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## The grammatical profile of the Latvian *vajadzēt* vs the debitive

The two main means of expressing necessity in Latvian are provided by the debitive form and the verb *vajadzēt*; see Holvoet (2007) for more details. The paper looks for the difference in their grammatical profiles, that is, a relative frequency distribution of their forms in a corpus. (The definition follows Janda & Lyashevskaya (2011).)

All instances of the debitive and the verb *vajadzēt* have been extracted from the annotated version of the Balanced Corpus of Modern Latvian (the version known as *miljons-2.0*) consisting of roughly 4.5 million words. The number of the debitive forms by far exceeds the number of the uses of *vajadzēt* — 10,652 vs 2,733 of which only 1,240 are used with infinitives of other verbs.

The debitive is used in the positive in 95% of the forms. The negative forms of *vajadzēt* are more frequent, amounting to 27% vs 73% in the positive when used with infinitives. The four most common categories occurring with both the debitive and the verb *vajadzēt* (in combination with infinitives) are simple forms of present, past, future and subjunctive. About 3% of the *vajadzēt* forms and 1% of the debitive are comprised of various instances of perfect and evidential.

The most frequent use of the debitive (60% of positive and negative uses together) is represented by the present form in the positive without the auxiliary, such as *jādara*. The second place goes to the same form with the auxiliary, *ir jādara* (19%). The positive forms of subjunctive (*būtu jādara*), past (*bija jādara*) and future (*būs jādara*) as well as the negative form of subjunctive (*nebūtu jādara*) share the third position with the value of 4%–5%.

The verb *vajadzēt* is much more diverse, its most common form being the one of subjunctive in the positive (*vajadzētu darīt*) with 30% of all uses of *vajadzēt* in combinations with infinitives. It is followed by the positive forms of present (*vajag darīt*) and past (*vajadzēja darīt*), each having the value of 18%. The negative forms of subjunctive and present (*nevajadzētu darīt* and *nevajag darīt*) comprise 12% and 10% of all instances. It is worth noting that of 793 uses of *vajadzēt* without an infinitive, the present constitutes the overwhelming majority having 46% of present forms in the positive (*vajag naudu*) and 23% in the negative (*nevajag naudu*).

### References

- Holvoet, Axel. 2007. *Mood and Modality in Baltic*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego.
- Janda, Laura & Olga Lyashevskaya. 2011. Grammatical profiles and the interaction of the lexicon with aspect, tense and mood in Russian. *Cognitive Linguistics* 22(4), 719–763.