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**BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE**

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**English translation counterparts of the Russian subjunctive *бы***

Anglické překladové korespondence ruského podmiňovacího *бы*

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## **Poděkování**

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## **Prohlášení**

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně, že jsem řádně citovala všechny použité prameny a literaturu, a že práce nebyla využita v rámci jiného vysokoškolského studia či k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.

In preparation of my bachelor's thesis, I have not used any generative AI tools.

V Praze, dne 5. srpna 2024

Angelina Martynova

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the different meanings of the Russian particle *бы* and their English translation counterparts. The theoretical part focuses on the different uses of *бы* in Russian, including conditional and non-conditional constructions, and compares them with their English counterparts, taking into account the differences between the two languages, such as the absence of a present/past conditional distinction in Russian, the use of different modal verbs in conditional sentences and also the absence of direct structural counterparts of some Russian structures. The practical analysis is performed on 150 examples containing *бы* in the main or a subordinate clause, drawn from the parallel Intercorp corpus. The empirical part examines the correspondence of meaning and form between the original and the equivalent English translation. The aim of this work is to analyse the English equivalents of the various Russian constructions with *бы* and also to focus on what aspects influence the choice of the English translation counterparts.

## Abstrakt

Tato práce se zabývá různými významy ruské částice *би* a jejich anglickými překladovými protějšky. Teoretická část se zaměřuje na různá použití *би* v ruštině, včetně podmínkových a nepodmínkových konstrukcí, a porovnává je s anglickými protějšky s přihlédnutím k rozdílům mezi oběma jazyky, jako je absence rozlišení mezi přítomným/minulým kondicionálem v ruštině, použití různých modálních sloves v podmínkových souvětích a také absence přímých strukturálních protějšků některých ruských konstrukcí. Praktická analýza je provedena na 150 příkladech obsahujících *би* v hlavní nebo vedlejší větě, čerpaných z paralelního rusko-anglického korpusu Intercorp. Empirická část zkoumá korespondenci významu a formy mezi originálem a ekvivalentem anglického překladu. Cílem této práce je analyzovat anglické ekvivalenty různých ruských konstrukce s *би* a také se soustředit na tom, jaké aspekty ovlivňují výběr anglických překladových protějšků.

## **List of abbreviations**

*MSAPČ*      *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny*

*CGEL*      *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*

*CamGEL*      *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*

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## 1 Introduction

The bachelor thesis describes the English translation equivalents of the subjunctive (conditional) and modal Russian constructions containing the particle *бы*. In Russian, the subjunctive mood marked by the particle has various uses referring to actions (real or unreal) which may take place in the present, past or future, so it is interesting to survey the corresponding devices in English, taking into account the difference between the two languages, specifically the absence of a distinction between the present/past conditional in Russian (*Он бы пришел вовремя, если бы он знал. / He would have come on time if he had known.*), the use of various modals in the conditional sentences, and also the absence of direct structural counterparts of some Russian constructions.

The thesis first provides an overview of the various uses of *бы* in Russian and compares it with the situation in English. The practical analysis is carried out using one hundred and fifty examples containing *бы* in the main clause (apodosis, including asyndetic conditional clauses) or a subordinate clause, drawn from the parallel Intercorp corpus (fiction, Russian original). It analyses the correspondence of meaning and form between the original and the English translation equivalent in both the main and subordinate clauses. The aim of the thesis is to focus on aspects influencing the choice of the English counterpart (type of hypothetical or desired meaning).

## 2 Theoretical background

As the expression of the conditional mood of the verb, as well as the constructions expressing hypothetical or desired actions, differ in English and Russian, a brief overview will be provided to allow for the comparison.

### 2.1 Modality in Russian

The grammatical category of mood is intended to express the speaker's attitude to the content of the statement and/or the attitude of the situation to reality.

In terms of content, there are almost no differences between the English and Russian languages, which is “due to the commonality of thinking” (Kozlova, 2019: 102): in both languages, the speaker can imagine the action discussed in the sentence as corresponding to reality, contrary to it, or hypothetical and desirable, which finds its linguistic expression in the presence in languages of three forms of mood: indicative, subjunctive (in Russian, the terms subjunctive and conditional mean the same thing and refer to one mood, but they do not in English) and imperative.

There are differences between these two languages in terms of the expression of the listed meanings. As for the forms of the indicative and imperative, they are present in both the Russian and English languages and are similar in meaning, which cannot be said about the conditional mood. It is present in both languages as well, but in Russian it coincides with the meaning and the form of the subjunctive mood, while English differentiates them. So, in Russian linguistic terminology the conditional is equal to the subjunctive, and in English it is not.

In order to avoid confusion, the term conditional will be used in this paper to define the Russian mood denoting actions that are desired or possible under certain conditions. As for the conditional mood in English, its detailed description will be presented in Section 2.5.1.

(1) *Если **бы** вы пришли на несколько минут раньше, вы **бы** застали его здесь.*

*Esli **by** vy prishli na neskol'ko minut ran'she, vy **by** zastali ego zdes'.*

*If you **had** come a few minutes earlier you **would** have found him here.*

(2) *О, если **бы** ты была моей сестрой!*

*O, esli **by** ty byla moej sestroj!*

*Oh if you **were** my sister!*

(3) *Я был **бы** рад выпить чашку кофе! (если **бы** мне предложили)*

*Ja byl **by** rad vypit' chashku kofe! (esli **by** mne predlozhili)*

*I'd be happy to have a cup of coffee! (if I **were** offered)* (all three from Kozlova, 2019: 116)

Examples (1) – (3) illustrate the Russian conditional mood, which is marked by the particle *бы* and expresses conditionality (1), an unrealistic desire (2) and a desire in the presence of an implied condition (3).

### 2.1.1 Conditional mood in Russian

The conditional mood in Russian denotes an action that is conceived by the speaker as unreal and only as possible or desirable. The conditional mood is formed analytically by combining a verb in the past tense form with the particle *бы*, which can appear either before or after the verb form. Both the main and the subordinate clauses are marked with the combination of the verb in past tense and the particle *бы*:

(4) *Если **бы** он знал об этом раньше, он не пришел **бы** на эту встречу. – Esli by on znal ob etom ran'she, on ne prishel by na etu vstrechu. – If he **had** known about this earlier, he **would not have** come to this meeting.* (Kozlova, 2019: 116)

The situation described in the example (4) has a hypothetical meaning, a condition (*if he had known*) and the implication is that he did *not* know.

Another earlier grammar book on the topic of Russian grammar offers a more comprehensive categorization of the conditional mood in Russian (Timberlake, 2004: 372). To begin with, Timberlake defines modality as the consideration of alternatives from the point of view of some authority or speaker and emphasizes that there can be many such alternative realities. The author distinguishes three general types of modality: modality of epistemology, modality of responsibility and situational modality.

The modality of epistemology (epistemic modality) refers to the way in which knowledge is perceived and understood by the speaker. While the speaker may appear to be the ultimate authority on a particular topic, they are actually influenced by external stimuli, memory, and the perspectives of other speakers. This means that the speaker's knowledge is not absolute and can be subject to uncertainty or attenuation. The modality of epistemology is indicated by verbs that convey the idea of possibility (5), probability (6), certainty (7), prediction and likelihood, as well as the phenomenon of reported speech, where the speaker is recounting information from another source.

(5) *Вполне **возможно**, что курение вызывает рак легких.*  
*Vpolne **vozmozhno**, chto kurenie vyzyvaet rak legkih.*  
*It's **possible** that smoking causes lung cancer.*

- (6) *Курение, вероятно, вызывает рак легких.*  
*Kurenje, verojatno, vuzyvaet rak legkih.*  
*Smoking probably causes lung cancer.*
- (7) *Мы знаем, что курение вызывает рак легких.*  
*My znajet, chto kurenje vuzyvaet rak legkih.*  
*We know that smoking causes lung cancer. (all three from Millrood, 2009: 31)*

The modality of responsibility (deontic modality) suggests that the world is not simply a random occurrence but rather the result of a responsible authority. This authority can be multi-layered, with the speaker acting as an authority to shape the world and then encouraging the listener to take on that authority and change the world. In deontic modality, which involves modal predicates like *нужно/необходимо* “need to” (8), *лучше* “had better”, *должен/обязан* “must” (9) and *иметь возможность* “may” (10), there are also two layers. The person to whom the obligation is directed is responsible for the world, and that responsibility originates from a higher authority, which is a general code of possibility and obligation.

- (8) *Мы должны сразу перейти к детальному исследованию.*  
*My dolzhny srazu perejti k detal'nomu issledovaniju.*  
*We should go straight to the detailed research.*
- (9) *Должен сказать, что этот дополнительный анализ необходим.*  
*Dolzhen skazat', chto jetot dopolnitel'nyj analiz neobhodim.*  
*I must say that this additional analysis is needed.*
- (10) *Вы можете пройти дополнительный тест для своего отчета.*  
*Vy mozhetе projti dopolnitel'nyj test dlja svoego otcheta.*  
*You may get an extra test for your report. (Millrood, 2009: 33)*

Situational modality (“intrasyntactic, secondary, subjective” (Khalilova, 2019: 206)) refers to the interaction between different situations in the world, rather than the authority of the speaker or addressee. In this type of modality, one situation may be consistent with another, despite expectations, or it may cause another situation or exclude it. All narratives involve one event making another possible, and arguments demonstrate how one fact necessitates another. Situational modality is often implicit but can be made explicit through conditional structures. It is also said to express the relationship between the subject and his action (cf.: *он хочет, он может, он должен сделать что-нибудь* (*he wants, he can, he must do something*)). It should be noted that the article devoted to the lexical means of expressing situational modality in the Russian language indicates that the name of this type of modal information has not yet been established (Khalilova, 2019: 206).

Having described each of the three general types of modality, Timberlake (2004: 373) moves on to the category of mood in Russian. In his opinion, Russian can be said to distinguish three moods in terms of meaning: the realis mood (indicative, covering past, present, and future tenses), imperative mood, and a versatile irrealis (subjunctive, conditional) modality.

## 2.2 Particle *бы*

### 2.2.1 Definition

The particle *бы* (or its shortened version *б*) is an enclitic, which means that it does not have its own stress in the sentence and is adjacent to the word that precedes it. With the help of this particle, the conditional mood in Russian is analytically expressed.

The full form of the particle *бы* has no morphological restrictions on compatibility. The shortened version of the particle *б* has a formal restriction on the context of use: “it cannot appear after a word ending in a consonant (\**был б*, \**увидеть б* – *была б*, *увидела б*)” (Dobrushina, 2014).

### 2.2.2 How it is used

The particle can be combined:

- with past tense forms of the verb (*она увидела бы* – *she would see/have seen*);
- with infinitives (*мне бы увидеть* – *I would like to see*);
- with predicatives (*надо бы* – *I should*, *лучше бы* – *I had better*);
- as part of elliptical constructions with nouns in all cases except the nominative case (*пирожка бы* – *I would like some pie*);
- with participles (Eng. V-ed) (used rarely, considered non-normative: *показавшийся бы* – it cannot be translated into English with the preservation of meaning);
- with participles (Eng. V-ing) (used very rarely, considered non-normative: *не достигнув бы цели* – *without achieving the goal*);
- with imperatives (used very rarely, considered non-normative: *случись бы что* – *if something happened*).

The most common combinations are with the past tense. In some studies, this form is called the form in *-I* (Rus. на *-л*) to distinguish it from the form of the past tense itself, since in combination with the particle *бы* the past tense form loses its original function of denoting the situation that took place until the moment of speech (Shvedova, 1980: 625). In the paper on

Russian grammar by Shvedova, it has been decided to call this form the past tense. This decision is motivated historically (the subjunctive mood goes back to the combination of the form *быхъ* (Czech *bych*) of the verb *быти* (*to be*) with the past participle); and typologically (the past tense morpheme is characteristic of irreal moods in many languages of the world).

In addition to the combinations listed above, the particle *бы* is included in a number of collocations (the composition of which is determined at the level of specific lexical units). It is necessary to distinguish between combinations where the particle *бы* is an indicator of the conditional mood, and those where it is not.

To resolve this issue, Dobrushina (2014) suggests two criteria: firstly, the distribution of forms in combination with a lexical unit that contains a particle *бы*, and secondly, the possibility of repeating a particle when composing predicates.

According to the corpus description of Russian grammar (Dobrushina, 2014), the element *бы* cannot be considered a particle of the conditional mood based on these two criteria in the following combinations: *как бы*, *будто бы*, *как будто бы*, *словно бы* (*as if*), *точно бы* (*definitely would*), *вроде бы* (*seemingly*), *хотя бы* (*at least*). Combinations in which the particle *бы* is an indicator of the conditional mood: *если бы* (*if*), *лишь бы*, *только бы*, *хоть бы* (*if only*), *вот бы* (*I wish*), *еще бы* (*you bet*).

Some of the combinations mentioned above, which include the particle of the conditional mood, have a non-additive meaning and therefore are considered by some researchers as independent lexical units. For example, grammatical descriptions can contain discussions about conjunctions *если бы* (*if*), *лишь бы* (*if only*), or particles *вот бы* (*I wish*) and *еще бы* (*you bet*). This approach undoubtedly has a right to exist if it is viewed from the point of analysing the semantics of these combinations: like most linguistic constructions, the meaning of these units is not equal to the addition of their components. Russian corpus grammar (Dobrushina, 2014) suggests that they should be described separately and have their own entry in the dictionary. From a grammatical point of view, these units are a combination of conjunctions, particles or adverbs with a conditional particle *бы*.

### 2.2.3 The form

The conditional mood in Russian has the same set of inflectional characteristics as the original forms. In particular, the conditional mood with the past tense, like the past tense itself, has forms of gender and number unlike English: *я ушел бы* / *она ушла бы* / *оно ушло бы* / *они ушли бы* – *I would have left* / *she would have left* / *it would have left* / *they would have*



*left*. Russian conditional mood does not distinguish persons, the verb is in the same form with any person: *я ушел бы / ты ушел бы / он ушел бы – I would have left / you would have left / he would have left* (Dobrushina, 2014).

The conditional mood also does not differentiate tenses. The situation denoted by the conditional mood can in its meaning refer to the past, the present, and the future. The form of the verb does not change (*если бы мне вчера/сегодня/завтра предложили миллион, я бы отказался – if I had been offered a million yesterday/today/tomorrow, I would have refused*).

### 2.3 Conditional constructions in Russian

In their most explicit form, conditional constructions in Russian have a two-part structure: the protasis, which presents the condition and is typically introduced by conjunctions like *если* ‘if’ or *когда* ‘when’, and the apodosis, which denotes the consequence. The apodosis can be indicated by particle(s) such as *(a) то* ‘or else, and then’ (Timberlake, 2004: 376). For a statement to qualify as conditional (in terms of meaning), there must exist a level of uncertainty regarding the fulfilment of both the condition and the consequence as well. This uncertainty underscores the conditional nature of such statements, implying that the outcome is contingent upon certain conditions being met.

