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# Subjunctive in yes-no questions

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## Résumé

As widely discussed in the literature, while the expression of subjunctive in Romance languages (Quer, 1998, Kempchinsky, 2009 a.o) relies on special verbal morphology, Slavic and Balkan languages (Giannakidou, 2009, Krapova, 2001) dispose of subjunctive particles, which precede the verb.

In the present work, I address the occurrence of the Bulgarian subjunctive particle *da* in interrogatives. I will focus on yes-no questions headed by the interrogative word *dali* (1), comparing with yes-no questions of the type *da+V+li* (2):

(1) *Dali Ivan kupi knjigata?*

DALI John buy.3SG.PAST book.def

”Might it be the case that John bought the book?”

(2) *Ivan da kupi li knjigata?*

John SUBJ buy.PERF Q book.def

”Should John buy the book?”

*Dali* has been traditionally considered complementizer (Rudin, 1986), occurring in embedded yes-no questions. What is more, it is morphologically complex and contains the subjunctive *da* and the interrogative clitic *li*. Thus, differently from standard yes-no questions, licensed by *li*, the occurrence of *dali* conveys a flavor of wondering, captured under the possibility modal ”might”. Therefore, it correlates with the expression of the speaker’s attitude and commitment to the truth of the proposition (Marques, 2010, Smirnova, 2011).

However, *dali*-structures differ sharply from *da*-structures w.r.t. Tense. *Dali* is compatible with all tenses and it furthermore permits material intervening between it and the verb. *Da*, on the other hand, is obligatory verb-adjacent and only compatible with verbs (perfective and imperfective) in Present.

Thus, considering the above examples, the goal of the present work is to provide a syntactic analysis capturing the occurrence of both *da* and *dali*. Following Giannakidou (1998), I will argue that both (1) and (2) are dependant from non-veridicality, codifying the speaker’s evaluation. Additionally, I will discuss the occurrence of negation, focusing on the cases in which it acquires expletive reading.

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\*Intervenant

**Mots-Clés:** subjunctive, yes, no questions, Bulgarian