Abstract. Estonian has both the verbal grammatical category of the proximative and the avertive, which could be treated as the unmarked and marked categories of the prospective. The proximative is mainly expressed either by means of the partly grammaticalized verbs ähvardama ‘threaten’, tahtma ‘want’, töötama ‘promise’, etc. (Puder ähvardas põhja kõrbeda ‘the porridge threatened to boil away’), which is similar to many other European languages, or by means of the mas-construction (Vene väed on Gorist lahkus ‘the Russian forces are about to leave Gori’). In Estonian the avertive is morphologically not linked with proximativity. It is noteworthy from the typological perspective that the avertive auxiliary stems from the imperfect form of the verb pidama ‘must, have to’, which expresses agent-oriented modality (Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma ‘he was to lose his job’). The development occurred through the intermediate intentional stage, which in addition to the avertive gave rise to the quotative (Praegugi pidi neid mitmes kohas maas veelema ‘even now they are reported to be lying about on the ground in various places’).

Keywords: Estonian, morphosyntax, grammaticalization, typology, proximative, avertive.

1. Introduction

Recently, linguists have paid considerable attention to two closely related categories — the proximative and the avertive — and discussed their essence, manifestations, and grammaticalization paths in various languages. The presence of these categories has been noted in Estonian, too, and the present article focuses on some of their manifestations and grammaticalization paths.

The proximative is a gram denoting a temporal phase located close before the initial boundary of the situation described by the main verb or, to put if briefly, imminence (e.g. Kuteva 1998). For example,

(1) Puder tahab põhja kõrbeda
porridge wants bottom.IIL burn:INF
‘The porridge is likely to boil dry’

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The proximative has been treated at great length especially by Heine 1992; 1994, and Kuteva 1998; 2001. They claim that the term itself was coined by König 1993.¹ In earlier treatments the same phenomenon was called prospective (e.g. Comrie 1976: 64—65) or immediate future (Comrie 1985: 95).

The proximative refers to the pre-phase of an event. It is a purely aspectual notion because it does not point to the time when the event should take place; nor does it indicate whether the event takes/took place or not. Being in the pre-phase (imminence) is the only essential semantic characteristic of the proximative (Kuteva 1998: 127). The proximative can be used both in past and non-past contexts, cf. (1) and (2), and sentences (3) and (4) are acceptable, too.

(2) Puder tahtis põhja kõrbeda
porridge wanted bottom.ILL burn:INF
'The porridge was close to boiling dry'

(3) Puder tahtis põhja kõrbeda,
porridge wanted bottom.ILL burn:INF
kuid siiski ei kõrbenud
but nevertheless NEG burn:PST,PTCP
'The porridge was close to boiling dry but didn’t'

(4) Puder tahtis põhja kõrbeda ja kõrbeski
porridge wanted bottom.ILL burn:INF and burn:PST:CLC
'The porridge was close to boiling dry and actually did so'

In addition to the proximative, linguists have noted the existence of a cross-linguistically similar gram, which T. Kuteva (1998) at first described for lack of a better term as ANA gram (action narrowly averted) and later as avertive (Kuteva 1999); its meaning was summarized as ‘was on the verge of V-ing but did not’. For example,

(5) Bulgarian (example from Kuteva 1999: 30)
Vazata ščese da se sčupi
Vase.the want.3SG.PAST conj,PTCL refl break.3SG.PRS
'The vase nearly broke down'

According to Kuteva 1998, the ANA gram involves no less than three semantic domains:

a. aspectuality (imminence — a temporal phase just before the verb situation is to take place);
b. temporality (pastness — verb situation takes place before the moment of speech);
c. modality (counterfactuality — verb situation is negated).

Only the past forms carry the avertive meaning. Replacing the past by the present loses the meaning of imminence. The counterfactual meaning of the avertive rules out the possibility to express factuality by means of context and the need to express counterfactuality by means of context, but

¹ Actually, the same term has been used for the same phenomenon earlier as well. For example, in Finnic studies Osmo Ikola used this term for describing a similar meaning of the 5th infinitive in Finnish (Ikola 1971: 48; 1974: 67; cf. also Ylikoski 2003).
the possibility to express the latter remains. If the contextual expression of counterfactuality is nevertheless obligatory, as T. Kuteva (1999 : 35—36) thinks in the case of the Russian avertive, where the avertive construction is always followed by a special marker for a particular type of context, namely the adversative conjunction no 'but' (6), then this fact shows a fairly early stage of grammaticalization of the avertive construction in Russian.