Such conditional situations were divided by Timberlake (2004: 377) into four types: epistemological, general (iterative), hypothetical and potential. Hypothetical type involves a situation in which the speaker might encourage the listener to imagine a world that doesn't actually exist, sharing their own imaginative creation:

- (11) *Если бы они встретились лет пять назад, то все бы уже давно кончилось.*  
*Esli by oni vstretilis' let pjat' nazad, to vse by uzhe davno konchilos'.*  
*If they had met five years ago, then everything would have ended long ago.* (Timberlake, 2004: 377)

Hypothetical situations are more often considered to lie in the past, as it is illustrated in the example (11), but they can also be held in the present:

- (12) *Замечу лишь, что Хусейн, наверное, обиделся бы, если бы его назвали альтруистом.*  
*Zamechu lish', chto Husejn, navernoje, obidelsja by, esli by ego nazvali al'truistom.*  
*I would only say that Hussein would most probably be offended if he were to be called an altruist.* (Timberlake, 2004: 377)

#### 2.3.1 Types of conditional sentences with *бы*

Typically, both the protasis and the apodosis describe hypothetical situations and are expressed using the same or similar verb tenses and moods. For example, the future tense can be used in both clauses to describe events that have not yet occurred. Additionally, in iterative conditionals, the aspect (e.g., continuous or completed) of both clauses matches. However, when the mood of the two clauses differs (known as "hybrid" conditionals), specific semantic conditions are necessary. One most common type of hybrid conditional is where the protasis is in the irrealis mood (using the particle *бы*) and the apodosis is in the indicative mood. This combination is possible if the protasis is understood as a concession (Timberlake, 2004: 378), and the apodosis describes a negative outcome, implying that regardless of the condition, the result will be negative:

(13) *Если бы я, например, попробовал разводить овощи или еще что-нибудь полезное, - ничего не выйдем.*

*Esli by ja, naprimer, poproboval razvodit' ovoshchi ili eshche chto-nibud' poleznoe, - nichego ne vyjdet.*

*Even if, for example, I were to try to grow vegetables or do something else productive, - still, nothing will come of it.* (Timberlake, 2004: 378)

The syntactic indicative in the main part of conditional sentences is a relatively rare phenomenon.

(14) *Всё равно, если бы и догнала, при отце он со мной говорить не будет.*

*Vsjo ravno, esli by i dogнала, pri otce on so mnoj govorit' ne budet.*

*All the same, even if I caught up with him, he wouldn't talk to me in front of his father.*

(Ruzhen, 2018: 34)

Since the modal qualification of the main part is given depending on the modal qualification of the subordinate part, the indicative here takes on a hypothetical connotation (*Even if I had caught up, he wouldn't have spoken to me in front of my father*).

There are conditional sentences in which the protasis can be a free infinitive meaning it is not governed by any overt modal predicate. This implies that the verb in the protasis is not directly influenced by any modal verb but rather functions as a simple infinitive phrase:

(15) *И интересно, что бы он сам ответил по этому поводу, если бы поднять его из могилы: считает он эту потерю ничтожной или же думает несколько иначе?*

*I interesno, chto by on sam otvetil po jetomu povodu, esli by podnjat' ego iz mogily: schitaet on jetu poterju nichtozhnoj ili zhe думаet neskol'ko inache?*

*And I wonder what he himself **would** answer about this if he **were raised** from the grave: does he consider this loss insignificant or does he think a little differently? (Ruzhen, 2018: 33)*

In this type of construction, the particle *бы* in the subordinate clause can be perceived as redundant, since the infinitive sentence already expresses irreality.

The protasis can also be a negated nominal. The subordinate clause in such sentences only names a person or object, because of which the situation presented in the main part turns out to be unreal:

- (16) *Если **бы не** революция, будущий брак между двумя знатнейшими родами считался **бы** исключительно удачным.*  
*Esli **by ne** revoljucija, budushchij brak mezhdv dvumja znatnejshimi rodami schitalsja **by** iskljuchitel'no udachnym.*  
*If it **were not for** the revolution, this future marriage between two very eminent clans **would** have been thought to be extraordinarily successful. (Timberlake, 2004: 379)*

In Russian, conditional sentences can also use imperatives in the protasis:

- (17) ***Пожелай** он, они **бы** в Москву переехали.*  
*Pozhelaj on, oni **by** v Moskvu pereehali.*  
*If he **had just wished** it, they **could** move to Moscow.*
- (18) ***Живи** мы с Вами в англосаксонских странах, фонологическое описание мира было **бы** уже готово.*  
*Zhivi my s Vami v anglosaksonskih stranah, fonologicheskoe opisanie mira bylo **by** uzhe gotovo.*  
***Let us live** in Anglo-Saxon countries, the phonological description of the world **would** already be done. (both from Timberlake, 2004: 379)*

The imperative verb in the subordinate clause expresses an unreal condition and was not realized, so the action described in the main clause did not take place. In this case, the conjunction *если* (*if*) is not present and the conditional predicative construction is an asyndetic sentence.

#### 2.4 Types of non-conditional sentences with *бы*

The particle *бы* is not always used only in sentences with conditional relations; it can also be found in non-conditional ones. Timberlake (2004: 380) distinguishes and describes two types of irrealis mood in his grammar book: dependent and independent. As for the dependent

irrealis mood, a relative clause transforms a statement into a characteristic of a subject in such a sentence. This characteristic can describe an entity whose identity is already known or define an entity that is being introduced for the first time in the conversation. In a defining relative clause, the particle *бы* indicates that the entity is hypothetical or theoretical:

- (19) *Сейчас уже никого не осталось, кто знал бы так близко Леонида Борисовича в повседневной жизни, как довелось мне.*  
*Sejchas uzhe nikogo ne ostalos', kto znal by tak blizko Leonida Borisovicha v povsednevnoj zhizni, kak dovelos' мне.*  
*Now there is no one left who might have known Leonid Borisovich as intimately in his daily life, as I had the chance to. (Timberlake, 2004: 381)*

The particle *бы* can also be used in independent clauses in two ways. The first use is with predicates that are already modal, such as those expressing possibility, ability, necessity, desirability, or epistemological certainty:

- (20) *Я хотела бы заткнуть уши, но не решаюсь.*  
*Ja hotela by zatknut' ushi, no ne reshajus'.*  
*I wanted to stuff my ears, but I can't make up my mind. (Timberlake, 2004: 381)*

The speaker does not actually dare to stuff their ears, implying that the action is not actually happening – the situation is typically counterfactual. The particle *бы* serves to soften the modality. The second use of the irrealis mood in independent clauses without explicit contextual cues:

- (21) *Вы бы отдохнули, тетя Рая.*  
*Vy by otdohnuli, tetja Raja.*  
*You ought to rest a bit, Aunt Raia. (Timberlake, 2004: 382)*

The speaker uses the particle *бы* to make a suggestion in the example (21). It can just as well be used to express a wish or a deliberation:

- (22) *Честное слово, я, не задумываясь, убила бы этого типа.*  
*Chestnoe slovo, ja, ne zadmyvajas', ubila by jetogo tipa.*  
*Honest to God, I'd kill that guy without giving it a second thought. (Timberlake, 2004: 382)*

Speaking of the independent irrealis mood, Timberlake also notes that there is a sense in which the use of *бы* within a single clause could be interpreted as inviting a conditional interpretation, but in fact it is not (Timberlake, 2004: 380).

An independent clause with a subjunctive predicate, introduced by the conjunction *if*, often has an optative meaning (Pekelis, 2017). The predicate can be finite (23) or infinitive (24):

(23) *Почему они разошлись? Если бы я знала!*

*Pochemu oni razoshlis'? Esli by ja znala!*

*Why did they split up? If I knew!*

(24) *В чём и когда ошибся? Если бы знать!*

*V chjom i kogda oshibsja? Esli by znat'!*

*What and when did you make a mistake? If only I knew!* (both from Pekelis, 2017)

Non-conditional constructions with the particle *бы* include one with a comparative meaning – *как бы* or *будто бы*. Sometimes these two can be used together at the same time – *как будто бы*. These constructions are used to express comparison and approximate similarity, they can also indicate uncertainty and assumption (Letuchiy, 2015). Among the English translation counterparts of *как бы*/(*как*) *будто бы* are *like*, *as*, *as if/as though*, *kind of/sort of*:

(25) *Он стал как бы связным лицом между математиками, физиками и биологами.*

*On stal kak by svjaznym licom mezhdru matematikami, fizikami i biologami.*

*He became a kind of associate between mathematicians, physicists and biologists.*

(Letuchiy, 2015)

This sentence in Russian exemplifies the use of *как бы*, which expresses comparison and similarity of him to the associate, meaning they have something in common, since they are compared.

The particle *бы* can also be found in a sentence in combination with the word *хотя*, forming a stable combination – *хотя бы*. *Хотя бы* can act as a focusing adjunct (*even*, *at least*), a highlighting particle (*for example/for instance*), or serve to express a wish or hope for something (*at least*):

(26) *Я мечтаю поехать на море хотя бы на пару дней.*

*Ja mechtaju poehat' na more hotja by na paru dnej.*

*I dream of going to the sea for at least a couple of days.* (example mine)

*At least* in the English translation conveys the wish to go to the sea for a couple of days, putting emphasis precisely on *a couple of days*.

As an intensifier, the particle *хотя бы* strengthens the meaning of other words or expressions and stresses them:

(27) *Хотя бы одну страницу прочитай, пока ждешь меня.*

***Hotja by** odnu stranicu pročitaj, poka zhdes' menja.*

*Just read **even** one page while you wait for me. (example mine)*

The translation counterpart of *хотя бы* is *even* in this example. *Even* shows emphasis on one page, stressing that the speaker tells the other person to read just one page, not more than that.

As a highlighting particle, it emphasizes some part of a sentence or a word in a sentence and draws attention to it, setting the highlighted part as an example:

- (28) *Можешь ли ты помочь мне с домашним заданием, **хотя бы** по французскому?*  
*Mozhesh' li ty pomoch' mne s domashnim zadaniem, **hotja by** po francuzskomu?*  
*Can you help me with my homework, **for example**, with French? (example mine)*

It is worth noting that the interpretation of the meaning of *хотя бы* may vary depending on the intonation with which a certain statement was said or expressed, on the context, which may not always be available, and on the stress, which makes it clear what exactly the particle emphasizes in a particular sentence.

The following table briefly presents all the types of Russian sentences with the particle *бы*, which were mentioned and described in more detail earlier in this work, their examples and functions.

**Table 1. Overview of all the types of Russian sentences with the particle *бы***

Type of sentence with <i>бы</i>	Example	Function
Present/past conditional	· <i>Если <b>бы</b> они встретились лет пять назад, то все <b>бы</b> уже давно кончилось.</i> <i>If they <b>had</b> met five years ago, then everything <b>would</b> have ended long ago.</i> (Timberlake, 2004: 377)	Conditional sentence
Hybrid conditional	· <i>Если <b>бы</b> я, например, попробовал разводить овощи или еще что-нибудь полезное, - ничего не <b>выйдет</b>.</i> <i>Even if, for example, I <b>were</b> to try to grow vegetables or do something else productive, - still, nothing <b>will come of it</b>.</i> (Timberlake, 2004: 378)	Conditional sentence
A free infinitive in the protasis	· <i>Интересно, что <b>бы</b> он сам ответил по этому поводу, если <b>бы</b> поднять его из могилы: считает он эту потерю ничтожной или же думает несколько иначе?</i> <i>And I wonder what he himself <b>would</b> answer about this if he <b>were raised</b> from</i>	Conditional sentence

	<i>the grave: does he consider this loss insignificant or does he think a little differently? (Ruzhen, 2018: 33)</i>	
A negated nominal in the protasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Если <b>бы не</b> революция, будущий брак между двумя знатнейшими родами считался <b>бы</b> исключительно удачным. If it <b>were not for</b> the revolution, this future marriage between two very eminent clans <b>would</b> have been thought to be extraordinarily successful. (Timberlake, 2004: 379)</i></li> </ul>	Conditional sentence
Imperative in the protasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i><b>Пожелай</b> он, они <b>бы</b> в Москву переехали. If he <b>had just wished</b> it, they <b>could</b> move to Moscow. (Timberlake, 2004: 379)</i></li> </ul>	Conditional sentence
Dependent irrealis mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Сейчас уже никого не осталось, кто знал <b>бы</b> так близко Леонида Борисовича в повседневной жизни, как довелось мне. Now there is no one left who <b>might</b> have known Leonid Borisovich as intimately in his daily life, as I had the chance to. (Timberlake, 2004: 381)</i></li> </ul>	Hypothetical
Independent irrealis mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Я <b>хотела бы</b> заткнуть уши, но не решаюсь. I <b>wanted to</b> stuff my ears, but I can't make up my mind. (Timberlake, 2004: 381)</i></li> <li>· <i>Вы <b>бы</b> отдохнули, тетя Рая. You <b>ought to</b> rest a bit, Aunt Raia. (Timberlake, 2004: 382)</i></li> </ul>	Desired action/suggestion
Independent optative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Почему они разошлись? Если <b>бы</b> я знала! Why did they split up? If I <b>knew!</b> (Pekelis, 2017)</i></li> </ul>	A wish
Как бы and будто бы	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Он стал <b>как бы</b> связным лицом между математиками, физиками и биологами. He became a <b>kind of</b> associate between mathematicians, physicists and biologists. (Letuchiy, 2015)</i></li> </ul>	Comparison
Хотя бы	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Я мечтаю поехать на море <b>хотя бы</b> на пару дней. I dream of going to the sea for <b>at least</b> a couple of days. (example mine)</i></li> </ul>	A wish

## 2.5 Mood and modality in English

### 2.5.1 Different approaches to the system of moods

According to Dušková's (2012: 244) *MSAPČ*, four moods of verbs are distinguished in English: indicative, imperative, conditional and subjunctive. She includes the conditional in the

inventory of English moods, even though English grammarians do not recognise it as a distinct mood.

*CGEL* states that finite verb phrases have mood too; however, the list of them does not include the conditional mood. In *CGEL*, the “unmarked” indicative mood is contrasted to the “marked” moods such as the imperative and subjunctive (Quirk et al., 1985: 149). *CGEL* identifies grammatical categories based on inflection, which excludes both the conditional mood and the future tense, as these are formed analytically. As a result, *would/should* that express hypothetical meaning, are categorized under modal verbs due to their specific function as *CGEL* suggests it – “mood markers” (Quirk et al., 1985: 234).

The approach described in *CamGEL* is different from that in *CGEL*: the imperative and the subjunctive are considered clause constructions rather than inflectional forms of the verb (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 51). However, this approach does not account for the future tense in English, which is formed analytically. As in *CGEL*, *would/should* are treated as modal markers indicating the “modal remoteness” or remote possibility, corresponding to the hypothetical meaning (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 116, 198).

### **2.5.2 Definition of modality**

Verbal mood can serve both to express the modality of a sentence, since it conveys various communicative intentions of the speaker in relation to the expressed content, and to express an extrinsic (epistemic) modality and partly an intrinsic (deontic, root) modality (Dušková, 2012: 244).

In *CGEL*, modality is defined as “the manner in which the meaning of a clause is qualified so as to reflect the speaker’s judgement of the likelihood of the proposition it expresses being true” (Quirk et al., 1985: 219). This definition emphasizes the importance of the speaker, whose personal beliefs underpin the statement, as well as the potential inaccuracy of the proposition in reality.

