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Přací věty v současné mluvené britské angličtině

Optative sentences in the present-day spoken British English

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Abstract

The thesis explores the representation of various optative sentence structures in the present-day spoken British English. The theoretical part of the thesis focuses on how English optative sentences are described by different grammarians (e.g. Dušková et al., Quirk et al., Biber et al., Huddleston and Pullum). The theoretical background of the thesis concentrates primarily on optative sentence structures that are introduced by *I wish* and *If only*, on optative sentences with *may*, optative subjunctive and with the archaic structure *Would (to God) that*. Other means of expressing a wish in English like imperatives (e.g. imperatives with *let*) and verbless sentences (formulae) are included in the theoretical part as well. The analytical part of the thesis is divided into Section 1 and Section 2. Section 1 is dedicated to the quantitative analysis of the optatives structures described in the theoretical part (with the exception of imperatives and verbless sentences). Section 2 focuses on an in-depth analysis of optative sentences introduced by *I wish* and *If only*. From the *Spoken BNC2014*, 60 examples of *I wish* optatives and 40 examples of *If only* optatives were excerpted and analysed. The analysis focuses on the addressee, verbal tense and the usage of modal verbs. There is also an emphasis on the distinction between realizable and unrealizable wishes (defining the time reference) and whether a wish relates to the speaker himself/herself or to other people or actions.

keywords: English optative sentences, quantitative analysis, corpus linguistics

Abstrakt

Bakalářská práce zkoumá zastoupení různých typů přacích vět v současné mluvené britské angličtině. Teoretická část práce se zaměřuje na to, jak jsou anglické přací věty popsány různými gramatikami (např. Dušková et al., Quirk et al., Biber et al., Huddleston a Pullum). Teoretická část se soustředí především na přací věty uvozené *I wish* a *If only*, na přací věty s *may*, přacím konjunktivem a s archaickou strukturou *Would (to God) that*. Další způsoby, jak vyjádřit přání v angličtině, jako věty rozkazovací (např. imperativy s *let*) a věty neslovesné (formule), jsou taktéž zahrnuty v teoretické části. Analytická část práce je rozdělena do Sekce 1 a Sekce 2. Sekce 1 je věnována kvantitativní analýze přacích struktur, které byly popsány v teoretické části (s výjimkou imperativů a neslovesných vět). Sekce 2 se zaměřuje na detailní analýzu vět přacích uvozených *I wish* a *If only*. Z britského mluveného korpusu *Spoken BNC2014* bylo vyňato a následně zanalyzováno 60 příkladů přacích vět uvozených *I wish* a 40 příkladů přacích vět uvozených *If only*. Analýza se soustředí na použitý slovesný čas, na užitá modální slovesa a adresáta. Důraz je také kladen na rozlišení mezi uskutečnitelnými a neuskutečnitelnými přáními (určení časového odkazu) a na otázku, zda se přání vztahuje k mluvčímu či k dalším osobám nebo dějům.

klíčová slova: anglické přací věty, kvantitativní analýza, korpusová lingvistika

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CGEL = A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language

MSAPČ = Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny

NP = Noun phrase

PP = Prepositional phrase

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1 Introduction

The aim of the present thesis is to examine the representation of various optative sentence structures in the present-day spoken British English. English optative sentences are somewhat on the periphery since they are often described aside from the four basic sentence types: declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamative. In contrast to the basic sentence types, the optatives are not unified in form. However, despite being usually excluded from the four basic sentence types, the optatives are sometimes considered a subtype of exclamative sentences (since some optative structures express exclamatory wishes).

The theoretical part of the thesis mediates different approaches of various grammarians to the English optative sentences and also describes various means of conveying a wish in English. The thesis draws primarily on four major English grammars: *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2012) by Dušková et al., *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (2002) by Huddleston and Pullum, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985) by Quirk et al. and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999) by Biber et al. The theoretical part also discusses the illocutionary force. Even though the optatives are not unified in form, they have in common the illocutionary force of a wish. The section on the illocutionary force draws mainly on the book *How to Do Things with Words* by Austin.

The analytical part of the thesis is divided into two sections: Section 1 and Section 2. Section 1 provides a quantitative analysis of the optative sentences introduced by *I wish*, optative structures with *may*, the initial *If only*, optatives with subjunctive and the archaic optative structure *Would (to God) that*. Section 2 is dedicated to an in-depth analysis of *I wish* and *If only* optative structures. In the case of *I wish*, 60 examples that fitted the criteria of optative sentences were excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014*, a large collection of data of the contemporary spoken British English. In the case of *If only*, 40 examples were extracted from

the same corpus. In total, 100 examples were analysed. The analysis concentrates on the speaker and the addressee, on the usage of tense and modal verbs. Furthermore, the analysis differentiates between realizable and unrealizable wishes (focusing on the time reference) and wishes that relate to the speaker or other people or actions.

The conclusion provides a brief overview of the results. At the end of the thesis is available the appendix section which provides the complete list of the *I wish* and *If only* optative sentence structures that were excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014* and analysed in the analytical part. The appendix also contains the complete list of the optative subjunctive.

2 Theoretical background

2.1 English sentence types

As a sentence can be viewed from various aspects, it is hard to choose one precise definition of what exactly a sentence is. According to Dušková et al. (2012: 309) a sentence is a basic unit of linguistic expression and its definition varies depending on the applied point of view which can be grammatical, functional, phonological, etc.

Furthermore, sentences are classified in English according to their verb valency (clause patterns) or according to their communicative function (sentence types) (cf. Dušková et al., 2012: 309-10). There are four basic sentence types in the English grammatical system which are summarized in the table below:

SENTENCE TYPE	FORM	DISCOURSE FUNCTION
1. declarative	S precedes V	statements
2. interrogative	S-V inversion	questions
3. imperative	S is not expressed; V has the form of a bare infinitive	directives, commands
4. exclamative	introduces by what or how; S precedes V	exclamations

The table demonstrates that each sentence type has its own given regular form. Nevertheless, the English grammatical system also recognizes the fifth sentence type: optative sentences which are used for expressing a wish. Optative sentences are not usually included among the basic sentence types above because they “do not conform to the regular patterns of clause structure” (Quirk et al., 1985: 838). Since the optatives are not a unified group, each grammarian takes a different approach to them. Grammarians often describe the optative sentences aside from the four basic sentence types. However, there are also grammarians who consider the optative sentences a subtype of exclamative sentences (Dušková et al., 2012: 335).

2.2 Various approaches to the English optative sentences

The study of four different grammars of the English language has shown that approach to the English optative sentences differs. In Dušková et al.'s *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny (MSAPČ henceforth)* (2012: 335), optative sentences are analysed next to the four basic sentence types. More precisely, they are classed as a subtype of the exclamative sentences. In contrast to the exclamatives, the optative sentences do not have one specific structure but they are formed in several distinct ways (Dušková et al., 2012, 335). Grosz (2012: 2) also claims that “optative utterances are a variant of exclamative utterances”.

However, since the optative sentences are peripheral, they are usually strictly separated or not mentioned at all. For, instance, Quirk et al. (1985: 838) classify the optatives as “irregular sentences” because they lack a specific form. In Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 944), the optative sentences are placed into the category of “minor clauses”. Biber et al. as well include some information about the optative sentences in *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*; however, the optative sentences are not placed in one group as in the grammars mentioned above. In Biber et al., there are rather several references throughout the whole work, mainly to the verb *wish* and also to the optative sentences with *may*.

2.3 Illocutionary force

English optative sentences do not have one specific structure but what they share is the illocutionary force. More precisely, they have in common the illocutionary force of a wish. The illocutionary force is, according to Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 858), a pragmatic term for “the way the speaker is using the clause when uttering it in a particular context”. J. L. Austin (1962: 102-3) claims that there are “three kinds of [speech] acts—the locutionary, the illocutionary, and the perlocutionary”. Austin (1962: 108) defines the locutionary act as “roughly equivalent to uttering a certain sentence with a certain sense and reference, which again is roughly equivalent to ‘meaning’ in the traditional sense”. The locution is the act of

“saying something” (Austin, 1962: 94). While performing the locutionary act, an illocutionary act is also performed because it is a “consequence of the locutionary act” (Austin, 1962: 113). The illocutionary act, according to Austin (1962: 105), is a “conventional act: an act done as conforming to a convention”. Thus, illocutionary acts such as “informing, ordering, warning, undertaking, &c., [...] have a certain (conventional) force” (Austin, 1962: 108). Austin (1962: 118) states that “there cannot be an illocutionary act unless the means employed are conventional”. However, it is “difficult to say where conventions begin and end” (Austin, 1962: 118). The perlocutionary acts are, according to Austin (1962: 108), “what we bring about or achieve by saying something, e.g. *convincing, persuading, deterring, [...] surprising or misleading*”. The difference between illocution and perlocution is that perlocutionary acts are not conventional (Austin, 1962: 120). Still, to make a precise division between illocution and perlocution seems, according to Austin (1962: 109), to “give trouble” the most.

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 858) state that “statement, directive, and question are very general categories of illocutionary force”. Nevertheless, there exist “innumerable more specific illocutionary categories”, e.g. *a command, a request, an instruction, a promise* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 858-9). A more specific case of illocution is also a wish. Austin (1962: 130) claims that “illocutionary acts seem to be pretty close to explicit performative verbs”. Thus, one can say, e.g. *I wish he hadn't told them.* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1003) as an explicit performative; but wishing is the illocutionary act (Austin, 1962: 130). Austin (1962: 150) distinguishes five classes of utterances according to their illocutionary force: verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives and expositives. Austin (1962: 159) place the verb *wish* among the behabitives. According to Austin (1962: 159), behabitives “include the notion of reaction to other people’s behaviour and fortunes and of attitudes and expressions of attitudes to someone else’s past conduct or imminent conduct”. Behabitives are quite a “miscellaneous group” of verbs which “ha[s] to do with attitudes and social behaviour” (Austin,

1962: 151), e.g. *apologies, thanks, sympathies, greetings, wishes, and challenges* (Austin, 1962: 159).

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 859) state that a sentence can have two forces, a primary and a secondary force. Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 859) demonstrate their hypothesis on, e.g. *I promised to return the key tomorrow. Promise* “belongs to the class of illocutionary verbs, [...] and is used performatively” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 859). However, the sentence *I promised to return the key tomorrow.* is “both a statement and a promise, though the promise is [...] more important, more salient than the statement” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 859). Therefore, the primary force of the sentence is the promise and the secondary force is the statement (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 859).

The optative sentence, e.g. *I wish he hadn't told them.* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1003), operates in the same way as the previous example with *promise*. The verb *wish*, as it was mentioned previously, is illocutionary and used performatively. Thus, the primary force of the sentence is the wish and the secondary force is the statement. Nevertheless, not all English optative constructions employ the explicitly performative verb *wish*. To detect the illocutionary force of a wish or other optative constructions, the primary focus must be on the convention, the context and, as Austin (1962: 100) claims, “the occasion of an utterance”.

2.4 Expressing a wish in English

Generally, five types of optative sentences can be distinguished in the English language. The first type contains the verb *wish*, e.g. *I wish I knew what he really thinks!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The second type is characterized by the initial *If only*, e.g. *If only one could see into the future!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The third type employs the construction with *may*, e.g. *May all your troubles be quickly resolved!* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944). The form of the fourth type includes subjunctive, e.g. *Heaven forbid!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The fifth type is a very archaic structure with *would*, e.g. *Would (to God) that I'd never heard of him!*

(Quirk, 1985: 839). The following sections provide more detailed description of all five types of English optative sentences:

2.4.1 *I wish*

According to Dušková et al. (2012: 335), the most frequent optative sentence structure is the verb *wish* followed by a dependent content clause. The content clause complements are in the function of direct object as can be demonstrated by the following example, e.g. *I wish I knew what he really thinks.*, which was also taken from *MSAPČ* by Dušková et al. (2012: 335).

Biber et al. (1999: 663) place *wish* among the “relatively common verbs (more than 20 per million words)” which control *that*-complement clauses. Biber et al. (1999: 661) add that “verbs that take a *that*-clause complement clause in post-predicate position” can be divided into three groups: mental verbs (e.g. *think, hope*), speech act verbs (e.g. *say, tell*) and other communication verbs (e.g. *show, prove*). According to Biber et al. (1999: 661), *wish* belongs to the group of mental verbs, having an “emotive/affective content”.

