The Subjunctive in the Chanson de Roland

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The Subjunctive in the Chanson de Roland.

Thesis for A. M.

Frank Emil Lodewick.

1892.
The works consulted while writing the thesis are as follows:

French Subjunctive, Williams.
French Syntax, Harrison, 
Philology of the French Language, Meissner.
Latin Grammar, Harkness.
Französische Grammatik, Mätzner.
Grammaire de la Vieille Langue Française, Clédat.
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The Subjunctive in the Chanson de Roland.

The subjunctive is the mood generally used to express a Wish, an Entreaty, a Command, a Concession, or a Possibility. It is comparatively rare in independent sentences, being mostly found in dependent clauses, not because they are dependent, but because a wish, a possibility, etc., is now thus expressed.

The subjunctive mood, including the optative, is of earlier origin than the complex sentence, with its dependent clause, and was used to denote what was not real, at a time when thought was expressed by unconnected simple sentences. The dependent subjunctive has thus grown out of its former use in independent constructions, which is really the older form.

One general principle underlies all the various uses of the subjunctive, whatever the form of the clause, viz: the subjunctive serves to express not an actual, but a possible fact. This will explain why, after the same verbs and expressions we sometimes find the indicative and then again the subjunctive.
By comparing the syntax of the subjunctive in Latin, with that in modern French, it will be seen how much more important a part the subjunctive played in the former language, than it does in the latter. The Old French occupies a position between the two, the subjunctive being found less often than in Latin, but more frequently than in modern French. One reason for this, besides the general tendency of modern languages to make less use of the subjunctive mood, is the growth of the conditional. This mood is indeed found in the Chanson de Roland, but its use was not so general, and in modern French, it often takes the place of an old subjunctive.

Following the arrangement adopted by Williams in his work on "The French Subjunctive," I have considered the subject under the two principal heads of The Subjunctive in Independent Clauses, and The Subjunctive in Dependent Clauses.
A. The Subjunctive in Independent Clauses.
   I. The Subjunctive of Desire.
   II. The Subjunctive of Command.
   III. The Potential Subjunctive.

I. The Subjunctive of Desire.

In Latin, the Subjunctive of Desire expressing a wish, an entreaty, or a command, was, like the Potential Subjunctive, widely used, and was found in all tenses and persons.

Its use in modern French has become much restricted, being confined, as a rule, to a few idiomatic expressions and seldom found except in the 3rd person of the present tense. As to the remaining tenses, the imperfect occurs in a few phrases with plait; the pluperfect is hardly ever used, and the perfect tense is entirely wanting.

Although, in Old French, the use of this subjunctive is more extended than in modern French, it is far from being met with as frequently as in Latin. In the Chanson de Roland, it occurs in all the persons of the singular, and the 3rd p. of the present tense, and
sarely in the imperfect tense. This subjunctive was often accompanied in Latin by utinam. In modern French, it is generally introduced by que, but in Old French, all conjunctives are, as a rule, omitted. However, the subjunctive is sometimes strengthened by Ar, Car, or Mais, placed at the head of the clause.

1. p. s. Present Tense.

3757. Tel seïs re jo l'ceil.
3897. Tuc seïs fel, re jo mie l'otrei.

2. p. s. Present Tense.


3. p. s. Present Tense.

2066. Deus lës aït qui mikes ne mentït.

Examples of the subjunctive in the 3. p. s. are very numerous. See also: 358, 579, 616, 698, 788, 1008, 1047, 1062, 1073, 1089, 1107, 1249, 1555, 1854, 1856, 1865, 1938, 2066 &c.


2751. Lil Apollin li mus ad en baillïe
2752. Li Tervagan e Mahum nostre aïe,

2753. Saluent le Rei e guardarre la Reïne.
3 pers. sing., imperfect tense.

1779. Pur so le first, ne first aparissent.

The imperfect subjunctive appears but seldom in this connection, the above instance being the only one noted in the Chanson de Roland. Even this may be construed in two ways. The clause "ne first aparissent" is independent in form, and, as such, the verb may be considered as being in the Subjunctive of Desire. But perhaps the more logical way would be to consider it as a clause denoting purpose with the conjunction omitted. The Old French is partial to such constructions, and many examples occur of dependent clauses in the form of independent sentences. They are frequent after verbs of commanding, wishing, &c.

