LESSON 21
Subordinate Clauses in Reported Discourse

21.1. Reported Complex Sentences

A Complex sentence has a Main clause and one or more Subordinate clauses. When a Complex sentence is reported, the Main clause has the construction of a reported Simple sentence; any Subordinate clauses have one of the following constructions in Primary (Pres. or Fut.) and Past sequence respectively (§§21.2 and 21.3 below). The possible constructions are the same, whether the Subordinate clauses depend on original statements, questions, commands, knowledge, thoughts, hopes, promises or oaths. And in reported statements, these constructions are the same, whether the original Main clause is reported after ὅτι or ὡς, or in an Infinitive phrase or a Participial phrase.

21.2. Reported Subordinate Clauses in Primary Sequence

In reported Subordinate clauses in Primary sequence, the verb has the same Mood and Tense (for Indic. verbs) or the same Aspect (for non-Indic. verbs) as in the direct form of expression.

πιστεύω γὰρ δίκαια εἶναι **ἃ λέγω** … (Pl.*Ap.* 17 C.)
*For I believe that **what I am saying** is just …*

Direct form: δίκαιά ἐστιν ἃ λέγω, 'What I am saying is just'.

21.3. Reported Subordinate Clauses in Past Sequence

Reported Subordinate clauses in Past sequence are treated as follows.

Primary Tenses of the Indicative and all Subjunctives are regularly changed to the same Aspect of the Optative.

All Past Tenses of the Indicative are retained.

All Optatives are retained.

ἄν with a subordinate Subjunctive in direct expression is omitted, when the Subjunctive is changed to Optative in Past sequence. Thus, ἐάν, ἐπειδάν, ὅταν, etc. become εἰ, ἐπειδή, ὅτε, etc.

Θηραμένης δέ, ὦ ἄνδρες δικασταί, … εἶπεν ὅτι οὐδὲν αὐτῷ μέλοι τοῦ ὑμετέρου θορύβου, **ἐπειδὴ** πολλοὺς μὲν Ἀθηναίων **εἰδείη** τοὺς τὰ ὅμοια πράττοντας αὐτῷ… (Lys. 12.74.)

And Theramenes, O men of the jury, … said that he had no concern about your uproar, **since he knew** *many of the Athenians who were doing the same thing as himself …*

Direct form: οὐδὲν ἐμοὶ μέλει …, ἐπειδὴ … οἶδα …, 'I have no concern …, since I know …'

Indicative οἶδα becomes Optative εἰδείη (with change of person) in the reported form.

… ἤλπιζον ἀποτρέψειν αὐτοὺς μάλιστα, **εἰ ἀντιπαραλυποῖεν** πέμψαντες ἐπὶ τοὺς ξυμμάχους αὐτῶν στρατιάν … (Th. 4.80.1.)

… they [Spartans] *hoped that they would best deter them* [Athenians]*,* **if they annoyed** *them* **in turn** *by sending an army against their allies …*

Direct form: ἀποτρέψομεν …, ἐὰν ἀντιπαραλυπῶμεν …, 'We shall deter …, if we annoy them in turn …'

ἐάν with Subjunctive becomes εἰ with Optative (with change of person) in the reported form.

… τούς τε φεύγοντας ἐκέλευον κατ᾽ ἐπήρειαν δέχεσθαι αὐτούς … τούς τε φρουρούς, **οὓς** Κορίνθιοι **ἔπεμψαν**, καὶ τοὺς οἰκήτορας ἀποπέμπειν. (Th. 1.26.3.)

*… they peremptorily ordered them to receive the exiles … and to send away the garrison members, **whom** the Corinthians **had sent**, and the colonists.*

Direct form: τούς φρουρούς, οὓς Κορίνθιοι ἔπεμψαν … ἀποπέμπετε, 'Send away the garrison members whom the Corinthians sent …'

Past (Aor.) Indicative ἔπεμψαν is retained in the reported form. (The first τε anticipates the second.)

καὶ γὰρ ἔργῳ ἐπεδείκνυτο καὶ ἔλεγεν ὅτι οὐκ ἄν ποτε προοῖτο, **ἐπεὶ** ἅπαξ φίλος αὐτοῖς **ἐγένετο**, οὐδ᾽ **εἰ** ἔτι μὲν μείους **γένοιντο**, ἔτι δὲ κάκιον **πράξειαν**. (X.*An.* 1.9.10.)

*For he showed in action and stated that he would not ever abandon <them>, **when** once **he had become** a friend to them, not even **if they became** even fewer and **fared** even worse.*

προοῖτο: third person singular second Aorist Middle Optative of προ-ιέναι.

Direct form: οὐκ ἄν ποτε προοῖμι, ἐπεὶ ἅπαξ φίλος ὑμῖν ἐγενόμην, οὐδ᾽ εἰ … γένοισθε … πράξαισθε, 'I would not ever abandon <you>, when once I had become a friend to you, not even if … you became [OR: were to become] … and fared [OR: were to fare] …'

Past Indicative ἐγενόμην (as in previous example) and Optative γένοισθε and πράξαισθε are retained (all with appropriate change of person).