### **2.5.3 Conditional mood in English**

The conditional mood in English does not form a sentence type by itself. There are only two tense forms of this mood: the present conditional, which refers to the present or future, and the past conditional, which refers to the past. The conditional mood consists of auxiliary verbs *should/would* and the infinitive of a lexical verb without *to*. The present conditional mood form contains an auxiliary verb and a present infinitive (*you would work/we should work*), and the



past conditional mood is formed by an auxiliary verb and a perfect infinitive (*you would have worked/we should have worked*).

The conditional mood expresses a conditional (depending on any condition), hypothetical action. This condition is either expressed by a subordinate clause or by an adverbial (29), or it is only implied by the situation or context:

(29) *Without* some form of personal involvement, real or imaginary, work **would** be intolerable. (Dušková, 2012: 247)

*Без* какой-либо формы личного участия, реального или воображаемого, работа была **бы** невыносимой./Если **бы не** какая-то форма личного участия, реального или воображаемого, работа была **бы** невыносимой. (translation mine)

One of the ways of translation of this sentence into Russian illustrates the use of a negated nominal in the protasis, which indicates that the preposition *without* is one of the possible translation counterparts of this construction with the particle *бы* from Russian into English. As for the apodosis, the translation equivalent of the particle *бы* is *would*.

In addition to the conditional (hypothetical) meaning, the conditional mood can be used to express an action that contradicts reality:

(30) *With a stronger constitution he would be at the top of the ladder.* (Dušková, 2012: 247)  
*Обладай* он более крепким телосложением, он был **бы** на вершине служебной лестницы. (translation mine)

The implication is that poor health keeps him from being at the top of the ladder. The Russian translation of this sentence contains imperative in the protasis, while in the English version it is an adverbial clause introduced by *with*. The verb in the past tense plus the particle *бы* corresponds to *would* plus lexical verb in English.

The past conditional mood is used to express the unreal meaning (when the expressed content is not realized):

(31) *With a bit of luck things would have turned out differently.* (Dušková, 2012: 247)  
*Если бы* нам немного повезло, все сложилось **бы** по-другому. (translation mine)

The implication is that luck was not on our side, meaning it did not turn out as expected. The Russian translation presents a typical conditional sentence, in which both the protasis and the apodosis are marked with the particle *бы* and the verbs in past tense. The English adverbial

clause is translated into Russian as a conditional subordinate one. *Would* plus the perfect infinitive in the main clause corresponds to the past tense form of the verb plus the particle *бы*.

## 2.6 Conditional sentences in English

Conditional sentences are complex sentences that refer to hypothetical situations and their possible consequences. A conditional sentence consists of a subordinate clause, marked by the conjunctions *if, unless, provided (that), providing (that), given (that)*, that expresses a condition and a main clause indicating the outcome of this condition. In such sentences, the possibility of realization of the content in the main sentence depends on the fulfilment of the condition expressed by the subordinate sentence. Conditional sentences are divided into two types depending on “whether they express a possible condition, i.e. a condition that does not contradict reality (leaving the possibility of the realization of the action open), or a hypothetical condition that contradicts reality (reality is the opposite of what the condition assumes, the action is not implemented)” (Dušková, 2012: 638).

Moreover, there are four main types of conditionals in English, each of which expresses a specific level of likelihood or possibility, they are: zero conditional, first conditional, second conditional and third conditional (Ryan, 2023). We are more interested in the discussion of the last two types mentioned, because sentences of both these types typically contain the particle *бы* in Russian translation.

The second conditional expresses a hypothetical, unlikely situation in the present or future. The subordinate clause of the second type of conditional uses the past tense and combines it with the present conditional form in the main clause:

- (32) *The flat would be quite comfortable if it had central heating.* (Dušková, 2012: 640)  
*Квартира была бы вполне комфортной, если бы в ней было центральное отопление.*  
(translation mine)

The implication is that the flat does not have central heating and is therefore not comfortable. The condition expressed by the subordinate clause contradicts the reality. In Russian, both the protasis and the apodosis are marked with the particle *бы*. The one in the main clause is translated into English as *would* and the other in the subordinate clause is translated by the verb in the past simple – *had*.

The third conditional expresses a situation that could have happened in the past, but did not. It is formed by the past perfect tense in the subordinate clause and past conditional in the main clause:

- (33) *If you **had** seen your dentist in time, the tooth **might** have been saved.* (Dušková, 2012: 641)

*Если **бы** вы вовремя обратились к стоматологу, зуб можно было **бы** спасти.*  
(translation mine)

The implication is that you did not go to the doctor in time, and the tooth could not be saved. The condition expressed by the subordinate clause was not realized in the past, and therefore the action of the main clause was not realized either. Both the subordinate clause and the main clause contain the particle *бы* in the translation from English into Russian. The Russian particle in the main clause is translated into English by a modal verb *might*, by means of which the possibility (epistemic modality) is expressed. The subordinate clause is indicated by the past perfect, being backshifted in comparison with the Russian translation.

When translating English conditional sentences of the second and third types into Russian, confusion may arise, which lies in the fact that Russian cannot express different degrees of epistemic distance by means of past-tense morphology as English can (Gurevich, 2010: 90). All counterfactual conditionals in Russian have to be construed with the particle *бы* and the past tense, whereas English has a way to reflect these levels:

- (34) *If it **was** raining, I **would** stay home.* (Gurevich, 2010: 90)

- (35) *If it **were** raining, I **would** stay home.*

- (36) *If it **had** been raining, I **would** have stayed home.*

If we were to translate these three examples into Russian, they would all have the same translation: *Если **бы** шел дождь, я **бы** остался дома. Esli **by** shel dozhd', ja **by** ostalsja doma.* This clearly shows that multiple levels of epistemic distancing are possible in English and they are “expressed morphologically by the addition of another past-tense layer” (Gurevich, 2010: 90). Considering that, (35) is more distanced than (34), and (36) is more distanced than (35). Russian does not differentiate these degrees, so (34) – (36) would all be translated containing the particle *бы* in both the protasis and the apodosis.

## 2.7 Other means of expressing modality in English

*Would/should* have been discussed earlier in this thesis (Section 2.5.1), and it has been stated that they express a hypothetical meaning and fall under modal verbs. Actually, there are nine “central modal” auxiliary verbs that are used to express modality: *can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must* (Biber, 2021: 482). The central modals, with the exception of *must*, can be grouped into pairs that share similar meanings. In certain contexts, these pairs can

help differentiate between past and non-past time: *can – could, may – might, shall – should, will – would*.

There are a number of other meaning distinctions made by these pairs of modals, with the main functions “relating to speaker stance rather than the marking of time distinctions” (Biber, 2021: 483). For instance, modals associated with past time are also linked to hypothetical scenarios, conveying a sense of tentativeness and politeness.

In addition to the nine central modals, English also distinguishes semi-modals: *need (to), ought to, dare (to), used to, (had) better, have to, (have) got to, be supposed to, be going to*. Unlike the central modal verbs, which remain uninflected, many of the semi-modal verbs can be marked for tense and person. They can also appear in non-finite forms (Biber, 2021: 482).

Modals and semi-modals can be categorised into three major groups according to their main meanings (excluding *used to*, which relates to past time): **permission/possibility/ability** – *can, could, may, might*; **obligation/necessity** – *must, should, (had) better, have (got) to, need to, ought to, be supposed to*; **volition/prediction** – *will, would, shall, be going to*.

Each modal verb can express two different types of meaning – intrinsic and extrinsic (also known as deontic/root and epistemic meanings). Intrinsic modality refers to actions and events that are directly under the control of humans (or other agents): meanings relating to permission, obligation, or volition (intention). Extrinsic modality deals with the logical status of events or states, typically focusing on assessments of likelihood, such as possibility, necessity, or prediction (Biber, 2021: 483).

### 3 Material and Method

For the purpose of the present analysis, one hundred and fifty examples of conditional and other sentences containing the particle *бы* were gathered. The examples were taken from the InterCorp v16, parallel Russian-English corpora provided through the *KonText* interface of the Czech National Corpora ([korpus.cz](http://korpus.cz)). The goal of the InterCorp is to allow for a systematic comparison of different languages with each other, which is pertinent to the goal of this work – a comparison and subsequent analysis of the English translation counterparts of the Russian particle *бы* in conditional and other constructions.

To retrieve data from the parallel corpus, the search was limited to fiction and texts where the language of the original was Russian. The query returned 726 concordance lines containing *бы*, with English parallel translation displayed in the next column. The results were shuffled in order to randomize the source texts.

In a text, *бы* can be preceded by another word, such as the conjunction *если* (*if*), which attaches a subordinate conditional clause as part of a complex sentence. In such cases, the main clause almost always contained another particle *бы* that related to the verb in the main clause and indicated the unreality of the situation expressed (such occurrences were treated as one example). The particle can also be optionally preceded by such words as *как*, *будто*, *хотя*, which allows to acquire a comparative (*like/as/as if/as though*) or highlighting (*at least/for instance*) meaning in combination with further clause elements. As for verbs, they could either precede or follow the particle.

Before the dataset was finalized, manual selection was partially needed and as a result several examples had to be omitted. Some of the sentences that came up for the query contained more instances of the particle *бы* and thus the same sentence could appear in the results as two or even three concordance lines. Only one instance of each such a repeated sentence was retained for further analysis, and all others were left out. Another problem encountered in sampling examples was their incorrect alignment and recording into the corpus. In Russian, the letters *б* and *в* are quite similar. Perhaps there was confusion between the particle *бы* and the pronoun *вы* (*you*) during the digitization of the corpus. Only one sentence from all the search results fell into this situation: a particle was mistakenly used in it instead of a pronoun, as a result of which the sentence did not make sense, so it had to be omitted.

After the dataset was completed, the first 150 examples were divided into seven groups according to the form of the sentence and the type of the construction containing the particle

*бы* in it (see Table 2). Each example was given its own code (A1) consisting of the letter and the number representing the order of it in the appendix.

The analysis focuses on seven types of using a particle *бы* in conditional (a, b, c) and non-conditional (d, e, f, g) meaning that are examined in the order in which they are presented below (examples of each of these types can be found in Table 1). They are namely:

- a) Present/past conditional construction (*Если бы* + a verb in the past tense ..., (*то*) ... a verb in the past tense + *бы* ... .) (see 2.3);
- b) The protasis is a negated nominal (*Если бы не* + noun in the nominative case ..., ... (*не*) a verb in the past tense + *бы* ... .) (see 2.3.1);
- c) The protasis is a free infinitive (*Если бы* + infinitive ..., ... a verb in the past tense + *бы* ... .) (see 2.3.1);
- d) Independent irrealis mood (see 2.4);
- e) Dependent irrealis mood (see 2.4);
- f) *Как бы* and *будто бы* (see 2.4);
- g) *Хотя бы* (see 2.4).

Examples and their translation counterparts of the types are discussed in one section each and the research results are supported by several examples from the sample. The examined features are marked in bold for better navigation among the sentences. Each example in the Russian original is accompanied by transliteration in Latin (that was done with the help of <https://translit.cc/>) and compared with its English translation.

## 4 Analysis

### 4.1 Analysis overview

The aim of this chapter is to analyse the English equivalents of the various constructions containing the Russian particle *бы*. The distribution of the respective types is presented in Table 2. The analysis of all one hundred and fifty examples shows that non-conditional cases predominate in number over those that can be classified as conditional.

**Table 2: Types of Russian sentences with the particle *бы* presented in the analysis**

Types of sentences	Total	%
Independent irrealis mood	51	34%
Present/past conditional	37	24.7%
Dependent irrealis mood	32	21.3%
<i>Как бы</i> and <i>будто бы</i>	21	14%
<i>Хотя бы</i>	4	2.7%
The protasis is a negated nominal	3	2%
The protasis is a free infinitive	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.2 Present/past conditional

Thirty-seven sentences (24.7%) out of one hundred and fifty examples are present/past conditional sentences in their meaning and form (see 2.3.1).

All sentences in this group can be divided into only two subgroups: the second conditional and the third conditional. In the majority of the examples (twenty-nine, i.e. 78.4% examples), the English translation counterpart of the particle *бы* in the main clause is the verb *would*, except for those seven cases where *should/might/could* are used depending on the modal meaning that the speaker puts into the statement. As for the particle *бы* in the subordinate clause, its translation counterparts in English are the past simple (2<sup>nd</sup> conditional) or the past perfect (3<sup>rd</sup> conditional), depending on the type of conditional sentence.

**Table 3: English translation counterparts in the main clause of present/past conditional**

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>would</i>	30	81.1%
<i>might</i>	4	10.8%
<i>could</i>	2	5.4%
<i>should</i>	1	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100%</b>

The sample contained eighteen examples of the second conditional type. The second conditional in English is used to imagine present or future situations that are impossible or unlikely in reality:

- (1) “Если **бы** Анна ему была безразлична, Цветаев так **бы** не волновался.” (A55)  
“Eсли **by** Anna emu byla bezrazlichna, Cvetaev tak **by** ne volnovalsja.”  
„If he cared nothing for Anna he **would** not be so upset.“

In Russian counterfactual conditionals, the protasis and the apodosis are both marked with the conditional particle *бы*, but in English the protasis is backshifted (past simple) and the apodosis is marked with the verb *would* (plus infinitive).

*Would not be so upset* in the English translation of the example (1) corresponds to *так бы не волновался*. *Would* as a modal verb expresses prediction (extrinsic modality). The condition is *if he cared nothing for Anna*, the implication is that he in fact did care for Anna, which is why in reality he would be so upset (if he truly did not care, he would be indifferent rather than upset). The implementation of the condition is impossible in the present or future, therefore the situation described in the main clause is hypothetical.

Even though the basic conditional constructions in Russian and English are functionally very similar, they differ on the grammatical encoding of pragmatic and discourse factors, such as viewpoint and epistemic distance. Whereas English counterfactual conditionals can express different degrees of epistemic distance by means of past-tense morphology, Russian is unable to reflect these levels since all counterfactual conditionals have to be construed with the particle *бы* and the past tense. That is why, there are the second and the third types of conditional sentences to express the past conditional in English, while in Russian they will both be expressed in the same form and not much different in meaning.

The third English conditional is used to express the past consequence of an unrealistic action or situation in the past. There were nineteen examples of the third conditional type in the sample:

- (2) Если **бы** этот человек мог остановить себя хоть бы на два часа, произошли **бы** самые неожиданные события. (A60)  
Eсли **by** jetot chelovek mog ustanovit' sebja hot' by na dva chasa, proizoshli **by** samye neozhidannye sobytija.  
If this man **had been** able to stay still for even as little as two hours, the most unexpected things **might** have happened.



In the Russian sentence, both protasis and apodosis contain the particle *бы*. The English protasis is backshifted (past perfect) and the apodosis is marked with *might* and the perfect infinitive, where *might* expresses a modal meaning of possibility (extrinsic modality).

