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*Brno studies in English*. 1976, vol. 12, iss. 1, pp. 145-158

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/118076>

Access Date: 01. 12. 2024

Version: 20220831

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# SOME MORE NOTES ON THE CONDITIONAL AND THE FUTURE IN ENGLISH AND IN ITALIAN

Jaroslav Ondráček

Although what follows should in fact be read with other such articles (Ondráček 1971a, 1971b, 1973) in mind — they are all just chapters of a major work on time relations between finite verb forms in the two languages — a short explanation in the Notes of the various symbols and abbreviations will certainly remove the only obstacle to a full understanding of the present article.

I. The idea of posteriority (Pt) we come across in indirect and semi-indirect speech (of the types  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  — Ondráček 1971a.71), and that of condition (Cd) do not represent the only sphere of action covered by the Conditional in the system of verb forms. The first section of our notes will therefore touch upon some cases of its use which differ from both the functions we have just mentioned.

A sentence taken from an Italian newspaper will serve as our first example:

(U2) L'affare però non sarebbe ancora stato concluso.

If we did not know the context of the sentence, we might think of posteriority in semi-indirect speech  $\beta$  (Pt<sub>P-0</sub>), or about a past condition viewed either from the present (P + Cd) or the past (A<sub>P</sub> + Cd). The English and Czech translations would be, accordingly:

- a) But the matter would not yet be settled.  
Ale záležitost nebude ještě uzavřena.
- b) But the matter would not yet have been settled.  
Ale záležitost by nebyla ještě (bývala) uzavřena.

But the sentence is not isolated. The information immediately following it rules out our interpretation, and the words *secondo le stesse fonti* (according to the same sources, podle těchže pramenů) offer a clue to the correct way of looking at the verb in the conditional. Fochi (1965.266—7) speaks of the “absolute” Conditional or about its “synthetic use”; synthetic because it expresses in synthesis what may be developed into a clause, in our case, for instance: *Si dice però che l'affare non sia ancora stato concluso* (But they say that the matter has not yet been settled. Říká se však, že záležitost nebyla | není | ještě uzavřena). After the expression *si dice* (they say, people say, it is said; říká se, prý) we

could call this “second-hand information” and use the symbol Ia (informazione altrui). From the temporal point of view, the past conditional refers to the pre-present (A<sub>0</sub>) in a wider sense and to various degrees of relation with the present (see special uses of the Future Perfect Tense later on in this section); the present conditional refers to the present or to the future (in contrast to the Future Tense, which in that special use always expresses the present). So our newspaper text shows us an independent conditional (i.e. in independent, main clauses), its function being very similar to that of the Future Tense we spoke of just now. There is a difference, though: the future here gives the speaker’s inference (about the present or the past), whereas the conditional gives “other people’s opinion” (about the present, the past, and the future):

(U2) *l'affare però non sarebbe ancora stato concluso. Secondo le stesse fonti, sarebbero pure in corso trattative con un grande settimanale italiano il cui editore troverebbe eccessivo il prezzo richiestogli: 25 milioni di lire.*

A<sub>0</sub> + Ia//0 + Ia/0 + Ia// sarebbe stato//sarebbe/troverebbe//

The piece of news ends with an ordinary conditional clause in which the conditional, a dependent verb form this time, refers to the present:

(U2) *In definitiva, quindi, qualora il piano escogitato da A. C. potesse realizzarsi completamente, ci si troverebbe di fronte ad uno dei più colossali affari editoriali del dopoguerra.*

0 + Cd + Cg/0 + Cd// potesse/ci si troverebbe//

U3 regards the future:

(U3) *Maria Callas abbandonerebbe tra breve il teatro lirico e canterebbe ‘,solo per suo marito’.* (L’Unità, 20.7.1960)

0 + Ia/0 + Ia// abbandonerebbe/canterebbe//

Such use of the conditional is most frequently found in newspapers. An example of non-journalistic language is D1 (a dictionary definition):

(D1) *il canto del cigno, l’ultima e migliore opera di un artista; si ricollega all’antica tradizione, secondo la quale il cigno, prima di morire, intonerebbe un canto estremamente dolce*

A good instance of “second-hand information” is R6, where the word *appointment* (*návštěva*) of the English original is qualified in the Italian translation by a relative clause with a past conditional to express “dubbio o incertezza o possibilità del passato” (S. Battaglia—V. Pernicone 1960.374):

(R6) *„Noi abbiamo la convinzione che la visita che voi le avreste fatto debba aver avuto una certa importanza per la signora de Winter...”*

“We do feel her appointment with you must have some bearing on the case and her subsequent—suicide.”

„Máme dojem, že její návštěva u vás souvisí s její — sebevraždou.”

0/A<sub>0</sub> + Ia/A<sub>0</sub> + Cg// abbiamo/avreste fatto/debba aver avuto//

we do feel/—/must have//

máme/ — /souvisí//

The Present Conditional also serves to “soften an affirmation in respect of the listener, or to limit its weight” (Battaglia—Pernicone 1960.374). Examples B1 and R7 illustrate this independent function of the Conditional, the latter showing a use with the Perfect Infinitive:

(B1) *„Che cosa Maria veda in me, non saprei;...”*

“What she sees in me, I don’t know.”

