

Shifty *if*'s iff shifts

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International Conference on Tense and Aspect in Conditionals
Paris, France, November 2-4, 2022

Overview

Temporal expressions can have special interpretations in conditionals.

- ▶ Do they have different meanings in conditionals?
Or do conditionals create special environments?

How widespread is this phenomenon across languages?

English

Indicatives – Observations

predictive

(1) If Mary arrives on time, she will text you.

non-predictive

(2) If Mary arrived on time, she will text you.

- ▶ antecedents, stand-alone:

(3) Mary arrives on time.

(4) Mary arrived on time.

- ▶ (3) has a scheduling reading; the antecedent of (1) does not.
- ▶ no scheduling reading in (4) or the antecedent of (2).

➡ (1) is predictive and (2) is non-predictive on their most salient reading.

English

Indicatives – Observations

predictive

[antecedent not decided at speech time]

(1) If Mary arrives on time, she will text you.

non-predictive

[antecedent decided at speech time]

(2) If Mary arrived on time, she will text you.

Funk (1985): “In the case of [1] the uncertainty is largely due to the fact that the state-of-affairs described and predicated does not yet exist, i.e., is still subject to manifestation (so that it cannot be affirmed or denied—it is unverifiable) at the moment of the sentence being uttered. In [2], however, the state-of-affairs *does* exist at the time of speaking (either in the positive or negative sense—it is ‘manifested’ and could thus be verified), but the speaker has not got enough information (or is otherwise not disposed) to be sure about it and hence to affirm or deny it. Accordingly, the meaning of the conditioning frame can be said to vary from ‘if it happens that ...’ to ‘if it is true that ...’ ” (375–376)

English

Indicatives – Observations

predictive

[antecedent not decided at speech time]

(1) If Mary arrives on time, she will text you.

[We will find out tomorrow if Mary can make it to our meeting.]

(2) If Mary arrived on time, she will text you.

non-predictive

[antecedent decided at speech time]

(2) If Mary arrived on time, she will text you.

[I don't know Mary's itinerary for tomorrow, but she can tell us.]

(1) If Mary arrives on time, she will text you.

- ▶ both forms can be used either way
- ▶ a semantic distinction, not a grammatical one.

English

Indicatives – Observations

past in the future

- (5) If I come out smiling, the interview went well.
- (6) If the interview went well, I will come out smiling.

- (7) The interview went well.

▶ (5) and (6) can be about a future interview; (7) cannot

English

Indicatives – Observations

interactions

- (8) a. If Mary arrives tomorrow, we will book her a room today.
b. If Mary arrives tomorrow, we will book her a room (then).

- ▶ antecedent of (8a) must have scheduling reading
- ▶ antecedent of (8b) need not

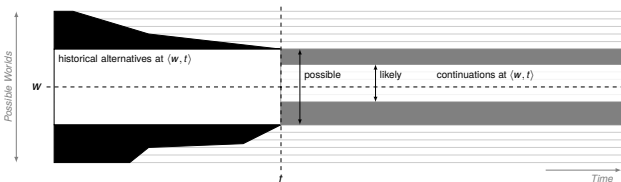
similarly:

- (9) a. If I come out smiling, the interview went well.
b. If I come out smiling, the interview will go well.

▶▶ antecedent and consequent constrain each other's temporal interpretation

English

Indicatives – Analysis



filter-funnel model

- ▶ interpretation at world-time pairs
- ▶ history of world w proceeds by shedding alternatives
- ▶ alternatives at $\langle w, t \rangle$:

- same up to t
- diverse after t

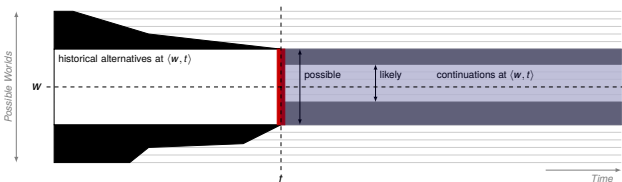
- ▶▶ one possible past
- ▶▶ many possible futures

nb:

- ▶ Thomason (1984); Kaufmann (2005, to appear); Kaufmann et al. (2006)
- ▶ ignoring epistemic modality for simplicity

English

Indicatives – Analysis



simple sentences

(10) Mary will join the meeting.