Nevertheless, the grammatical behaviour of *wish* differentiates it from the verbs of the same group, even from the verbs that have as well the tendency to “attach the *that*-complement asyndetically” (Martinková, 2011: 3). Unlike the finite clauses following the other verbs of the same group, the finite clauses after *wish* cannot be the focus of the pseudo-cleft structures, they cannot be passivized or extraposed (Martinková, 2011: 3). Biber et al. (1999: 481) place *wish* into the group of verbs that are “uncommon in the passive” and they “occur in the passive voice less than 2% of the time”.

Negation is also different with *wish*. Quirk et al. (1985: 1034) point out that “*wish* allows transferred negation in infinitive clauses, but not in finite clauses”, e.g. *I don't wish to be rude.* (Quirk et al. (1985: 1034). If *wish* is preceded by a negated modal or auxiliary verb, it is never followed by a finite clause, but by a noun phrase (NP henceforth), prepositional phrase (PP

henceforth) or quite frequently by a *to*-infinitive, e.g. *You are a walking germ-factory!, I don't wish to see any more of you today!*¹ (Martinková, 2011: 4).

However, not only in the case of negation is the verb *wish* followed by *to*-infinitive. *Wish* belongs to the group of verbs that “mark various kinds of desire” (Biber et al., 1999: 706). These verbs represent an “attitudinal stance towards the envisioned action contained in the *to*-clause” (Biber et al., 1999: 706). Biber et al. (1999: 706) divide these verbs of desire into two groups: the first group represent a positive stance (e.g. *wish, hope, like, love*) and the second group represent a negative stance (e.g. *dread, hate*). As described in the previous sections, the verb *wish* is among the verbs that control *that*-clauses and *to*-clause but Biber et al. (1999: 755) add that *wish* never controls *ing*-clauses. The following table summarizes all types of complement clauses that *wish* can and cannot control:

<i>wish</i> + <i>that</i> -clause	<i>I wish (that) I knew what he really thinks!</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)
<i>wish</i> + <i>to</i> -clause	<i>I wish to make a complaint.</i> (Cambridge dictionary online ²)
<i>wish</i> + NP + <i>to</i> -clause	<i>I wish her to visit me more often.</i> (Quirk et al., 1985: 1012)
* <i>wish</i> + <i>ing</i> -clause	

The *wish*-clauses can be also reduced in form (Martinková, 2011: 6). The subject of the *wish*-phrase can be elided if the subject is the personal pronoun *I*, e.g. *Wish you boys would make your minds up!* (Martinková, 2011: 4).

Since the verb *wish* displays all the differences that were listed in the previous paragraph, Martinková’s InterCorp-based study (2011:6) challenges “the main clause status of

¹ Examples taken from Martinková’s Corpus-based study (2011) were originally taken by Martinková from *The British National Corpus*, version 3 (BNC XML Edition), 2007.

² Cambridge dictionary online accessed via dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wish.

the phrases with *wish*, as well as the dependent clause status of what follows *wish*". Martinková claims that the *wish*-phrases have a "modal character" (2011: 16) which means that the *wish*-phrases "contribute to the sentence modality" (2011: 6).

The optative sentences with *wish* express realizable or unrealizable wishes, depending mainly on the time reference. Realizable wishes have the present or the future time reference. Wishes that refer to the present moment are expressed by using the preterite or the subjunctive of the verb *be*, e.g. *I wish I knew what he really thinks!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). Wishes that refer to the future are expressed by using the structure *would* + infinitive, e.g. *I wish you wouldn't talk like that.* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). Dušková et al. (2012: 335) add that *could* can suggest both the present and the future time reference, e.g. *I wish I had a job at which I could earn a decent wage.* Wishes that refer back to the past are unrealizable and expressed by using the past perfect, e.g. *I wish he hadn't told them.* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1003). The optative sentences with *wish* regarding the time reference are summarized in the following table:

REALIZABLE WISH		
1. the present time reference	preterite/subjunctive of the verb <i>be</i>	<i>I wish I knew what he really thinks!</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)
2. the future time reference	<i>would</i> + infinitive	<i>I wish you wouldn't talk like that.</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)
3. the present and the future time reference	<i>could</i>	<i>I wish I had a job at which I could earn a decent wage.</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)
UNREALIZABLE WISH		
4. the past time reference	past perfect	<i>I wish he hadn't told them.</i> (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1003)

2.4.2 *If only*

According to Quirk et al. (1985: 842), “clauses beginning *If only* [...] express an exclamatory wish”. The following example, e.g. *If only I’d listened to my parents!*, illustrates that the optative clause contains the particle *only* (Quirk et al., 1985: 842). However, Grosz (2012: 1) claims that “optatives vary in terms of the prototypical particles that they contain”. Instead of using the particle *only*, the clause can contain the particle *just* or *but*. The following table illustrates all possible particles used in the optative clause with the initial *If*:

(1) <i>only</i>	<i>If I’d only listened to my parents!</i> (Quirk et al., 1985: 842)
(2) <i>just</i>	<i>If I could just make them understand my point of view!</i> (Quirk et al., 1985: 842)
(3) <i>but</i>	<i>If I could but explain!</i> (Quirk et al., 1985: 842)

The table demonstrates that both the particles *just* and *but* stands before the main verb whereas the particle *only* is usually situated between the initial *If* and the subject. However, the construction where the particle *only* stands before the main verb, e.g. *If I’d only listened to my parents!*, is according to *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language (CGEL* henceforth) also possible (Quirk et al., 1985: 842). Nevertheless, according to Grosz (2012: 1), “the apparent obligatoriness of particles” which were mentioned in the table above is not that straightforward. Grosz (2012: 5) rejects the hypothesis that “*if only* is a lexicalized (idiomatic) expression” and he also argues against a “special status of *only* as an optativity marker”. In contrast, Grosz (2012: 5) is rather “in favour of a set of meanings that correlate with optativity, including the meanings of *only*, *at least* and *but*”. According to Grosz (2012: 1-2), particle-free variants, e.g. *If I’d listened to my parents!* and *If I could make them understand my point of view!*, seem to be “incomplete conditionals” instead of “not well-formed optatives” which is the intuition shared among the English speakers.

Thus, Grosz's proposed answer is radically different from the prior approaches to optativity³. Grosz (2012: 2) refuses the opinion that optativity arises compositionally from the standard meaning of *if*-clauses and the standard meaning of particles". Grosz (2012: 2) rather claims that "optativity is inherently independent from the presence of such particles". It is rather the "semantics of the particles [that] conspires with the semantics of an optative utterance, giving rise to the connection that we observe" (Grosz, 2012: 2), giving rise to the "quasi-obligatoriness of such particles" (Grosz, 2012: 4). Thus, "optativity does not compositionally arise from the presence of the particles *only*, *just* or *but*" (Grosz, 2012: 3). The quasi-obligatoriness of those particles is "due to the following the semantic conspiracy" (Grosz, 2012: 3).

As is the case with the verb *wish*, the optative construction with *If only* can also express realizable and unrealizable wishes. Realizable wishes have the present or the future time reference. Wishes that refer to the present moment are expressed by using the preterite or the subjunctive of the verb *be*, e.g. *If only I were / was younger!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). Wishes that refer to the future are expressed by using the structure *would* + infinitive, e.g. *If only you would help me next week, I would not be so nervous.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 1092). Wishes that refer back to the past are unrealizable and expressed by using the past perfect, e.g. *If only I had listened to my parents!* (Quirk et al., 1985: 1011). Quirk et al. (1985: 1011) claim that the time used in the preceding example is the "hypothetical past perfective". From the example *If only I had listened to my parents!*, a "negative inference can be drawn, which is more strongly negative with the hypothetical past perfective" (Quirk et al., 1985: 1011). Hence, *If only I had listened to my parents!* indicates 'I had not listened to my parents' (Quirk et al., 1985: 1011). The optative *if*-clauses regarding the time reference are summarized in the following table:

³ Grosz (2012) consults projects on English *If only* optatives that were pursued in the past by Rifkin (2000), Asarina & Shklovsky (2008) and Biezma (2011ab).

	REALIZABLE WISH	
(1) the present time reference	preterite/subjunctive of the verb <i>be</i>	<i>If only I were / was younger!</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)
(2) the future time reference	<i>would</i> + infinitive	<i>If only you would help me next week, I would not be so nervous.</i> (Quirk et al., 1985: 1092)
	UNREALIZABLE WISH	
(3) the past time reference	past perfect	<i>If only he had listened to you!</i> (Dušková et al., 2012: 335)

The optative *if*-clause has the same structure as a conditional clause (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). In contrast to the conditional sentence, the *if*-optative clause does not contain a main clause and has a falling intonation (Dušková et al., 2012: 335).

2.4.3 *May*

The construction with *may* + *subject* + *predication* is also used for conveying wishes, usually blessings, in English (Quirk et al., 1985: 839). Biber et al. (1999:918) point out that *may* is “used [...] to express a strong wish”. Although this structure is less archaic and not tied to a few fixed expressions as the optative subjunctive, *may* belongs to “somewhat formal style” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944). *May* stands in the pre-subject position (the structure employs subject-verb inversion), its meaning being close to “I hope/pray”, e.g. *May all your troubles be quickly resolved!* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944). There exist also cases when *may* is preceded by an adverb which then stands in the initial position, e.g. *Long may she reign over us!* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944).

According to Dušková (1999: 72), *may* behaves in the optative sentences similarly to the optative subjunctive as in *Long live the Queen!* (cf. 2.3.4); *may* functions as an “auxiliary device of mood (the optative) rather than as a modal verb” (Dušková, 1999: 72). Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 184) point out that the optative *may* “fall[s] at the periphery of deontic modality”.

The optative sentences with *may* have also the same syntactic structure as the interrogative sentences; more precisely, as a “polar question with a modal” (Dušková, 1999: 72-3). The optative sentences with *may* are distinguished from the polar questions with a modal by having the falling intonation (and having the exclamation mark at the end instead of the question mark typical of questions) (Dušková, 1999: 73).

2.4.4 Subjunctive

According to Quirk et al. (1985:838-9), subjunctive in the main clause as it is used in the following examples of the optative sentences: *Long live the Republic!* or *Heaven help us!* is not a productive pattern in the regular sentence structure. Hence, the sentences with the optative subjunctive used for expressing a wish are marked as “irregular” because they are very limited and the optative subjunctive “survives [only] in a few expressions of a fairly fixed type” (Quirk et al., 1985: 839). As it is apparent from the examples of the optative subjunctive above, two types of structure can be distinguished. The first example *Long live the Republic!* demonstrates that the subjunctive is used with subject-verb inversion, the initial position being occupied by an adverb. In the second example *Heaven help us!*, there is neither inversion nor the initial adverb.

Dušková (1991: 72) admits that subjunctive is a “peripheral mood within the mood system of the English verb”. In the present-day English, subjunctive is more commonly used in “subordinate clauses after verbs and adjectives of certain semantic classes” (Dušková, 1991: 72)⁴.

⁴ Mandative subjunctive in the subordinate clauses is more typical of the American English, the British English more frequently employs the “putative *should*” (cf. AmE *I insist that he be present.* vs. BrE *I insist that he should be present.*) (Dušková, 1991: 72).

2.4.5 *Would (to God) that*

The optative construction *Would (to God)* followed by *that*-clause is archaic. This formula consists of *would* as “predicator with a finite clause complement” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944); the PP *to God* is added as another optional complement (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944). As it can be seen in the following example, e.g. *Would (to God) that I'd never heard of him!* (Quirk et al., 1985: 839), the main clause lacks a subject which is according to Dušková (1999: 73) “stylistically inappropriate” as it reminds of colloquial speech. On the other hand, this stylistically inappropriate form justifies Quirk et al.'s (1985: 838-9) classification of the optatives as “irregular” as *Would to God that* among them is very atypical of the standard English sentence structures. The subordinate *that*-clause following *would* is a modal preterite which has the same meaning as in the more common optative structure with *wish* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944).