In all the examples thus far given, the conjunction is omitted, but in line 1693, the clause is apparently introduced by gué.

1693. Bels chiers cumpaidz, pur ben que vue enhaitz.

1694. Toezz bons vassals vez gezir far terre.
It is not certain, however, that *que* in this connection is a conjunction, as it may stand in place of the relative *qui*.

II. The Subjunctive of Command.

A command, in modern French, is generally expressed by the imperative mood, but the present subjunctive with *que* takes its place in the 3ps. and 3pp. In the *Chanson de Roland*, the same construction occurs, the only difference being, that the conjunction *que* is omitted.

3ps. Present Tense.

1013. Or guant cascuns que granz colpe i empleie.

1616. Tere major, Mahummet te maldiet.

See also: 424, 1258, 2109, 2617, 2680, 2687, 2749, 3017, 3272, 3340, 86.

In addition to the usual way of expressing a command, a construction was noted in the *Chanson de Roland*, that has now become obsolete, viz: in two instances, lines 1113 and 2337, a negative infinitive is used in place of the subjunctive.

2337. blannez bleus pere, ne en laisser huir France.
III. The Potential Subjunctive.

The Potential Subjunctive, like the Subjunctive of desire, was extensively used in Latin, in all tenses and persons. In modern French, its use has become greatly restricted. Williams mentions three cases under this subjunctive, viz:—1. Its use in the Present Tense; 2. The Pluperfect in Conditional Sentences; 3. Exclamatory Sentences, all Tenses.

1. The Present Tense.

In the present tense, the subjunctive is found only in a few idiomatic expressions with the verbs savoir and se souvenir. This is a modern idiom, not found in the Old French.

Nor has the present tense a wide application in the Old French. But a few cases occur in the Chanson de Roland, where it is used to denote a condition, a concession, or a possibility.

Condition.

591. Seit qui l'ociet, truit pais puis vengier.
1744. Vinget li Reis, si nue furrat vengier.
2. The Imperfect, or Plusperfect, to denote a Condition.

This use of the subjunctive is quite common both in modern and Old French, and is treated at more at length under the head of "Conditional Sentences" in dependent clauses. It occurs only as the conclusion of conditional sentences, and two cases may be noted, viz., a. With the condition expressed; b. With the condition implied.

**Condition Expressed.**

1102. Trust i li Reis, vi sussum damage.

**Condition Implied.**

349. La vissiez tarz chevaliers plurer.

3. Exclamatory Sentences.

Its use in exclamatory sentences is frequent in modern French, but in our text it is quite rare. In the example given, line 1698, the
B. Subjunctive in Dependent Clauses.

As stated above, the subjunctive is of frequent occurrence in dependent clauses. I shall treat of these under eight different heads.

I. Object Clauses.

The subjunctive in object clauses occurs after a great many verbs. These verbs may be divided into four classes, viz: –

1. "Verbs of Wishing."
2. "Verbs and Expressions of Emotion and Feeling."
3. "Verbs of Perceiving, Thinking and Declaring."
4. "Verbs of Denial, Doubt and Despair."

No verbs were found in the Chanson de Roland that could be classed under No. 4.
The Latin construction generally requires the subjunctive in object clauses after the above verbs. Verbs of class 1 and 3 are followed either by the subjunctive with ut or ne, or by an infinitive with subject accusative. Those of class 2 require an infinitive with subject accusative, or the subjunctive with quod, whenever the reason is to be made more prominent.

In the present French construction, object clauses, after the above classes of verbs, generally have the verb in the subjunctive, and are introduced by quae; but the infinitive is sometimes used, and in certain cases, the indicative.

1. Verbs of Willing

"A large class of verbs expressing usually some act of the Will, such as Command, desire and the like, when followed by quae and an object clause to specify the object willed, require after them the subjunctive."

