

Quousque sur la consecutio temporum

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1. Le système des temps latins

Formes 1sg indicatives actives

Reference point	Relative position with regard to the reference point		
	Anterior	Simultaneous	Posterior
Time of speaking	amavi	amo	amaturus sum
Past	amaveram	amabam	amaturus eram
Future	amavero	amabo	amaturus ero

2. Temps dans les questions indirectes

tense in the main clause	tense in the subordinate clause		
	simultaneous	anterior	posterior
present <i>scio</i> (‘I know’)	present <i>quid agas</i> (‘what you are doing’)	perfect <i>quid egeris</i> (‘what you did’)	present periphrastic future <i>quid acturus sis</i> (‘what you are planning to do’)
imperfect <i>sciebam</i> (‘I knew’)	imperfect <i>quid ageres</i> (‘what you were doing’)	pluperfect <i>quid egisses</i> (‘what you had done’)	past periphrastic future <i>quid acturus esses</i> (‘what you were planning to do’)

Source: Kühner-Stegmann (1912)

- (a) Non edepol nunc ubi terrarum **sim** *scio*, si quis roget ...
(*, Pl. Am. 336)
- (b) Ego illum *scio* quam **doluerit** cordi meo.
(*, Pl. Am. 922)
- (c) *Nescis* quid ego **acturus sim** neque facinus quantum **exordiar**.
(*, Pl. Am. 722)
- (d) Ignorabat legio Martia, quarta, nec *sciebant* veterani quid **ageretur**.
(*, Cic. Phil. 13.33)
- (e) ... tum *quaerebant* ex isto palam, tot dies continuos, per quos numquam visus esset, ubi **fuisset**, quid **egisset** ...
(*, Cic. Ver. 5.94)
- (f) In sorte cui imperare non potuerat, *expectabant* homines quidnam **acturus esset**.
(*, Cic. Ver. 2.127)

3. Sélection indépendante du temps dans les questions indirectes

N.B. Il s'agit d' "exceptions" aux "règles données dans le tableau en § 2.

scio quid **ageres** ('I know what you were doing')
sciebam quid **agas** 'I knew (all the time) what you are doing'
sciebam quid **egeris** ('I knew what you did')
sciebam quid **acturus sis** ('I knew what you are planning to do').

- (g) Non tu *scis*, mulier, Hecubam quapropter canem / Graii esse **praedicabant**?
 ('', Pl. *Men.* 714-5)

4. Temps dans les complétives avec le verbe *impero* dans la principale

temps dans la principale	temps dans la subordonnée
'primary tense' <i>dux imperat / imperavit / imperabit / imperaverit</i> (‘the commander orders / has ordered / will order / will have ordered’)	présent <i>ut milites procedant</i> (‘that the soldiers move forward’)
'historic tense' <i>dux imerabat / imperavit / imperaverat</i> (‘the commander was ordering / ordered / had ordered’)	imparfait <i>ut milites procederent</i> (‘that the soldiers moved forward’)

(Source: Woodcock 1959)

- (a) Ecce, Appollo mihi ex oraclo *imperat*, / ut ego illic oculos **exuram** lampadi[bu]s ardentibus.
 ('', Pl. *Men.* 840-1)
- (b) Esto, putabas. Quamobrem *imperabas* ut **adderent**?
 ('Oh, well, you did think so: but why did you order that payment?', Cic. *Ver.* 3.71)
- (c) Pseudolus mihi ita *imperavit*, ut aliquem hominem strenuom, / benevolentem **adducerem** ad se.
 ('', Pl. *Ps.* 697-8)

N.B. le double fonctionnement du parfait.

5. Sélection indépendante du temps dans les complétives avec *impero*

N.B. Il s'agit d' "exceptions" aux "règles données dans le tableau en § 4.

- (d) Durum videtur et grave quod dominus *imperavit* ut si quis eum vult sequi **abneget** se ipsum.
 ('Hard and grievous does that appear which the Lord has enjoined, that whosoever will come after Him, must deny himself.', August. *Serm.* 96.)

6. Concordance des temps

Les règles sont surtout dérivées de Cicéron et César

Le phénomène a été déjà observé par le grammairien latin Charisius 3.8 (I.263-4K = 347-9B):

la combinaison principale au parfait + subordonnée au présent on trouve 'nonnumquam', la combinaison principale au présent + subordonnée au imparfait 'raro'. C'est une particularité du latin qui est difficile à comprendre, due à la 'tenuitas rei'. Comme illustration de la rareté de la dernière combinaison il cite:

- (a) Cum nulla iam proscriptionis mentio **fieret**, cum etiam qui antea metuerant **redirent** ac iam defunctos se periculis **arbitrarentur**, nomen *refertur* in tabulas Sexti Rosci, hominis studiosissimi nobilitatis.
(', Cic. *S.Rosc.* 21)

7. Adaptation mécanique ou sémantiquement fondée?

Un nombre d'exemples de subordonnées avec temps historiques, bien que le contenu de ces propositions est aussi valable au moment même de l'acte de parole. N.B. en (c) *attigerint* au lieu de *attigissent* est techniquement possible, mais transférerait la responsabilité à Cicéron.