2.4.6 Other means of expressing a wish

Other means that have the illocutionary force of a wish are some types of imperative constructions such as good wishes, e.g. *Enjoy your meal.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 831), and imperative construction with the periphrastic *let*, e.g. *Let the world take notice.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 148). The optative meaning have also some types of verbless sentences like the optative fixed phrases of social intercourse, e.g. *Good morning (afternoon, evening), Merry Christmas!, Shame on you!* (Dušková et al., 2012: 380) and verbless clauses consisting of *Oh for*, e.g. *Oh for a drink!* (Quirk et al., 1985: 842). All these constructions mentioned in this paragraph are usually employed in a spoken discourse.

2.4.6.1 Imperative

According to Quirk et al. (1985: 831), “imperative sentences are used for a wide range of illocutionary acts”. However, Quirk et al. (1985: 831) also claim that “it is not [...] always possible to make precise distinctions” since the illocutionary force depends on “the relative

authority of speaker and hearer and on the relative benefits of the action to each”. The illocutionary force, as Quirk et al. (1985: 831) also mention, “depends in most cases on the situational context”. *CGEL* lists a number of imperative sentences that illustrate different illocutionary acts: order/command, prohibition, request, plea, advice/recommendation, warning, suggestion, instruction, invitation, offer, granting permission, good wishes, imprecation, incredulous rejection, self-deliberation (Quirk et al., 1985: 831-832).

Relevant for this thesis are good wishes, imperative sentences with the illocutionary force of a wish, e.g. *Enjoy your meal.* and *Have a good time.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 831). The preceding examples demonstrate the usage of a typical English imperative form (second-person imperative with subject omission). However, in contrast to more typical imperative clauses with the same form, the imperative examples above are not intended to make somebody to do something which is what a true imperative would do. The aim is to express a wish. According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 933), imperative constructions, e.g. *Sleep well., Get well soon., Have a good week-end., Enjoy your holiday.,* are “normally interpreted as wishes”. Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 933) also claim that these imperatives used as indirect wishes are “highly conventionalized” and “limited to a very narrow range of situations”.

2.4.6.2 Imperative constructions with *let*

Optative sentences can sometimes also occur in the form of an imperative with the periphrastic *let*. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 147), *let* behaves in a similar way to the optative *may* (cf. 2.3.3). Both *may* and *let* tend to “develop into pragmatic particles”. In the example *May you be happy!*, *may* stands in the initial position and “marks [the sentence] as an expression of wish” (Quirk et al., 1985: 148). Similarly, *let* in constructions like *Let them come here.* or *Let the world take notice.* can be “regarded as a pragmatic particle of imperative or optative mood” (Quirk et al., 1985: 148).

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 925) claim that *let* in open *let*-imperatives, e.g. *If that is what the premier intends, let him say so.*, semantically resembles the specialized optative use of *may*, e.g. *Long may she reign over us!* (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 944). However, on the syntactic level *may* and *let* differ as the “NP following *may* is clearly subject” (witness the nominative form *she* in *Long may she reign over us!*) (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944). In contrast to *may*, NP that follows *let* is not subject but object.

2.4.6.3 Verbless sentences (or formulae)

Quirk et al., (1985: 849) classify verbless sentences as “nonsentences” because they are “usually but not exclusively noun phrases” that lack a predicate. Quirk et al. (1985: 849) claim that nonsentences “occur frequently in speech, mostly in informal conversation”. In *CGEL*, verbless sentences are also termed formulae (Quirk et al., 1985: 852). According to Quirk et al. (1985: 852), “most formulae used for stereotyped communication situations are grammatically irregular”. Formulae can be “only in a very limited way [...] analysed into clause elements (Quirk et al., 1985: 852).

Dušková et al. also list a variety of nonsentence types. However, the most relevant type to this thesis is the optative type which includes fixed phrases of social intercourse like greetings (e.g. *Good morning (afternoon, evening)*), best wishes, (e.g. *Merry Christmas!*, *Happy New Year!*, *Happy Birthday!*, *Pleasant journey!*, *Good luck!*, *Your health!* (archaic), *Cheers!*, *Ladies first!*) and also negative wishes (e.g. *Shame on you!*) (Dušková et al., 2012: 380). Quirk et al. (1985: 852) call nonsentences used for formulating a negative wish as an “expressions of anger or dismissal”, e.g. *Get lost!*, *Damn you!*, *Go to hell!*. In the example *Damn you!*, the speaker wishes something unpleasant to someone. In the case of *Get lost!* and *Go to Hell!*, the speaker vents his or her frustration and wishes someone to leave.

Quirk et al. (1985: 842) also claim that “verbless clauses consisting of *Oh for* followed by a noun phrase [...] express an exclamatory wish”, e.g. *Oh for a drink!*, *Oh for another*

glimpse of her!. Nevertheless, these *Oh for* verbless clauses are seldom used. They are, as Dušková et al. (2012: 381) claim, archaic.

3 Material and Method

The empirical part of the thesis is divided into two sections. The first section (Section 1) focuses on the frequency of occurrence of optatives in the *Spoken BNC2014*, a large collection of data of contemporary spoken British English⁵. However, not all types of optatives as listed in the theoretical background could be included into the quantitative analysis. Optative sentences employing *I wish, may*, the initial *If only* and the optative subjunctive were found in the corpus and analysed. However, the optative construction *Would (to God) that* could not be included into the quantitative analysis since there was no match found in the *Spoken BNC2014*. The construction *Would (to God) that*, as described in the theoretical background (cf. 2.4.5), is very archaic and atypical of the standard English sentence structures which is most likely the reason for no match in the corpus of the present-day spoken British English.

Other means of expressing a wish like imperatives used for formulating good wishes (cf. 2.4.6.1), imperative constructions with the periphrastic *let* (cf. 2.4.6.2) or verbless sentences (cf. 2.4.6.3) are not included into the analytical part, since the *Spoken BNC2014* offers an extensive amount of data regarding those other constructions with the illocutionary force of a wish. Unfortunately, the space in the bachelor thesis is limited. Thus, the analytical part focuses solely on the prototypical optatives structures.

The second section (Section 2) is dedicated to an in-depth analysis of *I wish* and *If only* optative structures. In the case of *I wish*, the *Spoken BNC2014* provided 456 matches. The in-depth analysis considered the first 60 *I wish* examples that were randomized by the corpus. In the case of *If only*, the *Spoken BNC2014* provided 44 matches. However, 4 *If only* matches were excluded for their unclear reference. Thus, 40 *If only* examples were considered during the analysis. In total, 100 examples were analysed.

⁵ The *Spoken BNC2014* was accessed via <https://cqweb.lancs.ac.uk/>.

The analysis concentrates on the speaker and the addressee, on the usage of tense and modal verbs. Furthermore, the analysis differentiates between realizable and unrealizable wishes (focusing on the time reference) and wishes that relate to the speaker or other people or actions. The analysis is also concerned with the question whether the present-day English speakers use the *I wish* (cf. 2.4.1) and *If only* (cf. 2.4.2) optatives in the forms as described by the grammars or whether there are some deviations from the grammar rules.

4 Analysis

The analytical part of the thesis is divided into Section 1 and Section 2. Section 1 is dedicated to quantitative analysis of the optative sentences introduced by *I wish*, optative structures with *may*, the initial *If only*, optatives with subjunctive and the archaic optative structure *Would (to God) that*. Section 2 is dedicated to a closer examination of two selected optative structures: constructions with *I wish* and *If only*. In the case of *I wish*, 60 examples that fitted the criteria of optative sentences were excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014*. In the case of *If only*, 40 examples were extracted from the same corpus. *I wish* has more examples analysed since the optative constructions with *I wish* occurs more frequently in the *Spoken BNC2014* than the optatives with *If only*.

4.1 Section 1: the frequency of optatives in the *Spoken BNC2014*

As it was previously mentioned, some optative constructions are used more frequently than the others. Generally, the selection of a certain form of an optative depends on various factors. Primarily, the selection rests on the mode and style of communication, i.e. whether the communication is written or spoken and whether it is formal or informal. Since all the examples are provided via the *Spoken BNC2014*, the sole focus is on the spoken communication.

4.1.1 Optative sentences introduced by *I wish* and *If only*

The optative sentences introduced by *I wish* are by far the most frequent optative structure in the *Spoken BNC2014* since the corpus provided 456 matches of *I wish* optatives. According to Dušková et al. (2012: 335), optatives with the initial *If only* also quite commonly occur in the present-day spoken English. Nevertheless, the quantitative analysis manifests that *If only* is not as common as optatives with *I wish*. In comparison to the number of matches of *I wish* optative sentences found in the *Spoken BNC2014*, optatives with the initial *If only* fall rather behind. The corpus found only 44 matches and from those matches 4 examples were

excluded for their lack of clarity. The excluded examples were incomplete and no further analysis was thus possible which is illustrated by the following examples:

- (1) IO5 S0675: *yeah if only I had a W S0675: maybe UNCLEARWORD*
*well I've got havy*⁶
- (2) IO19 *like Christmas the fifteenth again S0330: it's like S0331: oh*
my god if only S0330: oh man S0326: we should watch a movie
S0331: yeah

The first example is unclear since it does not specify what the speaker wishes to have. Unfortunately, the response of the second speaker does not help either. The only part that can be argued to offer some information is the verb *have* that follows *if only* and the subject *I*. The verb *have* is in the past simple form *had* so it can be assumed that the speaker's wish is a realizable one as it has either the present or the future time reference. The subject *I* that follows *if only* suggests that the wish is probably related to the speaker himself/herself, not other people or actions.

The second example lacks clarity as well since after *if only* is nothing that would provide the time reference, addressee, etc. Either the speaker was unable to finish the utterance, he or she was interrupted by someone else, or the *if only* segment is a sort of exclamation where further elaboration was never intended. It may be an ellipsis; the speaker reacts to the previous *like Christmas the fifteenth again* speech segment. Thus, the *oh my god if only* segment is an ellipsis of *if only it was/were like Christmas the fifteenth again*. However, this is only a speculation. Therefore, this example was not considered during the detailed analysis of *If only* optatives.

The table 1 below manifests the frequency of occurrence of the English optative structures that employ *I wish*, *may*, the initial *If only* and the optative subjunctive. The frequency

⁶ IO stands for *If only*. The number of the example corresponds with the number in the Appendix section.

of occurrence of the optative *may* and the optative subjunctive is further elaborated in this section underneath the table 1. An in-depth analysis of *I wish* and *If only* optatives is provided by the Section 2 below.

Table 1: Frequency of the optatives found in the *Spoken BNC2014*

Frequency of the optatives found in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>	No.	%
optatives with <i>I wish</i>	456	83,40 %
optatives with <i>If only</i>	44	8,00 %
optatives with <i>may</i>	7	1,30 %
optatives with subjunctive	40	7,30 %
Total	547	100 %

4.1.2 Optative sentences with *may*

The search for the optative constructions with *may* was rather difficult. To enter a simple query “may” in the *Spoken BNC2014* was not efficient since the corpus produced a large number of 1,747 matches including also interrogative sentences with *may* and the nouns denoting the month of *May*. Therefore, another enquiry “[word="[Mm]ay" & class="VERB"]” was formed and entered into the *Spoken BNC2014* to at least eliminate the nouns. This query also did not help since the corpus again produced a large number of results. This time, 1,365 matches were found where interrogative sentences with *may* were considerably predominant. Finally, the query “[word="may"%cd & pos="V.+"][pos="A.+|D.+|M.+|N.+|P.+" & pos!="V.+"] within u” helped to reduce the amount of matches. Even though, the query “[word="may"%cd & pos="V.+"][pos="A.+|D.+|M.+|N.+|P.+" & pos!="V.+"] within u” includes interrogative sentences with *may* and nouns denoting the month of *May*, the optatives *may* constructions could be found more easily since there were only 132 matches available. Nevertheless, the *Spoken BNC2014* manifests that the optative *may* constructions are not very common in the contemporary spoken British English as only 7 examples were found.