This example (2) represents a situation that could have happened in the past, but did not happen. The condition is *if this man had been able to stay still for even as little as two hours*. It sets up a hypothetical scenario, suggesting that *the man was unable to remain still*, which is a crucial aspect of the condition. The main clause indicates the potential outcomes that could have occurred had the condition been met. *Might have happened* in this (2) and two more examples and *might be* in one example from the sample imply uncertainty and possibility, emphasizing that the outcomes are not guaranteed but are plausible.

### 4.3 The protasis is a negated nominal

Three examples (2%) out of one hundred and fifty examined from the sample are conditional sentences containing a negated nominal in the subordinate clause, which includes the particle *бы* (see 2.3.1).

**Table 4: English translation counterparts in the main clause with a negated nominal in the protasis**

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>would</i>	2	66.7%
<i>might</i>	1	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

The role of the protasis in such Russian sentences is limited to identifying a specific person, object or phenomenon. This identification leads to a situation in the main clause that ultimately seems unreal or imaginary. Thus, the presence of the conditional clause with such a form in a conditional sentence affects the overall perception of the scenario described, making it appear less credible or tangible:

- (3) *Если бы не рев воды, если бы не удары грома, которые, казалось, грозили расплющить крышу дворца, если бы не стук града, молотившего по ступеням балкона, можно было бы расслышать, что прокуратор что-то бормочет, разговаривая сам с собой.* (A146)  
*Esli by ne rev vody, esli by ne udary грома, kotorye, kazalos', grozili raspljushhit' kryshu dvorca, esli by ne stuk grada, molotivshogo po stupenjam balkona, mozhno bylo by rasslyshat', chto prokurator chto-to bormochet, razgovarivaja sam s soboj.*

*Without the roar of water, without the claps of thunder which seemed to be about to smash the palace roof, without the crash of hail that hammered on the steps leading up to the balcony, a listener might have heard the Procurator muttering as he talked to himself.*

In this example (3), the English translation equivalent of the whole phrase *если бы не* is just one word - the preposition *without*. In the English translation of the example there is no conjunction *if*, but the conditional clause of the sentence could be replaced by a construction with *if*. *If it had not been for the roar of water, if it had not been for the claps of thunder [...], if it had not been for the crash of hail [...]* could be used in the translation instead of constructions with the preposition *without*. Such paraphrasing would not in any way affect the meaning of the statement but would only confirm its conditionality.

The main clause of this sentence (3) is translated into English as the third conditional, which is typically used to describe situations that could have happened in the past, but did not. In Russian translation, the particle *бы* is used as part of the predicate along with verbs *можно было расслышать*, which precisely indicate the possibility or impossibility of this action in the past. The whole Russian predicate is expressed in translation by the English counterpart *might have heard*, where *might* is a modal verb used with the perfect infinitive. The modal meaning of *might* is possibility, which is related to extrinsic modality.

The main clause of this sentence (3) implies that someone might have heard the Procurator muttering as he talked to himself, if it had not been for the roar of water [...]. But in fact this could not be possible, because *all this noise and sounds prevented anyone from hearing what the Procurator was muttering while talking to himself*. This corresponds to the meaning of the third type of conditional - it could have happened in the past, but it did not.

The phrase *если бы не* is used quite often in Russian to express a supposition or hypothetical situation in which something did not happen or did not exist, which in turn would affect the outcome or event. It is usually applied to indicate causal relationships and can be used in a variety of contexts, both written and spoken.

#### **4.4 The protasis is a free infinitive**

Out of one hundred and fifty examples, only two (1.3%) are representatives of the type of sentence in which the particle *бы* is used in protasis in combination with a bare infinitive (see 2.3.1).

**Table 5: English translation counterparts in the main clause with a free infinitive in the protasis**

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>would</i>	1	50 %
<i>could</i>	1	50 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100 %</b>

The type of sentences described in this section is classified as conditional. The subordinate clause with *если бы* and the infinitive expresses a condition, under which the situation described in the main clause could be real. Usually this is some kind of hypothetical, unlikely situation in the present or future tense, the implementation of which the speaker dreams of. Something that the speaker *would* like to happen.

The following sentence (4) illustrates an example of protasis expressed by the infinitive form of the verb with the particle *бы* in Russian:

- (4) - *Если бы с ним поговорить, - вдруг мечтательно сказал арестант, - я уверен, что он резко изменился бы.* (A150)  
 - *Esli by s nim pogovorit', - vdrug mechtatel'no skazal arestant, - ja uveren, chto on rezko izmenilsja by.*  
 '*If I were to talk to him, ' the prisoner suddenly said in a reflective voice, 'I am sure that he would change greatly.'*

In English, this is a conditional sentence of the second type. The second conditional describes events in the present or future that theoretically could happen but will not happen due to some condition. According to the theoretical part, the second conditional in English is formed as follows: the verb is in the past tense in the subordinate clause, and the verb in the main sentence is in the conditional mood (*would/might/could* + infinitive).

The English translation of the subordinate clause *if I were to talk to him* corresponds to the Russian *если бы с ним поговорить*. The combination of the verb *to be* + infinitive is used in the *if*-clause in conditional sentences to talk about preconditions for something to happen. The infinitive form is preserved when translated from Russian into English (*поговорить – to talk*). The particle *бы* used together with the infinitive is translated into English as a verb *to be* in the subjunctive mood (*бы – were*). The verb *to be* in the conditional part of sentences of the second type is always used in the form *were* (*if I were, if she were, etc.*), although *if I was* is an acceptable and common option in colloquial speech. This is where Russian-speaking students often make mistakes because they confuse the subjunctive form *were* with the plural form *were*.

As for the second particle *бы* in the main clause in this conditional sentence (4), its English translation counterpart is *would*. It expresses prediction, which is one of the meanings of extrinsic modality.

The choice between *would*, *might* and *could* in the second conditionals in English depends on the modal meaning that the speaker wants to put into the statement:

- (5) *Жить бы нам с тобой поблизости, сгодились бы мне, парнишка, твои советы.* (A149)  
*'Zhit' by nam s toboj poblizosti, sgodilis' by mne, parnishka, tvoi sovety.'*  
*'If only you lived nearer to me, I could do with your advice, lad.'*

The example (5) differs from the previous example (4) with a similar form in one aspect - the conjunction *если* is omitted in Russian and the conditional clause contains only the infinitive form of the verb along with the particle *бы*. In this case, the conditional nature of the sentence is preserved, and the statement represents a hypothetical situation, the implementation of which is unlikely or even impossible.

In the English translation of this sentence (5), the conjunction *if* is present, and *жить бы нам с тобой по близости* corresponds to *if only you lived nearer to me*, where *if only* expresses a strong wish that things could be different. It is implied that the speaker could do with the lad's advice, but only under the specified condition - if they lived nearby (in fact *they do not*, so the man cannot do and will not be able to do with the other's advice). The verb in the past tense with the particle *бы* in the main clause in Russian corresponds to *could do* in English, where *could* is a modal verb that expresses possibility (extrinsic modality).

Conditional sentences with this form can rarely be found in use in Russian. These can be most often encountered in fiction, where they are more likely to be part of the direct speech, which is also confirmed by the fact that both of the examples above were part of the direct speech of characters in literary works. In this case, they are used for greater expressiveness, manifestation of feelings, moods, thoughts and, of course, for additional literary effect. In modern oral and colloquial speech, typical conditional formulations (*если бы* + past tense verb, *(то) бы* + past tense verb) are far more common and widely used.

#### 4.5 Independent irrealis mood

Most (51, i.e. 34%) of the examples from the dataset belong to this group of sentences. These are independent sentences that contain the particle *бы* (see 2.4). In such constructions, the particle *бы* serves to form the subjunctive mood to indicate the presumptive or conditionally presumptive possibility of an action (40 examples), to express various shades of the desirability

of an action (4 examples), to indicate a polite precautionary wish, advice or a proposal to someone (7 examples).

The overall translation equivalents are summarised in Table 6.

**Table 6: English translation counterparts of independent irrealis mood**

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>would</i>	24	47.1%
<i>should</i>	5	9.8%
<i>ought to</i>	5	9.8%
<i>could</i>	4	7.8%
<i>had better</i>	1	2%
<i>might</i>	1	2%
lexical translation	11	21.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Would* followed by a bare infinitive of a lexical verb or the perfect infinitive is the most common English translation counterpart of the Russian particle *бы* in independent clauses.

In the four sentences that indicate the desirability of an action, the particle *бы* is used with a verb that means desire (*хотеть* – *want/wish/like*). *Я хотел(а) бы* translates as *I would like to*. Four instances of *I would like to* can be found in the dataset. It is used to talk about one's preferences and suggestions:

(6) *И потом я хотел бы заметить т. Маховику, что стропила гудят только тогда, когда постройка собирается развалиться.* (A29)

*I potom ja hotel by zametit' t. Mahoviku, chto stropila gudjat tol'ko togda, kogda postrojka sobiraetsja razvalit'sja.*

*And I would like to point out to Comrade Flywheel that the only time rafters creek is when the building is about to fall down.*

With the help of the particle *бы* and the verb in the past tense *хотел*, the speaker expresses their desire to point something out to Comrade Flywheel. The speaker puts forward his proposal, stating it in the form of the conditional mood (*я хотел бы* – *I would like*). *Would* expresses intention of the speaker, referring to intrinsic modality.

There are seven examples in the dataset, the meaning of which can be perceived as a polite precautionary remark, recommendation or suggestion.

(7) *Пончика не следовало бы выписывать за то, что он ест много сладкого.* (A30)

*Ponchika ne sledovalo by vypisyvat' za to, chto on est mnogo sladkogo.*

*Although, when you come to think of it, Roly-Poly really **ought to** be kept in on account of his eating so many sweets.*

The example (7) illustrates advice that expresses what needs to be done because it is right. *He следовало бы выписывать* in Russian corresponds to *ought to be kept in* in English, where *ought to* is a modal verb indicating deontic modality.

It could be expressed by a modal verb *should* as well (meaning obligation), as *ought to* is a close synonym to *should*. They are both used to give advice, but *should* is more common in general use by native English speakers.

The Russian particle *бы* is not always interpreted into English as *ought to* in such sentences in which the speaker expresses a helpful wish, advice, or suggestion. There is one example in the sample, in which English translation counterpart of the particle *бы* is a modal verb *had better*, which is shortened to *'d better*. It is close in meaning to *should* and *ought to*, but it is mainly used in colloquial speech.

(8) *Насчет прав молчали бы, гражданин. (A22)*

*Naschet prav molchali by, grazhdanin.*

*You'd better not talk about rights, citizen.*

This example illustrates direct speech with a rude rather than polite remark from the speaker to another person and strongly recommends that *he remain silent about rights*. *Had better* expresses advice (obligation, intrinsic modality) based on the speaker's belief about what is necessary in a given situation with a warning of a possible unpleasant result if indicated advice is not followed.

Among the sentences expressed by the independent irrealis mood, the most numerous group is represented by the forty instances that carry the meaning of a conditionally presumptive possibility of action (a hypothetical or desired action that might occur under certain conditions):

(9) *Самым разумным было бы, конечно, кричать до тех пор, пока кто-нибудь не придет, и потом сдать ся пришедшему в плен. (A16)*

*Samym razumnym bylo by, konechno, krichat' do teh por, poka kto-nibud' ne pridet, i potom sdat'sja prishedshemu v plen.*

*The most sensible thing to do, of course, would have been to keep shouting until someone came, and then put himself at their mercy.*

English translation equivalent of the particle *бы* in this example is *would* used with the perfect infinitive. *Would* expresses prediction (extrinsic modality), referring to the past. In fact,

it never happened. The implication is that the most sensible thing to do then would have been to surrender. They could have surrendered, if someone had come. This shows that the assumption of the possibility of this action in the example is conditioned by *until someone came*.

When translating the particle *бы* from Russian into English, the function of it in the target language is not always expressed by a grammatical counterpart. It can also be performed lexically (eleven instances, i.e. 21.5%) – by a phrase or even a whole sentence.

- (10) *И - кто бы мог подумать!* - доктор Пилюлькин танцевал с Медунницей. (A18)  
*I - kto by mog podumat'!* - doktor Piljul'kin tanceval s Medunicej.  
*And - wonder of wonders!* - Dr. Pillman with Honeysuckle!

In this example (10), the particle *бы* is used in an exclamatory phrase (*кто бы мог подумать!*). The English translation counterpart of it is *wonder of wonders*, which expresses the speaker's surprise at the situation being described. It also hints at irreality – who *would* have thought (*кто бы мог подумать*).

#### 4.6 Dependent irrealis mood

Thirty-two (21.3%) of the examples in the sample belong to the group of sentences that express the dependent irrealis mood. In such sentences the particle *бы* is always used in relative clauses, but does not carry a conditional meaning (see 2.4). As Table 7 indicates, the majority of examples do not contain any overt grammatical counterpart of the Russian irrealis mood.

**Table 7: English translation counterparts of dependent irrealis mood**

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>could</i>	5	15.6%
<i>might</i>	4	12.5%
<i>would</i>	3	9.4%
<i>should</i>	1	3.1%
present perfect	1	3.1%
past perfect	1	3.1%
lexical translation	17	53.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

In dependent irrealis mood sentences a relative clause expresses a characteristic of a subject mentioned in the main clause. This characteristic can describe something that is already known or something that is being introduced for the first time in the context. In a defining relative clause, the particle *бы* indicates that something is hypothetical or theoretical:

- (11) *Нет ни одного района в городе, где бы они не выступали.* (A94)  
*Net ni odnogo rajona v gorode, gde by oni ne vystupali.*  
*There isn't a single district in town where they haven't addressed meetings.*

The example (11) is the only one from this group in the dataset that contains *there is* and a negation used together. The construction *there is* introduces the main clause. The subordinate clause in this sentence is *where they haven't addressed meetings*. It is an adjectival relative clause introduced by the relativizer *where*. It provides additional clarifying information about a noun from the main clause, in this case – *district*. The clause modifies it, indicating the specific aspect of the districts being discussed, namely, that meetings have been addressed in every single one of them.

In the Russian version of this sentence (11), the particle *бы* is used with the verb in the past tense. The whole verb phrase *бы не выступали* in Russian corresponds to *haven't addressed meetings*, that is the present perfect. In the example (10), the implication is that they have addressed meetings in every district in the town.

- (12) *Вниз по реке неслись звуки, какие мог бы издать только трамвай, медленно проползающий по битому стеклу.* (A91)  
*Vniz po reke neslis' zvuki, kakie mog by izdat' tol'ko tramvaj, medlenno propolzajushhij po bitomu steklu.*  
*Down the river floated sounds that could only have been made by a tram passing slowly over broken glass.*

This example (12) once again illustrates the particle *бы* in a defining relative clause. The main clause in this case establishes the subject (*sounds*) and the subordinate clause modifies it providing additional information about the nature of the sounds, specifying that *they could only have been made by a tram passing over broken glass*. The relative clause contains a hypothetical element *could have been made*, which corresponds to *мог бы издать трамвай* in Russian. *Could* is a modal verb used with the perfect infinitive passive, it expresses possibility (extrinsic modality).

