Edward Klima has suggested that some apparent anomalies in English can be explained by postulating a transformational development of underlying "if-clauses." Thus, for example, the conjunction of imperative and indicative in 'Eat your dinner, or I'll send you to bed.' can be explained by assuming a deeper representation, 'If you don't eat your dinner, I'll send you to bed.' The following sentences show that a similar phenomenon occurs in Russian:

1. Otkazis' ona ot pensii, ej neceem bylo by zhit.'
2. Kak ona ni plaay', a tolku ot slez ne budet.
3. Otpusti ja ego, delo by ne vygorelo.

Note that the presence of nominatives (ona in 1 and 2, ja in 3) is immediately explained by postulating an underlying 'esli by ona/ja ...' The following "optative" sentences can be similarly derived:

4. Cort ego poberi! The devil take him (it)!
5. Bud' on prokljat! Curse him!
6. Ne bud' nas, ... But for us, ...

Here again, the nominatives are immediately explained.2

The following sentences show the peculiar indicative-imperative conjunction mentioned above:

7. Net druga - isci, a najdes' - beregi. There isn't a friend - search (for one), and you'll find (one) - keep (him).
8. Xočeš' est' kalači, You want to eat fancy bread — don't
    ne leži na peči. lie on the stove.

    In addition to imperative surface forms like those mentioned above, Russian also
permits the use of 2 sg. perf. fut. forms in sentences like the following:

9. Za dvumja zajcami You'll chase after two
    pogoniš'ja — ni odnogo hares — you won't catch
    ne pojmaes'. even one.

    The sentences of type 9, however, contain underlying factual conditional clauses
('Esli pogoniš'ja . . .'), whereas the sentences in 1-8 contain contrary-to-fact clauses.

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References

1. Sentences 1 through 6 are taken from A. A. Šaxmatov, Sintaksis russkogo jazyka
    (Leningrad, 1925-27); sentences 7 through 9 are well-known proverbs.

2. In the surface representations, only 4 and 5 contain nominatives (čort and on,
    respectively). In the underlying representations, however, the genitive nas in sen-
    tence 6 must be construed as a nominative my; for discussion of this use of the
    genitive in negative sentences, see B. C. Hall, "Remarks on 'some' and 'any' in
    negation and interrogative constructions with a note on negation in Russian," pp. 15-
    16 (mimeographed, 1963).