0 + Cg/0 + Cd/ ... // veda/non saprei/ ... //

sees/I don’t know//

Here we have not a condition but a sort of indicative (a softened *non so*), as suggested by the English original and the present subjunctive *veda* (the Present Conditional depending on a condition calls for a subjunctive of the imperfetto).

(R7) „Che cosa dovrebbe essere successo in realtà?“

“What do you suggest really happened?”

„Jak myslíte, že se věc skutečně udála?“

A<sub>0</sub> + Cd//      dovrebbe essere successo//  
    happened//  
    udála se//

Here, too, the affirmation is softened because it gives a personal view (see the verb *suggest, myslit*), this time on a past action (see the Italian perfect infinitive and the past verb forms *happened, udála se*).

In addition, let us mention an interesting example in which the 3rd person singular of the present conditional of *to be* actually forms part of an adverbial expression:

(C20) “In ogni modo, forse ti posso aiutare.,, “Come sarebbe?,, fece Spence sorpreso. (96)  
 “However, I may be able to help you out.” “How’s that?” Spence asked, wondering-  
 (92—93)

“Přesto ale možná vám budu moct poradit.,, „A jakpak tak?“ zeptal se Spence překvapě. (59)

Come sarebbe?

How’s that?

A jakpak tak?

We use this expression, which may be considered a shortened version of the question *come sarebbe a dire?*, to ask for an explanation. It is very similar to the adverb *cioè*, included in the Garzanti Dictionary with the meaning *sarebbe a dire?* The Czech word *jakpak* stands in fact for *tj. jak?* (*that is, how; cioè come*). Instead of the relatively strong affirmation the indicative form (*cioè?*), we find in *come sarebbe?* the Conditional, which makes the affirmation softer and less doubtless.

Attention should also be paid to the use of the Future Tense and the Future Perfect Tense for what we may indicate as “inference”. In this case we are dealing with these forms in a new function, namely to represent the present (0) or anteriority from the present point of view, i.e. the pre-present (A<sub>0</sub>), and not actions “to the right of zero”. We shall see from the examples that the pre-present has a wider range here, including in Italian not only PP but PR and imperfetto as well. Thus, the difference between the ideas of event and circumstance, characteristic of past actions, becomes blurred and is outweighed by the standpoint (a present one) that looks upon them as being possible or probable or even certain; such is in fact the meaning of adverbs which accompany the inference (or judgement), or are easily implied.

(PS13) „È molto lontano di qui?“ riprese poi. „Non lo so precisamente: saranno dieci, saranno dodici miglia.“ (309)

“Is it very far from here?” he went on then. “I don’t know for sure; maybe ten, maybe twelve miles.” (220)

“Je to hodně daleko odsud?“ pokračoval. “Nevím to přesně: takových deset, dvanáct mil.“ (161)

... /0 + Inf/0 + Inf//      ... /saranno/saranno//  
    ... /(maybe)/(maybe)//  
    ... /(takových)/ — //

PS13 is a clear example of what hides behind the future verb form in the Italian

original: it is the adverb *perhaps* (*snad, forse*), as we can see from the English word *maybe* and from the demonstrative pronoun *takových*, used in Czech to convey the same meaning. Both the English and the Czech versions have only a verbal expression of inference in PS14:

(PS14) Ma intanto, faceva un altro discorso con se stessa. — Saranno usciti a quest'ora? o saranno ancor dentro? Che sciocchi che siamo stati tutt'e tre, a non concertar qualche segnale, per avvisarmi, quando la cosa fosse riuscita! (151)

But meanwhile she was carrying on another conversation with herself.—Will they be out by now? Or will they still be inside? What fools all three of us were not to have arranged some signal, so's I could know when it's over. (103)

Ale mezitím vedla u sebe docela jiný rozhovor. — Už jsou venku? Anebo jsou ještě uvnitř? Jáme my to všichni tři hlupáci, měli jsme se dohodnout na nějakém znamení, které by mě upozornilo, až bude všecko hotovo! (81)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf/0 + Inf// saranno usciti/saranno//  
will they be (out)/will they be//  
jsou (už)/jsou//

The two actions relate to a present situation, the first describing a circumstance which results from a precedingly inferred event (cf. the Czech *už*), the second describing an inferred circumstance. Further examples will only prove the fact that the Future Perfect Tense in this special function actually reduces all past actions to present circumstances which represent an inference based on the speaker's point of view; obvious reference to the present is also revealed by examples where the English verb *must* corresponds to the Italian *deve* in the constructions with the Perfect Infinitive:

(A2) “Forse l'avrà sentito dire, anzi, deve averlo letto nei giornali.” (311)

“I suppose you have heard of it; indeed, you must have seen it in the papers.” (323)

„Snad jste se o tom doslechl, nebo jste to četl v novinách.“ (272)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf/A<sub>0</sub>// (forse) avrà sentito/deve aver letto//  
(I suppose) you have heard/you must have seen//  
(snad) doslechl jste se/četl jste//

This sentence carries a different degree of inference in the English original: first, possibility (*I suppose*), and then certainty (*must*). A stronger supposition in the second part of the sentence (the Czech version has a past tense without an adverb) is suggested by the expression *indeed*, translated into Italian as *anzi* (which, according to the Garzanti Dictionary, is used “con valore rafforzativo”). Another example of the *deve* (*must*) + Perfect Infinitive construction is A3:

(A3) „La vostra mamma dev'essere stata completamente schiava della vostra educazione.“ (157)