4.1.3 Optative sentences with subjunctive

The optative sentences with subjunctive are not tied together by one reoccurring phrase or word as it is the case with the previous optative structures where optatives always have *I wish, may* or *If only*. Optatives with subjunctive employs rather “a few expressions of a fairly fixed type” (Quirk et al. 1985: 839). Thus, there is a wider range of fixed expressions that have to be considered while searching in the corpus. Prior to the search in the *Spoken BNC2014*, a list of examples of optative subjunctives had been assembled. The following list of examples was taken from English grammars and textbooks (the reference to each optative subjunctive is included in the second column of the table below). The table is divided into two parts. The first part lists examples of the optative subjunctive combined with subject-verb inversion, the second part lists examples of the optative subjunctive without subject-verb inversion:

<u>Optative subjunctive combined with subject-verb inversion:</u>	
Long live the Republic!	Quirk et al., 1985: 839
Far be it from me to complain.	Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944
So be it.	Quirk et al., 1985: 839
So help me God.	Quirk et al., 1985: 839
Suffice it to say we lost.	Quirk et al., 1985: 839
<u>Optative subjunctive without subject-verb inversion:</u>	
Heaven forbid!	Dušková et al., 2012: 335
Lord have mercy on my soul.	<i>Syntax současné angličtiny</i> , 2016: 50
Heaven help us!	Quirk et al., 1985: 839)
God help you if you're not ready on time!	Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944
God save the Queen!	Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 944
God bless you!	Quirk et al., 1985: 839) (Dušková, 1991: 72
God forgive us all our sins.	<i>Morfologie současné angličtiny</i> , 2012: 59
God rest his soul.	<i>Syntax současné angličtiny</i> , 2016: 50
God's will be done!	<i>Morfologie současné angličtiny</i> , 2012: 60
The devil take you!	Quirk et al., 1985: 839
As you know, we have a commitment... - Commitment be hanged!	<i>Morfologie současné angličtiny</i> , 2012:60
Holiday be blowed!	<i>Syntax současné angličtiny</i> , 2016: 50

The list demonstrates that English language has various optative subjunctives that are used at different occasions. Thus, the search in the *Spoken BNC2014* was not that simple. When it came to the optative subjunctive, it was clear that it is impossible to gather all evidence of optative subjunctives which can occur in the contemporary spoken British English. Therefore, the purpose here was different. Since the optative subjunctive is rather peripheral and archaic, the question was whether there is at least some occurrence of the optative subjunctive in the *Spoken BNC2014*. Surprisingly, the present-day British speakers do sometimes use the optative subjunctive. In total, the corpus research revealed 40 examples of the optative subjunctive.

However, the search for the optative subjunctive was a little bit different than with the rest of the optatives. As it is shown in the previous list of optative subjunctives, the whole part that is highlighted in bold must be entered into the corpus in order to get a match (e.g. while researching *If only* optatives, only one inquiry “if only” was needed; however, for each optative subjunctive was needed a different inquiry, e.g. “long live” or “God bless”). The following table 2 illustrates optative subjunctives found in the *Spoken BNC2014* and their frequency of occurrence:

Table 2: Optative subjunctives found in the *Spoken BNC2014*

Optative subjunctives found in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>		
<u>Optative subjunctives with subject-verb inversion:</u>	No.	%
Long live...	1	2,50 %
So be it.	7	17,50 %
<u>Optative subjunctives without subject-verb inversion:</u>	No.	%
God rest...	2	5,00 %
God bless...	9	22,50 %
God help...	6	15,00 %
...have mercy...	4	10,00 %
... forbid...	11	27,50 %
Total	40	100 %

The table demonstrates that the optative subjunctive without subject-verb inversion is used more frequently than the optative subjunctive with subject-verb inversion:

- (3) OS8⁷ *long live our noble queen* (subject-verb inversion)
- (4) OS11 *heaven forbid you do something that's crazy* (no subject-verb inversion)
- (5) OS35 *god bless him he's not very well* (no subject-verb inversion)

Moreover, the optative subjunctives with *God* as the subject are used the most. The subject *God* was also the most recurrent in the case of the optative subjunctive with the verb *forbid* (8 out of 11 examples used *God*). Altogether, the subject *God* was repeated in 25 instances:

- (6) OS37 *oh god bless him he looks so old*
- (7) OS30 *god bless America*

4.2 Section 2: detailed analysis of the optative structures with *If only* and *I wish*

This part of the thesis is dedicated to an in-depth analysis of optative structures with *I wish* and *If only*. The analysis concentrates on the speaker and the addressee, on the usage of tense and modal verbs. Furthermore, the analysis differentiates between realizable and unrealizable wishes (focusing on the time reference) and wishes that relate to the speaker or other people or actions. The analysis is also concerned with the question whether the present-day British English speakers use *I wish* (cf. 2.4.1) and *If only* (cf. 2.4.2) optatives in the forms as described by the grammars or whether there are some deviations from the grammar rules.

4.2.1 *If only* optatives

According to the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only* sentences are the second most frequent optative structure in the present-day spoken English. However, compared to the optative sentences introduced by *I wish* with 456 examples found in the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only*

⁷ OS stands for the optative subjunctive. The number of the example corresponds with the number in the Appendix section.

sentences manifest much smaller number of examples. Only 44 *If only* optative structures were found in the corpus. Nevertheless, even with a smaller representation, *If only* prevail over of the optative *may* with only 7 examples and *Would (to God) that* with no examples in the *Spoken BNC2014*.

4.2.1.1 *If only* according to verbal tense and the usage of modal verbs

The following table 3 demonstrates the use of tense and modal verbs in optative sentences with *If only*:

Table 3: Optatives with the initial *If only* according to the used tense and modal verbs in the *Spoken BNC2014*

Optatives with the initial <i>If only</i> according to the used tense and modal verbs in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>	No.	%
modal verbs (<i>could, would</i>)	9	22, 50 %
preterite	22	55, 00 %
past perfect	7	17, 50 %
*present	2	5, 00 %
Total	40	100 %

In English, optative *If only* can be followed by preterite, perfect or by a modal like *would* or *could* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The table above shows that the predominant tense used after *If only* in the *Spoken BNC2014* is the preterite with 22 examples. Modal verbs are used after *If only* 9 times (*could* 6 instances and *would* 3 instances). Past perfect is used 7 times. While using the proper grammar, the optative *If only* cannot be followed by the present tense. However, not all the time the speakers of the English language use the proper grammar so a mistake like this may occur. In the *Spoken BNC2014* this mistake occurred in 2 instances. The improper use of the present tense after *If only* is illustrated by the following examples excerpted from the corpus:

- (8) IO12 *yeah well I mean will Algiers come out again? if only Algiers is here*

- (9) IO42 *they'll be home five six o'clock (.) if only they don't keep ANONnameM over there with them*

4.2.1.1.1 *If only* and modal verbs

Optative sentences introduced by *If only* can be followed by a modal verb (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only* is followed by a modal verb in 9 instances. The most common modal after *If only* is *could* that repeats 6 times.

In English, modal verbs are followed by the infinitive (Dušková et al., 2012: 181). In the *Spoken BNC2014*, the modal verb *could* is followed predominantly by the present infinitive (5 instances):

- (10) IO1 *if only she could get paid to do that*
(11) IO8 *if only you could just go and just play sport all the time*

These *If only* wishes listed above where the modal *could* is followed by the present infinitive are realizable. They have the present or the future time reference. However, the *Spoken BNC2014* also provides one example where the modal *could* is followed by the perfect infinitive. This wish manifests the past time reference and is thus unrealizable:

- (12) IO20 *what I think that Jane Austen was saying Mr Darcy
fucking hell if only she could have said that*

The majority of *If only* optatives with a modal are in the active voice (8 instances) which means that the subject is the agent, the doer of the action. However, one example (10) demonstrates the usage of the passive where the subject is affected by the action. It is the so called *get*-passive that is according to Dušková et al. (2012: 250) more typical of the spoken language. The following table 4 summarizes the occurrence of the optative sentence structures *If only* + the modal verb *could* + infinitive found in the *Spoken BNC2014*:

Table 4: *If only* + the modal verb *could* + infinitive in the *Spoken BNC2014*

<i>If only</i> + the modal verb <i>could</i> + infinitive in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>		No.
present infinitive ↓ realizable wishes	active voice	4
	passive voice	1
perfect infinitive ↓ unrealizable wish	active voice	1
Total		6

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only* is also followed by the modal verb *would*. In contrast to the modal *could*, *would* is less frequent. *Would* follows *If only* in 3 instances:

- (13) IO16 ... *yeah if only they'd have taught them about W H movement and Noel subjects*
- (14) IO30 *if only you'd get on your bike and go*
- (15) IO35 S0603: *if only somebody would mend the door S0493: I'll mend it for you mum*

As the examples above manifest, the modal verb *would* is also followed by the infinitive. The examples (14, 15) illustrate the usage of the present infinitive. These wishes are realizable, having the present or the future time reference. The example (13) demonstrates the usage of the perfect infinitive. Hence, this wish is unrealizable, having the past time reference.

All examples with the modal *would* are in the active voice. In two cases (examples 13, 14), *would* has a contracted form 'd. In example (15), *would* is used in its full form. Contractions are common in the spoken English since they save time and the speech flows faster. However, the use of contracted forms is deemed rather informal. The following table 5 summarizes the optative sentence structures *If only* + the modal verb *would* + infinitive found in the *Spoken BNC2014*:

Table 5: *If only* + the modal verb *would* + infinitive the *Spoken BNC2014*

<i>If only</i> + the modal verb <i>would</i> + infinitive in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>		No.
present infinitive ↓ realizable wishes	active voice	2
perfect infinitive ↓ unrealizable wish	active voice	1
Total		3

4.2.1.1.2 *If only* and the preterite

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only* is followed mainly by preterite forms (22 instances). Even the verb *be* is solely in the preterite. The *Spoken BNC2014* contains no verb in the subjunctive form after *If only*⁸. Moreover, *be* in preterite is the most frequent verb form that follows *If only* (11 instances). Thus, the vast majority of the *If only* wishes manifested in the corpus are realizable, with the present or the future time reference which is illustrated by the following example excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014*:

- (16) IO38 *it is nice to have a big bay window (.) if only they were a little bit clean*

The verb *have* in the preterite form follows *If only* also quite often in the *Spoken BNC2014* (5 instances). Mostly the form of the verb *have* is positive. Negative form of *have* with the periphrastic *do* occurs only once in the corpus:

- (17) IO2 *if only we had a box to put these in*
- (18) IO31 *they're like oh if only we didn't have to deal with the real world*

⁸ In the contemporary spoken English, the usage of the preterite form of the verb *be* after *If only* optatives seems to be more common than the usage of the subjunctive form.

