

**Structural and Grammatical Features of Diplomatic Discourse
at the End of the 19th Century During the Aggravation of the Eastern
Question**

Victoria Diasamidze

Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor
Georgia, Batumi, 35/32 Ninoshvili/Rustaveli str.
+995 577-71-73-70. victoria.diasamidze@bsu.edu.ge
<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-8032-6962>

Leila Diasamidze

Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Assistant Professor
Georgia, Batumi, 35/32 Ninoshvili/Rustaveli str.
+995 577-71-73-70. leila.diasamidze@bsu.edu.ge
<https://orcid.org/0009-0006-0162-8563>

Abstract

The present work lies within the intersection of two humanities disciplines, history and linguistics. This article presents an analysis of the constitutive features of French diplomatic discourse characteristic of diplomatic rhetoric during one of the crisis stages of the so-called Eastern Question. The aim and objectives of the study are to analyze the structural and grammatical characteristics of the diplomatic corr-

espondence found in archival documents. The research includes an analysis of the grammatical features of French diplomatic discourse of the second half of the 19th century, as represented in the texts of internal correspondence between the head of Turkish diplomacy in Austria-Hungary and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman Empire. The deciphered and translated handwritten archival materials are introduced into scholarly circulation for the first time.

Keywords: diplomatic discourse, archival documents, Eastern Question; grammatical analysis, social context.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL-POLITICAL CONTEXT.

A comprehensive study of the phenomenon of diplomatic discourse presupposes an in-depth examination of its lexico-semantic, grammatical, and pragmatic aspects and represents an extensive field of activity for cooperation between linguists and representatives of other humanities disciplines. Grammatical analysis and the structural organization of diplomatic correspondence (both intra-departmental and inter-departmental) based on new documentation can complement research on the characteristics of diplomatic discourse.

The main focus of diplomatic discourse usually lies on the past, the present, and the discussion of international treaties. In our case, it concerns the non-fulfillment of the provisions of the Berlin Treaty, concluded in 1878 as a result of the Berlin Congress. This led to an escalation of what is commonly referred to in diplomacy and historical literature as the Eastern Question. The term denotes a conventional designation for a complex of international contradictions of the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. They were associated

with the struggle of the Balkan peoples for liberation from Ottoman rule and the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire amid the rivalry of the great powers for the partition of Turkish territories (Schaefer, 1920:73; Vujović, 2021:/https://istorijskizapisi.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/VUJOVIC-La-Troisieme-Republique-francaise-et-le-Montenegro.pdf).

The failure of the Ottoman Empire to comply with the terms of the Berlin Treaty led to a tense situation in Europe at the end of the nineteenth century. There arose a high probability of an armed conflict involving warships of the united fleet forming an international squadron: **Alexandre** (English ship under the command of Admiral Seymour), **Téméraire** (English ship), **Suffren** (French ship under the command of an admiral), **Friedland** (French ship), **Palestro**, **Roma** (Italian ships), **Svetlana** (Russian ship under the command of an admiral), **Tyemchouk** (Russian ship), **Prince-Eugène** (Austrian warship), **Victoria** (Prussian ship). In total, ten warships formed the joint squadron: two English, two French, two Italian, two Russian, and one each from Austria and Prussia.

A demonstration of these naval forces under the command of Admiral Seymour was required for Montenegro to obtain possession of Dulcigno, which, according to the Berlin Treaty, was to belong to it. The Turks, however, refused to obey the orders of the leading powers and to surrender the city (Bois, 2000: 271–277; Verloop, 1911: 21; Rousset, 1888, 1 t.:97; Vogel, **Livre II**, 1881:4 - 50). These dramatic events became the subject of discussion in the diplomatic correspondence analyzed in this study.