The Old French use is substantially the same. These verbs are further divided as follows:

- a. Verbs of Command, Exhortation,
- b. Verbs of Desire, Expectation.
c. Verbs of Approval, Permission, Concession.

d. Verbs of Disapproval, Prohibition, Hindrance, Opposition.

Below are given the verbs found in the Chanson de Roland, belonging to the different classes.

a Command, Exhortation.

Commander, 319, 2673, 2949, 3842.

Dire, in the sense of "to order," "to tell," 81, 332, 2746, 2760.

Ecrire, 1964.

Guarder, in the sense of "to take care," 650, 1013, 2061.

Jugier, " " " "to order," 309, 353.

Loer, " " " "to counsel," 226.


Reclamer, 2044, 2469.

Prendre conseil, in the sense of "to decide," may also be placed here. It occurs but once in the text, and is followed by the subjunctive.

Examples.

319. Carlee commandet que face son service.

1964. Apres escrit Rollant qu'il li aient.

3590. Si pres cunsell que vese mei te repentes.
To Desire, Expectation.

These verbs require the subjunctive with que. The conjunction is omitted in but few cases.

Avoir talent, in the sense of "to desire." 521, 579, 1255, 3153, 3476, 3681.

Preiser, 1473, 1837, 2016, 2241, 2261, 2449, 2518, 3799, 3808.

Vuleir, 1827, 2361, 2439, 3609, 3623, 3674.

Under this head may also be placed the expression vuleir miez--que. 1091, 1647, 1697, 1701, 2338, 2738, 3909.

It is always followed by an object clause with the subjunctive, but que has not here the value of the simple conjunction that, having the meaning of than that. In the modern construction, this subjunctive is replaced by de with an infinitive.

The subjunctive after avoir talent, an expression now obsolete, may be replaced by an infinitive, as occurs thus in line 1253.

Examples:

1255. Vostre Francess n'unt talent de fuir.
1647. Miez veill murir que jo ne l'alge veire.
3623. Paiez l'en turnent, helus veult qu'il ne remainent.
2518. Et priet helu qu'as annes seit guaran.
C. Approval, Permission, Concession.
These verbs possess no peculiarities, being all followed by the subjunctive with que.
Consentir, 3108.
Douter, in the sense of “to permit”. 310.
Avoir. 3962.

Examples:
310. Le mente, co durn que je de la repara.
3962. Sur tus les autres l'ont strict li France.
3963. Que Genes mcrget par merveilles ahaa.

D. Disapproval, Prohibition, Opposition, Hindrance.
Verbs of this class take the subjunctive with que. Nearly all the examples found in the text are expressions that are now lost to the French language. However, all verbs and expressions of similar meaning require in modern French the subjunctive.
Defendre, 1438.
Ne laisser que, in the sense of “mangner à” and “s'en empêcher”, 457, 839, 893, 1266, 1252, 1669, 1931, 2354, 2666.
Le poch muer que, in the sense of “ne peut faire autrement que de”, 773, 825, 841, 1599, 1710, 2026, 2193, 2517, 2873.
Se guarder que, in the sense of "empêcher," 9, 95. Reprover, 768.

Examples.

9. Ne s'pose guarder que mals ne li ataignent
825. Puit de nue prent, ne poes mieu ni en plurt.
2354. Neus ne laissiez que France en sein free!


The verbs under this head are divided into three classes, but these need not be further considered, as but two such verbs were found in the Chanson de Roland, viz; semener, a verb expressing surprise, and creindre, a verb of fearing.

Both verbs are followed by clauses introduced by que, but contrary to the modern usage, the former requires the indicative in its dependent clause. At the present time, the object clause after creindre, and all verbs of fearing, contains the particle ne, whenever the principal clause is affirmative in sense. The example given shows that ne is omitted in the dependent clause, although creindre is positive.
3. Verbs of Perceiving, Thinking, Declaring.

Verbs of this class, when affirmative, are followed in modern French by object clauses with the indicative, and with the subjunctive, whenever the principal clause is either negative, interrogative, or conditional. The Old French construction is substantially the same, though we sometimes find the subjunctive after affirmative clauses, where we should expect the indicative.