“Your mother must have been quite a slave to your education.” (161)

“Paní matka musela dít jako otrokyně, než vás všechny vzdělala.” (139)

A<sub>0</sub> // dev'essere stata //  
must have been //  
musela dít //

Of course, the English construction with *must* may also be equal to the Italian Future Perfect, both with an adverb of inference (A4) and without it (A5, B2, M4):

(A4) “Avrò certamente avuto torto nella forma, ma non nell'intenzione, te lo assicuro.” (345)

“My manners must have been in fault, but not intentionally, I assure you.” (356)

“Musela jsem ten dojem vyvolat svým chováním, ale ujišťuji vás, že neúmyslně.” (299)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / O //avrò (certamente) avuto / assicuro //

they must have been / I assure //

musela jsem vyvolat / ujišťuji //

(A5) "Senza governante sarete state trascurate." (157)

"Without a governess you must have been neglected." (161)

"Vaše výchova musela být zanedbána, když jste neměly vychovatelku." (139)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // sarete state //  
you must have been //  
musela být //

(B2) "Qualcosa avrete puf fatto", urlò quasi lui.

"You must have done something," he roared.

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / ... // avrete fatto / ... //  
you must have done / ... //

(M4) "Mai più", continuò la madre: s'immagini che tutti ci guardavano... chissà cosa avranno pensato... era terribile... ha ballato come... come"; ella cercò un epiteto e nel disordine del suo sdegno non lo trovò; "come un ladro". (132)

"Never again", she went on. "Just imagine — everybody was looking at us. What on earth must have they thought? It was terrible. He danced like a... like a..." — she searched for a comparison and, in the confusion of her anger, could not find one — "like a thief." (280)

— Nikdy viac, — pokračovala matka, — predstavte si, že sa všetci na nás dívali... ktovie, čo si mysleli... bolo to hrozné... tancoval ako... ako... — hľadala vhodné prívovnanie, ale zmätená z rozhorčenia nijaké nevedela nájsť, — ako zloděj. (102)

... / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / ... // ... / avranno pensato / ... //  
... / must they have thought / ... //  
... / mysleli / ... //

Let us now consider more closely the time aspects of the Future and Future Perfect Tenses used in this function. We have already mentioned the fact that the former shows an inference about the present, the latter about the past. A present inference is also illustrated by the following examples:

(G12) "Immagino quanto Vostra Eccellenza sarà seccato per la partenza del signorino Tancredi; ma la sua assenza non durerà molto, ne sono sicuro, e tanto andrà a finire bene." (27)

"I can imagine how Your Excellency must be worried by Signorino Tancredi's departure; but he won't be away long, I'm sure, and all will end well." (33)

"Dovedu si představit, jak asi Vaši Excelenci mrzí odjezd mladého pana Tancrediho Ale jsem si jist, že nebude pryč dlouho a že všecko skončí dobře." (37)

0 / 0 + Inf / ... // immagino / sarà / ... //  
I can imagine / must be / ... //  
dovedu si představit / (asi) mrzí / ... //

'(R8) "Non vorrai mica che Frith senta quel che sto per dire, eh?" disse.

"You don't want Frith to hear what I'm going to say, do you?" he said.

"Nechcete snad, aby Frith slyšel, co vám řeknu?" pokračoval Favell.

0 + Inf / ... // non vorrai / ... //  
you don't want / ... //  
nehcete (snad) / ... //

(B3) "Siamo stati inquieti per te, Sue. Non sarai mica malata, per caso?"

"We've got worrying about you. You aren't sick, are you, Sue?"

... / 0 + Inf // ... // non sarai //  
... // you aren't //

Example M5 contains both forms side by side, but the future tense is ambiguous because it may either be referring to a future fact or expressing an inference about the present. The future perfect, on the other hand, clearly represents the pre-present (*has engaged, rezervovala*):

(M5) "E poi", soggiunse, "sarebbe una vera maleducazione mancare al ricevimento della Smithson... chissà quanta gente ci sarà... avrà fatto un treno speciale per far andare i suoi invitati fino a Milano...". (165)

"Besides", she went on, "it would be extremely bad manners to cut Miss Smithson's

reception. There'll be all sorts of people there... I expect she's engaged a special train to take her guests to Milan". (284)

— A potom, — dodala, — bolo by to naozaj nezdvorilé neprijať pozvanie missis Smithsonovej... Ktovie, koľko ľudí tam bude... Možno, že rezervovala osobitný vlak, aby jej hostia mohli pricestovať až do Milána. (126)

... / F(0 + Inf) / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // ... / ci sarà / avrà fatto //  
... / there will be / (I expect) has engaged //  
... // bude // (možno) rezervovala //

As far as an inference about the past is concerned, we should remember that the Future Perfect covers both the pre-present (A<sub>0</sub>) and a past event (P<sup>E</sup>) or circumstance (P<sup>C</sup>). Otherwise we could not explain some relations which are brought about by the so-called Sequence of Tenses. For example:

(R9) "Forse avrà creduto che avessi intenzione di intralciarla nelle sue mansioni."  
"Perhaps she thought I was going to interfere with the running of the house  
"Snad si myslila, že se jí chci plést do domácnosti."