'WILL [mary join]' is true at $\langle w, t \rangle$ iff

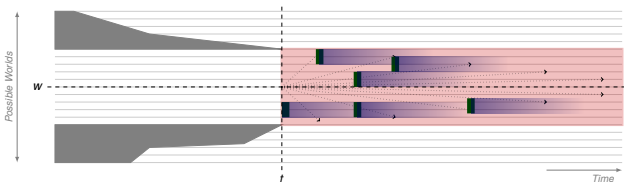
- for all relevant alternatives $\langle w', t \rangle$
- there is some $\langle w', t' \rangle$ no earlier than t at which 'mary join' is true.

➡ two components.

- **modal**: all relevant alternatives for 'will' | all alternatives for bare tense;
- **temporal**: no earlier for 'pres' | earlier for 'past'

English

Indicatives – Analysis



indicative conditionals

(11) If Mary arrives, she will join the meeting.

$\text{WILL}_{\text{PRES}}[\text{mary arrive}] [\text{mary join}]$ is true at $\langle w, t \rangle$ iff

- for all relevant $\langle w', t' \rangle$ in the red area
- at which 'PRES[mary arrive]' is true,
- there is some $\langle w', t'' \rangle$ no earlier than t' at which 'mary join' is true.

➡ two effects on the modal component of the main clause.

- forward expansion from line to area
- restriction to those points at which the antecedent is true

English

Subjunctives – Observations

subjunctives about the future

(12) If Mary came tomorrow, she would join the meeting.

COME-PAST

WOULD-PAST

➡ simple past subjunctive (SP)

(13) If Mary had come tomorrow, she would have joined.

COME-PERF+PAST

WOULD-PERF+PAST

➡ past perfect subjunctive (PP)

➡ Past / Past Perfect in (12-13) despite future reference

English

Subjunctives – Observations

subjunctives about the past

(14) ??If Mary came yesterday, she would join the meeting.
COME-PAST WOLL-PAST

(15) If Mary had come yesterday, she would have joined the meeting.
COME-PERF+PAST WOLL-PERF+PAST

- ▶▶ **SP subjunctive** 'if it were the case that M has come ...'
- ▶▶ **PP subjunctive** 'if it had been the case that M comes ...'

▶▶ (14): simple Past only in indicative

(15): subjunctive only with Past Perfect; potentially SP and PP

English

Subjunctives – Observations

SP subjunctive

- (16) a. If Mary came tomorrow, she would join.
 b. If Mary had come yesterday, she would have joined.

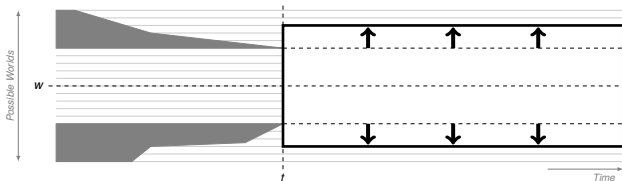
PP subjunctive

- (17) a. If Mary had come tomorrow, she would have joined.
 b. If Mary had come yesterday, she would have joined.

- ▶ Fake Past / Fake Perfect (Iatridou, 2000)
 common across languages for counterfactuals or irrealis
- ▶ SP vs. PP (Ippolito, 2003, 2013)
possibly related to the status of the antecedent or its presuppositions
- ▶▶ What drives the choice, and what does fake Past/Perfect mean?