Ailier, 3665.
Aifer, 608, 627.
Sapercevoir, 3553.
Sereire, 1006.

Huncier, 2674, 3191.

Pleuer, 403, 626, 1058, 1069, 1072, 1704.

Sentir, 719, 725.

The declarative expression, Estre prez may also be placed here. It occurs once in the Chanson de Roland, line 316, and is followed by the subjunctive. The modern usage would require a

with an infinitive.

Two other verbs belonging to this class were noted, viz:

Quider and Penser,

Quider occurs both affirmatively and negatively, and is followed by the subjunctive in either case. The verb "to think" in itself contains a doubt, and as stated by Williams was frequently followed by the subjunctive, even when affirmative, up to a late period.

The sentence in which Penser is used, line 354, contains a positive statement and is thus, although negative in form, properly followed by the indicative.

Quider occurs negatively, in lines 1666 and 1848, affirmatively, in 3723.
Examples:

354. Li quens Rollanz ne l'ze doizt penser
355. Que estraz estes de mult grant parentet.
357. De sur ma lei le vus afirai.
398. Se je le trois, que jo mi cumbatrai.
626. É vus plesis que nus les cumbatrum.
1983. "Deus!" dist li Quene, os ne sai jo que face.
3724. Ouidet li Reis qu'el se soit jurme.

II. Subject Clauses.

After impersonal verbs, subject clauses in Latin generally have the verb in the subjunctive, and are introduced by either est or quod. In some cases, an infinitive, with or without a subject accusative, may take the place of the subjunctive.

In modern French, subject clauses, introduced by que, and containing a verb in the subjunctive, are very common after verbs expressing some emotion, sentiment, or opinion, such as Wish, Joy, Sorrow, Necessity, etc.

The Old French construction presents some differences. The following verbs and expressions were found in the text.
1. Joy and Surprise.

D'est merveille, 1774, 2877.

Placet. Dew. 1062, 1073, 1089, 1671, 3538, 5718.

After cet merveille, the indicative only was found, but the subjunctive stands regularly after placez.

Example:


1774. Ce est merveille que Deus te soeprez tant.

2. Sorrow, Pain, Displeasure

Dolor est, 716, 2030.

Est doele, 2608.

These are followed by the indicative.

Example:

2030. Quant tu es merz, dolor est que jo vi.

2608. Mult est garz, doele que nes est ke l'oeil.

3. Fitness and Unfitness

Est miez, 44, 58, 339, 3932.

Est dreiz, 228, 279, 497, 1444, 1950, 2349, 2561, 2978, 3974.

Here the usage is the same as the modern one, the subjunctive being used.
Examples.

44. Avez est mielz qu'il i perdent les chevres.

279. Le li Reis rovel, bien est dreiz qu'il i alget.


Pur poï que, in the sense of "Il s'en faut de bien peu de."

315, 2789, 3608.

A bien petit que, in the sense of "Peu s'en faut."

326.

These phrases are equivalent to modern French expressions of Want, that require after them subject clauses with the subjunctive. Both are, however, followed by clauses with the indicative.

Examples.

326. À bien petit que-il ne perd le sene.

3608. Carle es cancelet, pur poï qu'il n'est caiz.

5. Possibility and Impossibility.

Il peut estre. 3913.

This shows no peculiarity.

3913. Il ne peut estre qu'il reiuet desevret.
Impersonal verbs, expressing a certainty or a probability, are, when affirmative, followed by subject clauses that require the verb in the indicative. The subject clause has the verb in the subjunctive, when the principal clause is either negative, interrogative, or conditional. In either case the clause is introduced by *que*.

The few examples of such verbs in the Chaum de Roland show no departure from the modern usage.

Est vis, 659.
Est jujiet, 884.
Sours est, 549.

These expressions are used affirmatively and so properly take the indicative after them.

**Examples:**

659. Guemes responit: "Mei est vis que trop targe".

884. Il est jujiet que nous les ocûm.
III. Simple Relative Clauses.

Relative clauses, which in modern French have the verb in the subjunctive, are thus divided:

1. Relative Clauses of Purpose and Result, after verbs of Wishing, Commanding, and the like.
2. Relative Clauses after Superlatives.
3. " " " General Negatives.
5. " " " General Interrogatives.
6. " " " Indefinite Antecedents.