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / S<sub>p</sub> + Cg // (forse) avrà creduto / avessi intenzione //  
(perhaps) thought / I was going //  
(snad) myslila si / chci //

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf may be replaced here by P<sup>C</sup> (i.e. the imperfetto *credeva*), a circumstance corresponding to the English past tense *thought*, after which a contemporary action requires, in conformity with the rule, a past tense (*avessi, was*) where in Czech we have a present tense form (*chci*). The part of the imperfetto is also played by the Future Perfect in the following examples:

(A6) "Forse, sulle prime, sarò stato in collera, ma subito il mio sdegno cominciò a rivolgersi contro chi lo meritava." (345)

("I was angry, perhaps, at first, but my anger soon began to take a proper direction."  
(356)

"Možná, že jsem se zprvu na vás hněval, ale ten hněv se brzy obrátil na správnou adresu."  
(299)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / P<sup>E</sup> / P<sup>C</sup> // sarò stato / cominciò / meritava //  
I was (perhaps) / began / — //  
hněval jsem se (možná) / obrátil se / — //

(R10) "Diciamo che ci abbia messo una mezz'ora, per pranzare; che cosa avrà fatto poi dalle due alle tre? È quel che dovremmo stabilire."

"Say it took her half-an-hour to have lunch, what was she doing from two until three? We ought to verify that."

... / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // ... // ... / avrà fatto // ... //  
... / was doing // ... //

A past event (P<sup>E</sup>) is concealed in the Future Perfect form of these examples:

(A7) "Mi immagino che suo cugino si sarà fatto accompagnare da lei essenzialmente con lo scopo di aver qualcuno a propria disposizione." (174)

"I imagine your cousin brought you down with him chiefly for the sake of having somebody at his disposal." (179)

"Váš bratranec si vás vzal s sebou zřejmě hlavně proto, aby měl komu poroučet..." (154)

0 / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // mi immagino / si sarà fatto accompagnare //  
I imagine / brought //  
(zřejmě) / vzal si //

(R11) "Quando eri bambina, ti avranno proibito di legger certi libri? E tuo padre li teneva sotto chiave?"

"When you were a little girl, were you ever forbidden to read certain books, and did your father put those books under lock and key?"

"..., když jsi byla malá holčička, zakázali ti číst jisté knihy a zavíral je před tebou tatínek na zámek?"

P<sup>c</sup> / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // ... // eri / avranno proibito // ... //  
 you were / were you (forbidden) / ... //  
 byla jsi / zakázali / ... //

(R12) "Così, son quasi certa che anche quel giorno avrà pranzato là..."  
 "It's almost certain she lunched there that day."

0 / A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // son / avrà pranzato //  
 is / lunched //

Naturally, in similar cases the relation to the present (we are still dealing with the pre-present) cannot be so close as in C21, R13 and B4, where we find a doubtless connection with the present situation:

(C21) "Ma cosa sarà successo, Maud?" chiese Spence preoccupato, quasi tremante.  
 "Mavis non c'è." (163)

"What in the world's happened, Maud?" he asked, shaking with concern. "Mavis aint here." (159)

"Co se ke všem čertům stalo, Maud?" ptal se a celý se třásl starostí. "Mavis tady není." (100)

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf / ... / /sarà successo / ... //  
 has happened / ... //  
 stalo se / ... //

The sentence immediately following afterwards ("*Mavis non c'è*") proves a point of view that refers to the present.

(R13) "Frith li avrà condotti nella stanza di soggiorno."

"Frith will have taken them to the morning-room", she said...

"Fith patrně uvedl panstvo do ranního salónku", pokračovala.

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf // avrà condotti //  
 will have taken / ... //  
 (patrně) uvedl / ... //

Here we are thinking of the fact that they are (perhaps) in the morning-room because they have (apparently) been taken there by Frith. The third instance (B4) shows a pure present (*you know*), given in the Italian translation as a present state resulting from a supposed action that precedes:

(B4) "Avrai capito che non m'illudo di poterci mai andare veramente."

"Of course you know I always knew I'd never get there."

A<sub>0</sub> + Inf/0 // avrai capito / non m'illudo //  
 (of course) you know / — / ... //

The present interpretation of the Italian future perfect in our example is further demonstrated by the present tense form of the verb *m'illudo*.

II. This section of our notes wants to add some more details to what we dealt with in the article *Il verbo italiano e l'idea del futuro* (Ondráček 1965).

The first thing which characterizes Future Tense or Future Perfect Tense actions and their substitutes (the Present and the Present Perfect indicative and subjunctive) is that they occur only in direct speech, whether we mean words actually pronounced or words which are not in fact uttered. It proves that the actions are looked at solely from the speaker's point of view, i.e. from the standpoint of the narrator or a character in the story, and this is done always to the right of the sign for the present (0 → F; in the Future Perfect Tense the look back is secondary and derives from the "look to the right": 0 → FA ← F). This is real futurity and not posteriority ("the future in the past"), which, as we know, may be viewed from two planes (the narrator's plane and that of the past situation). It can sometimes happen that the future outweighs posteriority and brings about a time relation which does not conform



to the current grammatical rules. The article *Il verbo italiano* quotes the example: “*Era Cora — disse — Ti avvertiva che tra un quarto d’ora sarà libera.*” According to what has been said about posteriority, we should have expected either the form *sarebbe* (indirect speech  $\alpha$ , i.e. Pt<sub>P-0</sub>) or *sarebbe stata* (indirect speech  $\beta$ , i.e. Pt<sub>P-0</sub>), that is actions which the past tense *avvertiva* puts “to the left of zero”. The explanation of this “exception to the rule” lies in the fact that the speaker cancels the relation between the past and the posteriority under the influence of the given situation (i.e. the expression of time *tra un quarto d’ora*, common to both planes) and takes the idea of posteriority into the future sphere, i.e. the area “to the right of zero”, where, as we said, the Future (or Future Perfect) Tense is used.