English

Analysis – PaM vs. PaP



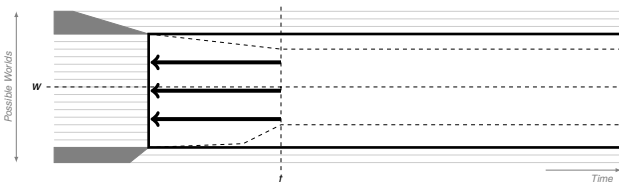
Past-as-Modal approach

- ▶ non-temporal interpretation of Past
- ▶ abstract notion of remoteness transferred from the temporal domain to the domain of possible worlds

Palmer (1986); Fleischman (1989); Iatridou (2000); Schulz (2014); a.o.

English

Analysis – PaM vs. PaP



Past-as-Past approach

- ▶ temporal interpretation of Past
- ▶ non-actual states of affairs made accessible via backshift in a branching time model.

Dudman (1983, 1984); Condoravdi (2002); Ippolito (2006, 2013); Kaufmann (2005);
Romero (2014); a.o.

English

Analysis – SP vs. PP

what drives the choice?

- (18) *[Mary is not likely to come to the office tomorrow.]*
- If M came tomorrow, she would join the meeting.
 - #If M had come, she would have joined the mtg.
- (19) *[Mary is dead.]*
- #If M came tomorrow, she would join the meeting.
 - If M had come, she would have joined the mtg.

- ▶ presuppositions of the antecedent? (Ippolito, 2006, 2013)
satisfied in (18); violated in (19)
- ▶ epistemic status of antecedent worlds? (Schulz, 2014)
possible (though unlikely) in (18); impossible in (19)
- ▶ BUT there are problems with both. (Schulz, 2017; Kaufmann, to appear)

English

Analysis – SP vs. PP

contra presuppositions

[John was training for the Boston Marathon last summer when he unexpectedly died.]

- (20) a. #If John ran the BM next spring, he would win.
 b. If John had run the BM next spring, he would have won.
 Ippolito (2013)
- (21) a. If John ran the BM next spring, that would be a miracle.
 b. #If John had run the BM next spring, that would have been a miracle.

▶▶ same antecedent, different consequents, judgments reversed

English

Analysis – SP vs. PP

contra presuppositions

[John was training for the Boston Marathon last summer when he suddenly fell ill. His health deteriorated gradually, as did his prognosis. Finally no hope was left, and he passed away.]

- (22)
- a. If John ran the BM next spring, that would be a miracle.
 - b. If John had run the BM next spring, that would have been a miracle.

- ▶ same conditionals, different context, (22b) much improved
- ▶ not clear that the antecedent's presuppositions are key

English

Analysis – SP vs. PP

contra epistemic status

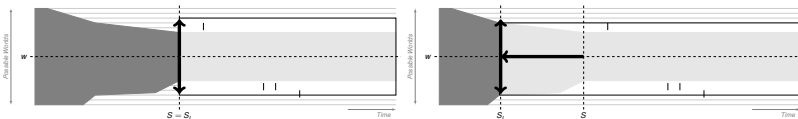
“ahistorical” conditionals

- (23)
- a. If nine were even, it would be divisible by two.
 - b. #If nine had been even, it would have been divisible by two.

- ▶ no uncertainty as to whether 9 is even (not an empirical question)
- ▶▶ not clear that epistemic status of antecedent is key

English

Analysis – SP vs. PP



time of Intervention

- ▶ counterfactuals generally require a departure from reality
miracle (Lewis, 1979); intervention (Pearl, 2000)
- ▶ counterfactual events in the future may call for a departure in the future or in the past
- ▶ SP vs. PP is a matter of context / construal / world knowledge

- ▶ PP subjunctives for past interventions
- ▶ SP subjunctives for non-past interventions

see also Schulz (2017); Kaufmann (to appear)

English

Analysis

English

- ▶ modal in SP Schulz (2014)
- ▶ temporal in both SP and PP have past accessibility time; PP also has past presupposition time Ippolito (2013)
- ▶ modal in SP; temporal in PP (marking time of intervention) Mizuno and Kaufmann (2018)

Japanese

- ▶ fake ' -ta ' is modal Ogihara (2014)
- ▶ fake ' -ta ' is temporal Mizuno and Kaufmann (2018)

English

Analysis – doxastic backshift

special case: PP subjunctive with no (obvious) backshift.