The Latin construction is similar, also requiring the subjunctive in these classes of relative clauses.

In the Chanson de Roland, Nos. 5 and 6 do not occur; as for the rest, the usage is as follows:

1. Relative Clauses after Verbs of Wishing, etc.

But few examples were found in the Chanson de Roland of this class of relative clauses. In the two instances given the subjunctive is used.

275. [Text not legible]

276. [Text not legible]

181. [Text not legible]
2. Relative Clauses after Superlatives.

The use of the subjunctive in relative clauses after a superlative is of later origin, for in the three examples, found in the text, the indicative only is used.

343. Le guarnement se prent à envoyer.
344. Le ses meillurs que il poust recouvrer.
3703. De cele de France les plus saives ki sunt.

3. Relative Clauses after General Negatives.

The Chanson de Roland offers many examples of the use of the subjunctive in relative clauses after general negatives. The particle ne is generally used alone, the noun being without an article. With but few exceptions, the construction is the same as the modern one.

494. N'i ad paier ki un pul mot en diez.
1430. N'en ad recet qunt ki mures ne cravent.

See also: 4, 18, 19, 22, 376, 411, 479, 520, 571, 750, 779, 822, 1244, 1522, 1555, 1618, etc.

Sometimes que is used in the place of ki. This may be either the conjunction or another form of the relative pronoun.
982. Pierre n'i ad gne tuk ne seik meire.

In the following, both the relative pronoun and the conjunction are omitted, a construction not admissible in modern French. The subjunctive is always found.

1720. Ni ad Francais pur mus ne preierat.

3462. Ni ad celui n'i fiergez e ni capleist.

See also: 101, 653, 854, 1450, 1483, 1637, 1717, 1803, 1836, 2069, etc.

After the expression "Jamais n'iert jurz", the relative pronoun governed by a preposition is replaced by the conjunction que. Several examples are found and all are followed by the subjunctive.

641. Jamais n'iert jurz que de l'mieu ne vin dang.

See also: 650, 915, 971, 2913, 3903.

After an affirmative clause, the modern construction calls for the indicative. In the Chanson de Roland, we find the subjunctive as well as the indicative, and there is little or no difference in the nature of the sentence. The subjunctive occurs in:

1924. Mais tut seik fel ki chier ne s'vendrat primes.

3559. Trestib seik fel ki n'i fiergez ad espleit.

In line 1924, the future vendrat is given
in the text, but the vocabulary, in referring to this line, makes use of the subjunctive "se rendre." The indicative occurs in line 2062. Text par zeit del ki ne's wair envaë.

4. Relative clauses after conditional sentences. In the few instances of this kind in the Chanson de Roland, we find the verb in the subjunctive. 1669. Sor i ad cel ki Garlun centred. 1670. Il le fait pendre, o ardeir, o veire. See also: 458, 3834.

IV. Compound Relative Clauses. After quisquis, quidquid, utut, etc., the Latin equivalents, if the modern French compound relatives treated under this head, the verb, with but few exceptions, is in the indicative. The modern French construction requires the verb in the subjunctive. We distinguish three kinds of clauses under this head.
1. **Compound Indefinite Pronouns.**

The only pronoun noted in the *Chanson de Roland* was *ki que*, and in every instance it is followed by the subjunctive.

1278. Le cors li trenchet, le frie l le pulman.
1279. Que mort l'abbat qui qu'en pleist o que nu.
1546. Ambur ooit, ki que l'blaunt me le lot.

See also: 1592, 1912, 3364.

2. **Compound Indefinite Adjectives.**

The indefinite adjectives occurring in the text, *quel que* and *quinque*, are followed, the former by the subjunctive, and the latter by the indicative. At the present time, it is no longer admissible to place the noun between the two parts of *quel que*, but in one instance, line 2034, this construction is found in the *Chanson de Roland*.

