**Tracing the historical replacement of the counterfactual optative mood from Archaic to Classical Greek**

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Similar to other Indo-European languages, Archaic Greek seems to have inherited its optative mood and its functions from its Proto-Indo-European ancestor. This means that both the counterfactual and non-counterfactual uses of the optative in declarative, wish and subordinate clauses are inherited, whereas counterfactual indicative mood uses are innovations. Unlike other Indo-European languages which lost this counterfactual optative (through loss, syncretism, paradigm change etc.) before our textual data, Archaic and Classical Greek provide traceable evidence for the restructuring of the functional domain of the optative. However, there is no consensus in the literature yet on how this replacement took place, but only suggested scenarios which do not take into account all the available evidence from Archaic and Classical Greek. Therefore this paper will investigate how this change in the Ancient Greek mood system took place and which historical processes have contributed to this change using a diachronic corpus-based study of the optatives (both counterfactual and non-counterfactual) and its indicative replacements from Archaic to Classical Greek.

As I will argue, the replacement did not happen in a straightforward way, since already in Archaic Greek we find many different indicative innovations that serve as alternatives to counterfactual optatives and that continue to change in Classical Greek (e.g. counterfactual indicatives side by side with counterfactual optatives in the Archaic Greek of Homer). Moreover, the innovative constructions were created by different historical processes that variously affect the counterfactual structures.

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