- (24) If English had been a transparent *ought* language, it would have had *would* on *have to*, and (62b) would have meant (62c), which it does not ...
 von Fintel and Iatridou 2022, p. 33

depends on the (con-)text.

Imagine *Prolegomena*', which at that point has not yet mentioned 'ought'-languages:

- (25) [*We now turn to the topic of transparent 'ought'-languages.*]
- #If English had been a transparent *ought* language, it would have had *would* on *have to* and (62b) would have meant (62c):...
 - If English were a transparent *ought* language, it would have *would* on *have to* and (62b) would mean (62c):..."

▶▶ backshift at the discourse level (“doxastic history”)

English

Summary on English

- ▶ All subjunctives involve a departure from reality
 - (intervention, miracle, what have you)

In English, this is expressed by one layer of (fake) Past/Perfect.

- ▶ This departure (intervention, miracle) may or may not lie in the past.
In English, this is expressed by the second layer of (real) Past in PP subjunctives.

- ▶▶ Do other languages works similarly?

If so, we would expect Past/Perfect expressions in (the analog of) PP subjunctives, but not so much in (the analog of) SP subjunctives.

Outline

- 1 English
- 2 Japanese
 - Simple sentences
 - Conditionals
 - Some examples
 - Analysis
 - Applications
- 3 Serbian

Japanese

Simple sentences

[[[SENTENCE RADICAL] (ASPECT)] TENSE]

SENTENCE RADICAL

- ▶ verb with required arguments; no temporal morphology

(26) Yōko-ga tuk-
Yoko-NOM arrive-
'Yoko arrive'

Japanese

Simple sentences

[[[SENTENCE RADICAL]]] TENSE]

TENSE

-ru / -ta
NONPAST PAST

- (27) Yōko-ga { tuk-u / tui-ta }
Yoko-NOM arrive-NPST arrive-PAST
'Yoko { will arrive / arrived }.'

Japanese

Simple sentences

[[[SENTENCE RADICAL] (ASPECT)] TENSE]

ASPECT

-tei-

PERFECT

[ignoring other uses]

(28) Yōko-ga tui-tei-ru
Yoko-NOM arrive-TEI-NPST
'Yoko has arrived.'

(29) Yōko-ga tui-tei-ta
Yoko-NOM arrive-TEI-PAST
'Yoko had arrived.'

Japanese

Conditionals

[(MOSI) [[RAD] (ASP)] COND] [[RAD] (ASP)] TENSE (MODAL)

CONDITIONAL CONNECTIVES

-**tara** / -**reba**

COND COND

- (30) Mosi Yōko-ga tui-tei-**reba**, kaigi-ni de-ru darō.
 MOSI Yoko-NOM arrive-TEI-COND meeting-LOC join-NPST MODAL
 'If Yoko has arrived, she will join the meeting.'

Japanese

Conditionals

[(MOSI) [[RAD] (ASP)] COND] [[RAD] (ASP)] TENSE (MODAL)

comments:

- ▶ focus on conditional connective ' -reba '
 - (' -tara ' is only subtly different)
- ▶ these connectives take only tenseless antecedents
 - (tense *can* be embedded more deeply: ' -n(o) dat-tara ')
- ▶ 'mosi ' (optional) forces hypothetical interpretation
 - (' -tara ' also has a purely temporal use)

Japanese

Some examples

conditionals about the future

(31) Mary-ga asita ku-reba, kaigi-ni de-ru darō.

Mary-NOM tomorrow come-COND meeting-LOC join-nonpast MODAL

a. 'If Mary comes tomorrow, she will join the meeting.'

b. 'If Mary came tomorrow, she would join.'

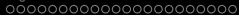
(32) Mary-ga asita ku-reba, kaigi-ni de-ta darō.

Mary-NOM tomorrow come-COND meeting-LOC join-past MODAL

'If Mary had came tomorrow, she would have joined.'