With but one exception, *quinque* always occurs as an adverb. In line 3202, however, it has the force of an adjective.
3. Compound Indefinite Adverbs

Two indefinite adverbs occur. *Cependant que,* in the only instance in which it is found, is followed by the subjunctive, while *quand que* always requires the indicative. The form *quand que* has become obsolete, its modern French equivalent, *tant que,* instead of *quoi que,* is generally followed by the indicative.

3222. *Śi Aniland en just quand qu'il poêt.*
3223. *Cependant qu'il seint, me s'i voolt eeler mie.*
See also: 1197, 1175, 1541, 2298.

V. Relative Clauses in Conditional Sentences.

As the Chanson de Roland presents many instances of the use of the subjunctive in relative clause, in conditional sentences, I treat of the matter separately, instead of under the head of "Condition," as is done by Williams. Three cases occur.
1. The relative clause occurs after a conditional sentence. In this, as in the following examples, the pronoun "qui" is not the simple relative, but it is preceded by no antecedent, and has the force of the compound relative, whoever, anyone who.

It is followed by the subjunctive, as is the simple relative clause after a conditional sentence. The indicative, however, is used whenever the statement expresses a fact, no doubt being implied.

341. Seilt ki l'oeis tute paie fois avrunes.
342. S'est ki l'demande de l'estoch enseignier.

See also: 1796, 1197.

2. The relative clause takes the place of a conditional clause. The conclusion is expressed. The modern construction would generally require the indicative, but in the Chanson de Roland, the subjunctive is used.

3483. Ki dune veist ez secuz ki malmiz.
3484. Ez blances osbures Ki dune vist fremir,
3485. Le grant elus poist suvenir.

See also: 1181, 1970.
3. The relative clause takes the place of a conditional sentence, the conclusion being omitted. The construction is similar to the preceding one, and in both No. 2, and No. 3, the verb is in the imperfect tense. The modern construction generally requires the indicative.

1680. Il n'en vois Rollant et Olivier.
1681. De leur espéce ferir et capleier.
See also: 1341, 1703, 3473.

VI. Purpose and Result.

Purpose.

In Latin, clauses expressing pure purpose, introduced by ut and ne, and in some cases by quo, have the verb always in the subjunctive.

Afin que, pour que, or simply que, the modern French conjunctions corresponding to et and ne, are likewise always followed by the subjunctive, when introducing clauses of pure purpose.

The Old French construction does not differ from this to any extent, but the conjunction generally
used in the simple que. In the Chanson de Roland,
que occurs but twice.

805. Si purpurnez les destreiz e les tertres.

806. Que l'Empereure nisuse des rovns n'i perdit.

1004. Sunent mil graizie purs eo que plus bel seiz.

1981. Baptizez la pur que fleus eu ait l'amme.

See also: 1046, 1474, 1927, 2263, 2436, 3136.

Result.
The verb, in clauses expressing result, as in
those of purpose, is in Latin in the subjunctive
mood. The conjunctions, ut et et non, are generally
preceded by either adverbial, adjective, or pronominal
correlatives, such as sic, ita, tam, etc., and is, his, talis,
and the like. When the principal clause is negative,
quim is often used in the place of ut.

In modern French, after pour que, the clause
denoting result has the verb in the subjunctive. A
correlative like assez or trop is then found in the principal
clause. The indicative, however, is used after such con-
junctions as de sorte que, de facon que, de maniere que,
if merely the result, without intention, or purpose, is expressed. After sans que, to express negative result, the verb is in the subjunctive. Then both the principal and subordinate clauses are negative, que---we replaces the usual conjunctions.

In the Chanson de Roland, many examples were noted of clauses expressing result, and with few exceptions, the verb is in the indicative. Generally, the conjunction que introduces the clause, though at times it may be omitted, but no examples were found of the modern conjunctions.
The correlatives occurring in the text are si, tel and tant, followed in some cases by que, and again standing alone.
The examples in modern French, in which que stands alone without any preceding correlative, are comparatively few, but such is not the case in the Chanson de Roland.

**Indicative in Clauses of Result.**

1588. Si grant doel ad que par mi guider fendra.
1601. Li Quene le fierz tant vertunscement
1602. Tresqui'à l'asel tust le helme li fent.