Another example which seems to contradict the current rule is G13:

(G13) “...; essa è sicura di essere amata; ma, figlia ubbidiente e rispettosa, voleva farvi chiedere per mio mezzo che cosa dovrà rispondere se queste proposte venissero. Essa sente che sono imminenti.” (50)

“...; she is sure that she is loved; but, being an obedient and respectful daughter, she wishes me to find out from you what her answer is to be if a proposal does come. She thinks it imminent.” (60)

“Je si jistá, že ji miluje. Ale jako poslušná a uctivá dcera se vás chtěla mým prostřednitvím zeptat, co má odpovědět, jestli nabídka přijde. Cítí, že to bude každou chvíli.” (62)

... / P <sup>c</sup> / F / 0 + Cd + Cg / / ... / /	... / voleva / dovrà / venissero / / ... / /
	... / wishes / si (to be) / does come / / ... / /
	... / / chtěla / má / přijde / / ... / /

Here the imperfetto *voleva* serves in fact a purpose similar to the “softening function” of the Conditional (see p. 146). It is used in the spoken language “per presentare in forma attenuata una richiesta o per spiegare una situazione” (Battaglia—Pernicone 1960.372). We are thinking of the present, and this is also proved by the use of the present tense (*wishes*) in the English version.

The problems of future time relations themselves could be introduced by C22:

(C22) “Probabilmente quando l’avrà raggiunta avrà fame, e sarebbe bene che potessi prenderle qualcosa da mangiare.” (81)

“She’ll probably be hungry when I get there, and I ought to be in a position to get her something to eat.” (78)

“Dost možná, že bude mít hlad, až tam přijedu, a bylo by dobře, dybych jí moh vobjednat něco k jídlu.” (50)

A <sub>F</sub> / F / 0 + Cd / 0 + Cd + Cg / /	avrà raggiunta / avrà / sarebbe / potessi / /
	I get / will be / I ought to be / — / /
	přijedu / bude / bylo by / mohl bych / /

It would appear at first sight (and the basic symbols  $A_F$  and  $F$  do not exclude such possibility) that here we have a typical example of two future actions, one ( $A_F$ ) coming before the other ( $F$ ). A closer look at the relationship between the two actions will show a relation similar to the one existing between the TR and the imperfetto (Ondráček 1974.61). If we changed C22 into the past (the symbols illustrating the time relations would then be  $A_F^E/P^C$ ), we should get the beginning of the sentence as follows: *Probabilmente quando l’ebbe raggiunta (or la raggiunse) aveva fame*. We may add a transitional event of the type *vide* (*he saw, viděl*) to precede the contemporary circumstance *aveva* (*was, má*). Taking into account the whole context, the symbols used in our

original example could be written as  $A_F^E/F^C$  to point out the fact that there is an event together with a circumstance.

Of course,  $A_F$  also represent a circumstance resulting from an anterior action ( $A_F^C$ ), for example:

(B5) "Quando l'avrò sposata, la dipingerò dalla mattina alla sera."  
"When we're married, I'll do nothing but paint her all day long."

$A^C / F^C //$  avrò sposata / dipingerò //  
we're married / I'll paint //

(PS15) ... e pensava. — Pagherei qualche cosa a trovarmi a viso a viso con quel mercante, di là dall'Adda (ah quando l'avrò passata quest'Adda benedetta!), e fermarlo, e domandargli con comodo dov'abbia pescate tutte quelle belle notizie. (323)

... thinking, — I'd pay a good bit to meet that merchant on the other side of the Adda (ah, when shall I be across that blessed Adda?) and stop him, and ask him at my ease just where he picked up all that precious information. (230)

... a myslil si: — Nevím, co bych za to dal, kdybych se na druhém břehu Addy setkal s tím člověkem tváří v tvář (Bože, kdy přejdu tu nešťastnou Addu?), hned bych ho zastavil a pěkně se ho zeptal, kde vzal ty povedené zprávy. (168)

... /  $A^C$  / ... // ... / avrò passata / ... //  
... / I shall be across / ... //  
... / přejdu / ... //

The English translation of PS15 speaks for itself: *I shall be across* is a clear expression of the situation (the circumstance) that will exist after the crossing of the river. An even more convincing example is C23, where the future events  $F^E$  (*andrò* and *dirò*) depend on the situation that will be created in the future:

(C23) "Quando saremo stati per un po' a Beaseley County e avermo fatto una bella visita a tutti, parenti e vicini, andrò da Jim Howard e gli dirò di darmi un po' di soldi perchè io e tu si possa tornare quaggiù." (239)

"When we get back to Beaseley County for a while and have a good visit with all the kinfolk and neighbours, I'm going to Jim Howard and tell him he's got to let me have a little money so me and you can come back down here." (236)

"Až budem zase nějakou chvilku doma, tam u Beaseley, a všechny přibuzný a sousedy tam pěkně zponavštěvujem, tak puđu za Jimem Howardem a řeknu mu, že mě musí pučit nějaký peníze, abysme se my dva mohli sem dolů jet podívat." (147)

$A^C / A^C / F^E / F^E / S^C + Cg //$  saremo stati / avremo fatto / andrò / dirò / possa //  
we get / we have / I'm going / tell / can //  
budem / zponavštěvujem / puđu / řeknu / mohli  
bysme //

Although the verbs *get* and *have* express circumstances based on the preceding actions, stylistic reasons (spoken English) must have led to the use of non-perfect forms, but this is not so in the Italian translation which prefers the more exact perfect forms, grammatically speaking, or in the Czech version which chooses that inimitable verb *zponavštěvovat*.