(6) Russian (example from Kuteva 1999 : 35)

\[ \text{Delo bylo pošlo, no potom ostanovilos} \]

matter be.3SG.PAST.N start.going.3SG.PAST.N but afterwards stop.3SG.PAST

'The (whole) affair nearly got going but (then) it stopped' / 'The (whole) affair was just about to get going but (then) it stopped'

T. Kuteva pointed out the following lexical verb constructions as the beginning points of grammaticalization developments involving the ANA gram:

a. verb phrases with the verb 'be'
b. volitional/purposive verb phrases
c. verb phrases involving the verb 'err, sin' / 'fail, miss'
d. verb phrases involving the verb 'have'

The avertive may develop into the proximative, that is, a purely aspectual category, as is the case, for example, in Turkish (Kuteva 1998 : 147); however, usually the proximative has another source, too.

The proximative and the avertive share the meaning of imminence of the pre-phase of a situation. It enables us to regard them as sub-categories of a same category. Actually, the term *prospective* is a suitable common denominator for the proximative and the avertive. The proximative is the non-marked prospective, and the avertive is the marked prospective. The prospective as the expresser of the pre-phase in its turn stands in contrast to the expresser of the post-phase of a situation (Erelt 2009). The retrospective expresses the state at the moment of reference as a result of a prior event (a state presupposing a prior event). In Estonian the state of the actor is expressed by the *nud*-participle, e.g. *Poisson üllatunud* 'the boy is surprised' while the state of the object of the action is expressed by the *tud*-participle, e.g. *Aken on avatud* 'the window is open'. The participle behaves in the retrospective construction like an adjective, and thus the construction has some properties of the predicative construction. The retrospective construction has been called adjectivization (Rajandi 1999/1968) — the *nud*-construction was called active and the *tud*-construction passive adjectivization. The retrospective is also known as the resultative (Типология результативных конструкций 1983; Плунгян 2003 : 298). The retrospective differs from the perfect and the pluperfect, which express an event preceding the moment of reference, the result of which reaches the moment of reference in the present or the past, e.g. *Poisson/oli koju lāinud* 'the boy has/had gone home', *Ust on/oli parandatud* 'the door has/had been repaired'. The perfect and the pluperfect may coincide formally with the present and imperfect forms of the retrospective; e.g. *Aken on avatud* 'the window is open' can be interpreted either as a retrospective state or a perfective event.

The following treatment will show that Estonian has both the proximative and avertive verbal grams, whereas they have totally different
sources. Moreover, the lexical source of avertive does not belong to any constructions mentioned by T. Kuteva. Her claim concerning the Estonian avertive does not hold water.

2. Proximative in Estonian

Estonian has two kinds of proximative verbal grams:

a. constructions with grammaticalized (partly auxiliarized) volitional verbs ähvardama 'threaten', tahtma 'want', tõotama 'promise' + da-infinitive of the main verb, e.g. (7)—(9), with the verb of beginning hakkama 'begin', e.g. (10), and with the verbs kippuma 'tend to do sth', kibelema 'be itching to do sth', tikkuma, tükdana 'tend to do sth' and others + ma-infinitive of the main verb, e.g. (11);

b. infinitival constructions olema 'be' + mas-form (inessive of the ma-infinitive) of the main verb, e.g. (12); in the case of minek 'going' / mineema 'go' and tulek 'coming' / tulema 'come' one can also find the adpositional or the adessive construction with the verbal noun: olema + VN.GEN peal / õirel 'on the verge of' / VN:ADESS, e.g. (13), (14), (15).

