

Abstract

This paper focuses on third-person imperative forms in several old Indo-European languages.

Imperative mood belongs to the most wide-spread mood cross-linguistically and is used to express directives. The most common form of imperative in the languages of the world is that of the second person. Nevertheless, many languages can express other persons as well, either paradigmatically or using periphrastic constructions. The Proto-Indo-European language had paradigmatic forms of third-person imperatives and many of its daughter languages preserved them.

Third-person imperative forms typically do not receive as much attention as their second-person counterparts. Thus, this paper tries to fill the existing gap and analyse in details paradigmatic third-person imperative forms in certain old Indo-European languages.

By analysing and comparing the mentioned forms, this work aims to shed light on how third-person imperatives fit into the verbal system of Proto-Indo-European and its daughter languages and find commonalities and divergences in the development of those forms in the selected languages.

Key words

Morphology, imperative, Indo-European languages