➡ tense in consequent: {indic, SP subj} vs. PP subj

<i>Japanese</i>	<i>English</i>
NONPAST	indicative SP subjunctive
PAST	PP subjunctive



Japanese

Some examples

conditionals about the past

(33) M-ga kinō ki-tei-reba, kaigi-ni de-ta darō.

M-NOM yesterday come-TEI-COND meeting-LOC join-PAST MODAL

a. ‘If Mary came yesterday, she joined the meeting.’

b. ‘If Mary had come yesterday, she would have joined.’

(34) M-ga kinō ku-reba, kaigi-ni de-ta darō.

M-NOM yesterday come-COND meeting-LOC join-PAST MODAL.

‘If Mary had come yesterday, she would have joined.’

▶ “Real Past” in (33)

▶▶ indicative or SP subjunctive

▶ “Fake Past” in (34)

▶▶ PP subjunctive

Japanese

Some examples

Past-as-Modal in counterfactuals about the future

- (i) ' -ta' [+excl.context time] → indicative about the past
 (ii) ' -ta' [+excl.context world] → PP subj; underspecified for time

future reference forces (ii):

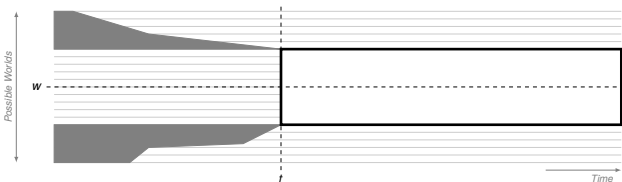
- (35) Mary-ga asita ki-tara, kaigi-ni de-ta daroo.
 Mary-NOM tomorrow come-COND meeting-LOC join-PAST MODAL
 'If Mary had come tomorrow, she would have joined.'

open issues:

- ▶ counterfactuals without ' -ta' (glossed as SP, but still.)
- ▶ no obvious extension to conditionals about the past
- ▶ problems with temporal reference

Japanese

Analysis

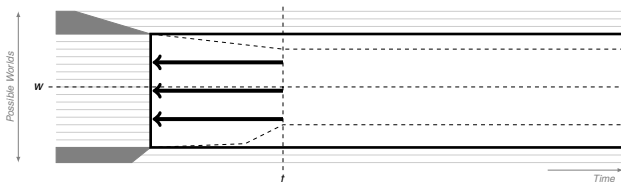


gist of the proposal

- ▶ unified analysis of conditionals
 - true at $\langle w, t \rangle$ iff for all points in the dark rectangle at which antecedent is true, consequent is also true.
 - (similar to English – Kaufmann, 2005)
- ▶ variation in the size and location of the rectangle
 - determined in part by temporal/aspectual morphology
 - context dependent – no marking of SP/FLV readings
- ▶ two scopes for '–ta' in consequent
 - inner '–ta': under conditional; temporal
 - outer '–ta': over conditional; backshift

Japanese

Analysis



outer '-ta': backshift

$$(37) \quad \left[\left[\left[\text{RAD}_A \right] (\text{ASP}_A) \right] \text{COND} \left[\left[\text{RAD}_C \right] (\text{ASP}_C) \right] \right] \text{'TA'}$$

true at $\langle w, t \rangle$ iff at all points in the dark rectangle

at which $\left[\left[\text{RAD}_A \right] (\text{ASP}_A) \right]$ is true,

$\left[\left[\text{RAD}_C \right] (\text{ASP}_C) \right]$ is also true

- ▶ '-tei-' not required for past reference
- ▶ '-ta' has temporal interpretation

Japanese

Applications

(38) Mosi Oswald-ga Kennedy-wo korosa-naker-eba, ...

MOSI Oswald-NOM Kennedy-ACC kill-NEG-COND

a. tiguu hito-ga koros-u darō.

other person-NOM kill-NPST MODAL

'If O doesn't kill K, someone else will.'