(7) Tuhala Nõiakaev on tänava juba kaks korda ähvardanud
Tuhala Witch's_Well is this_year already two times threaten: PST.PTCP kevemaa hakkama, kuid mõlemal korral on heitli ilm
boil:minf begin:dinf but on both occasions the fickle weather seda takistanud (NEWS)
has hindered it
'This year the Tuhala Witch's Well has threatened already twice to start boiling, but on both occasions the fickle weather has hindered it'

(8) Mul tahab see [mulgipuder] alati
I:ADE wants this [Mulgi porridge] always
põhja kõrbeda (NEWS)
bottom:ILL burn:INF
'In my case this [Mulgi porridge] has always wanted to burn away'

(9) Tasuta interneti leviala tõotab pealinnas tasapisi
free Internet.GEN area promises capital:INE gradually
laieneda (NEWS)
expand:INF
'The free W-Fi area promises to expand gradually in the capital'

(10) Väsimust, jõuetust peeti halvaks märgiks, see tähendas
Fatigue, powerlessness were regarded as a bad sign this meant
sageli, et inimene kas juba on või hakkab
often that person either already is or begins
haige kääma (NEWS)
ill:TRNSL fall:INF
'Fatigue, powerlessness were regarded as a bad sign; it often meant that a person either was already ill or was about to fall ill'

(11) Uute eramute müümine kipub soiku jääma (NEWS)
new private_houses.gen sale tends come to a halt
'The sale of new private houses tends to come to a halt'
Vene väed on Gorist lahkumas (NEWS)
‘The Russian forces are about to leave Gori’

Üks neist vigastatiist on minekepeal, one these.ELA injured:PL:ELA is going.GEN on kui mitte länud juba (NEWS)
if not left already ‘One of the injured is likely to die if not dead already’

Roland ise on aga hullus minekual äärel (NEWS)
‘Roland himself is on the verge of going insane’

Tulekul on metsaseaduse muudatused (NEWS)
‘Changes in the forest act are coming soon’

The previous examples show that the verb can also be in the present without losing its proximative meaning (imminence), which indicates that one is not dealing with avertivity.

Sometimes the adverbials peaaegu (et) or äärepealt ’almost, nearly’ are added to the proximative verb construction, which, on the one hand, stress imminence but, on the other hand, bring in counterfactuality, that is, they show that the event did not take place, e.g.

Uskumatult kaunis armastuslugu, mis ähvardab
unbelievably beautiful love story what threatens p e a a e g u k a t k i jääda, aga löpeb siisksi önnekuult (FICT)
almost broken remain:INF but ends still happy ‘An unbelievably beautiful love story, which almost threatened to break off but still ends happily’

Vastuolu kristliku elu ja kodanliku lugupeetavuse
conflict Cristian.GEN life.GEN and bourgeois.GEN respect.GEN
võheli on p e a a e g u k a d u m a s (NEWS)
between is almost disappear:MINF:INE
‘The conflict between Christian life and bourgeois respect is almost disappear’

However, these adverbials can also be used separately from the proximative construction, e.g. (18)—(20). These adverbials have in addition to the meaning of imminence also the meaning of counterfactuality, which is proved by the impossibility to add any context of factuality to such sentences, cf. (21) a and b. Such adverbials do not imply the past; therefore, their meaning (imminence + counterfactuality) remains somewhere between the proximative (imminence) and the avertive (imminence + counterfactuality + past). Adverbials as non-grams remain beyond the scope of the present study.

Mandri külje all on ka Manilaid, teel Kihnu
Close to the mainland is also Manilaid; en route to Kihnu one almost brushes against this piece of land’
(19) Väidetavalt oli igi Kadrioru staadion eilse reportedly was:CLC Kadriorg GEN stadium yesterday:TRNSL
p e a a e g u välja müüdud (NEWS) almost out sold
'Reportedly the Kadriorg stadium had been almost sold out by yesterday'

(20) Allan suutis minu kaaotopsile muidugi äärepealt
Allan was_able GEN cup_of_chocolate:ALL naturally almost peale astuda (FICT) on step:INF
'Allan was naturally able to almost step on my cup of hot chocolate'

(21) a. peaaegu et riivatakse, kuid siiski ei riivata
almost that brush:IMPS but nevertheless neg brush:IMPS
'One almost brushes against sth but does not actually brush against it'

b. *peaaegu et riivatakse, kuid siiski riivatakse
almost that brush:IMPS but nevertheless brush:IMPS
'One almost brushes against sth but nevertheless brushes against it'

Recently there has been some interest in the use of the verbs threaten and promise in many European languages as auxiliaries taking an infinitive extension. B. Heine and T. Kuteva (2006 : 80—83) have suggested a four-stage grammaticalization chain of the German verb drohen from a lexical verb to an auxiliary (22)—(25). As an auxiliary, drohen takes a non-human subject in stage three and a human subject in stage four. Studies based on the history of standard languages prove the correctness of this sequence and the spread of this process in many European languages, and its origin from Paris as the cultural centre of the 13th century into other written languages. It has been assumed that the construction has either an evidential (Diewald, Smirnova 2006) or epistemic meaning (Vliegen 2006). The original lexical meaning has bleached out.