The relation between the two Future Tenses can also be seen in the next three examples. The future perfect form of G14 shows an action which has its place in the future further qualified by the expression *già prima* (*long before, už předtím*): the action is anterior to a future action in the first sentence, so we may think of it as an independent tense, just like that in PS15. The third (unfinished) sentence contains the ordinary combination of the Future Perfect Tense with an implied Future Tense form, such as *sarà* (*più bella*).

(G14) "Tuo nipote, caro Russo, crederà sinceramente di essere barone; e tu diventerai, che so io, il discendente di un granduca di Moscovia, mercè il tuo nome, anziché il figlio di un cafone di pelo rosso, come proprio quel nome rivela. E tua figlia, gig prima, avrà

sposato uno di noi, magari anche questo stesso Tancredi, con i suoi occhi azzurri e le sue mani dinoccolate. Del resto, è bella, e una volta che avrà imparato a lavarsi..." (29)

"Your nephew, my dear Russo, will sincerely believe himself a baron; maybe you, because of your name, will become descendant of a grand duke of Muscovy instead of some red-skinned peasant, which is what that name of yours means. And long before that your daughter will have married one of us, perhaps Tancredi himself, with his blue eyes and his willowy hands. She's goodlooking, anyway, and once she's learned to wash..." (35)

"Tvůj vnuk, milý Russo, bude upřímně věřit, že je baron. A z tebe se stane, co já vím, potomek nějakého velkovévody moskevského, díky tvému jménu, a ne syn nějakého rusého křupana, jak ve skutečnosti odhaluje tvé jméno. A tvá dcera si už předtím vezme někoho z našich, možná právě toho Tancrediho s jeho modrýma očima a línýma rukama. Ostatně je hezká, a až se jednou taky naučí mýt se..." (39)

F / F / ... // crederà / diventerai / ... //  
will believe / you will become / ... //  
bude věřit / stane se / ... //

A<sup>c</sup> // avrà sposato //  
will have married //

0 / A? / ... // è / avrà imparato / ... //  
is / has learned / ... //  
je / naučí se / ... //

A good example of the "look back" we mentioned at the beginning of this section is provided by G15:

(G15) "Alcuni saranno perduti, altri salvi, a seconda di come avranno vissuto dentro questo loro mondo condizionato." (133)

"Some will be lost, others saved, according to how they've lived in that conditioned world of theirs." (160)

"Někteří budou zatraceni, někteří spaseni, podle toho, jak budou žít v tomto svém podmíněném světě." (153)

F / A<sub>F</sub> // saranno / avranno vissuto //  
they will be / they have lived //  
budou / budou žít //

The Czech translation of the Italian future perfect form sees the action only "to the right of zero", but the English version, using a verb in the Present Perfect, suggests a "look to the left". An inverted and more common order of future tenses is in G16. This example is also interesting for the change of an unreal condition into a real one, found, however, only in the Italian original; the English and the Czech translations have an unreal conditional clause even in the second part (*kdyby*):

(G16) "Se voi, don Pierino, vendeste ciuta invece di mentuccia, sapendolo, sareste fritto; ma se avrete creduto di essere nel vero, la *gnà* Zana farà la morte nobilissima di Socrate e voi andrete dritto dritto in cielo con tonaca e alucce, tutto bianco." (134)

"If you, Don Pierino, sold hemlock instead of mint, knowingly, you'd be for it; but if you thought you'd picked the right one, old Zana would die the noble death of Socrates and you'd go straight to Heaven with a cassock and wings of purest white." (160)

"Kdybyste vy, done Pierino, prodal bohlelav místo máty a věděl o tom, bylo by s vámi amen. Ale kdybyste věřil, že máte pravdu, tetka Zana by umřela vznešenou smrtí Sokratovou a vy byste přišel rovnou cestou do nebe, v bělostné říze a s andělskými křídly." (153)

0 + Cd + Cg / 0 + Cd / A<sub>F</sub> / F // vendeste / sareste / avrete creduto / farà (la you  
sold / you would be / you thought / would  
prodal byste / bylo by / věřil byste / umřela  
morte // andrete //  
die / you would go //  
by / přišel byste //

(C24) "Quando lei torna, a Maud sarà passata la caldana", disse Spence. "Spero proprio che le sarà passata", concluse la giovane mettendo in moto. (78)

"Maud'll be over her streak by the time you come back", he told her. "I certainly hope she'll be over it", she said as her car began moving. (73—74)

"Do tý doby, nežli zas přijdete, bude Maud zasejc ve svý kúži", ujistil ji. "Opravdu doufám, že už z toho bude venku", řekla ještě, jak se auto začalo rozjíždět. (48)

