

WOLFGANG DE MELO

# Early Latin

Morphosyntactic Structures – Part 4: Clause I



## Three types of modality

- Root modality: *Tom can make it on time (because he has a car).*
- Epistemic modality: *Tom may make it on time (if he rushes).*
- Deontic modality: *Tom has to make it on time (or there will be trouble).*

## Potential and unreal subjunctives

- Potential: somewhat removed from reality.
- *Si a corona relictus sim, non queam dicere.* (Cic. Brut. 192)
  
- Unreal: counterfactual, opposite of reality.
- *Si graderere tantum quantum loquere, iam esses ad forum.* (Plaut. Pseud. 1236)
  
- But note:
- *Hoc si ita fiat, mores meliores sibi / parent.* (Plaut. Aul. 492-3)

## Deontic subjunctive

- *Abeat, ualeat.*
- Mostly third person; in Early Latin also second person, used like imperative:
- *Valeas, tibi habeas res tuas, reddas meas.* (Plaut. Amph. 928)

## Grammaticalization

I'm going to fetch water (motion).

I'm going to fetch water (future).

I'm going to stay here (future, never motion).

*While* (noun) => *while* (temporal) => *while* (concessive)

*Ut te omnes, Demipho, di perduint!* (Plaut. Merc. 710)

*Nam quor me miseram uerberas? – Ut misera sis.* (Plaut. Aul. 43)

*Omnibus amicis morbum tu incuties grauem,  
ut te uidere audireque aegroti sient.* (Plaut. Trin. 75-6)

## English backshift of tenses

John SAYS he IS GOING to read / IS READING / HAS READ the book.

John SAID he WAS GOING to read / WAS READING / HAD READ the book.

## Latin sequence of tenses

- **Rogo** te quid **dixeris** (ant.) / **dicas** (simult.) / **dicturus sis** (post.).
- **Rogabam** te quid **dixisses** (ant.) / **diceres** (simult.) / **dicturus esses** (post.)
- Early Latin: posteriority still rarely expressed.

## Subordinate clause types

- Relative clauses: provide more specific information on an NP (*qui*)
- Indirect questions: type of indirect speech (*quis*)
- Adverbial clauses: variety of subordinators and semantic functions (*quom*)



## Moods in relative clauses

- Defining RC:
  - *Video puellam quae Latine loquitur.*
  - *Quaero puellam quae Latine loquatur.*
  
- Non-defining RC:
  - *Video Marcum, qui est amicus meus.*
  - *Amant ted omnes mulieres (...), qui sis tam pulcher.*  
(Plaut. Mil. 58-9)

## Indirect questions

- Classical type: *Vides ut alta stet niue candidum Soracte.*
- Early type: *Vide caesaries quam decet!* (Plaut. Mil. 64)

## A misquotation

1. *Praesagibat mi animus me frustra ire, quom exhibam domo.*  
(Plaut. Aul. 178)
2. Quoted in Cic. Div. 1.65 as: *cum exirem domo.*