(22) Ger Karl droht seinem Chef, ihn zu verklagen
'Karl threatens his boss to take him to court'

(23) Ger Uns droht nun eine Katastrophe
'We are now threatened by a disaster'

(24) Ger Das Hochwasser droht die Altstadt zu überschwemmen
'The flood risks flooding the old town'

(25) Ger Mein Mann droht krank zu werden
'My husband risks falling ill / threatens to fall ill'

In Estonian ähvardama 'threaten' and töötama 'promise' are used in accordance with stages three and four (26), (27), (28) (Metslang 2009; Märtson 2009). The previous observations about different languages show that the menacing auxiliary develops faster and spreads more widely than the promising one. German has revealed some examples of stage three of 'promise' (29).

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2 According to Heine, Miyashita 2008 : 89, the Estonian ähvardama has reached only stage three in its development. It could well be that they used unreliable sources for their study.
(26) Suurvesi ähvardab vanalinna üle uju tada
    high_water threaten old_town.PTV over flood:INF
    'The high water threatens to flood the old town'

(27) Mu mees ähvardab haigeks jääda
    I:GEN man threaten ill:TRNSL fall:INF
    'My husband runs the risk of falling ill'

(28) Angerjakasstatus töötab kuuneda kasumlikuks
    eel_farming promises become:INF profitable:TRNSL
    (diary Postimees 07.03.2007)
    ettlevõtmiseks (business:TRNSL)
    'Eel farming promises to become a profitable business'

(29) Ger  Die Aktienkurse verspechen zu steigen (Vliegen 2006 : 74)
    'The stock prices promise to rise'

The material of Finnish dictionaries and Google searches resulted in the meanings of uhata 'threaten' according to stage three but not stage four (30). No data could be found about the auxiliary use of the verbs lu vata and lupaila 'promise'.

(30) Fin USA:en ja E-Korean vapaakauppasopimus
    USA:GEN and South_Korea:GEN free-trade_agreement
    uhkaa karuitua (diary Helsingin Sanomat 31.3.2007)
    threatens run_around:INF
    'The free-trade agreement between the USA and South Korea threatens to run aground'

Although from the perspective of subject selection ähvardama 'threaten' appears to be more grammaticalized than töötama 'promise', as an auxiliary ähvardama has retained its negative presupposition, but töötama 'promise' has not retained its positive presupposition. Cf. (31) and (32).

(31) Mu mees ähv ar dab terveks saada
    I:GEN man threaten well:TRNSL get:INF
    'My husband threatens to get well'

(32) Kuressaarese töötab bussiga sõitmine poole
    Kuressaare:INE promises bus:COM traveling half:GEN
    källimaks minna (NEWS)
    expensive:COMP:TRNSL go:INF
    'In Kuressaare bus fares threaten to double'

In Estonian one of the main grammatical means of expressing proximativity is the combination of the verb olema 'be' with the inessive form of the ma-infinitive of the main verb (12). The proximative meaning is manifested first and foremost in punctual verbs (including those expressing change of state), such as plahvatama 'explode', lõppema 'end', algama 'begin', lahkuma 'leave', winuma 'fall asleep', etc. In durative non-agentive verbs expressing gradual change the mas-construction expresses progressiveness, that is, in the event itself and not being in its pre-phase, e.g. (33) and (34), and that is why this construction has been regarded as the progressive construction (Erelt 1985; Metslang 1993; EKG II 32—33). In agentive durative verbs the mas-construction has a locative interpretation, e.g. (35).
Nevertheless, recently the mas-construction with these verbs has started to be used also in the proximative meaning, e.g. (36).