This correspondence was conducted in 1880 between the senders, the Imperial Ottoman Embassy in Vienna, the Consulate General of the Ottoman Empire in Budapest, Féridun-bey and the addressee, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of “His Imperial Majesty the

Sultan,” Afsim Pasha. Internal correspondence within the Ottoman Empire at that time was carried out in the French language, since as early as the eighteenth century it had become established as the principal international language in Europe and in territories dependent on European countries, having replaced Latin as the language of international communication (Mehtiyev, 2011: <https://english.Fulle rton.edu/publications/clnArchives/pdf/Mehtiyev-FrenchLgDipl.pdfA fgan>). In the Ottoman Parliament, opened three years before the events described, sixteen languages were used. For this reason, the working language of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1854 to 1910 was French. The **Pax ottomana**, which the Empire had set as its goal to impose on the territories it conquered, was replaced under the pressure of Western powers by the **Pax francofona** (Aksoy, 2007: 57–58).

LITERATURE REVIEW. In studying the features of diplomatic discourse, attention is primarily given to its style (Martens, 1822 :115; Berridge, James, 2001: 67). In most manuals on diplomacy, at best, one chapter is devoted to diplomatic language, where emphasis is placed on its vagueness and ambiguity (Le Goffic, 1981:188; Le Goffic, 2021: <https://www.universalis.fr/dictionnaire/index/A/1/>). For example, researcher Constanze Villar considers ambiguity in diplomacy to be an integral part of communication, as it creates conditions for discursive maneuvering in favor of power. Moreover, according to her, it is precisely vagueness that constitutes one of the necessary conditions for international negotiations, which consist of deals and compromises. Such “constructive ambiguity” is, according to Constanze Villar, inevitable. The author notes that “constructive ambiguity” manifests itself on semantic, pragmatic (noise versus information), and legal (official versus unofficial status) levels (Villar, 2006: 251).

By **diplomatic correspondence** we understand a corpus of texts representing various forms of epistolary exchange. These may include

internal documents of the ministry sent by ambassadors to their respective ministers of foreign affairs—as in our case—or correspondence between states in the form of various memoranda, private letters, and statements. These documents correspond to different functions performed by diplomats, and their totality is referred to by the general term **diplomatic correspondence** (Cohen-Wiesenfeld, 2008: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/La%20correspondance%20diplomatique%20au%20XIXe%20si%C3%A8cle.pdf).

Definitions of diplomatic discourse often emphasize certain of its characteristics. For instance, diplomatic discourse is a status-oriented discourse—it is the speech interaction of representatives of the institution of diplomacy (Kojeteva, 2012:55). Diplomatic discourse is understood as discursive activity within diplomatic exchange (Ceban, 2010: 321–328). It is believed that political and diplomatic discourse represent a special form of communicative activity aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of state policy (Ardaeva, 2018:114). Some linguists draw an analogy between diplomatic and political discourse, defining political discourse as the actual use of language within the socio-political sphere of communication (Kurtshatkina, 2010: 24).

According to Constanze Villar, diplomatic discourse is characterized by three main features. The first is the specialization of the diplomatic code and the fixed nature of its expressive practices. The second is diplomatic ambiguity, which is resolved in the process of communication through rhetoric, chosen strategies, and policy. Finally, the third element characteristic of diplomatic discourse is what the author calls dynamic “intersubjectivity,” which provides discourse with an important role in building relationships between the subjects of communication. Indeed, duly accredited diplomats, in the course of negotiations or correspondence, display a certain degree of subject-

ivity—what is referred to as the “secondary space” of diplomatic communication (Villar, 2006: 39–50; Lamizet, 2007: 121–123).

A rather frequent attribute of diplomatic discourse is vagueness in formulations, intended to soften the real tension of a situation. A certain degree of indeterminacy, according to Constanze Villar, is a necessary condition of international negotiations, which inherently involve compromise. It appears not as dysfunctional but rather as **constructive**, lending speech a sense of **cohesion** (Villar, 2008: 619). The researcher believes that an agreement is possible only if the image of each participant is preserved, and that ambiguity in international relations is not a mere rhetorical figure but a constructive component of diplomatic practice. According to Constanze Villar, in diplomacy ambiguity is an inseparable part of communication, creating the necessary conditions for policies pursued in its interest (Villar, 2006: 184–190).

