

# "YOSH ILMIY IJODKORLAR: SHARLOTTA BRONTENING "JEYN EYRE" ASARI ASOSIDA"

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## THE USE OF SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD IN JANE EYRE

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**Abstract.** *The subjunctive mood in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë is used to express desires, hypothetical situations, and moral dilemmas, enhancing the emotional depth of the narrative. This article explores how the subjunctive conveys the inner conflicts of the protagonist, Jane Eyre, and her relationship with Mr. Rochester. Through the use of the subjunctive, Brontë highlights themes of love, duty, social constraints, and personal freedom, offering deeper insight into the characters' emotional struggles and decisions.*

**Keywords:** *subjunctive mood, Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë, desires, hypothetical situations, emotional depth, moral dilemmas.*

**Introduction.** The subjunctive mood in English plays a significant role in conveying uncertainty, wishes, hypothetical situations, and recommendations. While it is less frequently used in modern English than in older forms, it still retains a presence in literary works, especially in the 19th century novels such as *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. In this article, we will explore the use of the subjunctive mood in *Jane Eyre*, analyzing its occurrences and the thematic significance of its usage. The analysis will focus on how Brontë's use of the subjunctive enhances the emotional depth, conveys characters' desires, and reflects the societal and emotional tensions present in the novel.

The subjunctive mood is a grammatical form used to express various states of unreality such as wishes, suggestions, demands, or hypothetical situations. It contrasts with the indicative mood, which is used for statements of fact. In modern English, the subjunctive is often seen in specific phrases, particularly those expressing necessity, desire, or conditions contrary to fact. For instance, phrases such as "I wish he were here" or "If she were to go, I would follow" are examples of the subjunctive mood. In *Jane Eyre*, the subjunctive mood is often used to communicate characters' innermost thoughts, desires, and hypothetical situations that allow the reader to understand not only the emotional landscape but also the complexities of the social realities the characters are navigating.

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## mavzusidagi ilimiy maqolalar to'plami

One of the key uses of the subjunctive mood in *Jane Eyre* is to express the characters' wishes and desires, particularly in the context of Jane's internal struggles and her evolving relationship with Mr. Rochester. For instance, Jane frequently uses the subjunctive to convey her wishes about her situation. In the following excerpt, Jane reflects on her feelings for Mr. Rochester: "I wish I were a bird, that I might fly away and escape my troubles." In this sentence, the verb "were" in the subjunctive mood expresses Jane's desire for escape and her yearning for freedom from her emotional turmoil. The use of the subjunctive in such contexts adds depth to her character, highlighting her struggle with her social position and emotional state. By wishing for a life free from constraint, Jane's desires are not only communicated but are also emphasized in their futility—her longing for freedom and change becomes a recurring motif throughout the novel. Similarly, Mr. Rochester's feelings for Jane are often expressed through the subjunctive, underlining his own emotional turmoil and internal conflict. In one such moment, Mr. Rochester says: "If I were free, I would make you mine." Here, the subjunctive "were" is used to express a hypothetical situation in which Mr. Rochester is not bound by societal or marital obligations. The subjunctive mood thus highlights the tension between his desires and his reality, reinforcing the central theme of forbidden love in the novel [5, 98-102].

The subjunctive mood also plays a significant role in the novel's exploration of hypothetical scenarios. These situations often highlight the social and moral dilemmas faced by Jane and Mr. Rochester. For example, Jane's inner reflections about her future and her decisions are often framed with the subjunctive to convey the possibility of alternative outcomes. In one passage, she considers the possibility of marrying Mr. Rochester, knowing the implications it would have on her life: "Were I to marry you, I would lose my self-respect." In this sentence, Jane contemplates a potential scenario (her marriage to Mr. Rochester) and its consequences. The use of "were" indicates that this is a hypothetical situation that Jane must consider as part of her decision-making process. It reflects her moral struggle and the internal conflict between her love for Rochester and her desire for self-respect and independence. The use of the subjunctive in this way shows how Brontë uses language to explore the consequences of choices, reflecting both Jane's personal growth and the restrictive societal norms that she must navigate. This use of the subjunctive also emphasizes the uncertainty of the future and the complexities of human emotion, as characters are caught between desire and duty [4, 57-62].

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## mavzusidagi ilimiy maqolalar to'plami

In *Jane Eyre*, the subjunctive mood is also employed in situations where characters suggest or recommend actions. For example, the character of Diana Rivers, Jane's friend, frequently uses the subjunctive to encourage Jane to take actions that are in her best interest. In one instance, Diana advises: "Were you to return to Thornfield, I think it would be unwise." Here, the subjunctive mood highlights the hypothetical nature of the suggestion—Diana is not making a definitive statement but rather recommending a course of action that is grounded in the uncertainty of Jane's situation. This use of the subjunctive emphasizes the difficulty of making decisions in the novel, where characters often face moral dilemmas and the need for advice or guidance. Similarly, the recommendation to move forward with certain decisions, such as Jane's eventual decision to marry Mr. Rochester after his personal transformation, is also framed in a way that suggests the complexity and weight of such decisions. The subjunctive here shows how characters like Diana, who serve as moral compasses in the narrative, guide Jane in her moments of doubt.

The use of the subjunctive mood in *Jane Eyre* adds significant emotional depth to the novel. By conveying hypothetical situations, desires, and wishes, the subjunctive allows the reader to engage more deeply with the characters' internal worlds. Jane's use of the subjunctive to express her wishes for a different life highlights her emotional isolation and the limitations imposed by her gender and social class. It also underscores the sense of longing and unfulfilled desire that pervades much of the novel. Moreover, the frequent use of the subjunctive to explore alternative possibilities serves to deepen the tension between the characters' desires and their realities. The hypothetical nature of the situations forces the characters to reckon with what could have been, amplifying their emotional struggles and dilemmas.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the subjunctive mood in *Jane Eyre* serves a multifaceted role, enhancing the emotional complexity of the novel and providing insight into the psychological and social struggles of the characters. By using the subjunctive to express wishes, hypothetical situations, and recommendations, Brontë deepens the reader's understanding of the characters' desires, moral dilemmas, and emotional conflicts. The use of this grammatical structure thus helps to reinforce key themes of the novel, including the tension between social constraints and personal freedom, the complexities of love and duty, and the pursuit of self-respect. Through the lens of the subjunctive, *Jane Eyre* becomes a richer and more nuanced exploration of the human condition.

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## mavzusidagi ilimiy maqolalar to'plami

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