(33) Laps on unumas
    child is fall_asleep:MINF:INE
    'The child is about to fall to sleep'

(34) Sissetulekud on vahenemases
    income:PL are decrease:MINF:INE
    'Income is on the decrease'

(35) Maret on suusatamas
    Maret is ski:MINF:INE
    'Maret went skiing'

(36) Eesti Vabariigi Valitsus on peatselt arutamas
    Estonian republic:GEN government is presently discuss:MINF:INE
    põlevkivi sektori keskkonnamaksude tõstmise kava
    oil-shale_sector:GEN environmental_taxes:GEN raising:GEN plan:PTV
    jõrgnevaks 15 aastaks (Google)
    next:TRNSL 15 year:TRNSL
    'The government of the Republic of Estonia is about to discuss the plan to raise environmental taxes in the oil-shale sector for the next fifteen years'

3. Avertive in Estonian

T. Kuteva (1998: 116; 1999: 36) claimed that in Estonian avertivity is marked by the past form of the conditional, that is, by the construction of the verb olema 'be' in the conditional mood followed by the main verb in the past participle form:

(37) Laps oleks maha kukkanud
    child be:COND down fall:PTCP
    'The child would have fallen on the ground'

Unfortunately, T. Kuteva is wrong. Example (37) and similar examples lack the meaning of imminence, which is obligatorily characteristic of the avertive. They may be interpreted but not necessarily so as referring to the immediate future. Here we have definitely only the meaning of irreality of the conditional (counterfactuality) and the past meaning of the past participle. Among other things, it is confirmed by the possibility to add various non-imminent temporal adverbials, such as aasta pärast 'in a year’s time' and kunagi 'sometime', to sentences of this kind. For example,

(38) Laps oleks kunagi ikka maha kukkanud
    child be:COND sometime anyway down fall:PTCP
    'The child would have fallen on the ground sometime anyway'

(39) Ta oleks aasta pärast ülikooli astunud
    s/he be:COND year:GEN after university.ILL enter:PTCP
    'He would have entered university in a year’s time'

A clear manifestation of imminence presupposes the addition of adverbials, such as peaaegu (et) 'almost, nearly', äärepealt 'almost, nearly', as in examples (40) and (41).
Hollywoodi näitleja Tom Hanks oleks üksiku saare filmi tehes p ee a e g u e t ära surnud (Google) film.PTV make:GER almost that VPTCL die:PST.PTCP
'Tom Hanks, a Hollywood actor, would have almost died while making a film about a desert island'

Maailma esimene naiskosmonaut oleks äärepealt orbiidile jäänud (Google) orbit:ALL remain:PST.PTCP
'The world’s first woman astronaut would have almost remained in orbit'

The construction of the past conditional has the same properties as T. Kuteva (1998 : 138—141) claims to have in the case of the Old Bulgarian construction xotčeti (PAST) + infinitive in its counterfactual stage en route to the avertive construction. It expresses an event that is asserted to be subsequent to some reference moment in the past, which is potential/realizable but does not taking place. In Bulgarian the counterfactual xotčeti-construction has developed into the avertive while the Estonian construction oleks + past participle has not reached this stage as yet. However, if the construction suggested by T. Kuteva is not included among avertive constructions, then the claim by T. Kuteva (1999 : 35—38) that the appearance of the avertive auxiliary structure in four languages of Northeast Europe (Russian, Finnish, Estonian and Romanian) is the result of areal grammaticalization is not valid either. At least Estonian does not belong to this group.

However, actually the avertive gram does exist in Estonian. The true avertive construction in Estonian is the past form of the verb pidama ‘must’ + ma-infinitive (Erelt 2001), e.g. (42).

(42) Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma
s/he must:PST own job:ELA without remain:mINF
‘S/he was to lose his/her job’

Replacement of the past does away with the meaning of imminence, and in such cases the pidama-verb occurs in its original meaning, that is, it expresses agent-oriented necessity, e.g.

(43) Ta peab oma kohast ilma jääma
s/he must:PRS own job:ELA without remain:mINF
‘S/he is to lose his/her job’

Unlike the sentence type in (43), it is not possible to add any non-imminent temporal adverbs to the avertive sentences with pidi. Thus, sentence (44) has only the evidential meaning and no avertive meaning.