Thus, in his address, the Chairman of the Commission, Minister of Foreign Affairs Baron Haymerle, stated: **«Je crois toutefois pouvoir exprimer l'espoir que, vu les dispositions prévalant dans les sphères les plus compétentes, cette question sera menée malgré toutes les difficultés à surmonter à une solution satisfaisante»**. Translation: “However, I believe that I can express the hope that, given the understandings prevailing in the most competent spheres, this issue will be brought to a satisfactory solution despite all the difficulties that must be overcome.” A question arises: **who** will be satisfied by “the solution achieved through overcoming difficulties”? Here, the speaker implicitly suggests a resolution favorable to the leading European powers.

Another example of the Aesopian language of diplomacy:

«Sans doute, il y aura encore bien les difficultés à surmonter dans cette affaire. Mais une dernière concession devra être faite et sera encore faite pour amener enfin la décision». Translation: “Without a

doubt, there will still be many difficulties to overcome in this matter. But one last concession will have to be made—and will indeed be made—in order finally to reach a decision.”

METHODS and MATERIALS of the STUDY. In the present study, we employed methods of discourse analysis in order to examine and analyze grammatical phenomena within the texts of the diplomatic discourse under consideration. The principal approaches to the analysis of diplomatic discourse consist in the study of language use in socially contextualized texts and in the critical analysis of discourse from historical and political perspectives. The aforementioned research methods are aimed at investigating written language within its social context.

The text corpora cited in this study were kindly provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey in Istanbul to the Georgian citizen, historian, and philologist **Zaur Margiev**, a postgraduate student of **Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**, who passed away prematurely in 2022. The deciphering of the originals and the translation of the texts were carried out earlier by one of the authors at the request of the late scholar.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. The documents under consideration adhere to the traditional features of form and structure (formats, titles, salutations, and conclusions) characteristic of diplomatic written documentation. The only exception is the designation of the addressee and his title, which, in the official diplomatic correspondence of the consulates of the Ottoman Empire, are usually placed at the end of the first title page.

Below are photographs of archival letters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, addressed by the Consul General of the Ottoman Empire in Budapest, Féridun-bey, to the Minister of Foreign

Affairs of the Ottoman Empire, Afsim Pasha, which clearly illustrate the architectonics of the letters:

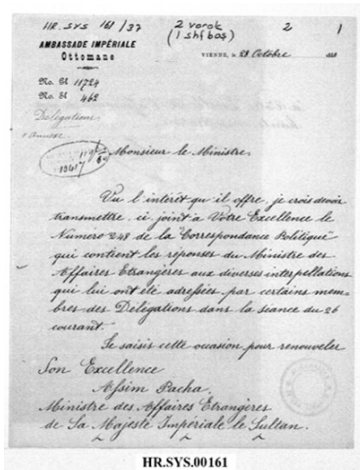


Illustration 1

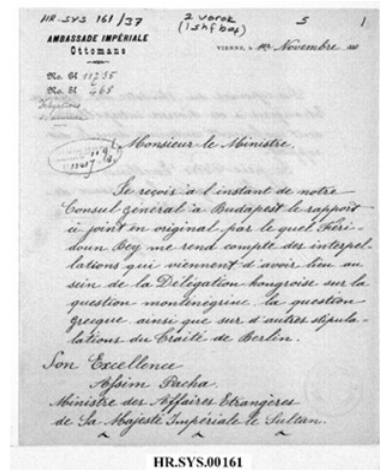


Illustration 2

It should be noted that the closing formulas of politeness are traditional and contain assurances from the sender expressing his deepest respect toward the addressee, namely “the Minister of Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.” In cases of repeated correspondence with the same addressee, in this instance three days later, the closing part of the letter is slightly varied. For example: **«Je saisis cette occasion pour renouveler à Votre Excellence l’assurance de ma haute considération»**, which translates as “I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.”

