

4th Amsterdam Workshop on Greek Linguistics

April 8 2011, University of Amsterdam

Invited speaker:

Despina Papadopoulou,

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Organized by the Department of Modern Greek Studies, University of Amsterdam & the Meertens Institute, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts

The organizing committee: Jeroen Vis, Marika Lekakou, Marc van Oostendorp

Program 4th Amsterdam Workshop in Greek Linguistics

PCH 6.31	Opening, chair: Jeroen Vis
11.00-12.00	Despina Papadopoulou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki <i>Sentence processing in Greek: Evidence from self-paced and eye-tracking experiments</i>
12.00-13.00	Lunchbreak, downtown
PCH 6.31	Chair: Marika Lekakou
13.00-13.30	Agatha Blichewicz, Radboud University Nijmegen <i>Pragmatic functions of the 'purse' hand shape in everyday Greek discourse</i>
13.30-14.00	Georgia Agouraki, University of Cyprus <i>The perfect in universal grammar</i>
14.00-14.30	Jeroen Vis, University of Amsterdam / ACLC <i>Acquiring Ancient Greek vocabulary and the involvement load hypothesis</i>
14.30-15.00	Coffee break, 7th floor
PCH 4.40	Chair: Marc van Oostendorp
15.00-15.30	Norval Smith, University of Amsterdam / ACLC <i>An Optimal solution for a Small problem: An unexplained accent pattern in the Ancient Greek diminutive</i>
15.30-16.30	Mark Janse, University of Ghent <i>Asia Minor as a Linguistic Area, ©2000 BC – ©2000 AD</i>
17.00-18.00	Drinks, 7th floor
from 18.00	Dinner, location tba

Sentence processing in Greek: Evidence from self-paced and eye-tracking experiments

Despina Papadopoulou
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
depapa@lit.auth.gr

The aim of this paper is to discuss findings on sentence processing in Greek from a theoretical and applied perspective. The discussion will focus on subject/object ambiguities which have been investigated by means of on-line experiments.

It is well documented in the processing literature that English speakers experience a garden-path in sentences in which a DP following a subordinate verb has to be analyzed as the subject of the main verb rather than as the object of the subordinate verb (Frazier & Rayner, 1982; Mitchell, 1987; Traxler, 2005):

- (1) When John hunted the rabbit escaped.

More recently, Frazier et al. (2006) found that English speakers' recovery from misanalysis in garden-path (early closure) sentences such as (1) is more costly with past simple (hunted) vs past progressive (was hunting) subordinate verbs, arguably because readers take an external perspective when reading past simple verbs and so prefer an endpoint for the event as provided by a direct object, whereas given the internal perspective taken with progressives a direct object is less expected.

A self-paced reading and an eye-tracking task was carried out in Greek in order to explore the way native speakers of Greek parse sentences such as (2):

- (2) Otan i Maria majirepse/majireve ta makaronia epese/epesan sto patoma.
when the Maria cooked-PERF.3S/cooked-IMPERF.3S the-PL spaghetti-PL fell-PERF.3S/fell-PERF.3P to-the floor

In the self-paced reading experiment with native speakers of Greek, Papadopoulou & Tsimpli (2005) found that the participants were not garden-pathed on the main verb in the early closure sentences (*epesan*) contrary to the overwhelming evidence from English. To further investigate this cross-linguistic difference in sentence processing, an eye-tracking study was carried out (Papadopoulou et al., 2009), in which the aspectual form of the subordinate verb (perfective vs imperfective) was manipulated. Moreover, the eye-tracking methodology was chosen, since it allows for a detailed examination of the reading processes as these are reflected in initial and subsequent fixations as well as in regressions.

The findings reveal that the native speakers of Greek do not show evidence for an early garden-path effect and that the processing of sentences such as (2) is affected by the aspectual verb form. The results will be discussed in relation to parsing theory and the structure of Modern Greek.