(44) Ta pidi mõne aja pärast
s/he must:PST some.GEN time.GEN after oma kohast ilma jääma own job:ELA without remain:mINF
‘After some time he was to lose his job’
The counterfactual meaning rules out the possibility to use the context of factuality, but the context of counterfactuality is possible. Compare sentences (45) and (46), where the former has a non-avertive (modal or quotative) meaning and the latter has an avertive meaning.

(45) Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma ja jäägi
s/he must:PST own job:ELA without remain and remain:CLC
‘He was to lose his job and in fact lost it’

(46) Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma, kuid äõnneks
s/he must:PST own job:ELA without remain but fortunately
ei jäänud
NEG remain:PST.PTCP
‘He was to lose his job, but he didn’t’

The avertive auxiliary *pidi* has its origins in the imperfect form of the agent-oriented modal verb *pidama* ‘must’. T. Kuteva and B. Heine (Kuteva 1998; 1999; Heine, Kuteva 2002) fail to mention modal verbs as possible sources of the avertive. It could well be that this kind of source is too rare in order to notice it. However, it is clearly present in Estonian. Not long ago Renate Pustet (2008) observed its existence also in Lakota. The modal verb *pidama* ‘must’ (47) in its turn originates from the lexical verb *pidama* with the meaning ‘keep; think’ (48), (49).

(47) Te pėate lahkuma
you must:2PL leave:MINF
‘You must leave’

(48) Kurjategijat peeti üksikkambris
criminal:PTV keep:IMPS:PST solitary_confinement:INE
‘The criminal was kept in solitary confinement’

(49) Ta pidas mind kellekksi teiseks
s/he take:PST I:PTV someone:TRNSL else:TRNSL
‘S/he took me for someone else’

The development of the modal meaning was accompanied by the morphological differentiation of the *pidama*-verb in the imperfect. In the case of the non-modal meaning the past is marked by -s(i)-; in the case of the modal meaning the marker is -i-:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>keep, hold etc.</th>
<th>must, have to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ma</td>
<td>pida-si-n</td>
<td>pid-i-n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I keep-PST-1SG</td>
<td>keep-PST-1PL</td>
<td>I must-PST-1SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sa</td>
<td>pida-si-d</td>
<td>pid-i-d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you keep-PST-2SG</td>
<td>keep-PST-2PL</td>
<td>you must-PST-2SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ta</td>
<td>pida-si-d</td>
<td>pid-i-d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s/he keep-PST-3PL</td>
<td>s/he must-PST</td>
<td>s/he must-PST-3PL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The agent-oriented modal verb *pidama* later gave rise to the epistemic modal verb (50) and non-modal auxiliaries. (See Fig. 1 below.)

(50) Need loomad pėavad kīll rebased olem a
these animals must:3PL indeed foxes be:MINF
‘In fact, these animals must be foxes’
It has been observed in many languages that agent-oriented modality verbs can develop into verbs with an intentional meaning, and, as intention is directed into the future, then they may further develop into future auxiliary verbs (cf. Bybee, Pagliuca, Perkins 1991). Intentional meaning can be observed also in the development of the *pidama*-verb. In some cases intentional implication of agent-oriented necessity has developed into the main meaning of the verb *pidama*, as in the following sentence (51).

(51) Pärit oli *ta* Albuquerque’st [---], aga viimased 18 aastat elab *Hawaii*. He came from Albuquerque [---], but he has lived the past eighteen years in Hawaii. 

However, the verb *pidama*, to be more precise, its imperfect forms have not developed into a future auxiliary but into a verb that carries an avertive meaning. The latter is in line with the development of the ‘past volition/intention chain’ in the development of the avertive as proposed by Kuteva 1998. (At the same time the Estonian avertive did not develop on the basis of verbs expressing directly intention, such as *tahtma* ‘want’ and *tõotama* ‘promise’; they express only unmarked prospectivity). A similar semantic change occurred in the south-western and Hämme dialects in Finnish (cf. Laitinen 1992).