It is quite expected that the grammar and syntax of the language for specific purposes, that is, diplomatic discourse, exhibit the characteristics of the general national language system (Averbuch, 2004:

16). Concerning the grammatical aspect of the documents cited and appended to the letters, an analysis based on continuous sampling of morphological features reveals the predominance of certain grammatical tenses. At the same time, these tenses perform functions that are characteristic of the grammatical categories of the general national language. The distinction lies not in qualitative but in quantitative aspects.

Taking into account the obligatory sequence of tenses and the presence of **Présent narratif** as an inevitable phenomenon in documents of a reporting nature addressed to a superior official, it is necessary to note the clearly marked tendencies in the use of tenses observed in the following textual material.

Corpus 1 (abridged version). Vienne, 27 octobre 1880. Délégation autrichienne. Séance du 26 octobre de la commission budgétaire. Le délégué monsieur de Pleiner présente son rapport sur le budget du ministre des Affaires étrangères. La discussion générale est ouverte et tout par une interpellation de ce député au ministère des Affaires étrangères **concernant** l'action du gouvernement dans la question hellénique et son attitude vis-à-vis du Monténégro. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères baron à Haymerlé **répond** d'abord à cette dernière question: **Il n'y a** pour le règlement de l'affaire montegrine pas d'autres programmes que l'exécution du traité de Berlin - c'est-à-dire des dispositions d'une décision unanime des puissances substituées aux articles respectifs de ce traité. Dans le principe on **était** donc parfaitement d'accord et c'est tout à plus du sujet du mode d'exécution que des divergences de vues ont été possibles, mais la solution elle-même est donnée par le traité de Berlin et par la nécessité d'établir enfin une ligne frontière définitive entre deux nationalités qui **luttent** depuis des siècles l'une contre l'autre. Le ministre **fait** ensuite un exposé des phrases qu'**a traversées** la question de Dulcigno depuis

que le Livre Rouge est terminé. Il **donne** lecture des rapports télégraphiques de l'ambassadeur de l'Autriche - Hongrie à Constantinople ainsi que du chargé d'affaires autriche - hongrois à Cittigné, rapports qui **établissent** que s'il n'y a plus guère **il y avait** guère à douter de la sérieuse intention de la Porte de céder Dulcigno, la prompte exécutions de ce dessein promise le 21 de ce mois pour le 28 août **n'a pu** s'effectuer jusqu'à présent par suite des demandes du commandant turque qui ne **concordait** pas entièrement avec les instructions qu'il **avait reçu** de Constantinople et par suite d'une circonspection pas trop exagérée de la part du Monténégro. La démonstration navale **prendrait fin** dès que Dulcigno **serait remis** effectivement au Monténégro ou évacué seulement par les Turcs sans que les Montegrins **aient procédé** aussitôt à l'occupation de ce territoire. <....> Le délégué Demel **demande** des éclaircissements sur les tendances de la politique autrichienne en Orient. Le baron Heymerlé: Aussi courte qu'**est** la question - aussi longue **serait** la réponse si tant **est** qu'elle **fût** possible dans le sens que **désire** l'honorable délégué. Pas même un particulier et encore moins un ministre ne **pourraient** raisonnablement dire d'avance quel **sera** le futur développement des choses et quelle attitude il **compte** observer en présence des éventualités de l'avenir. Interpellé sur la question du maintien de la Turquie, le ministre **fait** observer qu'on **parle** trop facilement trop de la désorganisation, de la dissolution de l'État. Celui qui **voit** mourir la Turquie **doit** convenir et avouer qu'elle ne meurt déjà depuis longtemps. Notre internonce Busbeck **annonçait** déjà en 1650 de Constantinople que la Turquie se décomposait. La Turquie **a perdu** successivement la Alger, Tunis, la Grèce, la Crimée la Serbie la Roumanie, mais il **serait** impossible de déterminer si et quand elle **a commencé** à mourir et tout programme de sa dissolution **eût été établi** prématurément. La conservation de la Turquie dans ses limites rétrécies **a été** le but principal du Congrès.