See also: 33, 131, 306, 311, 397, 402, 533, 549, 564, 723, 834, 1035, 1249, 1273, 1279, 1299, 1302, 1307, 1316, 401
The Subjunctive in Clauses of Result.

270. L'Empereur tant il dunoz avoir.
271. Ni ait Francois, ki tab ne s'en merveilt.

In the following, both clauses are negative. The conjunction is omitted.

2864. Ja ne murreit en estrange regnet
2865. Ne trespassast ses hunces e ses pers.

See also: 1993, 3183.

The above refers to clauses expressing only pure purpose or pure result. There are many object clauses, relative or adverbial clauses, denoting mixed purpose and result that require the verb in the subjunctive, and these have been treated under their respective heads.

VII. Conditional Sentences.

In Latin, we have three classes of conditional sentences with the subjunctive as the regular mood. 1. After dum, modo, dummodo. 2. After ac si, ut si, ut. 3. After si, nisi; ni, vel.
Under 2, there are to be noted sentences containing—
a. The Indicative in both clauses.
b. The Subjunctive, present and perfect in both clauses.
c. The Subjunctive, imperfect and pluperfect in both clauses.

In modern French, the use of the subjunctive of condition has become much restricted. Corresponding to 1, 2, and 3 above we have,—

1. The Subjunctive after pourvu que and pour cela que to express a Condition.

2. The Subjunctive, and more frequently, the Indicative, after comme si, in Comparative Clauses.

3. The Subjunctive after si.

The subjunctive is further found after certain conjunctions; as after en cas que, etc., to express a Supposition; after à moins que, etc., an Exception; and after soit que --- soit que, a Concession.

In conditional sentences after si, the use of the subjunctive has become greatly restricted in modern French, where it is found in the pluperfect tense only. However, this is not the usual construction, for either the pluperfect subjunctive, or the conditional perfect...
have replaced it in most cases. No trace remains of its frequent use in Latin, with the present and perfect tenses.

In Old French, although the subjunctive in conditional sentences does not occur nearly as frequently as in Latin, its use corresponds more nearly to the Latin construction than it does now. The different conjunctions so frequent in modern French do not occur, and the conditional clauses with but few exceptions are always introduced by ce, the modern French as. In a few of the sentences noted, ce at times has the force of such conjunctions as au cas que or à moins que, but it is not thought of sufficient interest to classify the sentences according to these meanings.

The three different constructions after as, nisi, ce, (see under 3 above) are distinctly to be traced in the Chanson de Roland. The indicative after ce occurs frequently. The perfect subjunctive is wanting, but there are two examples of the present subjunctive. The imperfect tense is very frequently used, and the pluperfect occurs a few times.

Indicative after Ce.

3005: S'il trouvent o, bataille quictent rendre.
3011: Se de venir Arrabif me s'esperente
3013. La mort Rollant sur quid chièrent vendre.
See also: 40, 74, 87, 258, 273, 279, 316, 433, 475, 613, 840, 868, 889, 893, 902, 914, 922, 928, 935-986, 1102, 1134, etc.
Present Subjunctive after Se.

310. Se deus est denuent que de là joy reprise.
311. Jo t'en morsai si grant doel e contraire.
312. Ti durerat à trestit tua edage.
2682. S'en ma merite ne se enligt à mea piez.
2683. Et ne guerpisset la le de christins.
2684. Jo li tolderai lacura de l'chief.
Pluperfect Subjunctive after Se.
1728. Se m'escissiz, vennz i fuist mis aice.
1729. Ceste bataille ouïsum deparcie.
1730. A pris o morz i fuist li reis Marsilies.
See also: 697.

Imperfect Subjunctive after Se.
3441. Si li paives une feiz recusast.
3442. Semperz fuist morz li nobilies vassals.
1760. Se l'desist alre, ja semblast grant muncinc.
1769. Une ne l'sunast, se ne fuist cumbatant.
See also: 1717, 3439, 5764,
Those sentences in which the conditional clause is replaced by a relative clause with *qui* have been noted under "Relative Clauses." Many examples also occur of the subjunctive in conditional sentences, where either the condition or the conclusion has been omitted. When the conditional, or dependent clause is omitted, the verb in the remaining independent clause, if subjunctive, may be classified under "Potential Subjunctive" in independent sentences.

