

## **Getting into the right mood in concessive clauses. A cross-linguistic diachronic perspective**

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In this talk, I examine mood alternation (indicative vs. subjunctive) in concessive clauses from a cross-linguistic perspective and explain why languages differ in selecting different moods within a single clause type. While discussing concessive *þótt*-clauses in Icelandic, Thráinsson (2007: 404) points out that "the distribution of indicative and subjunctive in adjunct (adverbial) clauses sheds some additional light on the semantics of the subjunctive, but it also indicates that it is partially governed by certain grammaticalized rules that are not entirely transparent from a semantic point of view. Thus certain subordinating conjunctions require the subjunctive mood, although it is not obvious that this has anything to do with factivity or presuppositions [...]." I argue that the use of the subjunctive mood in concessive clauses should be attributed to an incomplete grammaticalization process. This incompleteness, as I claim, involves syntacticisation of a negative presupposition concessives encode, and is the source of the mood alternation.

### References

Thráinsson, Höskuldur. 2007. *The Syntax of Icelandic*. Cambridge: CUP.