0<sub>F</sub> / A<sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup> // torna / sarà passata //  
you come back / will be //

0 / A<sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup> // přijdete / bude //  
spero / sarà passata //

I hope / will be //  
doufám / bude //

The first sentence describes the result of a future action, the situation (A<sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup>) at the time of the return, i.e. when the future event expressed in Italian and in English by the present tense (O<sub>F</sub>) will take place. The Italian language offers the choice between the present tense and the future tense, whereas the English time clause admits, as we know, only the use of a present tense form. The second sentence then shows a present perfect which represents a circumstance and plays an independent part in the subordinate noun (object) clause. We have already had some examples of the independent Future Perfect Tense in PS15 and in G13. The same function is seen in A8 and in R14, too:

(A8) "Tra poco Wickham se ne sarà andato, e allora poco interesserà alla gente di qu sapere chi egli sia veramente." (213)

"Wickham will soon be gone; and therefore it will not signify to anybody here what he really is." (219)

"Wickham zanedlouho odjede, a tudíž na tom nemůže nikomu záležet, co je to za člověka." (187)

A<sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup> / ... // se ne sarà andato / ... //  
will be gone / ... //  
odjede / ... //

R14) "Stai tranquilla, presto saremo arrivati. Mi figuro che avrai voglia di una tazza di tè", egli disse.

"Never mind, we'll soon be there. I expect you want your tea", he said.

"Jen ještě chvíli strpení, hned tam budeme. Jistě už se těšíš na svačinu."

... / A<sub>F</sub><sup>C</sup> // ... // ... / saremo arrivati // ... //  
... / we'll be // ... //  
budeme // ... //

Both the English original and the Czech translation of R14 use the verb *to be* to express a future circumstance. As shown by C22 (p. 152), the Italian Future Perfect Tense can also express an event. However, the dividing line between an event and a circumstance is not so clear-cut here as in the Past Perfect Tenses TR and TP, and much depends on the context. Let us compare, for instance, C25 with B6:

(C25) "Basta col matrimonio, finchè i tempi non saranno cambiati!" (95)

"No more marrying for me until times change!" (92)

"Teď už se nevožením, dokud se časy nezmění" (59)

0 / A<sub>F</sub> // basta / saranno cambiati //  
(no more) / they change //  
nevožením se / nezmění se //

(B6) "Rimani fino a quando Marco ritornerà", l'aveva pregata sua madre.

"Stay until Mark comes back", her mother begged her.

0 / F<sup>E</sup> / ... // rimani / ritornerà / ... //  
stay / comes back / ... //

The English sentences both have a clause with *until*: *until times change* (C25), *until Mark comes back* (B6), but the clauses differ in that the verb

of B6 expresses "a point of arrival" (Ondráček 1973:58), an event winding up the period of waiting, whereas the action of C25 may in addition be considered as anterior, and this is what we learn from the Czech translation: the wedding will not take place until times have changed. Such interpretation agrees with the Italian version, in which the future perfect form, expressing anteriority (*Non mi sposerò finchè i tempi saranno cambiati; Quando i tempi saranno cambiati, mi sposerò*), may indicate either an event: *I tempi cambieranno ed io mi sposerò*, or a resulting circumstance: *I tempi saranno (già) cambiati quando mi sposerò*. It is clear from the analysis that the distinction between a circumstance and an event, not without importance in the past, gives place to the difference of time in the future and follows only from the context. The Future Perfect Tense may tend to transform an anterior future event into a circumstance, but we cannot deny its ability to express an event after all, because its substitute ( $A_0 \rightarrow F$ ), corresponding to the Present Perfect Tense ( $A_0$ ), is interchangeable for the PR in the past, i.e. for the tense used to describe events.

(C26) "Guarderò in giro per veder se la trovo da qualche parte", disse Spence. "Quando l'ho trovata ve la porto io. Ora ho troppo da fare per cercarla subito." (50)

"I'll look around the house and see if I can find it any where", he told her. "When I find it, I'll bring it down to your house. I'm too busy to hunt for it right now." (47)

"Pokouknu se po domě a uvidíme, jestli ji tady někde najdu", odpověděl. "Až ji najdu, tak s ní k vám zaskočím. Tedka mám moc práce a nemám zrovna čas se po ní shánět." (32)

... /  $A_0 \rightarrow F$  /  $0_F$  / / ... / /      ... / / ho trovata / porto / / ... / /  
 ... / / I find / I'll bring / / ... / /  
 ... / / najdu / zaskočím / / ... / /

(C27) "Se faccio in tempo, quando l'ho sistemata torno", promise. (200)

"If I can get through with her in time, I'll be back," he promised. (196)

"Ešli to s ní včas vyřídím, tak se vrátím", slíbil jí. (122)

... /  $A_0 \rightarrow F$  /  $0_F$  / ... / /      ... / ho sistemata / torno / ... / /  
 ... / — / I'll be back / ... / /  
 ... / — / vrátím se / ... / /

(C28) "Poi, appena l'ha sposata, ci facciamo dar da lui i soldi per tornarsene a casa." (83)

"Then as soon as she's married, we'll let him furnish the money for us to go back home." (79)

"Potom, hned jak se vezmou, mu řekneme, aby nám sehnal peníze na cestu domů." (51)

$A_0 \rightarrow F$  /  $0_F$  / /      ha sposata / facciamo /  
 is married / we'll lett / /  
 vezmou se / řeknemo / /

Starting from the English original, we should mark *ho trovata* (C26) an event, and *ha sposata* (C28) a circumstance, but this makes no difference here (and the same verb form in both cases only proves it); important is the time relation, the sequence of actions, what comes before and what comes after. Unlike their Future counterparts, the Italian Present Tense and the Present Perfect Tense have also the advantage of being able to take subjunctive forms, which contributes to a more precise expression of the speaker's attitude towards the actions:

(R15) "E non abbiate paura ch'io vi tradisca. Non dirò una parola a nessuno."