Conclusion Omitted.

3388. La veïsez la tere si junchiee.
See also: 349, 355, 1458, 1622.

Conclusion Omitted.

440. Ferir l'en volt, se n'en fust desturnez.
See also: 1466, 3164.

Generally, conditional sentences with the conclusion omitted are introduced by relative pronouns.

In one instance, line 234, the subjunctive occurs after mais que, in the sense of provided that. In this sense, the subjunctive would also be used in the modern construction with pourvu que.

234. SAVEIR i'ad, mais qu'il seï entendez.
A condition may also be expressed by the imperfect or pluperfect subjunctive, by placing the verb before its subject. This construction occurs in modern French, generally with the verbs avoir, être, and savoir, but in the Chanson de Roland, examples were noted with the verb to be only. Both clauses contain the imperfect subjunctive.

899. Fust christiens, assez oüst barnet.
1102. Fust i ti Reis, ni ciussum damage.

VIII. Temporal Clauses.

Temporal clauses in Latin are introduced by 1. dum, donee, quoad, or by 2. antequam, prinequam. These clauses, which generally have an "accessory notion of cause or purpose," may have the verb either in the indicative or subjunctive.

After 1, the indicative is used, when "The action is viewed as an actual fact"; the subjunctive, "when viewed not so much as a fact as something desired, or proposed."

After the conjunctions under 2, the indicative
stands, "When they denote mere priority of time," and the subjunctive, "When they denote a dependence of one event upon another."

In modern French, tant que, jusqu'à ce que, and en attendant que, corresponding to English, are followed by the subjunctive "to denote a limit of time that involves a purpose." With reference to past actions, or actual facts, the first two require the indicative.

The subjunctive stands after avant que and plutôt que, corresponding to ante quem, præscient, "to express an active antecedent to and immediately dependent upon the action of the principal clause."

The four following conjunctions are used in the Chanson de Roland in the sense of jusqu'à ce que, viz; Tant que—Tant enam—Jusque— and Fisque.

Tant que, until, is in every case followed by the indicative, while in modern French, it sometimes requires the subjunctive. The two parts of tant que are not written together, but tant is found in the principal clause, while que introduces the subordinate clause.
Tant que with the Indicative.

2542. Tant chevalcher qu’il est première devant.
See also: 402, 405, 1829, 2110, 2649, 2818, 3697.

Tant cum, as long as, introduces a simple fact, and may be followed by either the indicative, or the subjunctive. The modern French tant que, in such a case, requires the indicative.

Tant cum with the Subjunctive.

544. "lo m'iert, dis" Guenes, "tant cum vivet sis nies.
See also: 557.

Tant cum with Indicative.

1851. Carles chevalcher tant cumne li port durent.
See also: 1321, 1802, 1868, 2126.

Jusqu'en, until, generally occurs after verbs of wishing, and regularly takes the subjunctive after it.

Jusqu'en with Subjunctive.

2632. Ne fineras en trestat nun vivant.
2633. Jusqu'il sei morz o tut vife reecrant.
See also: 1838, 2439, 3588.
Tresque, on the other hand, with the same meaning as jusque, is followed by the indicative.

Tresque with Indicative.

162. La noit demurenz tresque vient a l'jour eles.
See also: 3849.

Two conjunctions, ciez que and esciez que, occur in the text corresponding to avant que. They have the same meaning, before that, before, and both are followed by the subjunctive.

88. Ciez qu'il viussent quatre vives vigez.
88. Si's acquillit e tempeste e orez.
811. Esciez qu'en reienz set ciez espées traites.
See also: 1690, 1804, 1870, 1930, 2035, 2230, 2939, 3480.

A few other conjunctions of time were noted, introducing clauses with the verb in the indicative, the same mood found after corresponding conjunctions in modern French.

Respectfully submitted,
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