In over a half of the instances the English counterpart of the Russian particle *бы* was not expressed grammatically but lexically. In such cases, the English translation did not have one suitable word that could convey the meaning of the particle *бы*, so it was translated as part of a general phrase in the corresponding text:

- (13) *Щукин решил спуститься вниз, к дворнику, чего бы это ему ни стоило.* (A119)



*Shhukin reshil spustit'sja vniz, k dvorniku, **chego by jeto emu ni stoilo.***

*Shukin decided to go downstairs to the caretaker **at any price.***

The particle *бы* in this example (13) is used in a phrase *чего бы это ему ни стоило*, the English translation counterpart of which is *at any price*. In other words, the implication of the sentence is that Shukin decided to carry out the action described, even if unpleasant things happen as a result.

#### 4.7 Как бы and будто бы

Twenty-one (14%) out of one hundred and fifty examples considered are sentences in which the particle *бы* is used together with a conjunction *как* or *будто* (see 2.4). Sometimes they can be used both at the same time in combination with the particle *бы* (*как будто бы*). These conjunctions with the particle are used to express comparison and approximate similarity, or they can indicate uncertainty and assumption as well.

In the translated examples from the sample, six different English translation counterparts of *как бы*/(*как*) *будто бы* were identified.

**Table 8: English translation counterparts of *как бы* and *будто бы***

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>as if / as though</i>	9	42.9%
<i>sort of / kind of</i>	2	9.4%
<i>as</i>	1	4.8%
<i>like</i>	1	4.8%
zero counterpart	8	38.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>

(14) *Какой-то шорох, **как бы** крыльев по стенам, доносился теперь сзади из зала, и было понятно, что там танцуют неслышанные полчища гостей, [...]. (A122)*

*Kakoj-to shoroh, **kak by** kryl'ev po stenam, donosilsja teper' szadi iz zaly, i bylo ponjatno, chto tam tancujut neslyhannye polchishha gostej, [...].*

*A sound **like** the rustling of wings came from the rooms behind her as the horde of guests danced, [...].*

In this example (14), *как бы* is used to express the close resemblance of a sound to that which occurs when wings rustle on walls. *Как бы* here is translated into English as *like*, which fully reflects the meaning of its Russian counterpart.

*Как бы* can also be translated as *sort of* or *kind of*. Two of these English translation counterparts express uncertainty when describing and explaining something:

(15) Он поглядел на меня **как бы** с сожалением. (A126)

*On pogljadel na menja **kak by** s sozhaleniem.*

*He looked at me with a **sort of** pity.*

(16) Маргарита наклонилась к глобусу и увидела, что квадратик земли расширился, многокрасочно расписался и превратился **как бы** в рельефную карту. (A134)

*Margarita naklonilas' k globusu i uvidela, chto kvadratik zemli rasshirilsja, mnogokrasochno raspisalsja i prevratilsja **kak by** v rel'efnuju kartu.*

*Margarita leaned towards the globe and saw that the little square of land was growing bigger, emerging in natural colours and turning into a **kind of** relief map.*

There is a hint of uncertainty in these two examples above. In (15) the speaker is not sure what emotion the other person is expressing when looking at him, so the speaker suggests that it could be pity because it supposedly looked like it. *A sort of* serves to express the similarity and a bit of uncertainty in this sentence.

As for the example (16), it is implied that the little square of land was turning into something that looked like a relief map. As in the previous example, *a kind of* here conveys a hint of inaccuracy and shows the resemblance of what the little square was turning into with a relief map.

Among the other examples containing *как бы/(как) будто бы*, there were also cases in which the translation of it was *as though*:

(17) Его **как будто бы** и не было. (A127)

*Ego **kak budto by** i ne bylo.*

*It was **as though** it had never existed.*

It is worth noting that the use of such a translation counterpart influenced the change in the structure of the sentence. In its English translation, *as though* introduces a subordinate adverbial clause of manner. It modifies the main clause by describing the way in which something occurred. In this case, the adverbial clause suggests that something happened in a way that made it seem like an object or a phenomenon had never been present. *As though* is used to introduce a hypothetical or imaginary situation, which is that *it had never existed*. It follows from this example that some of English translation counterparts of *как бы/(как) будто бы* can convey a sense of the unreality of an action or a situation being spoken of.

The most frequent translation equivalent alternative to and similar in use to *as though* that was encountered during the analysis of the examples with *как бы/(как) будто бы* is *as if*. *As if*

and *as though* are both used to make comparisons and talk about imaginary situations or situations that may not be true but that is likely or possible.

(18) *Рита, как бы угадывая его чувства, в темноте улыбнулась.* (A136)

*Rita, kak by ugadyvaja ego chuvstva, v temnote ulybnulas'.*

*Rita, as if divining his feelings, smiled in the darkness.*

*As if* introduces a non-finite subordinate clause *as if divining his feelings*. The subordinate clause serves to explain the manner in which Rita smiled. It adds depth to the action by suggesting that her smile is influenced by her perception or intuition about someone else's feelings, even though it is not a complete thought on its own. *As if* expresses an assumption, a hint of uncertainty in this sentence (18). It seems to imply a situation that may not be true, but is quite likely.

To express a comparative function in English, *as* is used. It is one of the translation counterparts of Russian *как бы* and was found in the examples from the sample:

(19) *Банга зарычал на луну, и скользкая, как бы укатанная маслом, голубая дорога перед прокуратором провалилась.* (A139)

*Banga zarychal na lunu, i skol'zkaja, kak by ukatannaja maslom, golubaja doroga pered prokuratorom provalilas'.*

*Banga started to growl at the moon, and the blue pathway, slippery as butter, collapsed in front of the Procurator.*

In this example (19), the pathway is said to be slippery, and this slipperiness is compared to butter. The English version implies that *the pathway is as slippery as the butter*, while the Russian version of the sentence says the following, if the translation were literal: *the pathway is slippery, as if covered with oil* (both butter and oil are possible in this context). The comparison expressed in Russian is more complete, metaphorical, conditioned. As for the English translation, it is stricter, more specific and more certain.

During the analysis of the English translation of examples of Russian sentences containing the particle *бы* in combination with the conjunctions *как* or *будто*, eight cases in which no English equivalent in the translation corresponded to the Russian *как бы*/(*как*) *будто бы* were identified. In the Russian translation of these eight examples (A123, A124, A125, A128, A130, A135, A137, A138), the construction with the particle *бы* expresses some uncertainty and compares the expressed action/feature with something similar. In the English version, these nuances are lost, since nothing corresponds to the meaning expressed by this

construction. It is worth adding that in these eight examples *как бы* or *будто бы* can also be perceived as a filler word (as *jakoby* in Czech), which especially in colloquial Russian speech indicates inaccuracy of the wording or adds more imagery to what is being said. English translation counterparts like *you know* or *so to say* could correspond in meaning to *как бы/будто бы* in the context of these eight sentences, but they are not present in the examples from the dataset.

#### 4.8 *Хотя бы*

Four (2.7%) of the one hundred and fifty examples taken for analysis are sentences in which the particle *бы* appears together with the word *хотя* (see 2.4). *Хотя бы* does not have a conditional meaning. Accordingly, sentences with this particle do not imply any conditions and situations that could be real, but are not. *Хотя бы* can act as a focusing adjunct, a highlighting particle, or serve to express a wish or hope for something.

**Table 9: English translation counterparts of *хотя бы***

English translation counterpart	Frequency	%
<i>even</i>	1	25%
<i>for instance</i>	1	25%
<i>at least</i>	1	25%
<i>well</i>	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

As a focusing adjunct, the particle *хотя бы* is close in meaning to the word *even*. It strengthens the meaning of other words or expressions and shows emphasis. As a highlighting particle, it is interpreted as *for example* or *for instance* and is usually placed before the word or expression to which it refers:

- (20) - Но ведь надо же что-нибудь описывать? - говорил Воланд, - если вы исчерпали этого прокуратора, ну, начните изображать **хотя бы** этого Алоизия. (A143)  
 - No ved' nado zhe chto-nibud' opisivat'? - govoril Volland, - esli vy ischerpali jetogo prokuratora, nu, nachnite izobrazhat' **hotja by** jetogo Aloizija.  
 'Or if you've exhausted your Procurator, why not write about somebody else – that Aloysius, **for instance** ... .'

The translation of this sentence (20) into English contains *for instance*, which exactly conveys the meaning of the Russian particle *хотя бы* and can be therefore attributed among the translation counterparts of it in English.

*For instance* is used to provide an example or a specific case to illustrate the general idea being discussed. The sentence suggests that *if the writer has already written about their Procurator, they could consider writing about someone else, such as Aloysius, as an example of a different character they could write about.* The use of *хотя бы* (*for instance*) in this context serves to introduce a specific example that supports the general suggestion of writing about somebody else. It helps to clarify and provide a certain figure to the reader, making the idea more tangible and easier to understand.

Two functions of *хотя бы*, namely as a focusing adjunct and the expression of a wish or hope for something, are expressed at once in the following example:

- (21) *Многие из них были совершенно растеряны и поминутно глядели в шахматные учебники, освежая в памяти сложные варианты, при помощи которых надеялись сдать гроссмейстеру **хотя бы** после двадцать второго хода. (A144)*  
*Mnogie iz nih byli sovershenno rasterjany i pominutno gljadeli v shahmatnye uchebники, osvezhaja v pamjati slozhnye varianty, pri pomoshhi kotoryh nadejalis' sdat'sja grossmeјsteru **hotja by** posle dvadcat' vtorogo hoda.*  
*Many of them were in complete confusion and kept glancing at books on chess to refresh their knowledge of complicated variations, with the help of which they hoped not to have to resign before the twenty-second move, **at least.***

The English translation counterpart of *хотя бы* in this case is *at least*.

The sentence (21) describes chess players who are confused and desperately trying to remember complex chess strategies from books, hoping that these strategies will help them last until *at least* the twenty-second move before having to resign from the game. The use of *at least* in this context implies that the players' goal is to avoid resigning before the twenty-second move. It sets a minimum expectation for their performance and encourages them. They may hope to last even longer than the twenty-second move, but they are determined to *at least* reach that point before admitting defeat. At the same time, *at least* emphasizes the players' desperation and their desire to keep playing the game for as long as possible, even if it means just reaching a specific move count before resigning. It suggests that the players are willing to settle for this minimum outcome, even if they cannot achieve a better result.

- (22) *- Ну, **хотя бы** жизнью твоею, - ответил прокуратор, - ею клясться самое время, так как она висит на волоске, знай это! (A145)*  
*- Nu, **hotja by** zhizn'ju tvoeju, - otvetil prokurator, - eju kljast'sja samoe vremja, tak kak ona visit na voloske, znaj jeto!*

*'Well, by your life,' replied the Procurator. 'It is high time to swear by it because you should know that it is hanging by a thread.'*

The last example (22) from this group illustrates the use of the particle *хотя бы* together with an interjection *ну*, which itself already corresponds to the English *well* and usually expresses doubt. In this case, *ну, хотя бы* suggests that someone has nothing else to swear by except his life in this situation.

## 5 Conclusion

The aim of the present thesis was to analyse the English equivalents of the various constructions containing the Russian particle *бы*. The theoretical part first provided an overview of the various uses of *бы* in Russian, including both conditional and non-conditional constructions. The description of all the Russian constructions with the particle *бы* presented in the theoretical part included their form and meaning, as well as examples of each in Russian with the corresponding English translation. Each example in the Russian original was accompanied by a transliteration in Latin. Then the mentioned uses of *бы* were compared with the situation in English. The theoretical part also covered the conditional mood in English, English conditional sentences and means of expressing modality in English.

The practical analysis was carried out using one hundred and fifty examples containing the particle *бы* in the main clause or a subordinate clause taken from the parallel Intercorp corpus, the search in which was limited to fiction in the Russian original. All 150 examples from the dataset were divided into 7 groups according to the form of the sentence and the type of the construction containing the particle *бы* in it. After dividing the examples into groups and analysing them, it became clear that three of the seven can be classified by meaning as conditional sentences (42 instances, i.e. 28%), the remaining four as non-conditional (108 instances, i.e. 72%).

The empirical part of this thesis analysed the correspondence of meaning and form between the original and the English translation equivalent in both the main and subordinate clauses. The present study attempted to focus on aspects influencing the choice of the English counterpart depending on what type of meaning it expresses (hypothetical or desired).

It has been proven by the analysis that the most common English counterpart of the Russian particle *бы* in the main clause in conditional sentences was the verb *would* (78.6%) that expressed prediction. This English translation counterpart occurred in the main clause of 33 sentences from 3 groups, which covered 42 examples out of 150. An alternative verb *should* that did not represent a difference in meaning, occurred as the English translation counterpart once (2.4%). The second most frequent verb that the particle *бы* was translated as in the main clause of the English conditional sentences was the modal verb *might* (12.5%) that expressed possibility of what was being said. Another verb with a modal meaning of possibility was *could* (7.7%), the third most frequent English translation counterpart of the Russian particle *бы*. Among all the 42 conditional sentences from the dataset, there were 20 examples of the second

and 22 of the third conditional type. To sum up, if a conditional auxiliary verb is substituted with a verb that implies modality, the translation changes and adds a modal meaning by using a different verb.

The analysis of the independent and dependent irrealis mood examples from two groups that covered 83 instances of the non-conditional meaning of the particle *бы* has shown that its most common English translation counterpart was the verb *would* (32.5%). It occurred in 27 sentences out of 83 examples and expressed prediction or volition. Another translation counterpart in this group was *could* (10.8%), expressing possibility or ability. *Should* (7.2%), expressing obligation or an alternative meaning of *would*, was also one of the English translation counterparts of the Russian particle *бы* in the examples of the independent and dependent irrealis mood. *Might* (6%) and *ought to* (6%) were equally frequent, but *might* typically expressed the modal meaning of possibility, and *ought to* - obligation. The least common translation counterpart in English was *had better* (1.2%) expressing obligation as well. In most examples (33.7%) the English translation counterpart of the particle *бы* was not expressed grammatically but lexically. The English sentences did not contain just one word that would correspond to the meaning of the particle *бы*, it was translated as part of a phrase.

In the two remaining groups the particle *бы* was used as part of complex particles – *как бы* (21 out of 150, i.e. 14%) and *хотя бы* (4 out of 150, i.e. 2.7%). As for the particle *как бы/(как) будто бы*, its translation counterparts were *as if / as though* (42.9%), *sort of / kind of* (9.4%), *as* (4.8%), *like* (4.8%). The choice of the English translation counterpart in these examples was influenced by the type of meaning the particle expressed in the original sentences. The eight cases (38.1%) in which no English equivalent in the translation corresponded to the Russian *как бы/(как) будто бы* were identified. In the original text, this particle acted as a metaphorical tool, adding greater expressiveness and vivid imagery to the sentences. As the particle was not expressed, the English translation lost the meaning of uncertainty or comparison and made the sentences stricter and more specific. As for the particle *хотя бы*, four different translation counterparts of it were identified: *even* (25%), *for instance* (25%), *at least* (25%) and *well* (25%). The particle *хотя бы* expressed a different meaning in each of the four sentences, which influenced the choice of the English translation counterpart that would correspond to the original.

On the whole, the analysis leads us to the following conclusions:



Firstly, the particle *об* can be used in different meanings in Russian. To determine what exactly it expresses in a specific sentence, the full context of the statement is required. Therefore, each time it is necessary to carefully consider which English translation counterpart to choose in order to convey all the shades of meaning of the original text as fully as possible.