- (a) Addam illud etiam, quod iam ego curare non debui sed tamen fieri non moleste *tuli* atque etiam ut ita fieret pro mea parte *adiuvi*, ut senati consulto meus inimicus, quia tuus frater **erat**, *sublevaretur*.
(‘I will add something else: although I could not be expected, after what had passed, to be active in the matter, I was not sorry to see my enemy relieved (because he was your brother) by a senatorial decree, and I even assisted, so far as in me lay, to bring this about’, Cic. *Fam.* 5.2.9)
- (b) ... et cum omnium artium, quae ad rectam vivendi viam **pertinerent**, ratio et disciplina studio sapientiae, quae philosophia dicitur, *contineretur*, hoc mihi Latinis litteris inlustrandum *putavi* ...
(‘... and since the system and method of instruction in all the arts which have a bearing upon the right conduct of life is bound up with the study of wisdom which goes by the name of philosophy, I thought this must be made clear by me in a Latin work ...’, Cic. *Tusc.* 1.1)
- (c) Caput enim esse *arbitrabatur* (*scil.* Menedemus) oratoris, ut et ipsis apud quos **ageret** talis qualem se ipse optaret videretur; id fieri vitae dignitate, de qua nihil rhetorici isti doctores in praeceptis suis reliquissent; et uti ei qui **audirent** sic adficerentur animis, ut eos adfici vellet orator; quod item fieri nullo modo posse, nisi cognosset is qui **diceret** quot modis hominum mentes et quibus et quo genere orationis in quamque partem moverentur; haec autem esse penitus in media philosophia reclusa atque abdita, quae isti rhetores ne primoribus quidem labris **attigissent**.
(', Cic. *de Orat.* 1.87)
- (d) (Sicilia) ... prima *docuit* maiores nostros quam praeclarum **esset** exteris gentibus imperare ...
(‘She first taught our ancestors how splendid it is to rule over foreign peoples.’, Cic. *Ver.* 2.2)

Trois autres exemples pour démontrer que les parleurs/auteurs pouvaient choisir, mais que il s'agit d'un choix sémantiquement fondé

- (e) Quemadmodum vocabula **essent imposita** rebus in lingua Latina, sex libris exponere *institui*.
(‘In what way names were applied to things in Latin, I have undertaken to expound, in six books.’, Var. *L.* 5.1)
- (f) In his (libris) ad te *scribam*, a quibus rebus vocabula **imposita sint** in lingua latina.
(‘I will write you in these books from what things name have been applied in Latin.’, Var. *L.* 5.1)
- (g) Haec *interposui*, patres conscripti, non tam ut pro me **dixerim** ... quam ut quosdam nimis ieiuno animo et angusto **monerem** ...
(‘I have interposed these remarks, Conscript Fathers, not so much as an apology for myself...as that I might advise...certain persons of too puny and narrow a spirit...’, Cic. *Phil.* 14.17)

8. Typologie des subordonnées finites

Restrictions sémantiques sur l’usage des temps dans les subordonnées

Niveau de la proposition		Niveau du syntagme nominal (propositions relatives)
actants (complétives)	circonstants (adverbiales)	
<i>impero, volo ut/ne</i> ++ (a), N.B. (e)	<i>adjoints</i>	<i>disjoints</i>
<i>timeo ne</i> + (b)	finales ++ (f)	de style –
<i>non dubito quin</i> 0 (c)	consécutives + (g)	d’attitude –
<i>scio, dico quod</i> 0 (d)	autres 0	parenthétiques –

++ restrictions fortes, + restrictions modérées, 0 pas de restrictions, – adaptation à la principale exclue

Quelques exemples de ‘non-obéissance’ aux règles de la *consecutio*, qui sont complètement grammaticaux.

- (a) Et erat (*erit* Müller) aequa lex ... ut nostras inimicitias ipsi inter nos **geramus**, amicis nostrorum inimicorum **temperemus**.
(‘, Cic. *Balb.* 60)
- (b) ... tune id *veritus es* ne ego ... te videre **noluerim**?
(‘Were you really afraid that I...did not want to see you?’, Cic. *Q.fr.* 1.3.1)
- (c) ... non *dubitabamus*, quin Vergilius quoque id ipsum **ostenderit** ...
(‘, Gell. 3.2.14)
- (d) Quare intellegendum est et illud recte *dictum esse*, quod deus **retribuere** parentum peccata filiis, qui eum oderunt.
(‘And therefore it must be understood that also this has been said correctly, namely that god repays the parents’ sins on their children, who hate him.’, August. *c. Adim.* 7)

- (e) Ac ne hoc dictum in licentiam fornicationis **invaderes** aufert te tibi ...
(‘, Tert. *Pud.* 16.10)
- (f) ... Sicilia, quam iste per triennium **ita** vexavit ac **perdidit**, ut ea restitui in antiquum statum nullo modo **possit** ...
(‘(Sicily), which island for the space of three years he devastated and ruined so effectively that nothing can restore it to its former condition.’, Cic. *Ver.* 1.12)

N.B. Exemple de *repraesentatio* (présent au lieu de parfait), phénomène lié au présent historique et bien connu dans le discours indirect.

- (g) Ibi dictator ... tribunis militum *imperavit* ut sarcinas in unum conici **iubeant** ...
(‘Then the dictator...directed the military tribunes to make the soldiers throw down their packs in one place.’, Liv. 3.28.1)

9. La concordance de temps regarde surtout le subjonctif. Pourquoi?

Parce que les candidates à l’indicatif sont rares.