Cette conservation **devrait** paraître désirable pour nous ainsi que pour les autres puissances non pas dans l'intérêt de la Turquie et mais dans celui du maintien de la paix. <....>Le délégué Bareuther **demande** si les négociations sont déjà engagées avec l'Allemagne et s'il y a lieu d'espérer la prochaine conclusion d'un traité définitif avec l'Allemagne. À cette question l'orateur voudrait en ajouter une autre, de nature purement politique. Pour bien se rendre compte de notre entente avec l'Allemagne, dit-il, il **importerait** de savoir quelle instructions **ont été données** à cet égard à nos représentants diplomatique auprès de la Porte et surtout si le commandant dans de l'escadre de autrichienne **faisait** partie de la flotte combinée a l'ordre d'agir de concert avec le commandant de l'escadre allemande. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères: Pour ce qui **est** de la question relative à l'état actuel des négociations tendant à la conclusion d'un traité de commerce avec l'Allemagne, il n'**est** guère possible de donner des détails à ce sujet, vu que les négociations **poursuivent** encore. Je crois toutefois pouvoir exprimer l'espoir que, vu les dispositions prévalant dans les sphères les plus compétentes, cette question **sera** menée malgré toutes les difficultés à surmonter à une solution satisfaisante. À la demande tendant à savoir si l'Autriche-Hongrie et l'Allemagne **procédaient** d'un commun accord dans toutes les questions pendantes en Orient et surtout par rapport à la démonstration navale, le ministre **répond** affirmativement. L'action à cet égard **serait** absolument unanime.

Thus, in the material of Corpus 1, which covers the debates of the Commission on the decision regarding military action in the waters of the Adriatic, the following verb tenses predominate, in descending order of frequency: **Présent de l'Indicatif / Présent historique**, **Passé composé**, **Conditionnel présent**, and **Imparfait**. Much less frequent are **Passé simple**, **Conditionnel passé**, and others, which are distributed among 112 grammatical word forms found in the texts as

follows. A substantial half of the 112 verb forms and tenses encountered consist of **Présent de l'Indicatif**, which accounts for 51 cases out of 100. In comparison, fewer than half of the verbal usages are represented by **Conditionnel présent** (a total of 20 cases), **Passé composé** (15), **Imparfait** (8), and **Passé simple** (4). Only a few instances are found for **Plus-que-parfait** (3), **Futur simple** (2), **Subjonctif présent** (1) and **Subjonctif passé** (2), **Conditionnel passé** (1), **Gérondif** (3), and **Participe présent** (two instances in total).

The use of these temporal preferences, verbal forms, and grammatical constructions can be explained by their functional purpose within diplomatic correspondence. The speakers' task is to soften the sharp edges that are inevitable when one of the two Austro-Hungarian Commissions must make a decision concerning possible military intervention in the event of refusal to comply with the ultimatum of the leading European powers demanding that Turkey surrender the city-port of **Dulcigno**.

Alongside the statement of the existing state of affairs, characterized by the dominance of the present tense and the indicative mood, only the conditional and the subjunctive moods demonstrate the highest frequency of use. The most frequently encountered tense in the examined text corpora, **Présent de l'Indicatif**, is used in the following cases: 1. To denote an action that has taken place at the moment of written speech: «*Je **reçois** à l'instant de notre consul général à Budapest le rapport ci-joint en original par lequel Feridun-bey me **rend** compte des interpellations qui viennent d'avoir lieu au sein de la délégation hongroise sur la question monténégine...* ». 2. Through **Présent**, an action that will occur in the future is conveyed: «*... un ministre ne pourrait raisonnablement dire d'avance ... quelle attitude il **compte** observer en présence des éventualités de l'avenir* ». Both of these examples, where the present tense is used instead of the past or