Secondly, the analysis of all meanings of the Russian particle *об* and their possible English translation counterparts allows us to conclude that it is impossible to find the exact constant pairs of correspondences between the two languages, even within one specific meaning. Moreover, the analysis also revealed cases in which the meaning of the Russian particle *об* in translation into English was expressed by a phrase.

Thirdly, the particle *об* may have a zero counterpart in English. In such cases, the particle is not expressed neither grammatically nor lexically and the original meaning of it is lost.

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## 7 Resumé

Tato práce zkoumá různé konstrukce obsahující ruskou částicí *об* a popisuje jejich anglické překladové protějšky. V ruštině má konjunktiv označený částicí různá použití s odkazem na děje (reálné nebo nereálné), které se mohou odehrávat v přítomnosti, minulosti nebo budoucnosti, takže to bylo zajímavé prozkoumat odpovídající prostředky v angličtině, přičemž bylo třeba vzít v úvahu rozdíl mezi těmito dvěma jazyky, konkrétně absence rozlišení mezi přítomným/minulým kondicionálem v ruštině, použití různých modálních sloves v podmínkových souvětích a také absence přímých strukturálních protějšků některých ruských konstrukcí s částicí *об*.

Teoretická část nejprve poskytuje přehled různých použití *об* v ruštině, včetně podmínkových i nepodmínkových konstrukcí. Popis všech ruských konstrukcí s částicí *об* prezentovaných v teoretické části zahrnuje jejich formu a význam, stejně jako příklady každé v ruštině s odpovídajícím anglickým překladem. Každý příklad v ruském originále je doplněn přepisem do latinky. Poté jsou zmíněná použití *об* porovnána se situací v angličtině. Druhá polovina teoretické části se zabývá podmiňovacím výrazem v anglickém jazyce, který je popsán z různých úhlů pohledu několika anglických gramatiků, anglickými podmínkovými větami, jejich formou, významem a typy, a dalšími způsoby vyjádření modalit v angličtině. Teoretická část také vysvětluje absenci rozlišování mezi přítomným a minulým kondicionálem v ruštině. Ruština nedokáže vyjádřit různé stupně epistemické vzdálenosti pomocí morfologie minulého času jako angličtina. Všechny kontrafaktuální podmínky v ruštině musí být vykládány s částicí *об* a minulým časem, zatímco angličtina má způsob, jak tyto úrovně odrážet.

Po teoretické části následuje již část empirická, která je uvedena kapitolou o metodě a materiálech použitých pro výzkum pro tuto práci. Materiál představuje sto padesát příkladů obsahujících *об* v hlavní větě nebo vedlejší větě, které byly čerpány z paralelního rusko-anglického korpusu Intercorp. Dále je zde také popsána problematika sběru zkoumaného materiálu, kdy došlo k tomu, že ruční výběr byl částečně potřeba a v důsledku toho muselo být několik příkladů vynecháno. Některé věty, které se objevily po vyhledávání, obsahovaly více výskytů částice *об*, a proto se stejná věta mohla ve výsledcích objevit jako dva nebo dokonce tři řádky shody. Pouze jeden výskyt každé takové opakované věty byl ponechán pro další analýzu a všechny ostatní byly vynechány. Dalším problémem, na který se u vzorkovacích příkladů naráželo, bylo jejich nesprávné zarovnání a záznam do korpusu. Jedna taková věta, která byla evidentně zaznamenána omylem a ve skutečnosti částicí neobsahovala, musela být vynechána. Dále je představena metoda, jakou byla sebraná data zkoumána. Je tedy uvedeno,

jak byly jednotlivé věty utříděny do skupin, jaké je jejich označení, podle jakého klíče jsou některé části vět v této práci zvýrazňovány a konečně, jaké hlavní okruhy otázek byly kladeny a zkoumány při analýze těchto větných vzorků. Hlavním okruhem výzkumu bylo zjistit, jak angličtina překládá různé konstrukce s *бы* z ruských originálů, zejména tedy, jaké protějšky jsou použité v těchto překladech a zda jsou podobně celistvé a vyjadřují ten samý význam jako v ruštině.

Analýza se zaměřuje na sedm typů použití částice *бы* v podmínkovém a nepodmínkovém významu, z nichž každý je uveden tabulkou se shrnutými výsledky. Po té vždy následuje diskuse výsledků s příklady, které demonstrují jednotlivé jevy. Příklady a jejich anglické překladové protějšky typů jsou diskutovány každý v jedné části a výsledky výzkumu jsou podpořeny několika příklady ze vzorku. Každý příklad v ruském originále je doplněn latinským přepisem a porovnán s anglickým překladem, přičemž se analyzuje shoda významu a formy mezi originálem a překladem. Na základě uvedených v empirické části příkladů a jejich rozboru lze zdůraznit, že hlavním aspektem, který v určitém kontextu ovlivňuje výběr anglického překladového protějšku ruské částice *бы*, je její význam v originále.

Poslední částí této práce je závěr, který je shrnutím získaných poznatků. Po analýze všech významů ruské částice *бы* a jejich možných anglických překladových protějšků lze dojít ke třem hlavním závěrům té práce. Za prvé, částice *бы* může být v ruštině použita v různých významech. K určení toho, co přesně vyjadřuje v konkrétní větě, je nutný úplný kontext. Pokaždé je proto nutné pečlivě zvážit, jaký anglický překladový protějšek zvolit, aby byly co nejúplněji přeneseny všechny významové odstíny původního textu. Za druhé, není možné najít přesné konstantní páry korespondence mezi ruštinou a angličtinou, a to ani v rámci jednoho konkrétního významu částice *бы*. Analýza navíc odhalila i případy, ve kterých byl význam ruské částice *бы* v překladu do angličtiny vyjádřen frází. Za třetí, částice *бы* může mít v angličtině nulový protějšek. V takových případech není částice vyjádřena ani gramaticky, ani lexikálně a ztrácí se její původní význam.

## 8 Appendix

The appendix table contains one hundred and fifty examples gathered in the parallel corpus InterCorp, specifically from five literary works in total, and analysed in Section 4. The left hand column shows the code of each example. Regarding the actual citation, the quotation marks are used to indicate those sentences that were used in direct speech. The character [...] is used in those cases when InterCorp did not show the rest of the sentence.

Concordance number	Original	Translation
A1	Разве она спасла <b>бы</b> его?	<b>Would</b> she have saved him?
A2	Совершенно свободно можно было <b>бы</b> , граждане, его и не затевать.	They <b>could</b> easily have avoided having it altogether.
A3	Это вовлекло <b>бы</b> в секцию союзную массу.	It <b>would</b> attract the trade-union masses into the section.
A4	Все равно проклятый поп не дал <b>бы</b> житья, а теперь я на него плевать хотел, - рассуждал Павка, подходя к дому, и, открывая калитку, вспомнил: [...]	“That damned priest <b>wouldn’t</b> have given me any peace anyway, and he can go to hell now for all I care. As for that gingerhead,” he said to himself as he opened the gate, [...]
A5	- Вы делаете успехи, Трубецкой, - одобрил редактор, - но хотелось <b>бы</b> еще больше.	“You’re making progress, Trubetskoi,” said the editor in approval. “But we’d like something a bit longer.”
A6	- Только <b>бы</b> ордера достать, - прошептал Ипполит Матвеевич, валясь на постель, - только <b>бы</b> ордера!	“If only we can get the orders,” whispered Ippolit Matveyevich to himself, lying on the bed, “if only we can get them.”
A7	Этой ручкой можно было <b>бы</b> писать: перо было самое настоящее, хотя превосходило по величине большую шуку.	It was quite possible to write with it; the nib was a real one although it was actually bigger than a large pike.
A8	- Куда же ты заворачиваешь, морда? - страдал Виктор Михайлович, налетая на лошадь. - Надавали <b>бы</b> тебе в старое время пощечин, тогда <b>бы</b> заворачивал.	“Where do you think you’re moving to, wretch?” Victor Polesov cried, rushing up to the horse. “In the old days you <b>would</b> have got a slap for that, then you <b>would</b> have moved over.”
A9	- А почему <b>бы</b> не отнести его в нашу каюту? - спросил он нетерпеливо. - Мы б его вскрыли сейчас же.	“Why don't you take it to your cabin?” he asked impatiently.
A10	- Кажется, не должно <b>бы</b> , - отвечал Иван Кузмич. - А слышно, злодей завладел уж многими крепостями.	“Such a thing <b>should</b> not be possible,” rejoined Ivan Kouzmitch; “nevertheless, they say the scoundrel has already got possession of several forts.”
A11	Или долетел <b>бы</b> ?	Or <b>could</b> he?
A12	Попробовал <b>бы</b> он написать "Войну и мир", сидя на вегетарианских сосисках!	“Just imagine him trying to write War and Peace on vegetarian sausages!”
A13	Вот вы <b>бы</b> смогли вышить такую красную белочку, как у меня на переднике? - спросила Белочка.	“ <b>Could</b> you embroider a red squirrel like the one on my pinafore?” asked Chippy.

A14	- И в самом деле, - сказали васюкинцы, - почему <b>бы</b> не переименовать нашу секцию в "Клуб четырех коней"?	"Indeed," exclaimed the citizens, "why <b>shouldn't</b> we rename our section The Four Knights Chess Club?"
A15	В какое бы время кто <b>бы</b> ни позвонил в Варьете, всегда слышался в трубке мягкий, но грустный голос:	At whatever hour they rang the Variety, through the receiver would always come his soft, sad:
A16	Самым разумным было <b>бы</b> , конечно, кричать до тех пор, пока кто-нибудь не придет, и потом сдаться пришедшему в плен.	The most sensible thing to do, of course, <b>would</b> have been to keep shouting until someone came, and then put himself at their mercy.
A17	Эта экспедиция была <b>бы</b> неблагоприятна; [...]	"This expedition is unreasonable; [...]"
A18	И - кто <b>бы</b> мог подумать! - доктор Пилюлькин танцевал с Медуницей.	And - wonder of wonders! - Dr. Pillman with Honeysuckle!
A19	Ни за что не сказала <b>бы</b> , что это Незнайка.	I'd never have thought he was Dunno.
A20	- Вот этих бы врунов, которые распространяют гадкие слухи, - в негодовании несколько громче, чем хотел бы Боба, загудела контрольным голосом мадам Петракова, - вот их <b>бы</b> следовало разьяснить!	"Well, as for liars who spread rumours like that," came madame Petrakov's contralto boom, a shade too loud for Boba's liking, "they're the ones who <b>should</b> be shot!"
A21	Поехали <b>бы</b> себе домой, в загс.	You <b>ought to</b> go home to your registry office where the corpses and newborn babes are waiting for you.
A22	- Насчет прав молчали <b>бы</b> , гражданин.	"You'd <b>better</b> not talk about rights, citizen."
A23	На верхней из них любопытный мог <b>бы</b> прочесть: [...]	A curious person <b>could</b> have read the uppermost one: [...]
A24	Итак, я хотел <b>бы</b> знать ваши предположения по этому делу.	Now, I want your suggestions for dealing with this affair.
A25	Они, собственно говоря, согласились <b>бы</b> вступить в новый клуб, но [...]	They <b>would</b> like to join, but [...]
A26	Мы <b>бы</b> попиروвали по-старинному.	We <b>would</b> have had a spree like last time.
A27	Ты среди дивчат, а я среди ребят взялся <b>бы</b> .	You could work with the girls, and I <b>would</b> be working with the fellows.
A28	Любители били <b>бы</b> нас, очевидно, шахматными досками.	The enthusiasts <b>would</b> have beaten us with chessboards, I imagine.
A29	И потом я хотел <b>бы</b> заметить т. Маховику, что стропила гудят только тогда, когда постройка собирается развалиться.	And I <b>would</b> like to point out to Comrade Flywheel that the only time rafters creak is when the building is about to fall down.
A30	Пончика не следовало <b>бы</b> выписывать за то, что он ест много сладкого.	Although, when you come to think of it, Roly-Poly really <b>ought to</b> be kept in on account of his eating so many sweets.
A31	Еще <b>бы</b> не пройти - двадцать шагов хата от хаты, а речонку курица пешком перейдет.	And no wonder – it's only a couple of dozen paces from cottage to cottage and the creek's shallow enough for a chicken to wade across.
A32	- Он мог <b>бы</b> и позвонить! - кричали Денискин, Глухарев и квант.	"He <b>might</b> have rung up!" shouted Deniskin, Glukharyov and Quant.

A33	Интересно <b>бы</b> знать, кто его искалечил.	“It <b>would</b> be interesting to know who mutilated him.”
A34	А Сиропчика тоже следовало <b>бы</b> поддержать здесь в наказание за то, что пьет слишком много газированной воды с сиропом.	I <b>ought to</b> keep Treacly-Sweeter here too, on account of his drinking so much syrup and soda-water.
A35	Глянул <b>бы</b> только раз в лицо и моментально отказал <b>бы!</b> - кот до того рассердился, что швырнул паспорт на пол. - Ваше присутствие на похоронах отменяется, - продолжал кот официальным голосом. – Потрудитесь уехать к месту жительства. – И рявкнул в дверь:	“One look at your face and I’d have refused!” The cat had worked itself up into such a temper that it threw the passport to the ground. “You may not attend the funeral,” went on the cat in an official voice. “Kindly go home at once.” And it shouted towards the door:
A36	- Кто <b>бы</b> мог подумать, что ты доживешь до такого дня?	“Who <b>would</b> have thought that you would come to this?”
A37	- Какие у вас организмы слабые, - сладко сказал Варфоломеич. – Я <b>бы</b> хотел спервоначалу насчет вознаграждения уяснить себе.	“How weak your constitution is,” said Bartholomeich sweetly. “I’d first like to find out about the reward.”
A38	Но, право, как подумаешь о том, насколько микроскопически малы их возможности по сравнению с возможностями того, в чьей свите я имею честь состоять, становится смешно и, даже я <b>бы</b> сказал, грустно.	But when one recalls how microscopic their influence really was in comparison with the powers of the one in whose retinue I have the honour to serve they become quite laughable, even pathetic.
A39	- Уберите сейчас же ваше золото, - сказал профессор, гордясь собой, - вы <b>бы</b> лучше за нервами смотрели.	“Take your gold,” said the professor, feeling proud of himself as he said it. “You’d be putting it to better use if you spent it on having your nerves treated.”
A40	Вот что недурно было <b>бы</b> разъяснить!	If only someone <b>would</b> explain it all!
A41	- Да я и не советовал <b>бы</b> вам ложиться в клинику, - продолжал артист, - какой смысл умирать в палате под стоны и хрип безнадежных больных.	“If I were you I <b>shouldn’t</b> bother to go into hospital,” went on the professor. “What’s the use of dying in a ward surrounded by a lot of groaning and croaking incurables?”
A42	- Огонь <b>бы</b> вас спалил вместе с вашим комендантом!	“You and your Commandant <b>ought to</b> be roasted on a slow fire!”
A43	Хорошо <b>бы</b> даже в деревеньку завести.	<b>Wouldn't</b> be a bad thing to take some to the villages too;
A44	“И охота было не слушаться” - говорил он сердито – “воротился бы на постоянный двор, накушался <b>бы</b> чаю, почивал <b>бы</b> себе до утра, буря б утихла, отправились <b>бы</b> далее.”	“Why did you not listen to him?” he said to me, angrily. “You <b>would</b> have gone back to the post-house; you <b>would</b> have had some tea; you <b>could</b> have slept till morning; the storm <b>would</b> have blown over, and we <b>should</b> have started.”
A45	Идти мне было некуда, и проще всего, конечно, было <b>бы</b> броситься под трамвай на той улице, в которую выходил мой переулок.	I had nowhere to go and the simplest thing <b>would</b> have been to throw myself under a tram then and there where my side street joined the main road.
A46	“Хоть <b>бы</b> ушла”, - рассуждал он.	He wished she <b>would</b> go away.