The verb *pidama* may express also non-inferential, quotative evidentiality, as in

(52) “Nad jagasid linnas väikeseid lipikuid ka inimestele they distributed town:INE small:PL.PTV slip:PL.PTV also people:ALL ja ma kuulsin, et praegugi *pidi* neid mitmes kohas and I heard that now:CLC must:PTS they:PTV several:INE place:INE maas vedelema,” ütles abiprefekt (Google) on_the_ground lie:m INF said deputy_prefect

‘They distributed little slips of paper in town also to people and I heard that even at present some of them must be lying around in various places’ said the deputy prefect’

In this sentence the indicative past form has lost its past meaning and has become a quotative auxiliary. It is proved by the fact that one can replace it by the form of the morphological quotative:

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3 The other agent-oriented verb expressing modality *saama* ‘become’ has developed into a future auxiliary but without the intentional stage (see Metslang 1994).
Some Notes on Proximative and Avertive in Estonian

(53) **Praegugi** _p i d i_ neid m i t m e s _k o h a s_
    now:CLC must:PST they:PTV several:INE place:INE
    maas _v e d e l e m a_
    on_the_ground lie:MINF

= **Praegugi** _v e d e l e-v a t_ neid m i t m e s _k o h a s_ maas
    now:CLC lie-QUOT they:PTV several:INE place:INE on_the_ground

‘Even now some of them are reported to be lying around on the ground
in various places’

It is difficult to provide a convincing explanation how the _pidi_-form
developed into a quotative auxiliary. It seems that L. Laitinen’s explana-
tion is plausible. According to L. Laitinen, the source of quotative eviden-
tiality is the non-implicative interpretation of _pidi_ (Laitinen 1992 : 258—
259). As for the intention of the agent (unless it is the first person), one
assumes that the person has heard it from someone else. This assumption
later developed into an independent meaning. This history of the origin
of the quotative interpretation is supported by the fact that both the inten-
tional (and the avertive) meaning and the quotative meanings are expressed
by one form — the imperfect.

![Figure 1. Function shifts of the verb pidama.](image)

Conclusions

Estonian has both the verbal grammatical category of the proximative
and the avertive, which could be treated as the unmarked and marked cates-
gories of the prospective. The proximative is mainly expressed either by
means of the partly grammaticalized verbs _ähvardama_ ‘threaten’, _tahtma_ ‘want’,
_tõotama_ ‘promise’, etc. (_Puder_ ähvardas põhja kõrbeda ‘the porridge
threatened to boil away’), which is similar to many other European
languages, or by means of the _mas_-construction (_Vene väärd on Gorist lahku-
mas_ ‘the Russian forces are about to leave Gori’). In Estonian the avertive
is morphologically not linked with proximativity. It is noteworthy from
the typological perspective that the avertive auxiliary stems from the
imperfect form of the verb _pidama_ ‘must, have to’, which expresses agent-
oriented modality (_Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma_ ‘he was to lose his job’).
The development occurred through the intermediate intentional stage,
which in addition to the avertive gave rise to the quotative (**Praegugi** _p i d i_
_neid mitmes kohas maas vedelemma_ ‘even now they are reported to be lying
about on the ground in various places’).
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Abbreviations

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ЗАМЕТКИ О ПРОКСИМАТИВЕ И АВЕРИТИВЕ В ЭСТОНСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

В эстонском языке среди грамматических категорий глагола имеются как прокси-
матив (proximate), так и авертив (avertive) — соответственно немаркированная
и маркированная категории проспективы (prospective). Проксиматив выражает под-
готовительную стадию ситуации и оформляется главным образом с помощью
частично грамматикализованных глаголов ähvardama 'угрожать', tahima 'хотеть',
töötama 'обещать' и т. д. (Puder ähvardas pöhi körbeda dosl. 'капра угрожала приго-
реть'), как и в других европейских языках. Кроме того, проксиматив представлен
в виде инфинитивной конструкции на -mas (Vene viieed on Gorist lahkumas 'Русские
войска готовятся покинуть Гори'). Авертив имеет значение 'событие готово было
произойти, но все же не произошло'. Формально он не связан с проксимативом.
В типологическом плане заслуживает внимания тот факт, что вспомогательный
глагол авертива восходит к модальному глаголу pidama 'должествовать' в форме
прошедшего времени pidi (Ta pidi oma kohast ilma jääma 'Он почти остался без
своей работы'). Кроме авертива, эта форма служила источником и для кванта-
тивы (Praegugi pidi neid mitmes kohas maas vedelema 'Они рассказывали, что и сейчас они
валяются на земле кое-где').