a comparison between Visser's findings and mine, we will find that the instances of the use of the mandative subjunctive are the same between the two in this period: there are only three instances in both Visser's study and mine. Visser also gives the instances of putative *should* of the type: *He commaunded, that the ouen shulde be made seuen tymes hotter*. He gives six instances of this type that appear between 1500 and 1600, including one from Shakespeare; two instances between 1601 and 1700, including one from Shakespeare; two instances between 1701 and 1800; and six instances between 1801 and 1900. (See F. Th. Visser, *An Historical Syntax of the English Language*, 2 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1966) 843-45; 3 (1969) 1655.)

² Although the materials examined here may be comparatively scanty, in fact, the figures of percent in 1930 in Table 4 correspond roughly to those Fries gave in his study. From 1926 to 1930, Fries conducted the study of what he called "Standard" English, "Common" English, and "Vulgar" English. "Standard" English is the English used by the native American college graduates whose positions in American society are usually classified as professions, and this English corresponds roughly to the English we have been examining so far. In the case of Standard English, Fries found 47 instances of the mandative subjunctive (42.3 percent) and 64 instances of putative *should* (57.7 percent) respectively. As shown in Table 4, also in my study, the mandative subjunctive in 1930 accounts for 40 percent, and putative *should* 60 percent, which might vindicate my study. In the case of Vulgar English, that is, the English used by the nearly illiterate, putative *should* made up also a larger proportion in Fries's survey: there were eight instances of the mandative subjunctive (17.8 percent) and there were 37 instances of putative *should* (82.2 percent). (In the case of Vulgar English, we should take it into consideration that Fries includes in these 37 instances *would* as well as *should* that is used in *that*-clause that follows suasive verbs. So the actual figure of putative *should* may become a little smaller.) (See Charles C. Fries, *American English Grammar* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1940; Maruzen Asian ed.) 105-06.)

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