A47	- Набил <b>бы</b> я тебе рыло, - мечтательно сообщил Остап, - только Заратустра не позволяет.	“I <b>ought to</b> bust you in the mouth,” said Ostap dreamily, “only Zarathustra wouldn't allow it.”
A48	- Я проводил <b>бы</b> тебя, но я уже не в силах идти один обратно, я боюсь.	“I'd see you out, but I don't trust myself to come back alone, I'm afraid.”
A49	Без тебя я не добрался <b>бы</b> до города и замерз <b>бы</b> на дороге.	“ <b>Had</b> it not been for you, I <b>should</b> never have reached the town, for I <b>should</b> have died of cold on the journey.”
A50	“И добро <b>бы</b> уж ходил ты на турку или на шведа, а то грех и сказать на кого.”	“Now if you were making war with Turks or Swedes! But I'm ashamed even to talk of these fellows with whom you are fighting.”
A51	[...] что изволила она вчерашний день говорить у себя за столом, кого принимала вечером, - словом, разговор Анны Власьевны стоил нескольких страниц исторических записок и был <b>бы</b> драгоценен для потомства.	[...] what she had deigned to say the evening before at table, who she received in the evening, and, in a word, the conversation of Anna Vlassiefna might have been a leaf from any memoir of the day, and <b>would</b> be invaluable now.
A52	Если бы такой проник сюда он горько пожалел <b>бы</b> себя, в этом ты мне, конечно, согласишься?	Yes...if someone like that were to get in here, he <b>would</b> bitterly regret it. You believe me when I say that, don't you?
A53	А если бы Бог благословил еще одним свободным мгновением, можно было <b>бы</b> успеть заколоться и самому, избежав смерти на столбе.	And if God were to bless him with one more moment of freedom he <b>could</b> stab himself as well and avoid a death on the gallows.
A54	Если бы он мог летать, то взвизывался <b>бы</b> кверху, а он просто лежит на земле.	“If it was light enough it <b>would</b> rise now, and not lie here on the ground,” said Sinker.
A55	“Если бы Анна ему была безразлична, Цветаев так <b>бы</b> не волновался.”	“If he cared nothing for Anna he <b>would</b> not be so upset.”
A56	“Вот если бы был еще стол и два стула, было <b>бы</b> совсем хорошо.”	“If we just had a table and two more chairs, it <b>would</b> be fine.”
A57	Если бы даже Коле удалось чудом получить комнату в три квадратных сажени, то и тогда средневековое ложе не поместилось <b>бы</b> в комнате.	Even if Nicky in some miraculous way acquired a room six yards square, the mediaeval couch <b>would</b> still not fit into it.
A58	Все эти слова были, конечно, нелепы, потому что, в самом деле: что изменилось <b>бы</b> , если бы она в ту ночь осталась у мастера?	All this, of course, was nonsense, because what <b>would</b> have been changed if she had stayed with the master that night?
A59	Разговор с умным дворником, слабо разбиравшимся в классовой структуре общества, продолжался <b>бы</b> еще бог знает сколько времени, если бы молодой человек не взялся за дело решительно.	The conversation with the intelligent caretaker so poorly versed in the class structure of society <b>might</b> have gone on for heaven knows how long had not the young man got down to business.
A60	Если бы этот человек мог остановить себя хоть бы на два часа, произошли <b>бы</b> самые неожиданные события.	If this man had been able to stay still for even as little as two hours, the most unexpected things <b>might</b> have happened.
A61	Эх, если бы он теперь был я к нему пристал <b>бы</b> .	If he was alive today I <b>would</b> join him, I swear I <b>would</b> .



<b>A62</b>	Если бы Ипполит Матвеевич знал, что кучер не кто иной, как граф Алексей Буланов, знаменитый гусар-схимник, он, вероятно, окликнул <b>бы</b> старика, чтобы поговорить с ним о прелестных прошедших временах.	If Ippolit Matveyevich had known that this was none other than Count Alexei Bulanov, the famous hermit hussar, he <b>would</b> probably have hailed the old man and chatted with him about the good old days.
<b>A63</b>	- Я полагаю, - отозвался Пилат, - что мало радости ты доставил <b>бы</b> легату легиона, если бы вздумал разговаривать с кем-нибудь из его офицеров или солдат.	"I suspect," said Pilate, "that the Legate of the Legion <b>would</b> not be best pleased if you took it into your head to talk to one of his officers or soldiers."
<b>A64</b>	А ресторан зажил своей обычной ночной жизнью и жил <b>бы</b> ею до закрытия, то есть до четырех часов утра, если бы не произошло нечто, уже совершенно из ряда вон выходящее и поразившее ресторанных гостей гораздо большее, чем известие о гибели Берлиоза.	Downstairs in the restaurant life had returned to normal and <b>would</b> have continued on its usual nocturnal course until closing time at four, had not something quite abnormal occurred which shocked the diners considerably more than the news of Berlioz's death.
<b>A65</b>	- Да, но если бы он не ушел, его <b>бы</b> расстреляли, как взрослого.	"But if he hadn't escaped they <b>would</b> have shot him just the same."
<b>A66</b>	Если бы старгородские заговорщики видели гиганта мысли и отца русской демократии в эту критическую для него минуту, то, надо думать, тайный союз "Меча и орала" прекратил <b>бы</b> свое существование.	If the Stargorod conspirators had seen the master-mind and father of Russian democracy at that crucial moment, it can be taken for certain that the secret alliance of the Sword and Ploughshare <b>would</b> have ended its existence.
<b>A67</b>	Не будешь ли ты так добр подумать над вопросом: что <b>бы</b> делало твое добро, если бы не существовало зла, и как <b>бы</b> выглядела земля, если бы с нее исчезли тени?	Think, now: where <b>would</b> your good be if there were no evil and what <b>would</b> the world look like without shadow?
<b>A68</b>	- Что "но"? - кричал Авдотьев. – Вот если <b>бы</b> автомобиль был сегодня?	"But what <b>would</b> we do?" cried Avdotyev. "Supposing we had a car today?"
<b>A69</b>	Но его нет в городе, за это вам ручаюсь, если бы его убили вдалеке от города, этот пакет с деньгами не мог <b>бы</b> быть подброшен так скоро.	They have not found him and I am therefore convinced that he is not in the city. If he had been killed a long way from Jerusalem, then the packet of money could not have been thrown into the High Priest's palace so soon.
<b>A70</b>	И главное, если <b>бы</b> он только ел!	It <b>wouldn't</b> be so bad if he just ate them.
<b>A71</b>	Если бы я попрощался, мне было <b>бы</b> легче.	If I had said good-bye to him I <b>would</b> feel better.
<b>A72</b>	Даже, пожалуй, хорошо было <b>бы</b> , если б его было поменьше.	"It <b>might</b> even be better if there were not quite so much."
<b>A73</b>	Кто знает, чем окончилась <b>бы</b> эта схватка, если бы знакомый Павлу звонкий голос не закричал: [...]	There is no saying how the encounter <b>would</b> have ended had a familiar voice not called out: [...]
<b>A74</b>	Если бы у нас даже были деньги на покупку билета, то и тогда <b>бы</b> ничего не вышло.	Even if you had the money to buy a ticket, it still <b>wouldn't</b> be any use.
<b>A75</b>	Окошко подвала было открыто, и если бы кто-нибудь заглянул	The basement window was open and if anybody had looked into it he <b>would</b>

	в него, он удивился <b>бы</b> тому, насколько странно выглядят разговаривающие.	have been struck by the odd appearance of the two people.
A76	Она залила <b>бы</b> и самый помост, и то очищенное пространство, если бы тройной ряд себастиийских солдат по левую руку Пилата и солдат итурейской вспомогательной когорты по правую - не держал ее.	The mob <b>would</b> have poured on to the platform and the passage too if there had not been two triple rows of soldiers, one from the Sebastian cohort on Pilate's left and on his right another from the Ituraean auxiliary cohort, to keep it clear.
A77	- Но я хотел <b>бы</b> просить вас, - продолжал игемон, - если вам предложат перевод отсюда с повышением, отказаться от него и остаться здесь.	"But," said the hegemon, "if you are offered promotion and transfer to another post, I <b>should</b> like to ask you to refuse it and stay here."
A78	Так вот она говорила, что с желтыми цветами в руках она вышла в тот день, чтобы я наконец ее нашел, и что если бы этого не произошло, она отравилась <b>бы</b> , потому что жизнь ее пуста.	So, she used to say, she had gone out that morning carrying those yellow flowers for me to find her at last and that if it hadn't happened she <b>would</b> have committed suicide because her life was empty.
A79	Если бы в следующее утро Степе Лиходееву сказали <b>бы</b> так: "Степа! Тебя расстреляют, если ты сию минуту не встанешь!" — Степа ответил <b>бы</b> томным, чуть слышным голосом: [...]	If next day someone had said to Stepa Likhodeyev "Stepa! You'll be shot if you don't get up this minute!" — Stepa <b>would</b> have replied in a languid, barely audible voice: [...]
A80	Он изменился в лице, шатнулся и, если бы не ухватился грязной рукой за край стола, упал <b>бы</b> .	His face worked, he staggered and he <b>would</b> have fallen if he had not put out a dirty hand to grasp the edge of the table.
A81	Кто знает, до чего дошел <b>бы</b> Остап в своих сатирических упражнениях, если бы его не прервал быстро подошедший мужчина в костюме лодзинских коричневых цветов.	Who knows how far Ostap <b>might</b> not have gone in this satirical exercise had he not been interrupted by the approach of a man in a brown Lodz suit.
A82	Ежели бы на меня, то я дрался <b>бы</b> здесь обязательно.	"If it was up to me, I'd fight them here without fail."
A83	Гейне опустил <b>бы</b> руки, если бы ему предложили сказать что-нибудь смешное и вместе с тем общественно полезное по поводу неправильной тарификации грузов малой скорости; [...]	Heine <b>would</b> have given up in despair had he been asked to say something funny and at the same time socially useful about the unfair tariff rates on slow-delivery goods consignments; [...]
A84	- А что ты думаешь, - ответил Микроша, - и ты <b>бы</b> , наверно, подзакусила, если бы отправлялась в такой дальний путь!	"I should think so!" said Midge. "You'd want a good breakfast, too, if you were setting out on such a long journey!"
A85	Если бы вчера шахматным любителям удалось нас утопить, от нас остался <b>бы</b> только один протокол осмотра трупов.	If the chess enthusiasts had managed to drown us yesterday, the only thing left of us <b>would</b> have been the coroner's report.
A86	- Попался бы мне ксендз, что ему крестом в зубы залезал, я <b>бы</b> его, проклятого, сразу прикончил!	"If I could lay my hands on that priest who tried to shove a cross down his throat I'd finish the swine off on the

		spot!” Andryusha Fomichev, a shoemaker’s apprentice from Belaya Tserkov, cried wrathfully.
A87	О, как торжествовал <b>бы</b> Иван, если бы следователь явился к нему пораньше, хотя бы, скажем, в ночь на четверг, когда Иван буйно и страстно добивался того, чтобы выслушали его рассказ о Патриарших прудах.	The poet <b>would</b> have been triumphant if the detective had called earlier, on Thursday for instance when Ivan had been trying so loudly and passionately to induce someone to listen to his story about Patriarch’s Ponds.
A88	Пехотный манипул попал в мешок, и если бы не врубилась с фланга кавалерийская турма, а командовал ею я, - тебе, философ, не пришлось <b>бы</b> разговаривать с Крысобоєм.	An infantry maniple had been ambushed and had it not been for a troop of cavalry breaking through from the flank - a troop commanded by me - you, philosopher, <b>would</b> not have been talking to Muribellum just now.
A89	На миг представляет себе, как <b>бы</b> это он подал руку своему майору Закржевскому, и от этой нелепой мысли невольно оглядывается.	For a moment he pictured himself shaking hands with Major Zakrzewski, but the very thought was so shocking that he glanced furtively over his shoulder.
A90	Пятнадцать тысяч любителей футбола, возбужденные молодецкой игрой сборной Москвы, принуждены продираются к трамваю сквозь щель такую узкую, что один легко вооруженный воин мог <b>бы</b> задержать здесь сорок тысяч варваров, подкрепленных двумя осадными башнями.	Fifteen thousand football fans elated by the superb play of a crack Moscow team are forced to squeeze their way to the tram through a crack so narrow that one lightly armed warrior <b>could</b> hold off forty thousand barbarians supported by two battering rams.
A91	Вниз по реке неслись звуки, какие мог <b>бы</b> издать только трамвай, медленно проползающий по битому стеклу.	Down the river floated sounds that <b>could</b> only have been made by a tram passing slowly over broken glass.
A92	Падая на мостовую, Павел увлек за собой и конвоира, и не было сил, которые заставили <b>бы</b> его выпустить оружие в такую минуту.	Pavel went down, dragging the soldier down with him. Nothing <b>could</b> have made him relinquish the rifle at this crucial moment.
A93	Ему прокуратор приказал сдать преступника начальнику тайной службы и при этом передать ему распоряжение прокуратора о том, чтобы Иешуа Га-Ноцри был отделен от других осужденных, а также о том, чтобы команде тайной службы под страхом тяжелой кары запрещено о чем <b>бы</b> то ни было разговаривать с Иешуа или отвечать на какие-либо вопросы.	He was ordered by the Procurator to hand the felon over to the captain of the secret service and in doing so to transmit the Procurator’s directive that Yeshua Ha-Notsri was to be segregated from the other convicts, also that the captain of the secret service was forbidden on pain of severe punishment to talk to Yeshua or to answer any questions he might ask.
A94	Нет ни одного района в городе, где <b>бы</b> они не выступали.	There isn’t a single district in town where they <b>haven’t</b> addressed meetings.
A95	В свете таких объяснений решительно все понятно, и даже наиболее волновавшая граждан, ничем, казалось <b>бы</b> , не объяснимая	In the light of this information everything was explicable, even the extraordinary incident of the bullet-proof cat in flat №50.

