

## **Imperatives can do strange things, but are they really that strange?**

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In many languages imperatives have a number of strange properties that differentiate them from other sentence types. Thus, in many languages imperative forms cannot be negated. Imperatives also often differ from indicatives with respect to clitic placement. As an illustration, Greek disallows negative imperatives, and places clitics postverbally in imperatives, although clitics normally precede the verb in Greek. Furthermore, Greek allows the accusative dative order for clitics in imperatives, which is disallowed in indicatives. In other languages, e.g. Serbo-Croatian, imperatives do not differ from other verbal forms in the relevant respects. The talk will explore what is behind these crosslinguistic differences. The starting point regarding the crosslinguistic variation with respect to the ban on negative imperatives will be Zeijlstra's (2004) observation that the ban on negative imperatives can be found only in head negation languages; the ban never holds in adjunct negation languages. The analysis argued for in the talk will also be shown to have consequences for clitic placement in the South Slavic languages.