21.4. Assimilation of Construction

Normally, all Subordinate clauses, in both direct and reported discourse, have a finite verb. However, in reported discourse, where an original Main clause is reported in an Infinitive phrase, the Subject and verb of a Subordinate clause are sometimes assimilated to the Accusative and Infinitive construction of the reported Main clause.

καὶ τῇ πόλει ὠφελιμώτερον ἔφη εἶναι πρὸς τοὺς ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ σφῶν ἐπιτειχίζοντας τὸν πόλεμον ποιεῖσθαι ἢ Συρακοσίους, **οὓς** οὐκέτι ῥᾴδιον **εἶναι** χειρώσασθαι· (Th. 7.47.4.)

*And he said that it was more helpful for the city to carry on the war against those who were building fortifications in their own country than against the Syracusans, **whom it was** no longer easy to defeat.*

Direct form: ὠφελιμώτερόν ἐστι πρὸς τοὺς … ἐπιτειχίζοντας τὸν πόλεμον ποιεῖσθαι ἢ Συρακοσίους, οὓς οὐκέτι ῥᾴδιόν ἐστι χειρώσασθαι, 'it is more helpful to carry on the war against those who are building fortifications … than <against> the Syracusans, whom it is no longer easy to defeat'.

21.5. Vivid Construction

The Optative is not always used to represent Primary Indicatives and any Subjunctives in Subordinate clauses in Past sequence. Sometimes a Vivid construction, retaining the Mood of direct expression, is used.

τῶν τε παρόντων στρατιωτῶν πολλοὺς καὶ τοὺς πλείους **ἔφη**, οἳ νῦν **βοῶσιν** ὡς ἐν δεινοῖς ὄντες, ἐκεῖσε ἀφικομένους τἀναντία βοήσεσθαι, ὡς ὑπὸ χρημάτων καταπροδόντες οἱ στρατηγοὶ ἀπῆλθον. (Th. 7.48.4.)

*And **he said** that many, indeed the majority, of the soldiers present* [in Sicily]*, who now **were crying out** on the grounds that they were in dire straits, on arriving there* [at Athens] *would cry out the opposite, that under the influence of money the generals had left them in the lurch and had gone away.*

Indicative βοῶσιν is retained, instead of being converted to Optative.

References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§689–693, 755.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2617–2620, 2623, 2625, 2631–2632.

EXERCISE 21

Translate the following passages.

1. … συλλέγεσθαί φησιν ἀνθρώπους ὡς ἐμὲ πονηροὺς καὶ πολλούς, οἳ τὰ μὲν ἑαυτῶν ἀνηλώκασι, τοῖς δὲ τὰ σφέτερα σῴζειν βουλομένοις ἐπιβουλεύουσιν.

συλλέγειν	*to gather together* (Mid.: Intr.)
ὡς (+ Acc. of motion)	*to* (a person)
ἀναλίσκειν	*to use up, to spend*

2. … ἔλεγεν ὁ Θηραμένης, ὅτι, εἰ μή τις κοινωνοὺς ἱκανοὺς λήψοιτο τῶν πραγμάτων, ἀδύνατον ἔσοιτο τὴν ὀλιγαρχίαν διαμένειν.

κοινωνός, -οῦ, ὁ	*participant, partner (in)* (+ Gen.)
πράγματα, -ων, τά	*public affairs; the government*

3. Τισσαφέρνης μὲν ὤμοσεν Ἀγησιλάῳ, εἰ σπείσαιτο, ἕως ἔλθοιεν, οὓς πέμψειε πρὸς βασιλέα ἀγγέλους, διαπράξεσθαι αὐτῷ ἀφεθῆναι αὐτονόμους τὰς ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ πόλεις Ἑλληνίδας …

σπένδεσθαι (Mid.)	*to keep a truce*
διαπράσσεσθαι	*to bring about, to accomplish* (here + Acc. and Infin.)
ἀφιέναι	*to set free*

4. … καὶ νομίσαντες, εἰ αὐτὸν ἐξελάσειαν, πρῶτοι ἂν εἶναι, ἐμεγάλυνον καὶ ἐβόων ὡς ἐπὶ δήμου καταλύσει τά τε μυστικὰ καὶ ἡ τῶν Ἑρμῶν περικοπὴ γένοιτο καὶ οὐδὲν εἴη αὐτῷ ὅ τι οὐ μετ' ἐκείνου ἐπράχθη …

αὐτόν, ἐκείνου	Both terms refer to Alcibiades.
ἐξελαύνειν	*to drive out, to expel*
μεγαλύνειν	*to exaggerate*
δῆμος, -ου, ὁ	*democracy*
κατάλυσις, -εως, ἡ	*overthrow*
μυστικός, -ή, -όν	*connected with the mysteries*

τὰ μυστικά	*the matter of the mysteries* (alluding to an illegitimate private celebration)
Ἑρμῆς, -οῦ, ὁ	*(statue of) Hermes*
αὐτῶν	neut.

5. For I know that, wherever I go, the young [men] will listen to me [masc.] talking as I do here.

6. … they thought that within a few years they would demolish the power of the Athenians, if they kept ravaging their land.

| *to demolish* | καθαιρεῖν |
| *to keep ravaging* | τέμνειν (Use Imperf. Aspect.) |