the future, represent a stylistic device that adds to the text an additional sense of immediacy of the events taking place. 3. Présent is used in the texts to indicate regular and recurring actions: «*Depuis plusieurs jours **il y a** quotidiennement dans la cour de la grande mosquée des assemblées populaires dans lesquelles ou Ousmane pas cher Riza Pacha..., Hodo Pacha **s'efforcent** de faire valoir leur influence...* ». 4. Naturally, Présent de l'Indicatif denotes an action occurring directly at the moment of writing the document, for example «*L'attitude de la Porte **enlève** à la Ligue tout espoir de conserver Dulcigno aux Albanaïs* ». 5. Présent de l'Indicatif also appears in the texts to narrate well-known events and prevailing attitudes: «*.../on **peut** déjà bien augurer aujourd'hui du développement ultérieur des choses à Dulcigno* ». 6. At times, Présent is employed to describe a historical event, with the present tense used instead of the past in order to bring the reader closer to events that occurred in the past: «*Des gens bien informés assurent que des centaines d'Albanaïs quittent les positions de la Mazoura Planina ...* ».

The second most frequent tense in the texts is Conditionnel présent and Conditionnel passé. 1. The conditional mood expresses in the text the statement of an action possible in the future, provided that a certain factor occurs: «*La démonstration navale prendrait fin dès que Dulcigno serait remis effectivement au Monténégro...*». 2. It can also express an assumption: «*Quiconque aurait à cœur le développement intellectuel des peuplades chrétiennes de la péninsule des Balkans - l'Autriche - Hongrie éprouverait d'autant plus sincèrement ce désir ...*». 3. The incomplete reliability of the reported information with Conditionnel is often used in the media, which is why it is frequently referred to as Conditionnel de presse. When using it, the correspondent conveys direct speech in his or her own interpretation «*À cette question l'orateur **voudrait** en ajouter une autre de*

nature purement politique». 4. Interestingly, we did not encounter a single instance of the use of constructions with «Si» in a complex conditional sentence with a subordinate clause introduced by this conditional conjunction. Rather, Conditionnel présent is used for the sequence of tenses, as the so-called Futur dans le passé, when the verbs in the main clause are in Passé simple or in Passé composé: «Le ministre Haymerlé déclara que, dans la question de Danube, il ne présenterait pas, comme dans la question serbe, un exposé spécial, mais qu'il répondrait à chaque question séparément». 5. Conditionnel présent is used as a polite suggestion in cases where a categorical command in the imperative would be inappropriate: «L'orateur désirerait toutefois que le gouvernement s'imposa une réserve encore plus grande...».

If diplomatic documentation is morphologically relatively simple in terms of verbal forms, then in syntax diplomatic discourse takes its revenge through the length of its sentences, where agreement, precise as a Swiss watch, refers in gender and number to the denotatum. Incidentally, this property of the French language became one of the reasons for its preference in the diplomatic sphere, where the main stylistic criterion is the logical coherence of exposition. This coherence is achieved in such types of texts through the use of complex syntax. A number of authors note that almost all genres of diplomatic discourse are characterized by a large number of complex and compound sentences (Balandina, Kuratcenkova, 2014: <http://www.ling-expert.ru/conference/langlaw1/langdiplomat.html>). The complexity of the syntax of diplomatic documents is also noted, along with the predominance of long sentences complicated by participial phrases and coordinated members, as well as complex sentences with various types of subordinate clauses. It is also observed that, in accordance with the requirements of diplomatic etiquette, diplomatic

discourse is characterized by conditional-concessive clauses and constructions with weakened modality of obligation, as well as by flexible formulations (Logunova, 2015:129-132).