➡ **indicative; was felicitous (and false) until 11/21/1963**

b. tiguu hito-ga korosi-ta darō.

other person-NOM kill-PAST MODAL

'If O hadn't killed K, someone else would have.'

➡ **PP subjunctive; is felicitous (and false) now**

▶ no Perfect in antecedent

➡ no reference to times before S'

(38a): no backshift – S' not before S

(38b): backshift – S' may precede S

Japanese

Applications

(39) Mosi Oswald-ga Kennedy-wo korosi-tei-naker-eba, ...

MOSI Oswald-NOM Kennedy-ACC kill-TEI-NEG-COND

a. tigau hito-ga koros-u darō.

other person-NOM kill-NPST MODAL

'If O didn't kill K, someone else will.'

➡ **felicitous between shots and news of K's death**

b. tigau hito-ga korosi-ta {hazu-da / koto-ni naru}.

other person-NOM kill-PAST EVIDENTIAL

'If O didn't kill K, someone else did.'

➡ **non-predictive indicative or SP subjunctive; felicitous (and true) now**

(nb. evidential in (39b) better than 'darō' due to "backtracking")

▶ Perfect in antecedent

➡ reference to times before *S'* possible

(39a): Nonpast in consequent – only good if K is still alive

(39b): Past in consequent: K may be dead

Japanese

Applications

“timeless” counterfactuals

(no past time at which the antecedent was possible)

(40) Mosi kyū-ga gūsū dat-tara, ni-de warikire-ru.
 MOSI 9-NOM even COP-COND 2-INSTR be divisible-NPST
 ‘If 9 were even, it would be divisible by 2.’

(41) ??Mosi kyū-ga gūsū dat-tara, ni-de warikire-ta.
 MOSI 9-NOM even COP-COND 2-INSTR be divisible-PAST
 ??‘If 9 had been even, it would have been divisible by 2.’

- ▶ (40) preferred; no ‘-ta’
- ▶ (41) forces a temporal reading
 e.g., ‘if “9” had been assigned to an even number ...’
- ▶ similar to English

Japanese

Applications

status of the antecedent

(42) *[Mary is not likely to come to the office tomorrow.]*

a. Mary-ga kitara, kaigi-ni de-ru darō.

Mary-NOM come-COND meeting-LOC join-NPST MODAL

‘If Mary came, she would join the meeting.’

b. #Mary-ga kitara, kaigi-ni de-ta darō.

Mary-NOM come-COND meeting-LOC join-PAST MODAL

#‘If Mary had come, she would have joined.’

(43) *[Mary is dead.]*

a. #Mary-ga kitara, kaigi-ni de-ru darō.

Mary-NOM come-COND meeting-LOC join-NPST MODAL

#‘If Mary came, she would join the meeting.’

b. Mary-ga kitara, kaigi-ni de-ta darō.

Mary-NOM come-COND meeting-LOC join-PAST MODAL

‘If Mary had come, she would have joined.’

Serbian

Observations

Hammond (2005); Type 2b added (Durović, 2019)

Type 1: 'realizable'

'ako + VERB_{Indicative}, VERB_{Indicative}'

Type 2: 'potentially realizable'

a. 'ako + VERB_{Conditional}, VERB_{Conditional}'

b. 'da + VERB_{Indicative}, VERB_{Conditional}'

Type 3: 'unrealizable' (strongly counterfactual: entails falsity of antecedent)

'da + VERB_{Present.Perfect.Indicative}, VERB_{Conditional}'

- ▶ interaction between verbal morphology and choice of connective
- ▶ Type 2 'potentially realizable': needs revisiting
- ▶ Type 3 'VERB_{Present.Perfect.Indicative}': all-purpose Past present indicative of 'be' + perfect participle (Browne and Alt, 2004)
- ▶ 'VERB_{Conditional}': aorist of 'be' + perfect participle
- ▶ 'da' has other uses
 - complementizer with non-factive attitude verbs; purposes clauses;
 - directive meaning; ... (Kaufmann et al., 2021)

Serbian

Observations

Type 1

- (46) Ako me pozovu na žurku, ići ću.
 AKO me invite.3PL.PRES on party go.INF will.1SG
 'If they invite me to the party, I'll go.'