References

- Frazier, L., Carminati, M. N., Cook, A. E., Majewski, H. & Rayner, K. (2006). "Semantic evaluation of syntactic structure: Evidence from eye movements". *Cognition* 99, B53-B62.
- Frazier, L. & Rayner, K. (1982). Making and correcting errors during sentence comprehension: Eye movements in the analysis of structurally ambiguous sentences. *Cognitive Psychology*, 14, 178-210.
- Mitchell, D. C. (1987). Lexical Guidance in Human Parsing: Laws and Processing Characteristics. In M. Coltheart (ed.), *Attention and Performance XII: The Psychology of Reading*. London: Erlbaum.
- Papadopoulou, D., Roberts, L. & Tsimpli, I. (2009). "The role of grammatical aspect in subject/object ambiguities: Evidence from an eye-tracking experiment in Greek". Paper presented at the 9th *International Conference on Greek Linguistics*, Chicago, USA, 29-31 October 2009.
- Papadopoulou, D. & Tsimpli, I. (2005). "Morphological cues in children's processing of Ambiguous Sentences: A Study of Subject/Object Ambiguities in Greek". *Proceedings of the 29th Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press, 471-481.
- Traxler, M.J. (2005). "Plausibility and verb subcategorization preference in temporarily ambiguous sentences". *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* 34, 1-30.

Pragmatic functions of the 'purse' hand shape in everyday Greek discourse

The Italian co-speech gestures and specifically the characteristic 'purse' hand shape called 'grappolo' or 'mano a borsa' have been studied intensively during last two centuries for their functions in discourse (De Jorio 1832, Poggi 1983, Kendon 1995, Kendon 2004). There is hardly any research done on Greek gestures, especially on the "purse" hand shape used frequently in everyday conversations. Pragmatic functions of gestures in general are still understudied though the interest has increased lately (Müller 2004, Seyfeddinipur 2004, Streeck 2009, Harrison 2010). They can be performative, modal or parsing, and function as discourse markers, speech acts or emphasis (Kendon 2004). In Southern Italian conversation they are specifically used to mark the topic of discourse, questions or demanding an explanation or justification for something (Kendon 1995). De Jorio (1832) states that they originate from Ancient Greeks who colonized this part of Italy. Therefore the aim of my research was to find out in what context the 'purse hand' is used in everyday conversations in today's Greece, what are its pragmatic functions, kinetic variations and if they are similar to the Italian ones. All of the 10-day data collection was done in Crete with 15 subjects (8 male and 7 female) who came also from other parts of Greece. All of them are right-handed and are 19-62 years-old. Some of the video recordings were made during narrations, set-up discussions, but mainly during natural conversations. The analysis of the 4 hours of data was done using multimedia coding and analysis programme ELAN and around 90 occurrences of the purse hand were described and analyzed in relation to the speech they accompanied. The variations of this hand shape turned out to be mostly and differentially used in questions, to mark the essence/core/heart of something and to specify information mentioned in a previous utterance. Also, unlike the Italian ones, they appeared in negative sentences expressing disagreement, and have more kinetic variations. It suggests that even though there must have been some influence between the two cultures as far as the use of these gestures is concerned, cultural uses of it have also created some variation. This research was made to raise a discussion and interest in studying Greek gestures. More studies need to be done to investigate this topic in more detail, and to reach a rich understanding of Greek discourse and conversations.

References:

- De Jorio, A. (1979). *La mimica degli antichi investigata nel gestire napoletano*. Bologna: Arnaldo Forni. L=Anastatic reprint of the original edition of 1832.]
- Kendon, A. (1995). Gestures as illocutionary and discourse structure markers in Southern Italian conversation. *Journal of Pragmatics* 23, 247-279.
- Kendon, A. (2004). *Gesture: Visible Action as Utterance*. Cambridge University Press.
- Müller, C. (2004). The Palm-Up-Open-Hand. A case of a gesture family? In Müller, C. & R. Posner (Eds.), *The semantics and pragmatics of everyday gestures. Proceedings of the Berlin conference, April 1998*, 233–256. Berlin: Weidler.
- Seyfeddinipur, M. (2004). Meta-discursive gestures from Iran: Some uses of the 'Pistol Hand'. In *The semantics and pragmatics of everyday gestures. Proceedings of the Berlin conference, April 1998*, Müller, Cornelia & Roland Posner (eds.), 205-216. Berlin: Weidler.
- Streeck, J. (2005). Pragmatic aspects of gesture. In *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics, vol. 5: Pragmatics*, J. Mey (ed.), 71–76. Oxford: Elsevier.