However, not only the preterite forms of the verbs *be* or *have* follow *If only*, other lexical verbs in preterite that also express realizable wishes occur (6 instances). The other lexical verbs are illustrated in the following examples:

- (19) IO7 S0558: *if only she applied herself S0517: yeah S0558:
cos she's capable of so much more*
- (20) IO15 *if only bunnies hatched out of eggs*
- (21) IO17 *if only life was structured more like that*

Even though the English grammar states that the preterite form of a verb after *If only* expresses a realizable wish with the present or future time reference (Dušková et al., 2012: 335), the *Spoken BNC2014* provides an example where the preterite form is used to express an unrealizable *If only* wish referring back to the past (notice the adverbial *last year* in the example 22 below). Most likely, the past perfect form should be used instead:

- (22) IO13 *if only ANONnameN finished last year the same
thing...*

As seen in the examples listed above, *If only* is in majority followed by the preterite in the active voice (21 instances). A passive construction with the preterite occurs in the *Spoken BNC2014* only once (see example 21 above). The following table 6 provides summary of the preterite forms used after the optative *If only* found in the *Spoken BNC2014*:

Table 6: Summary of the preterite forms used after *If only* in the *Spoken BNC2014*

Summary of the preterite forms used after <i>If only</i> in the <i>Spoken BNC 2014</i>			No.
<i>be</i>	active voice	10	11
	passive voice	1	
<i>have</i>	active voice		5
other verbs	active voice		6
Total			22

4.2.1.1.3 *If only* and the past perfect

The unrealizable *If only* wishes that refer back to the past and are expressed by using the past perfect do not occur as frequently as the realizable wishes in the *Spoken BNC2014*. The contemporary speakers direct their *If only* wishes rather towards the present or the future moment since only 7 speakers used unrealizable *If only* wish with the past reference. All the past perfects after *If only* are used in the active voice:

(23) IO26 *if only we hadn't had that exam on Wednesday*

(24) IO3 *if only our horse had started running just a little bit earlier*

The table 7 below summarizes the *If only* optatives according to the time reference:

Table 7: *If only* optatives according to the time reference

<i>If only</i> optatives according to the time reference	No.	%
the present/future time reference (realizable wishes)	29	72, 50 %
the past time reference (unrealizable wishes)	9	22, 50 %
deviations: *usage of the present tense	2	5, 00 %
Total	40	100 %

4.2.1.2 *If only* according to the subject

The table 8 demonstrates that the subject in the *If only* optative sentences found in the *Spoken BNC2014* is frequently a pronoun, most frequently a personal pronoun:

Table 8: *If only* optative sentences according to the subject of the clause

<i>If only</i> optative sentences according to the subject of the clause		No.	%
pronouns	personal	28	77, 50 %
	indefinite	2	
	demonstrative	1	
nouns		6	15, 00 %
proper names		3	7, 50 %
Total		40	100 %

The *If only* wishes that relate to the speaker himself/herself have the personal pronoun *I* as the subject (5 instances):

(25) IO4 ... *if only I'd done that and if only I'd done that that ...*

(26) IO40 *if only I'd known ANONnameM goes to bed early I would've...*

The *If only* wishes that relate to other people or actions have the personal pronouns *you, he, she, it, we* (*we* relates to the speaker but also other people) and *they* as the subject (23 instances) which is illustrated by the following examples:

(27) IO10 S0192: *if only they were er S0197: busy road S0199: a bit closer British then we could...*

(28) IO39 ... *if only we had Bill (.) he's got quite a good sense of smell*

(29) IO23 S0653: *it was in Julius Caesar ? what by Shakespeare ? S0655: no yeah S0653: if only it was fatter ? S0655: if only he was fatter S0653: oh if only...*

The last example (29) listed above is interesting in the terms of reference. One speaker utters *if only it was fatter*, the other speaker says *if only he was fatter*. However, whether the speakers refer to the same thing/person is unclear from the corpus.

If only wishes that relate to other people or actions also have the indefinite pronoun *somebody* as the subject in the *Spoken BNC2014* (2 instances):

(30) IO33 ... *there's nobody there if only there was somebody there*

The example (30) above demonstrates the so called existential construction. The existential construction has in fact two subjects. *There* is the “grammatical” subject and the indefinite pronoun *somebody* is the “notional” subject (Quirk, 1985: 1403). In the existential construction, the notional subject *somebody* is extraposed.

In the *Spoken BNC2014* occurs also one examples of *If only* wish that is related to other people or actions where the subject is realized by the demonstrative pronoun *this*:

(31) IO6 *no if only this was eg- er chicken and not egg*

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *If only* wishes have also nouns and proper names as subjects. However, nouns (6 instances) and proper names (3 instances) as the subject in *If only* optative clauses occur less frequently than pronouns:

(32) IO14 *S0288: it was a very expensive S0282: if only our father had insisted on having cars instead of having to ask...*

(33) IO32 *if only this society wasn't that uncritical of it*

The table 9 below summarizes how many *If only* optative sentences relate to the speaker and how many relate to other people or action:

Table 9: Optatives introduced by *If only* according to the addressee

Optatives introduced by <i>If only</i> according to the addressee	No.	%
relate to the speaker	5	12, 50 %
relate to other people or actions	35	87, 50 %
Total	40	100 %

4.2.2 *I wish* optatives

According to the *Spoken BNC2014*, *I wish* is the most frequent optative sentence structure since there are 456 matches found in the corpus. The following in-depth analysis of *I wish* is both qualitative and quantitative. Similarly to the *If only* in-depth analysis, the analysis of *I wish* examples focuses not only on the form that follows *I wish* but also on the frequency of occurrence of that form, e.g. how many times the optative *I wish* is followed by the preterite or the past perfect. From the *Spoken BNC2014*, 60 examples from 456 *I wish* matches were excerpted and then analysed. The analysis considered the first 60 instances of *I wish* that were provided and randomized by the corpus. The in-depth analysis of *I wish* optative structures is

also concerned with the question whether the present-day British English speakers use the *I wish* optatives in the forms as described by the grammars (cf. 2.4.1) or whether there are some deviations from the grammar rules.

4.2.2.1 *I wish* according to the verbal form in the dependant clause

When *I wish* is followed by a dependent clause, it is either *that*-clause or *to*-clause. In the *to*-clause, the verb has the form of the infinitive. The verb in the subordinate *that*-clause can be according to Dušková et al. (2012: 335) in the preterite or past perfect form. The preterite form is used to express a realizable wish which refers to the present or the future moment (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The past perfect form is used to express an unrealizable wish that refers back to the past (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). The dependent *that*-clause after *I wish* can also contain the modal verb *could* or *would* (Dušková et al., 2012: 335). Both *could* and *would* can express realizable and unrealizable wishes. Since it is the unrealizable wish with the past time reference, the speaker cannot change the situation so he/she is left only to express regrets about past events. In contrast, realizable wishes are still open to some changes. They may or may not come true.

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, all verbal forms mentioned above (the preterite, the past perfect, modal *could* and *would*, the infinitive) follow *I wish*. However, the present-day English speakers do not always abide by the grammar rules. Therefore, the corpus provides also various deviations which are illustrated among the examples in the following sections. The table 10 below summarizes all types of complement clauses that the verb *wish* can and cannot control. The table 10 also provides how frequently a certain complement clause appeared in the *Spoken BNC2014*:

Table 10: All types of complement clauses that the verb *wish* controlled in the *Spoken BNC2014*

All types of complement clauses that the verb <i>wish</i> controlled in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>		No.	%
can control	<i>wish</i> + <i>that</i> -clause	58	96, 67 %
	<i>wish</i> + <i>to</i> -clause	2	3, 33 %
	<i>wish</i> + NP + <i>to</i> -clause	0	0, 00 %
cannot control	* <i>wish</i> + NP + <i>ing</i> -clause	0	0, 00 %
Total		60	100 %

4.2.2.1.1 *I wish* and the preterite

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, optative *I wish* is most frequently followed by verbs in the preterite form (25 instances in the corpus):

(34) IW7⁹ *I wish my parents lived closer*

The dependent *that*-clause in the example (34) above contains the verb *live* in the preterite form *lived*. Therefore, the wish refers to the present or the future moment. The same time reference has the following *I wish* example:

(35) IW11 *I wish I had some money*

In the example (35) the verb *have* is in the preterite form *had* which again indicates the present or the future time reference. Furthermore, the present-day speakers use the realizable *I wish* optatives with the preterite both in the active and passive voice. However, the active voice very much prevails. There are 23 instances of realizable wishes that employ the preterite in the active voice and only 2 instances of realizable wishes that employ the preterite in the passive construction:

(36) IW30 *I wish it was recorded her telling me this story how about one time ...*

(37) IW19 *I wish we were allowed to do more*

⁹ IW stands for *I wish*. The number of the example corresponds with the number in the Appendix section.

The realizable wishes can be also expressed by using the subjunctive of the verb *be* (Dušková 2012: 335). However, the present-day speakers appear to prefer the variant with the preterite more as there is no example of the realizable *I wish* optative with the verb *be* in the subjunctive form. The present-day speakers used the verb *be* in the realizable wishes only in the preterite form (12 instances):

(38) IW32 *I wish I was a punk rocker with flowers in my hair*

The examples excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014* were mostly according to grammar rules. However, the corpus also revealed one instance when the speaker does not structure the *I wish* utterance according to the correct grammar:

(39) IW39 *I wish you know I don't I was gonna say...*

In the example (39) the speaker wants to express a realizable wish. However, instead of the more suitable preterite form *knew*, the present simple *know* is used. Moreover, the dependent content clause is a mixture of fragments. Nevertheless, fragmentation and incorrect grammar are usually quite common in the spoken language. Especially, if it is on-the-spur-of-the-moment conversation, the speaker does not always have enough time to think about the correct form.

4.2.2.1.2 *I wish* and the past perfect

The unrealizable wishes also appear in the *Spoken BNC2014* but they are less common than the realizable ones. The corpus contains 13 instances of unrealizable wishes with the past perfect:

(40) IW12 *I wish they'd told us from the beginning*

(41) IW28 *I wish I'd been able to stay awake*

(42) IW2 *I wish I had bought some Ruddles (.) that's my favourite*

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, all the *I wish* optatives that contain verbs in the past perfect form are in the active voice. The past perfect after *I wish* is never used in a passive construction in the corpus. Moreover, the majority of the past perfects employ the auxiliary verb *had* in the

contracted form 'd (see the examples 40 and 41 above). The *Spoken BNC2014* provides only one *I wish* optative example where the auxiliary *had* is used in the full form (see the example 42 above).

4.2.2.1.3 *I wish* and modal verbs

According to Dušková et al. (2012: 335), *I wish* can be followed by modal verbs. In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *I wish* optatives are followed by the modal verbs 19 times. The modal verb *could* appears after *I wish* in 13 instances, the modal verb *would* follows *I wish* in 6 instances.

- (43) IW3 *I wish I could remember*
- (44) IW29 *I wish I could meet her*
- (45) IW18 *I wish them spots would bugger off*
- (46) IW48 *I wish they'd make up their minds*

In contrast to *would*, the modal verb *could* cannot be used in the contracted form 'd. Although the contracted forms prevail in the case of the past perfect, in the case of the modal *would*, the contracted form 'd (here is contracted the modal verb, not the auxiliary *had*) does not predominate. In the *Spoken BNC2014*, the modal *would* is in 3 instances contracted and in 3 instances in the full form.

All the *I wish* optatives with modal *could* and *would* are also in the active voice. Both *could* and *would* are mostly followed by the present infinitive expressing realizable wishes. The *Spoken BNC2014* demonstrates only one instance of an unrealizable wish where the modal *could* is followed by the perfect infinitive:

- (47) IW1 *I wish I could have persuaded ANONnameM to work on that principle*

The following table 11 summarizes the optative structures *I wish* + the modal verb *could/would* + infinitive found in the *Spoken BNC2014*:

Table 11: *I wish* + the modal verb *could/would* + infinitive in the *Spoken BNC2014*

<i>I wish</i> + the modal verb <i>could/would</i> + infinitive in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>		No.
<i>could/would</i> + present infinitive ↓ realizable wishes	active voice	18
<i>could</i> + perfect infinitive ↓ unrealizable wish	active voice	1
Total		19

4.2.2.1.4 *I wish* and the infinitive

As it was mentioned in the theoretical background of this thesis, *I wish* is not only followed by a dependent content *that*-clause but also in some cases by the infinitive (cf. 2.4.1):

(48) IW17 *I wish to hand in my notice*

(49) IW35 *I wish to apply for this job*

Although, the dependent content *that*-clause and the dependent *to*-clause differ in form, they have the same function. They are both in the function of a direct object. However, the dependent *to*-clause is used after *I wish* only in 2 instances. It is the dependent content *that*-clause that appears after *I wish* most frequently (58 instances). The table 12 summarizes the type and the form of the verb used in the dependent clause after *I wish*:

Table 12: The type and the form of the verb used in the dependent clause after *I wish* in the *Spoken BNC2014*

The type and the form of the verb used in the dependent clause after <i>I wish</i> in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>	No.	%
preterite	25	41, 70 %
perfect	13	21, 30 %
modal verbs (<i>could, would</i>)	19	31, 70 %
infinitive	2	3, 30 %
*present	1	2, 00 %
Total	60	100 %

4.2.2.2 *I wish* according to the addressee

Generally, similarly to the *If only* wishes, wishes introduced by *I wish* can relate to the speaker himself/herself or to other people or actions. When the subject of the dependent content clause after *I wish* is the personal pronoun *I*, the wish relates to the speaker (34 instances). *I wish* optatives that relate to the speaker are illustrated by the following examples excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014*:

(50) IW50 *I wish I'd taken the book to France*

(51) IW60 *I wish I had a piece of paper*

If the subject of the dependent clause is the personal pronoun *we*, the wish relates to the speaker but also to other people (*we* somehow oscillates between the speaker himself/herself and other people). The *Spoken BNC2014* manifests 7 instances of the personal pronoun *we* after *I wish*:

(52) IW59 *I wish we had like proper cleaners*

(53) IW54 *I wish we were friends*

Wishes that relate to other people or actions can have other personal pronouns as *you*, *he*, *she*, *it* or *they*. However, in the *Spoken BNC2014* appear only *I wish* optatives followed by the personal pronoun *you* (5 instances), *she* (1 instance), *it* (2 instances) and *they* (3 instances). The personal pronoun *he* is not used:

(54) IW57 *I wish you'd stop*

(55) IW6 *I wish it was this side of ANONplace*

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, *I wish* optative structure that relates to other people has also an indefinite pronoun (1 instance) as the subject in the dependent clause which is demonstrated by the following example:

(56) IW5 *I wish someone would rub my belly*

The subject in the dependent clause after *I wish* is also once a demonstrative pronoun (example 57), in 4 instances a noun (example 58) and once a proper name (example 59):

(57) IW14 *I wish that was still a thing*

(58) IW49 *I wish smoking wasn't a social thing*

(59) IW26 *I wish Barclays would just give you an online report*

In the *Spoken BNC2014*, wishes with the modal *could* are usually related to the speaker himself/herself:

(60) IW25 *I wish I could actually swim*

The speaker in the example (60) above wishes to gain some skill, e.g. swimming. On the other hand, the wishes with modal *would* mostly relate to other people or actions. In the examples (61-62), the speakers seem to express annoyance, or even frustration with others:

(61) IW48 *I wish they'd make up their minds*

(62) IW15 *I wish you'd do that*

In contrast to *If only* optatives, *I wish* is never followed by the existential construction where the subject would be extraposed. The table 11 summarizes *I wish* optatives sentence according to the addressee:

Table 13: *I wish* optative sentences according to the addressee

<i>I wish</i> optative sentences according to the addressee	No.	%
relate to the speaker	36	58, 33 %
relate to other people or actions	24	41, 67 %
Total	60	100 %

5 Conclusion

The aim of the thesis was to examine the representation of various optative sentence structures in the present-day spoken British English with the help of the *Spoken BNC2014* corpus which provided a large number of 547 optative sentence structures. The quantitative analysis (Section 1) has shown that *I wish* optative structures are the most frequently used optatives in the present-day spoken British English as there were found 456 matches (83,4 %) in the *Spoken BNC2014*. The second most frequent wish clauses are the optatives introduced by *If only* with 44 matches (8 %) found in the corpus. Occasionally, the present-day British speakers also use optatives with *may*. However, in contrast to *I wish* and *If only* optatives, optative structures with *may* are not that common since only 7 examples (1,3 %) were found in the corpus. The optative structure with *Would (to God) that* is not used by the present-day British speakers.

As far as the optative subjunctive is concerned, it was clear that it is impossible to gather all evidence of optative subjunctives which can occur in the present-day spoken British English. Therefore, the purpose here was different. As the optative subjunctive is rather peripheral and archaic (very much like the optative *Would (to God) that*), the question was whether there is at least some occurrence of the optative subjunctive in the *Spoken BNC2014*. Surprisingly, the present-day British speakers did use the optative subjunctive. In total, the *Spoken BNC2014* revealed 40 examples (7,3 %) of the optative subjunctive. Moreover, the speakers used most frequently the optative subjunctive without subject-verb inversion, mainly with *God* as the subject. The subject *God* appeared in 25 instances.

The aim of the second part of the analysis (Section 2) was to analyse 40 *If only* and 60 *I wish* optative examples excerpted from the *Spoken BNC2014*. The in-depth analysis of *I wish* and *If only* concentrated on the speaker and the addressee, on the usage of tense and modal verbs. Furthermore, the analysis differentiated between realizable and unrealizable wishes

(focusing on the time reference: the present, the future and the past) and wishes that relate to the speaker or other people or actions. The analysis also considered the question whether the present-day British English speakers use the *I wish* and *If only* optatives in the forms as described by the grammars or whether there are some deviations from the grammar rules.

The in-depth analysis has manifested that the present-day British speakers prefer to direct their *If only* wishes towards the present or the future moment. In majority, *If only* optatives expressed realizable wishes (72,5 %). To express a realizable wish, the preterite form was employed in 22 instances. Modal verbs *could* and *would* followed by the present infinitive expressed a realizable wish in 7 instances. In comparison, the unrealizable *If only* wishes with the past time reference were used less frequently by the present-day British speakers (22,5 %). The past perfect form was used to express an unrealizable wish only in 7 instances. Modal verbs *could* and *would* followed by the perfect infinitive expressed an unrealizable wish in 2 instances.

Regarding the time reference, the optative sentences introduced by *I wish* have shown similar results to *If only*. *I wish* optatives were also used by the present-day British speakers to express mostly realizable wishes (71,7 %). To express a realizable wish, the preterite form was employed in 25 instances. Modal verbs *could* and *would* followed by the present infinitive expressed a realizable wish in 18 instances. The unrealizable *I wish* sentences appeared less frequently (23,3 %). The unrealizable wishes with the past perfect appeared in 13 instances. Modal verbs *could* and *would* followed by the perfect infinitive expressed an unrealizable wish only in one instance.

As for the analysis of the addressee, *I wish* and *If only* optatives have manifested different results. *If only* optatives were primarily related to other people or actions (87,5%). *If only* wishes that were related to the speaker appeared less frequently (12,5%). On the other

hand, *I wish* optatives did not demonstrate such a contrast. *I wish* optatives were related to the speaker in 35 instances (58,3%) and to other people or actions in 24 instances (41,7%).

In contrast to *If only* optatives that constituted merely a simple clause without any subordinate segments, *I wish* optatives consisted of the main clause that was followed by a dependent content clause. The dependent clause was in 58 instances (96,7 %) a *that*-clause and in 2 instances (3,3 %) a *to*-clause. As far as the deviations from the grammar are concerned, the present-day British speakers do follow the prescribed grammar rules since the in-depth analysis has revealed that only one deviation in the case of *I wish* and 3 deviations in the case of *If only* appeared in the *Spoken BNC2014*. In 3 instances the speaker used instead of the more suitable preterite form the present simple. Therefore, the speaker failed to correctly express a realizable wish. In one instance the speaker used instead of the more suitable past perfect form the preterite. In this case, the speaker failed to correctly express an unrealizable wish.

To sum up, *If only* and *I wish* optatives seem at first interchangeable. However, the empirical part of the thesis has discovered that the present-day British speakers use them differently in various context.

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7 Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce si klade za cíl zmapovat zastoupení různých pracích vět v současné mluvené britské angličtině. Prací věta se v angličtině považuje za okrajový větný typ, jelikož postrádá jednotnou pravidelnou větnou strukturu. Kvůli své nepravidelnosti bývá proto často uváděna stranou od hlavních větných typů (oznamovací, rozkazovací, tázací a zvolací). Někdy je prací věta zahrnuta mezi hlavní větné typy, ovšem jako podtyp věty zvolací.

Práce je rozdělena na několik částí. Po krátkém úvodu následuje teoretická část, která se zaměřuje na to, jak jsou anglické prací věty popsány různými gramatikami. V teoretické části jsou uvedeny jak frekventovanější, tak i méně časté anglické prací konstrukce. Práce zmiňuje prací souvětí uvozená *I wish* nebo *Would (to God) that*, věty uvozené *May* a *If only*. Popsány jsou i další způsoby vyjadřování přání v angličtině jako prací věty s konjunktivem, imperativní konstrukce s opisným *let* či věty neslovesné (formule). Práce vychází především z *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2012) od Duškové et al., *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (2002) od Huddlestona a Pulluma, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985) od Quirka et al. a z *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999) od Bibera et al. Teoretická část se mimo jiné snaží také popsat problematiku ilokuční síly, která s pracími větami úzce souvisí. Anglické prací věty sice nemají jednotnou formu tvoření, ale sdílí ilokuční sílu přání. Tato část práce vychází především z Austinovy knihy *How to Do Things with Words*, která vykresluje problematiku lokučních, ilokučních a perlokučních aktů.

Po teoretické části následuje část empirická. Nejprve je krátce popsána zvolená metoda a materiál, jež byly použity k vypracování analýzy. Samotná analýza je rozdělena na dvě části: na Sekce 1 a Sekce 2. Sekce 1 je věnována kvantitativní analýze anglických pracích větných struktur, které byly popsány v teoretické části (s výjimkou imperativů a neslovesných vět). Sekce 2 se zaměřuje na detailní analýzu vět pracích uvozených *I wish* a *If only*. Z britského

mluveného korpusu *Spoken BNC2014* bylo vyňato a následně zanalyzováno z formálního a funkčního hlediska 60 příkladů pracích vět uvozených *I wish* a 40 příkladů pracích vět uvozených *If only*. Analýza se soustředí na použitý slovesný čas, na užitá modální slovesa a adresáta. Důraz je také kladen na rozlišení mezi uskutečnitelnými a neuskutečnitelnými přáními (určení časového odkazu) a na otázku, zda se přání vztahuje k mluvčímu či k dalším osobám nebo dějům.

Kvantitativní analýza v Sekci 1 demonstruje, že prací souvětí uvozená *I wish* používají současní mluvčí britské angličtiny nejčastěji, jelikož ve *Spoken BNC2014* korpusu bylo dohledáno 456 dokladů. Na druhém místě v četnosti to jsou pak prací věty uvozené *If only* se 40 nalezenými doklady. U prací vět s *may* bylo nalezeno pouze 7 dokladů. Prací souvětí uvozené *Would (to God) that* současní britští mluvčí angličtiny zřejmě nepoužívají, neboť tato prací konstrukce je již velmi zastaralá a ve *Spoken BNC2014* nebyl nalezen jediný doklad.

Prací věty s konjunktivem sice také patří mezi zastaralejší formy, ale v současné mluvené britské angličtině se překvapivě používají. Ve *Spoken BNC2014* bylo nalezeno 40 dokladů pracího konjunktivu, v tomto případě však nebyla kvantitativní analýza tak úplně možná, jelikož nelze s jistotou říct, zda byly nalezeny opravdu všechny doklady pracího konjunktivu. Z výsledků, které poskytl *Spoken BNC2014*, se dalo pouze usoudit, že nejčastěji britští mluvčí používají prací konjunktiv bez inverze a převážně s podmětem *God*.

Analýza v Sekci 2 přistupuje k pracím konstrukcím s *I wish* a *If only* stejným způsobem. Nejprve se analýza zabývá časovým odkazem, tj. přáními směřujícími do přítomnosti, budoucnosti či minulosti. Sekce 2 ukazuje, že nejčastěji jsou současnými britskými mluvčími formulovaná uskutečnitelná přání směřující do přítomnosti či budoucnosti. Jak v případě souvětí uvozených *I wish*, tak i v případě přání s *If only*, je nejvíce použita forma préterita. V menším množství případů používají mluvčí modální slovesa s přítomným infinitivem. Prací konstrukce s *I wish* a *If only*, jež odkazují na minulost, mají řidší výskyt. Tato neuskutečnitelná

přání směřující do minulosti jsou z většiny tvořena slovesem ve formě perfekta. V menší míře je formulováno minulé přání s modálním slovesem, které je následováno minulým infinitivem. Z analýzy tedy vyplývá, že co se týče časového odkazu, výsledky získané pozorováním přacích vět uvozených *I wish* a *If only* jsou si velmi podobné.

Výsledky se ovšem liší v analýze zaměřené na adresáta. Přací věty uvozené *If only* se primárně vztahují k dalším osobám či dějům. Přací konstrukce s *If only* se k mluvčímu vztahují o poznání méně. Naopak u přacích souvětí uvozených *I wish* jsou výsledky ohledně adresáta vyrovnanější.

Poslední kapitolou této bakalářské práce je závěr, který shrnuje a porovnává získané výsledky. I přesto, že se přání uvozená *I wish* a *If only* mohou na první pohled zdát jako zaměnitelná. Analýza v této práci nakonec odhalila, že současní britští mluvčí používají tyto přací konstrukce odlišně v závislosti na kontextu.

