Capitulum XXVII - Res Rusticae

Subjunctive Mood

Previously, we have seen only the indicative mood (used to make statements or ask questions) and the imperative mood (used to issue commands). This chapter introduces the subjunctive mood.

The present subjunctive is formed by changing the characteristic vowel of the four conjugations. The 1st conjugation changes to -*e*- and the 2nd, 3rd and fourth conjugations change to -*a*-.

Active		Passive	
amem	amemus	amer	amemur
ames	ametis	ameris	amemini
amet	ament	ametur	amentur
moneam	moneamus	monear	moneamur
moneas	moneatis	monearis	moneamini
moneat	moneant	moneatur	moneantur
ducam	ducamus	ducar	ducamur
ducas	ducatis	ducaris	ducamini
ducat	ducant	ducatur	ducantur
audiam	audiamus	audiar	audiamur
audias	audiatis	audiaris	audiamini
audiat	audiant	audiatur	adiantu

The present subjunctive of *sum, esse* is irregular:

sim	simus
sis	sitis
sit	sint

Uses of the Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is used occasionally in an independent clause to express a wish, hope, or will of the speaker. But it is much more commonly used in subordinate clauses of different types.

This chapter introduces the present subjunctive used in subordinate clauses of command (called "indirect commands"):

Iulius colono imperat ut mercedem solvat. Julius commands the farmer that he pay his fee (to pay his fee).

Colonus eum orat ut patientiam habeat. The farmer begs that he have patience (to have patience).

Vos moneo ut industrie laboretis. I advise you that you work diligently (to work diligently).

Nota bene:
(1) The subjunctive of "indirect command" covers the range from outright commands to begging or mere suggestions.
(2) The *ut* used to introduce the subordinate clause is a subordinate conjunction ("that") and is to be distinguished from the *ut* of comparison ("like, as"). To form a negative indirect command, *ne* or *ut ne* is used.
(3) The verb *iubeo* does not regularly take an indirect command, but governs an accusative and infinitive construction (*Iubeo vos industrie laborare*).
(4) The idiomatic translation in English is often a simple infinitive (to pay, etc.)

Ablative of Separation
An ablative (without preposition) is used to express *separation*:

Servis meis imperabo ut te agris meis pellant. I will command my slaves that they drive you from me fields.

Noli me officio meo prohibere. Do not hold me back from my duty.

Quam with the Superlative
Quam with a superlative expresses the highest degree possible.

Pastor quam celerrime potest ad oves suas currit. The shepherd runs to his sheep as quickly as possible.

Ne . . . quidem
The negation *ne* is used in *ne . . . quidem* (not even) to emphasize a word or phrase that comes between.

Ne in Campania quidem plures villae sunt. Not even in Campania are there many villas.

Ne assem quidem habeo. I don't have even one penny.

Ne verbum quidem dic! Don't say even a word!

Vocabulary

agricola, -ae *m* farmer
copia, -ae *f* plenty, supply
cura, -ae *f* care, concern
lana, -ae *f* wool
patientia, -ae *f* patience
uva, -ae *f* grape
venea, -ae *f* vineyard
ager, agri *m* field
aratrum, -i *m* plow
colonus, -i *m* tenant farmer
frumentum, -i *n* grain
instrumentum, -i *n* tool
negotium, -i *n* business
otium, -i *n* leisure
pabulum, -i *n* fodder
praedium, -i *n* estate
vinum, -i *n* wine
calor, -oris *m* heat
falx, falcis *f* sickle; curved sword
frigus, frigoris *n* chill, cold
fruges, frugum *fpl* crops
grex, gregis *m* herd
labor, laboris *m* labor, toil
pecus, pecoris *n* livestock, cattle
regio, -ionis *f* region
rus, ruris *n* countryside
semen, seminis *n* seed
vitis, vitis *f* vine

aro (1) to plow
rigo (1) to water
laboro (1) to work
existimo (1) to think
oro (1) to beg, pray
censeo, -ere, ui, -sum, to think, be of the
    opinion
noceo, -ere, -ui, to be harmful
prohibeo, -ere, -ui, -itum, to prevent, keep
    away
cingo, -ere, cinxi, cinctum, to bind, sur-
    round, gird
colo, -ere, colui, cultum, to cultivate; wor-
    ship
cresco, -ere, crevi, cretum, to grow

inveho, -ere, -vexi, -vectum, to import
meto, -ere, messui, messum, to reap, harvest
neglego, -ere, neglexi, neglectum, to neglect
pasco, -ere, pavi, pastum, to pasture
proicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectum, to throw forward
quiesco, -ere, quievi, to rest
rapio, -ere, rapui, raptum, to tear away,
    carry off
sero, -ere, sevi, satum, to sow
spargo, -ere, sparsi, sparsum, to scatter
utor, uti, usus sum + *abl* to use
prosum, prodesse, profuisse + *dat* to be of
    advantage

amoenus, -a, -um, pleasant (of places)
gravidus, -a, um, heavy
immaturus, -a, -um, not ripe
inhumanus, -a, -um, inhumane
maturus, -a, -um, ripe
rusticus, -a, -um, rustic
siccus, -a, -um, dry
suburbanus, -a, -um, near the city
fertilis, -e, fertile
neglegens, -entis, careless
patiens, -ientis, enduring, patient
rudis, -e, rough
nequam, worthless

quidam, quaedam, quoddam, a certain

denique, finally
parum, little; too little
tantum, only

abs = *a, ab* (only before *te*)
circa + *acc* around
prae + *abl* before, in front of; compared
    with; on account of
pro + *abl* before, in front of, on behalf of
    (for)