Type 2

- (47) Ako bi me pozvali na žurku, išla bih.
 AKO be.3PL.AOR me invite.PART.M.PL on party, go.PART.F.SG be.1SG.AOR
- (48) Da me pozovu na žurku, išla bih.
 DA me invite.3PL.PRES on party, go.PART.F.SG be.1SG.AOR
 'If they invited me to the party, I'd go.'

Type 3

- (49) Da su me pozvali na žurku, išla bih.
 DA be.3PL.PRES me invite.PART.M.PL on party, go.PART.F.SG be.1SG.AOR
 'If they had invited me to the party, I'd have gone.'

Serbian

No fake aspect in Serbian

aspectual contrasts have their usual meaning in all three types.

▶ similar to Polish, Russian; unlike Greek etc.

(Iatridou, 2000, 2009; Bjorkman and Halpert, 2017; Halpert and Karawani, 2012)

(51) Da je Jovan umro, sahranili bismo ga na planini.
 DA be.3SG.IND Jovan die.PART.M.PFV, bury.PART.M.PL be.1PL.AOR him on mountains
 'If Jovan had died, we'd have buried him on the mountains.'

(52) Da je Jovan umirao, sa njim bi bio doktor.
 DA be.3SG.IND Jovan die.PART.M.IPFV, with him be.3SG.AOR be.PART.M doctor.
 'If Johan had been dying, the doctor would have been with him.'

Serbian

Temporal reference in Type 2 (investigation on-going)

- ▶ Type 2 'ako' conditionals cannot be about past events (Type 1 can).

(53) *Ako bi Miloje otišao na žurku juče, žurka
 AKO be.3SG.AOR Miloje go.PART.M.SG on party yesterday party
 bi uspela.

be.3SG.AOR succeeded.PART.F.SG

Int.: 'If Miloje were to have been on the party yesterday, the party would've been successful.'

- ▶ 'da' needs Perfect to refer to past events (Type 2 looks like Type 3):

(54) Da je Miloje otišao na žurku juče, žurka bi
 DA be.3SG.IND Miloje go.PART.M.SG on party yesterday party be.3SG.AOR
 uspela.

succeeded.PART.F.SG

'If Miloje had come to the party yesterday, the party would have been a success.'

- ▶ similar to English SP/PP about the past(?)

Serbian

Modal expansion vs. back-shift

- ▶ Type 2 \approx SP: only modal marking ('da' /verbal conditional mood), tenses have their ordinary meaning
Supports past-as-modal view of English SP (recently, von Fintel and Iatridou 2022; Schulz 2017; Kaufmann to appear)
- ▶ Type 3 \approx PP: past/present perfect
 - antecedent and consequent can be about past events (but also future, regular conditional forward-expansion).
 - counterfactuals are marginal.

▶▶ Suggests: back-shift in Type 3 (past-as-past), no back-shift in Type 2.

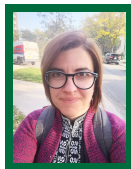
Conclusions

shifts all over the place

- ▶ forward shift in indicatives
- ▶ outward shift in SP subjunctives
- ▶ backward shift in PP subjunctives

- ▶ In English as well as Japanese, Serbian
 - Past morphology for outward shift in SPs seems less common here English Past most clearly diverges from its temporal meaning
- ▶ Lots of comparative work to do.

Acknowledgments



▶ supported by

- National Science Foundation
#2116972 “Research on conditional and modal language”
- University of Connecticut Humanities Institute
Project *What was, what will be, and what would have been*

▶ joint work

- on Japanese with **Teruyuki Mizuno** and **Muyi Yang**
(Mizuno and Kaufmann 2018; Mizuno, to appear)
- on Serbian with **Magdalena Kaufmann** and **Neda Todorović**

THANK YOU

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