8 Appendix

The appendix contains three tables. The first table summarizes the optative subjunctives found in the *Spoken BNC2014*. The second and the third table provide all *If only* and *I wish* sentence structures that were used for the analysis in the empirical section of the thesis. The first column of each table gives a number that corresponds with the number in the analysis, (OS) for the optative subjunctive, (IO) for *If only* optatives and (IW) for *I wish* optatives. The second column of each table gives the code of the transcribed speech segment in the *Spoken BNC2014*. The third column of each table provides concordance lines.

No.	Code in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>	Concordance Lines
(OS1)	S2XV 382	actually physically doing something whatever it might be if it's colouring so be it it will be a skill that will actually make something stick with
(OS2)	S5PF 1124	'll sort it all out S0146: >>ANONnameF UNCLEARWORD S0129: if I don't then so be it (.) I'll watch it on the box S0018: Formula one tomorrow S0129: yes S0018: as
(OS3)	S7ZG 423	S0262: and if we've got a wee nipper in tow well so be it S0261: yes exactly now S0262: ANONnameF and ANONnameM did it S0261: yeah and er ANONnameM
(OS4)	SBB2 731	if that means that kids sit in the back not moving S0475: that so be it you know S0475: erm yes erm cos there's nothing worse than having
(OS5)	SL46 119	mean it's a sham that ANONnameM doesn't have enough space (...) so be it S0261: yes (.) so be it (.) so how do you [Text SL76:] S0179: so that's the
(OS6)	SL46 120	shame that ANONnameM doesn't have enough space (...) so be it S0261: yes (.) so be it (.) so how do you [Text SL76:] S0179: so that's the er the start of
(OS7)	SL46 120	she said you could wait up to two hours I said well so be it you know I that's it and so on so S0663: did you
(OS8)	SWU6 572	like the queen I really do S0551: >>I like the queen I do S0547: >> long live our noble queen S0549: >>I like the whole r- royal family and I
(OS9)	S2EF 1672	's a long line underneath I don't think everybody did god forbid you forgot your ruler one day how to make title pages S0611: we
(OS10)	S376 580	excited I thought that bill would be here by now S0200: god fucking forbid when that bill comes in S0387: so unless it came and someone's

(OS11)	S7JG 2664	S0041: when you say it like that it sounds crazy ANONnameF S0084: Well heaven forbid you do something that's crazy (.) crazy (.) put you there (.) cook my
(OS12)	S985 1194	because her and ANONnameM live all the way out in ANONplace god forbid they come back into ANONplace like of a weekend or anything like
(OS13)	SA6W 22	been chewing the the casing but not the (.) actual E45 cream S0187: god forbid S0384: well I'm s- I'm so good at chewing now I
(OS14)	SBKN 1329	making things out of wood S0632: that's made out of wood S0634: >>heaven forbid S0634: have to do UNCLEARWORD S0632: >>do just some sort of trinket out of
(OS15)	SCS9 1477	your life perhaps and --UNCLEARWORD S0530: >>oh my god I yeah but S0529: >>god forbid we talk about someone else for once like S0530: parents like t- taking
(OS16)	SDJL 247	her family isn't it ? S0230: mm S0198: must have some gene god forbid S0230: yet she's so healthy her nan S0198: her nan where's her
(OS17)	SDR9 1509	after them S0084: yeah S0083: you can't you know our human rights law forbid us from saying to people you can't have a child S0084: yeah
(OS18)	SN7W 1416	mean it's tragic (.) to think that they (.) these kids (.) might god forbid get to eighteen S0262: yeah lose it S0354: >>and the best they can do
(OS19)	SWSL 785	of grass S0689: oh grass S0687: it's grass S0688: oh is it ? S0689: god forbid christ ANONnameM S0689: slam the brakes on S0687: >>don't run over the grass
(OS20)	S5DJ 169	a movie ? S0276: a show this is a show S0275: oh my lord have mercy S0276: you should totally watch it S0275: mm mm that is too much that
(OS21)	SUJ8 297	be done S0689: >>I win I win I win no I win S0687: >>please have mercy have mercy S0689: >>fine twenty pounds twenty pounds and S0687: >> lord have mercy S0689: I was
(OS22)	SUJ8 297	S0689: >>I win I win I win no I win S0687: >>please have mercy have mercy S0689: >>fine twenty pounds twenty pounds and S0687: >>lord have mercy S0689: I wasn't going
(OS23)	SUJ8 299	win S0687: >>please have mercy have mercy S0689: >>fine twenty pounds twenty pounds and S0687: >> lord have mercy S0689: I wasn't going to let you do it S0687: okay twenty pounds
(OS24)	S4KW 312	the van on the motorways of Belgium soon dad S0229: yeah S0198: confident ? S0230: god help us S0229: yeah course I am S0230: god help us S0198: just don't drive
(OS25)	S4KW 314	soon dad S0229: yeah S0198: confident ? S0230: god help us S0229: yeah course I am S0230: god help us S0198: just don't drive as fast as you do in England
(OS26)	SAZX 1934	's that's how computers worked S0594: alright ANONnameM it's your turn S0600: god help us all S0601: it's my turn ? S0600[???]: yeah S0601: okay bear with me
(OS27)	SJ6L 148	just gonna take a photograph of that with my mobile phone S0297: god help us all S0262: and then we've got one more ooh we've

(OS28)	SK8T 2	going on a couples' holiday in UNCLEARWORD girls' holiday UNCLEARWORD god help me probably gonna tattoos or something oh S0206: couples do that do
(OS29)	SVD4 675	you're gone ? S0690: er yeah I think so can't remember S0687: god help him S0688: I think you need to go where ANONnameM has his done
(OS30)	S4MV 154	so expansive America is fantastic S0607: >>yeah (.) but basically so I ditched ANONnameF S0644: >> god bless America (.) sorry S0607: I I ditched her S0644: did ya ? S0607: cos I just
(OS31)	S6ZU 105	giving him but S0198: yeah S0231: he did save it up for two weeks god bless him S0198: he specifically wanted that didn't he ? S0231: yeah oh yeah
(OS32)	SA9T 43	(.) oh that's er I've got to send it back in (.) god bless them S0015: now you're black now ? S0281: yes please black no sugar
(OS33)	SEPP 2279	pension which was very good S0424: so she could help us out really S0144: >> god bless TB eh ? S0424: god bless TB yeah S0424: horrible way to die but
(OS34)	SEPP 2282	S0424: so she could help us out really S0144: >>god bless TB eh ? S0424: god bless TB yeah S0424: horrible way to die but it meant we didn't
(OS35)	SMKK 365	was in the hospital now it must be easily over now S0148: my god S0167: bless him he's not very well his liver's gone now he
(OS36)	SR5H 310	it all myself S0592: mm S0600[?]: >>it's right good Mrs S0601: UNCLEARWORD yourself mum S0600: god bless us one and all S0594: everyone isn't it ? S0593: ANONnameF's vegetarian
(OS37)	STMM 1028	yeah S0530: oh S0529: they've all got it all the royal family (.) oh god bless him he looks so old (.) I feel sorry for him S0530: oh I
(OS38)	SUXH 589	step tickle you under there S0668: oh it's gonna be endless S0492: god bless Cbeebies S0492: it's all alright got wipes S0666: >>it's alright we've
(OS39)	S8CV 653	S0687: so is everybody S0688: no actually Terry Wogan was a very modest man S0689: god rest his soul he's looking down on us we we can see
(OS40)	SR7T 491	UNCLEARWORD like that let us know we'll S0394: >>yeah S0391: >>when he sings God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen S0395: we were a bit last minute just well you

No.	Code in the <i>Spoken BNC2014</i>	Concordance Lines
(IO1)	S38V 774	a lot for your nan S0198: >>yeah that yeah S0192: and for the grandchildren S0198: if only she could get paid to do that S0192: yeah definitely wouldn't be
(IO2)	S38V 1700	takes a while to heat I think it's a bit disappointing S0198: >> if only we had a box to put these in rather than it's
(IO3)	S6JP 178	Scot S0446: I'm being a Scot S0329: ANONnameM you're really S0352: so what if only (.) if only (.) our horse had started running just a little bit earlier

(IO4)	S8B9 1521	don't want you to beat yourself up about things and think if only I'd done that and if only I'd done that that
(IO5)	SA9P 560	how to S0673: cos L UNCLEARWORD S0671: L's gonna be helpful S0675: yeah if only I had a W S0671: UNCLEARWORD S0675: maybe UNCLEARWORD well I've got havy
(IO6)	SB9K 1094	like chocolate S0198: what does that bit UNCLEARWORD ? don't know S0192: no if only this was eg- er chicken and not egg (.) there I've taken
(IO7)	SBQ6 685	used to say to very parents' evening ANONnameF so much better if only she applied herself S0517: yeah S0558: cos she's capable of so much more
(IO8)	SBQ6 1284	it I said well you know you can go to university oh if only you could just go and just play sport all the time would
(IO9)	SBSJ 230	I do quite fancy em pancakes S0086: pancakes is quite an inspired suggestion (.) if only we had crispy duck to go in the pancakes (.) where do we
(IO10)	SBTC 175	and we natter with them for hours and hour and hours and if only they were er busy road S0199: a bit closer S0192: British then we could
(IO11)	SCG9 85	's quite a good kind of revenge thing on him that he if only he'd done it in a sensible good way rather than
(IO12)	SCRM 920	S0603: yeah well I mean will will Algiers come out again ? (.) if only if Algiers is here so it's only gonna come up
(IO13)	SF3V 1043	erm the the tax implications (.) and he's sixty-three S0282: how extraordinary S0287: god if only ANONnameN finished last year the same thing well he went down
(IO14)	SF3V 1443	insisted on me (.) having a car S0282: pah S0288: it was a very expensive S0282: >> if only our father had insisted on having cars instead of having to ask
(IO15)	SF7M 15	S0655: >>toys S0653: for toys ? S0655: I put I'd probably put one (.) oh if only bunnies hatched out of eggs then I could put a s- a
(IO16)	SGN8 1286	it just makes people go oh X bar S0192: yeah so erm (.) yeah if only they'd have taught them about W H movement and Noel subjects
(IO17)	SJB4 5267	and have an amazing time with another person for ten years S0199: mm S0192: if only life was structured more like that where ending the last relationship is
(IO18)	SJB4 5269	where ending the last relationship isn't the be-all and end-all S0199: mm S0192: if only we could move on S0199: >>mm S0192: and still be close with the other
(IO19)	SKHW 620	's like Christmas the fifteenth again S0330: it's like S0331: oh my god if only S0330: oh man S0326: >>we should watch a movie S0331: yeah S0328: wait till we get
(IO20)	SKMV 471	what I think that Jane Austen was saying Mr Darcy fucking hell if only she could have said that S0298: I've I've actually never seen
(IO21)	SM8E 212	it's a bit ridiculous to say you don't like it S0655: if only it was fatter S0653: mm ? just butter ? S0655: if only it was

