



In this paper, first, I present a general analysis of the grammaticalisation of the future-tense grams, based on observations from the corpus I have elaborated, in which age, gender and diatopic variation are recorded. Yet, I show that the only parameter that affects considerably the choice of grams is geographic location. I use several tests or criteria in order to determine the level of grammaticalisation of each of the forms (TABLE 1). The main conclusion extracted from the analysis is this: besides the fact that many of the grams still retain part of their original meaning; ASPECT and MODE restrictions are the main properties which reveal different levels of grammaticalisation of the forms under study. Second, I examine the less common (in Slavonic) grams (1-4) individually and describe their specific functions or semantic nuances. The grams (1), (5) and (6) are the most versatile and are used for expressing either intentions or predictions. The rest of the grams have more restricted uses, particularly the de-obligative (2) and de-volitive (3) constructions, which retain a fairly strong modal value. And third, I look at those grams from a historical and typological perspective. I compare them with parallel structures in other European languages which may have been in contact with West Polesian, terminating with a map of possible areal connections. This way, (1), (2) and (3) could be related to Southern Slavonic and Rusyn; (4) to Russian, Circum-Baltic languages and/or German; and (5) and (6) are common to all Eastern Slavonic languages. Withal, the functions of these grams are not necessarily shared with West Polesian (whose constructions for the future tense have more competitors than in other languages). For example, the de-volitive (3) is found in Croatian, but with a fairly desemantised (or non-volitive) meaning; whereas in West Polesian it can only be employed to express a non-external obligation in the future. In sum, data from recent fieldwork point out that the rich system of future tense constructions in West Polesian is of typological interest, particularly with respect to European languages.

Test   Gram	Inflection -al future	De-obligative future	De-volitive future	De-venitive future	Perfective present	Copular future
PERSON restr.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSITIVITY restr.	-	-	-	?	-	-
Segmentability	N/A	+	+	+	N/A	+
Phonetic erosion	+	-	+?	-	-	-
Has additional meanings	+?	+	+	+	-	+
ASPECT restr.	+	?	-	?	+	+
MODE restr.	-	-	-?	?	+	+

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