	неуязвимость кота, обстрелянного в квартире №50, при попытках взять его под стражу.	
A96	"Нет таких крепостей, которых большевики не могли <b>бы</b> взять".	"There are no fortresses Bolsheviks cannot take."
A97	Я спокойно отвечал, что каковы <b>бы</b> ни были обвинения, тяготеющие на мне, я надеюсь их рассеять чистосердечным объяснением истины.	I quietly made answer that, whatever <b>might</b> be the accusations lying heavily against me, I hoped to be able to explain them away by a candid avowal of the truth.
A98	А мы, где <b>бы</b> ты ни был и что <b>бы</b> с тобою ни случилось, каждый день будем бога молить о спасении грешной твоей души ...	"Let me go with the poor orphan whither God shall direct, and whatever befall and wherever you be we will pray God every day that He watch over the safety of your soul."
A99	Главный, по-видимому, поставил себе за правило соглашаться со всем и радоваться всему, что <b>бы</b> ни говорили ему окружающие, и выражать это словами "славно, славно ...".	The chief had adopted the rule of agreeing with everybody and being pleased with whatever other people <b>might</b> say, expressing it by the word "Splendid ...".
A100	- Вы, малыши, только и думаете, как <b>бы</b> кого-нибудь стукнуть, а когда вас самих стукнут, вам это не очень нравится ...	"All you boy-Mites ever think about is giving smacks, but you don't like to take them."
A101	Хоть все и перегорело и угли затянулись пеплом, все же, клянусь, что за эту встречу я отдал <b>бы</b> связку ключей Прасковьи Федоровны, ибо мне больше нечего отдавать.	Although I'm a burnt-out man and the embers have died away to ash, I swear that I <b>would</b> have given up Praskovya Fyodorovna's bunch of keys in exchange for that meeting. Those keys are all I have.
A102	Необходимо добавить, что на поэта иностранец с первых же слов произвел отвратительное впечатление, а Берлиозу скорее понравился, то есть не то чтобы понравился, а...как <b>бы</b> выразиться...заинтересовал, что ли.	I should add that the poet had found the stranger repulsive from first sight, although Berlioz had liked the look of him, or rather not exactly liked him but, well...been interested by him.
A103	Как <b>бы</b> то ни было, Воланд смеялся, поглядывая на Маргариту, и говорил: [...].	Whether it was or not, Woland laughed and said to Margarita: [...].
A104	Сидите здесь на скамейке одна и умоляйте его, чтобы он отпустил вас на свободу, дал дышать воздухом, ушел <b>бы</b> из памяти!	"Yet you sit here alone on a bench and beg him to let you go, to allow you to be free and to forget him!"
A105	Все это братва, не доставшая гостевых билетов, но стремящаяся во что <b>бы</b> то ни стало побывать на открытии съезда.	It was a Komsomol sea that surrounded the theatre, a sea of young people who had been unable to obtain tickets to the opening of the Congress but who were determined to get in at all costs.
A106	Остап выбрал местечко, поблизости которого не было ни стен, которые могли <b>бы</b> обвалиться, ни людей, которые могли бы	Ostap selected a spot near which there was no wall likely to collapse, or people likely to interfere, and set about opening the chair.

	помешать, и приступил к вскрытию стула.	
A107	Мигающий огонек отражался не в треснувшем пенсне, которое давно пора было <b>бы</b> выбросить на помойку, а в монокле, правда, тоже треснувшем.	The guttering flame was no longer reflected in a shaky pince-nez long due for the dustbin, but in an equally unsteady monocle.
A108	Словом, чья <b>бы</b> облигация ни выиграла, деньги идут на машины.	In other words, no matter whose bonds win, the money will be spent on cars.
A109	Правда, жаловаться на пустоту по субботам синагога не может, но это уж не то, что было раньше, и жизнь у раввина совсем не такая, какую <b>бы</b> он хотел.	Although the synagogue still drew crowds on Saturdays, its heyday had gone, and the rabbi lived a life that was by no means to his liking.
A110	После обыкновенного приступа, он объявлял ему, что подозрения насчет участия моего в замыслах бунтовщиков к несчастью оказались слишком основательными, что примерная казнь должна была <b>бы</b> меня постигнуть, но [...].	After the usual compliments he announced to him that the suspicions which had arisen of my participation in the plots of the rebels had been proved to be but too well founded, adding that condign punishment as a deterrent <b>should</b> have overtaken me, but [...].
A111	Я готов вынести все, лишь <b>бы</b> возвратиться в строй.	But I am ready to endure anything so long as I can return to the ranks.
A112	Но в тридцатилетней практике бухгалтера не было случая, чтобы кто-нибудь, будь то юридическое или частное лицо, затруднялся <b>бы</b> принять деньги.	But in his thirty years' experience Vassily Stepanovich had never yet found anyone who had made the least objection to taking money when offered it.
A113	Я это...как <b>бы</b> это попонятней сказать...перевоспитался, вот!	I'm...what do you call it?...reformed.
A114	Люди в городе N умирали редко, и Ипполит Матвеевич знал это лучше кого <b>бы</b> то ни было, потому что служил в загсе, где ведал столом регистрации смертей и браков.	People rarely died in the town of N. Ippolit Matveyevich knew this better than anyone because he worked in the registry office, where he was in charge of the registration of deaths and marriages.
A115	Как <b>бы</b> мы назвали тех, кто натравливал <b>бы</b> молодых красноармейцев на командиров и комиссаров, на штаб - и это все в то время, когда отряд окружен врагами?	What <b>would</b> we say of men who <b>would</b> try to incite young Red Army men against their commanders and commissars, against army headquarters - and at a time when the unit was surrounded by the enemy?
A116	Пораженный этим обстоятельством бухгалтер долгое время стоял столбом, соображая, что <b>бы</b> это значило.	Amazed, the accountant stood for a while wondering what this odd behaviour <b>could</b> mean.
A117	Стали думать и гадать, кто <b>бы</b> мог подбросить.	They tried to guess who <b>might</b> have left the animal there.
A118	Со стороны же психики изменения в обоих произошли очень большие, как убедился <b>бы</b> всякий, кто мог подслушать разговор в подвальной квартире.	Psychologically both of them had changed considerably, as anyone <b>would</b> have realised who overheard their conversation.
A119	Щукин решил спуститься вниз, к дворнику, чего <b>бы</b> это ему ни стоило.	Shukin decided to go downstairs to the caretaker at any price.

<b>A120</b>	Она скрывала от всех свои слезы и страдания, и между тем непрестанно думала о средствах, как <b>бы</b> меня спасти.	She hid from all eyes her tears and her suffering, but never ceased thinking how she <b>could</b> save me.
<b>A121</b>	Он смотрел на Полесова своим круглым разумным глазом, как <b>бы</b> говоря: [...].	It looked at Polesov with a round, knowing eye <b>as if</b> to say: [...].
<b>A122</b>	Какой-то шорох, как <b>бы</b> крыльев по стенам, доносился теперь сзади из залы, и было понятно, что там танцуют неслыханные полчища гостей, и Маргарите казалось, что даже массивные мраморные, мозаичные и хрустальные полы в этом диковинном зале ритмично пульсируют.	A sound <b>like</b> the rustling of wings came from the rooms behind her as the horde of guests danced, and Margarita could feel the massive floors of marble, crystal and mosaic pulsating rhythmically.
<b>A123</b>	В доме сразу услышали стук копыт по мостовой, и, когда топот затих у лавки и сквозь стену донеслись голоса, сердца словно оторвались и тела как <b>бы</b> замерли.	The people inside the house had heard the clatter of hoofs on the pavement outside and when the sound ceased in front of the shop, the men's voices carried through the walls their hearts seemed to stop beating and their bodies stiffened with fright.
<b>A124</b>	Измученный долгим бездельем за зеркальными дверями подъезда, швейцар вкладывал в свист всю душу, причем точно следовал за Маргаритой, как <b>бы</b> аккомпанируя ей.	Bored by his idle job of hanging around the entrance hall, the porter put all his pent-up energy into blowing his whistle, playing a woodwind obbligato in time to Margarita's enthusiastic percussion.
<b>A125</b>	На том самом углу, где улица вливалась в базарную площадь, в кипении и толчее его обогнала как <b>бы</b> танцующей походкой идущая легкая женщина в черном покрывале, накинутом на самые глаза.	At the corner where the street joined the bazaar square, he was passed in the seething crowd by a woman walking with the hip-swinging gait of a prostitute and wearing a black shawl low over her eyes.
<b>A126</b>	Он поглядел на меня как <b>бы</b> с сожалением.	He looked at me with a <b>sort of</b> pity.
<b>A127</b>	Его как <b>будто бы</b> и не было.	It was <b>as though</b> it had never existed.
<b>A128</b>	Потом уж очевидцы, присутствующие при начале пожара в Торгсине на смоленском, рассказывали, что <b>будто бы</b> оба хулигана взлетели вверх под потолок и там <b>будто бы</b> лопнули оба, как воздушные детские шары.	Later, witnesses described having seen them float up to the ceiling and then burst like a couple of balloons.
<b>A129</b>	Я тяжело болен. - Он ухватился за подоконник рукою, как <b>бы</b> собираясь вскочить на него и бежать, оскалил зубы, всматриваясь в сидящих, и закричал: [...].	"Don't cry, Margot, don't torment me, I'm very ill," and he grasped the windowsill <b>as though</b> preparing to jump out and run away again. Staring round at the figures seated in the room he cried: [...].
<b>A130</b>	У ног прокуратора простиралась неубранная красная, как <b>бы</b>	An untidy, blood-red puddle lay spread out at the Procurator's feet amid the sherds of a broken jug.

	кровавая, лужа и валялись осколки разбитого кувшина.	
A131	Машинист сморщился, вытер паклей вспотевший лоб и посмотрел воспаленными глазами на манометр, <b>как бы</b> надеясь найти там ответ на мучительный вопрос.	The engine driver scowled. He wiped his sweating forehead with a handful of waste and stared with bloodshot eyes at the pressure gauge <b>as if</b> seeking an answer there to the question tormenting him.
A132	Она была сделана <b>как бы</b> из протезов и ортопедических частей и стояла, широко расставив ноги, на пустой холмистой земле.	The figure of Death carried a scythe and a winged hour-glass and looked <b>as if</b> made of artificial limbs and orthopaedic appliances; he was standing on deserted hilly ground with his legs wide apart, and his general appearance made it clear that the fiasco with the rabbits was a mere trifle.
A133	Слыша цокот лошади за спиной, старик поднял руки, <b>как бы</b> защищаясь.	Hearing the hoofbeats behind him, the old man threw up his hands <b>as if</b> to ward off the blow.
A134	Маргарита наклонилась к глобусу и увидела, что квадратик земли расширился, многокрасочно расписался и превратился <b>как бы</b> в рельефную карту.	Margarita leaned towards the globe and saw that the little square of land was growing bigger, emerging in natural colours and turning into a <b>kind of</b> relief map.
A135	- И, <b>как бы</b> извиняясь, добавил: [...].	[...] he added apologetically.
A136	Рита, <b>как бы</b> угадывая его чувства, в темноте улыбнулась.	Rita, <b>as if</b> divining his feelings, smiled in the darkness.
A137	- Не извольте беспокоиться, господин Воробьянинов, - сказал он горячо, <b>как бы</b> продолжая начатый давеча разговор.	"Now don't you worry, Mr Vorobyaniinov," he said heatedly, continuing the conversation started a while before.
A138	Мечтает теперь Иван Савельевич только об одном, чтобы этого Алоизия убрали из Варьете куда-нибудь с глаз долой, потому что, как шепчет иногда Варенуха в интимной компании, "такой сволочи, как этот Алоизий, он <b>будто бы</b> никогда не встречал в жизни и что будто бы от этого Алоизия он ждет всего, чего угодно".	Ivan Savyelich's one and only wish is for Aloysius to be removed as far away from the Variety as possible because, as Varenukha sometimes whispers among his close friends, "he has never met such a swine in his life as that Aloysius and he wouldn't be surprised at anything Aloysius might do".
A139	Банга зарычал на луну, и скользкая, <b>как бы</b> укатанная маслом, голубая дорога перед прокуратором провалилась.	Banga started to growl at the moon, and the blue pathway, slippery <b>as</b> butter, collapsed in front of the Procurator.
A140	С улицы донеслось цоканье копыт извозчичьей лошади, нарочито громкое и отчетливое, <b>как будто бы</b> считали на счетах.	From the street came the drumming of a carthorse's hooves, intentionally loud and clear <b>as though</b> someone was counting on an abacus.
A141	- Ненавистный город, - вдруг почему-то пробормотал прокуратор и передернул плечами, как будто озяб, а руки потер, <b>как бы</b> обмывая их, - если бы тебя зарезали перед	"I hate this city," the Procurator suddenly mumbled, hunching his shoulders as though from cold and wiping his hands <b>as though</b> washing them. "If they had murdered you before

	твоим свиданием с Иудею из Кириафа, право, это было бы лучше.	your meeting with Judas of Karioth I really believe it would have been better.”
A142	Даже Молчун, от которого редко можно было услышать <b>хотя бы</b> слово, сказал: [...].	<b>Even</b> Mums, who rarely opened his mouth, said: [...].
A143	- Если вы исчерпали этого прокуратора, ну, начните изображать <b>хотя бы</b> этого Алоизия.	“Or if you've exhausted your Procurator, why not write about somebody else – that Aloysius, <b>for instance ...</b> .”
A144	Многие из них были совершенно растеряны и поминутно глядели в шахматные учебники, освежая в памяти сложные варианты, при помощи которых надеялись сдаться гроссмейстеру <b>хотя бы</b> после двадцать второго хода.	Many of them were in complete confusion and kept glancing at books on chess to refresh their knowledge of complicated variations, with the help of which they hoped not to have to resign before the twenty-second move, <b>at least</b> .
A145	- Ну, <b>хотя бы</b> жизнью твоею, - ответил прокуратор, - ею клясться самое время, так как она висит на волоске, знай это!	‘ <b>Well</b> , by your life,’ replied the Procurator. ‘It is high time to swear by it because you should know that it is hanging by a thread.’
A146	Если <b>бы не</b> рев воды, если <b>бы не</b> удары грома, которые, казалось, грозили расплющить крышу дворца, если <b>бы не</b> стук града, молотившего по ступеням балкона, можно было <b>бы</b> расслышать, что прокуратор что-то бормочет, разговаривая сам с собой.	<b>Without</b> the roar of water, <b>without</b> the claps of thunder which seemed to be about to smash the palace roof, <b>without</b> the crash of hail that hammered on the steps leading up to the balcony, a listener <b>might</b> have heard the Procurator muttering as he talked to himself.
A147	Ведь если <b>бы не</b> это, не было <b>бы</b> перепалки из-за Костьки.	If you <b>didn't</b> , we <b>wouldn't</b> have quarrelled over the Kostya affair.
A148	А покачался <b>бы</b> на перекладине, если <b>бы не</b> твой слуга.	And you <b>would</b> certainly have swung beneath the cross-beam <b>but for</b> your old servant.
A149	“ <b>Жить бы</b> нам с тобой поблизости, сгодились <b>бы</b> мне, парнишка, твои советы”.	“If only you <b>lived</b> nearer to me. I <b>could</b> do with your advice, lad.”
A150	- Если <b>бы</b> с ним поговорить, - вдруг мечтательно сказал арестант, - я уверен, что он резко изменился <b>бы</b> .	“If I <b>were to talk</b> to him,” the prisoner suddenly said in a reflective voice, “I am sure that he <b>would</b> change greatly.”