(IO22)	SM8E 214	like it S0655: if only it was fatter S0653: mm ? just butter ? S0655: if only it was fatter S0653: fatter ? S0655: I got that from Mr ANONnameN's
(IO23)	SM8E 222	S0653: it was in Julius Caesar ? what by Shakespeare ? S0655: no yeah S0653: >>if only it was fatter ? S0655: if only he was fatter S0653: oh if only
(IO24)	SM8E 223	what by Shakespeare ? S0655: no yeah S0653: >>if only it was fatter ? S0655: if only he was fatter S0653: oh if only he was fatter who was it
(IO25)	SM8E 224	S0653: >>if only it was fatter ? S0655: if only he was fatter S0653: oh if only he was fatter who was it talking about ? S0655: h- Julius Caesar
(IO26)	SMC2 1551	I was sat on the bed on the phone to my mum if only we hadn't had that exam on Wednesday S0206: >>that week I was
(IO27)	SMKK 222	come and he did say to me the other day on Skype if only I could give everything up to come to London with you and
(IO28)	SMRV 88	S0405: >>red Fanta S0556: but this is meant to be the orange flavour oh if only they had the pineapple flavour S0555: the pineapple ? S0405: Fanta is orange already
(IO29)	SNA4 516	cos a packet of seeds S0579: >>yeah S0454: you get about fifty so even if only half of them grew S0579: >>oh well (.) UNCLEARWORD S0454: >>that's a huge mark
(IO30)	SNMN 392	bike ? S0571: we'd let you bike down every day and you S0517: >>if only you'd get on your bike and go (.) mm S0571: only to the
(IO31)	SNNJ 904	social reject things like people talk about ? they're like oh if only we didn't have to deal with the real world UNKMALE[?]: er we
(OS32)	SP9Z 533	I will be reading it for fun I think it's interesting if only to S0685: I mean this society wasn't that uncritical of it you
(IO33)	SQ6T 100	but I wouldn't need those it cos there's nobody there if only there was somebody there S0604[?]: >>yeah but if nobody's there S0492: >>doesn't
(IO34)	SQPN 1090	both charged up the batteries I think maybe they (.) got some more (.) if only the (...) S0376[?]: well the ANONnameM's a bit S0104: >>mm (.) ANONnameF filled ANONnameM's
(IO35)	SR3K 1240	you did S0604: why didn't you use the other door ? S0603: streaker UNKFEMALE[?]: if only somebody would mend the door S0493: I'll mend it for you mum
(IO36)	SRL9 110	I've got S0590: >>no I don't think I've ever tried S0588: if only S0590: >>I don't think I could S0588: >>there was a job that S0590: >>I
(IO37)	SUNM 3055	say to us well he he was really nice and said oh if only I'd just charged a fiver for the kids cos now they
(IO38)	SV28 149	are nice though it is nice to have a big bay window (.) if only they were a little bit clean S0198: I know they're not even
(IO39)	SWSL 51	more there than the find actually S0687: yeah I'm sure there are if only we had Bill (.) he's got quite a good sense of smell
(IO40)	SWYP 182	a bit off that's it yeah (...) S0456: I think I'm here S0463: if only I'd known ANONnameM goes to bed early I would've S0456: yeah

(IO41)	SF3V 1443	insisted on me (.) having a car S0282: pah S0288: it was a very expensive S0282: >>if only our father had insisted on having cars instead of having to ask
(IO42)	SY5E 965	now couldn't they ? S0229: they'll be home five six o'clock (.) if only they don't keep ANONnameM over there with them S0198: don't know
(IO42)	SYNT 178	it ? S0273: but erm yeah she seems to be fine settled and if only I could say the same about ANONnameM S0272: did he find some accommodation

No.	Code in the Spoken BNC2014	Concordance Lines
(IW1)	SYNT 11	coffee with ANONnameF I can't it's really inconvenient for me S0273: >>I wish I could have persuaded ANONnameM to work on that principle S0272: er well
(IW2)	S3RZ 617	ANONnameF to bring some over with her S0144: yeah well I could drink (.) I wish I had bought some Ruddles (.) that 's my favourite S0024: yeah ? Oh
(IW3)	SEGJ 42	yours was like Canadian bacon and something I didn't know S0635: oh I wish I could remember now cos I I think it was weird there
(IW4)	SYWB 350	swimming lots of swimming S0417: it's cool swimming isn't it ? I wish I could swim a bit more or I wish I could actually
(IW5)	STWC 851	that's like that's not gonna work at all either S0326: I wish someone would rub my belly S0331: I didn't write that S0331: what's
(IW6)	S2GC 897	to go isn't it ? S0144: well it's quite a walk S0024: >>I wish it was this side of ANONplace S0144: mm S0024: yeah it's it's
(IW7)	SZ98 605	to my dad anyway so S0441: daddy S0439: that's the thing sometimes like I wish my parents lived closer so I could live at home like it
(IW8)	SQWC 1307	week S0084: Cos I don't know anyone who would say that (...) Oh I wish I could actually swim (.) that 's what I need (...) He 's an
(IW9)	S2DD 1091	's nice all I were where they live S0687: I wish I c- I wish I'd seen it S0688: mm it's erm S0690: so you've not
(IW10)	SCWJ 691	a S0518: >>I have to say (.) I wish I hadn't bothered ANONnameF I wish I'd just stayed as I was (.) for S0517: >>do you ? S0518: yeah
(IW11)	S7NH 262	that are on that side S0084: oh yeah S0083: and that will taken over S0083: (...) I wish I had some money (.) I would put a fence all the way
(IW12)	SXSM 176	free free taxi S0529: >>yeah I feel that S0530: I just it was nice I wish they'd told us from the beginning it was free because it

(IW13)	SE3Y 628	's the good thing I like about it is that there's I wish I'd thought of it there's sort of all separate plots
(IW14)	SE6F 351	no one in the world played it it was so much fun (.) I wish that was still a thing (.) it was a bit like this but
(IW15)	SQE6 245	mean S0587: >>I just want to just punch myself in the face S0587: UNCLEARWORD S0583: I wish you'd do that S0586: no the weird thing is like we we
(IW16)	SJKD 383	to do the other snowman S0621: ANONnameF look at my Christmas pudding UNKFEMALE[?]: UNCLEARWORD UNKFEMALE[?]: I wish I could just kiss it but I can't cos it'll
(IW17)	SNNG 100	it said dear ANONnameF and ANONnameF erm it is with regret that I wish to hand in my notice I'm not happy working at the
(IW18)	S8S2 9	Turner S0202: that's good clever S0218: and this Alicia Keys Annette Keys S0202: (...) ah I wish them spots would bugger off (...) and it's sent done S0218: done and
(IW19)	SHTW 466	I love coming down here S0013: >>mm S0278: looking after this lot I wish I wish we were allowed to do more but there's a lot of
(IW20)	STGP 248	that they that I had that opportunity to learn that I mean I wish I hadn't had to learn it in the way that I
(IW21)	STG9 600	and I got rid of all of mine and I thought god I wish I'd kept them so S0632: some of your records S0636: >>I do love
(IW22)	SVFH 689	my god you'd love that S0250: yeah ? S0253: it's about oh I wish we had it ANONnameF showed it me on DVD it's got
(IW23)	SDXW 326	that's what I'm that's just (.) that's just the S0278: I wish I knew what the speaker connectors were they do look like BT
(IW24)	SLRY 225	with a smaller garden UNCLEARWORD house has UNCLEARWORD the garden S0324: oh mm S0325: I wish we just had like a balcony and then you could just put
(IW25)	SYWB 350	n't it ? I wish I could swim a bit more or I wish I could actually swim S0416: well UNCLEARWORD S0417: >>but at least he's good
(IW26)	S575 424	tucked underneath him S0017: ANONnameF's here watching him S0019: mm S0017: intently S0019: Silly boy S0018: I wish S0019: silly boy S0018: Barclays would just give you an online record of all
(IW27)	S8CV 333	stay or not S0689: yeah S0687: (...) this caravan's a bit of a slow-mo (.) I wish we could overtake a bit whoa careful S0688: >>whoa S0687: jesus S0688: what were you
(IW28)	SUTB 622	was funny though S0330: it was fucking brilliant and it felt so good S0328: >> I wish I'd been able to stay awake S0330: you were gone dude do

(IW29)	SL3R 224	S0324: yeah she's like S0325: well I like Carrie S0324: yeah like Carrie S0325: >>I wish I could meet her S0324: yeah I'm also jealous S0325: I know even
(IW30)	S9GP 1018	I remember one time my friend in Berlin told me such er I wish it was recorded her telling me this story about how one time
(IW31)	S632 2612	sense now I understand S0208: UNCLEARWORD just so much energy S0211: >>it's alright S0222: I wish I had that much energy I'd be much less fat S0208: I
(IW32)	S72E 751	disgusted by it S0510: er I'm no I'm I'm just S0509: >>I wish I was a punk rocker with flowers in my hair S0510: >>in my
(IW33)	SL9V 806	Smiths and these kind of things S0198: >>yeah you're gonna UNCLEARWORD S0192: I wish town centres were more interactive and were more like places you go
(IW34)	S9E6 599	and I want to be like peaceful and pacifist S0326: yeah S0380: but S0326: sometimes I wish sometimes I wish that I could like te- we- te- tell you
(IW35)	S59W 42	on what to write ? S0152: I'm just going to do the I wish to apply for this job cos it's an application form plus
(IW36)	S9E6 599	to be like peaceful and pacifist S0326: yeah S0380: but S0326: sometimes I wish sometimes I wish that I could like te- we- te- tell you things to say
(IW37)	SDJA 1059	time (.) the amount of conversations S0328: >>just right now or like S0383: no forever S0328: I wish I could be like S0383: >>the amount of conversations I have to have
(IW38)	SDA8 752	gonna start it S0330: >>UNCLEARWORD S0328: yeah I'll do it again though I wish you could just send put a picture of you and then they
(IW39)	S94U 198	though putting all these things S0618: >>follow your bliss S0619: into place S0618: yeah S0619: and I wish you know I don't I was gonna say I wish
(IW40)	SRBZ 440	but but she's lovely company she's never says you know I wish I'd seen you more often and whatev- S0238: >>mm yeah S0389: she never
(IW41)	SXRR 752	I go out S0041: >>UNCLEARWORD loves the granny dress (.) you know (.) of which I wish they'd ordered me another one already cos that one looks even
(IW42)	STXT 27	S0245: erm S0246[?]: >>what ? S0400: instrumental musication S0245: do you want the strudel ANONnameF ? S0246[?]: I wish I was in something no ANONnameF's cooking her tea so we
(IW43)	S7K2 145	've got that sort of mind haven't you to ? S0281: >>well I wish I was S0355: well S0355: it's only they say li- er erm it

(IW44)	SFXU 718	use it you haven't contributed S0012: I mean that idiot Clegg UNCLEARWORD S0013: >>I wish I hadn't opted out of paying them (.) I opted without S0012: >>>yeah
(IW45)	SVFH 1270	I would like to be in the office a little bit like I wish I had the option but he just doesn't want me going
(IW46)	SXFD 934	like not to sound like S0678: there's a few people that I I wish I knew more or didn't know so much you for example
(IW47)	SMW8 1665	anyway yes erm S0316: you were doing that at school ? S0255: no I I wish we were S0316: >>oh S0255: >>no we were doing all about the Iron Age
(IW48)	SVNL 1514	Summer Time so that we put the clocks two hours forwards and I wish they'd make up their minds (.) the the argument about abolishing it
(IW49)	S632 1558	hate it UNCLEARWORD smoking UNCLEARWORD not be a social thing S0221: sorry ? S0222: I wish smoking wasn't a social thing S0221: UNCLEARWORD S0222: but why'd you say
(IW50)	SAUR 367	when we came back from France I said to ANONnameF oh god I wish I'd taken the book to France S0192: UNCLEARWORD S0189: was the book ?
(IW51)	S5XD 3914	no S0192: >>I love him but I I don't wanna say I wish she didn't have him but I feel to a certain degree
(IW52)	SRG8 472	scrub that S0144: nah S0024: scrub that move on S0144: no not deleting that S0144: so S0024: I wish I'd bought some chocolate S0144: yeah me too S0024: no no no S0144: no
(IW53)	SDHB 2464	(.) in London a whole street I forget the name of the street I wish I could remember but S0008: >>oh I know the one you 're talking
(IW54)	S954 246	know they say to you like oh I know who you are I wish we were friends blah blah blah and then you're like okay
(IW55)	SKPB 709	you know these towels that haven't got the stuff in them I wish I could remember it all S0320: >>I remem- I remember you telling me
(IW56)	S94U 198	I wish you know I don't I was gonna say I wish I was more like ANONnameM and I was just spontaneous but I
(IW57)	SD3R 1300	S0336: yeah S0344: >>do you know what I mean like S0350[?]: >>you don't know S0344: I wish you'd stop S0350[?]: >>I know it would S0344: >>with this shit because like
(IW58)	SD3R 2155	to fucking hit me S0350[?]: when you're in these situations like S0344: >>honestly I wish you guys were there S0350[?]: you being abused S0344: and they're just like
(IW59)	SB5E 1299	mine leaks all the time like the shower and it just S0532: >>yeah I wish we had like proper cleaners and S0529: >>and you have to clean and

(IW60)	SC6N 39	na smu- S0324: she's like it's smudged it's smudged oh I wish I had a piece of paper can I just stick it over
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