On the other hand, a certain degree of formalization in diplomatic discourse leads to the typification and complication of syntax, the difficulty of perceiving which is mitigated by the frequent repetition of set phrases and lexical means. Thus, in the presented Corpus 2, the content of the letter from the Austro-Hungarian ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is conveyed in a single sentence containing two subordinate clauses, not counting the introductory salutation and the closing formula of politeness

Corpus 2. « HR.SYS. 161/37 Ambassade Impériale Ottoman. N11724 N462. Délégation. Annexe. Vienne, 28 octobre 1880

Monsieur le Ministre,

*Vu l'intérêt qu'il offre, je crois devoir transmettre ci-joint à Votre Excellence le Numéro 248 de la Correspondance Politique **qui** contient les réponses du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères aux diverses interpellations **qui** lui ont été adressées par certains membres des Délégations dans la séance du 26 courant.*

Son excellence Afsim Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Je saisis cette occasion pour renouveler à votre Excellence l'assurance de ma haute considération.
«Signature».

Translation of Corpus 2: «HR.SYS. 161/37 Embassy of the Ottoman Empire. N11724 N462 Appendix to the delegation Vienna, October 28, 1880. *Mr. Minister, taking into account the interest, I*

consider it necessary to attach for Your Excellency issue 248 of the "Political Correspondence," containing the replies of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to various questions addressed to him by several members of the delegations during the session of the 26th of the current month.

To His Excellency Afzim Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest respect. «Signature.»

As follows from the address, both subordinate clauses are introduced by the relative pronoun *qui*, which functions as the subject in constructions with a personal verb (*contient – contenir, ont été adressées – être adressé*).

Equally brief and concise is the address of the Ottoman ambassador in Vienna to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman Empire in Corpus 3:

Corpus 3. « HR_SYS_00161_000037_005_001jpg HR_SYS 161/37Ambassade Impériale Ottoman, N11735 N468 Délégations. Annonce. Vienne, 1er novembre 1880

Monsieur le Ministre,

*Je reçois à l'instant de notre consul général à Budapest le rapport ci-joint en original **par lequel** Féridun-bey me rend compte des interpellations **qui** viennent d'avoir lieu et au sein de la Délégation hongroise sur la question montégrine, la question grecque, ainsi que sur d'autres stipulations du traité de Berlin.*

Son excellence Afsim Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Les réponses du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères à ses diverses interpellations sont également contenues dans ledit rapport.

Je prie Votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer l'assurance de ma haute considération. «Signature».

Translation of Corpus 3: «Embassy of the Ottoman Empire No. 11735 No. 468 Delegations. Announcement. Vienna, November 1, 1880.

Mr. Minister, I have just received from our Consul General in Budapest the attached original report, in which Féridun-bey informs me about the questions that have just been discussed in the Hungarian delegation concerning the Montenegrin question, the Greek question, as well as other provisions of the Berlin Treaty.

His Excellency Afsim Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. The replies of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to various questions are also contained in the said report. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my profound respect. «Signature.»

The content of the message in Corpus 3, apart from the formulas of politeness, is likewise reduced to a single complex sentence with two subordinate clauses introduced by the relative conjunction *par lequel* and the relative pronoun *qui*, the latter functioning as the subject in a construction with a personal verb in **Passé immédiat** (*qui viennent d'avoir lieu*).

CONCLUSION

Thus, as evidenced by the translated archival materials introduced for the first time into academic circulation, the grammatical perspective of the analyzed texts demonstrates certain preferences in the use of tenses and constructions characteristic of diplomatic discourse. The dominant forms are the indicative mood (**Présent de l'Indicatif**) and the conditional mood (**Conditionnel présent**), the latter occurring at approximately half the frequency of the former, while the subjunctive mood (**Subjonctif présent, passé**) appears only minimally. At the same time, these forms perform functions inherent in the systemic features of the grammatical tenses of the general national language. The distinction in their use within diplomatic discourse lies not in the qualitative but in the quantitative aspect.

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Illustration 1 - Копијс 3

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