"And you need not think I will give you away. I won't say a word to anyone."

"A nemusíte se bát, že vás prozradím. Neřeknu nikomu ani slůvka."

$0$  /  $0_F$  + Cg / / F / /      non abbiate / io tradisca / / non dirò / /  
 you need not / I will give away / / I won't say / /  
 nemusíte / prozradím / / neřeknu / /

(R16) "Alice ha disfatto i vostri bagagli e avrà cura di voi fino a che sia arrivata la vostra cameriera."

"Alice has unpacked for you and will look after you until your maid arrives."

"Alice vybalila vaše věci a poslouží vám, dokud nepřijde vaše komorná."

0 + Pf / F / A<sub>0</sub> → F + Cg //      ha disfatto / avrà (cura) / sia arrivata //  
has unpacked / will look (after) / arrives //  
vybalila / poslouží / nepřijde //

I think that in conclusion of the present article we might quote a passage which ends the whole work referred to at the beginning. The quotation is taken from H. Weinrich's book *Tempus*, which, in its way, puts forward some of the principles we have observed throughout our own analysis:

"Die literarische Gattungen — geschrieben oder mündlich — sind prinzipiell als typisierte Sprechsituationen anzusehen und geben den ersten, sicheren Rahmen für eine grammatische Untersuchung. Die Literatur einer Sprache steht also nicht am Ende oder gar weit jenseits der Grammatik, sondern an ihrem Anfang. Es ist das große Verdienst der strukturalen Sprachwissenschaft, daß sie den Irrtum aufgedeckt hat, man könne eine Grammatik aus den kleinsten Elementen zu immer größeren Einheiten aufsteigend aufbauen. Man hat mit den größten Einheiten anzufangen und erkennt erst aus der Struktur der Ganzheit die kleineren Teile. Nun, die höchsten Einheiten sind nicht Sätze oder Perioden, sondern Sprechsituationen und Texte mit ihren literarischen Gattungsgesetzen. Mit ihnen fängt also die Grammatik an". (Weinrich 1964. 309—10).

#### *Symbols and Abbreviations*

A — anteriority

A<sub>0</sub> — pre-present

α — indirect speech with past viewpoint (P → 0)

β — indirect speech with present viewpoint (P ← 0)

C — circumstance

Cd — conditional

Cg — subjunctive (congiuntivo)

E — event

F — future

FA — future perfect (futuro anteriore)

Ia "second-hand information" (informazione altrui)

Inf — inference

0 — present

P — past

Pt — posteriority

S — simultaneity

TP — past perfect (trapassato prossimo)

TR — past perfect (trapassato remoto)

A — Jane Austin: *Pride and Prejudice* (Leipzig 1954/1813); *Orgoglio e pregiudizio* (Milano 1961, transl. Maria Luisa Agosti Castellani); *Pýcha a pýedsudek* (Praha 1967, transl. Eva Kondrysová).

B — Pearl S. Buck: *This Proud Heart* (London 1955/1938); *Questo indomito cuore* (Noi donne 1961).

C — Erskine Caldwell: *Tragic Ground* (1944); *Terra tragica* (Milano 1956, transl. Jacopo Darca); *Tragický kus země* (Praha 1967, transl. Jan Čaha).

G — Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa: *Il Gattopardo* (Milano 1963/1958); *The Leopard* (London 1964, transl. Archibald Colquhoun); *Gepard* (Praha 1963, transl. Jaroslav Pokorný).

M — Alberto Moravia: *Gli indifferenti* (Milano 1964/1929); *The Time of Indifference* (New York 1962, transl. Angus Davidson); *Lahostajní* (Bratislava 1962, transl. František Hattala).

- PS — Alessandro Manzoni: *I Promessi Sposi* (Firenze 1950/1840); *The Betrothed* (London 1959, transl. Archibald Colquhoun); *Snoubenci* (Praha 1957, transl. Václav Čep).
- R — Daphne du Maurier: *Rebecca* (Penguin Books 1962/1938); *La prima moglie* (Noi donne 1962, transl. Alessandra Scalero); *Mrtvá a živá* (Praha 1946, transl. J. B. Šuber).
- U — *L'Unità* (1960, 1962).

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## RESUMÉ

### Několik dalších poznámek k funkci kondicionálu a budoucího času v angličtině a v italštině

Článek doplňuje dřívější poznámky o funkci kondicionálu případy, kdy lze mluvit o "informaci z druhé ruky", věnuje se použití budoucího a předbudoucího času pro vyjádření "dohadu" a v části o budoucnosti mimo jiné ukazuje, že rozdíl mezi okolností a událostí ustupuje v této rovině rozdílu časovému a vyplývá pouze z kontextu; předbudoucí čas má přitom tendenci převádět předčasnou událost v budoucnosti na okolnost.