THE PERFECT IN UNIVERSAL GRAMMAR

Yoryia Agouraki

University of Cyprus

The paper addresses two questions: (a) the difference in interpretation between the perfect and the past tense in languages that make a distinction between a present perfect and a past tense (cf. Veloudis 2003) and whether this semantic difference can also be marked in other languages, and (b) cross-linguistic differences with respect to the readings associated with the perfect. The paper proposes an account for (a) in terms of semantic universals, and an account for (b) in terms of morpho-syntactic differences among languages (cf. in this respect Iatridou et al.'s 2001 account for the lack of the universal reading in Standard Greek). Following Karpava and Agouraki (2011), I use the description *readings associated with the perfect*, rather than *readings of the perfect*, because the readings in question are also expressed in languages that do not distinguish between a present perfect and a past tense. I do not mean to say that in languages that do not distinguish between a present perfect and a past tense these readings are necessarily associated with the past tense. Or even that all languages that distinguish between a present perfect and a past tense associate the same range of readings with the perfect. It can very well be the case with respect to those languages that a particular reading is associated with the perfect in one language but with another tense or a syntactic structure in another language. It is shown that of the seven readings associated with the perfect in English only four obtain in Standard Greek (SG). The readings associated with the perfect in English include the universal reading, the experiential reading, the existential reading, the resultative reading, the recent past reading, the 'hot news' reading and the 'about the person' reading. Of these the SG perfect lacks the universal reading, the recent past reading and the 'hot news' reading. The proposed typology for the readings associated with the perfect differs from other typologies in three respects. Firstly, a distinction is drawn between an experiential reading (cf. (1)) and an existential reading (cf. (2)).

- (1) eho FAI susi
 have-1SG TRIED sushi
 “I’ve TRIED sushi.”
- (2) eho dhosi theoria tris fores
 have-1SG taken theory-ACC three times
 “I have taken my theory test three times.”

Secondly, an extra reading, i.e. the ‘about the person’ reading is identified (cf. (3)).

- (3) mithistorimata tis ehun metafrasti se poles evropaikes ghloses
novels-NOM her have-3PL been translated into many European languages
“Her novels have been translated into many European languages.”

And thirdly, a distinction is drawn between the recent past reading and the 'hot news' reading. SG does not associate either reading with the perfect. The 'hot news' reading is associated in SG with verb-initial sentences (cf. (4)).

- (4) pethane se ilikia 69 eton o Richard Holbrook
died-3SG at age-ACC of 69 years the Richard Holbrook-NOM
“Richard Holbrook has died at the age of 69.”

The above typology of readings associated with the perfect is certainly useful as an inventory of readings, but fails to capture the essence of the interpretation associated with the perfect. With respect to the readings associated with the perfect, it is proposed that it is possible to distinguish between ‘existential’ readings and ‘personal’ readings. The general hypothesis I am exploring is that cross-linguistic differences with respect to the readings associated with the perfect depend on cross-linguistic syntactic differences, as well as on differences on how certain semantic universals are marked. Cross-linguistic differences in the readings associated with the perfect are shown to offer a glimpse into how the perfect is encoded in Universal Grammar.

Ancient Greek vocabulary acquisition and the Involvement Load Hypothesis.

Jeroen Vis

University of Amsterdam / ACLC

j.vis@uva.nl

This study investigated whether vocabulary acquisition is most successful by means of learning a paired-associate word list (see Mondria 2003, de Groot 2010 among others) or vocabulary activities implementing the Involvement Load Hypothesis (Hulstijn & Laufer 2001). The latter hypothesis claims that deep processing of vocabulary is best achieved by optimizing the student's involvement in the acquisition process. This involvement consists of three components, a) need: the student's internal or external motivation to learn a word meaning, b) search: searching the word's meaning in a dictionary or elsewhere, and c) evaluation: comparing the word's meaning with that of other related items.

For this purpose, 75 participants, divided in three school classes in the age of 14-15 years, were assigned to a twenty minutes' learning task of twenty unknown Ancient Greek words. Each group was learning under different testing conditions: a) with the help of a paired-associate wordlist, b) by means of vocabulary activities and c) using both wordlist + activities. The participants were tested immediately after the learning task and a delayed post-test was held one week later. Of these post-tests, only the former one was announced at the beginning of the learning task. The average results are shown below (maximum score is 20):

testing condition → test ↓	paired-associate	activities	paired-associate + activities
immediate post-test	19,40	16,11	17,74
delayed post-test	14,12	11,69	11,00
vocabulary loss	5,28	4,42	6,73

From a theoretical point of view, these results suggest that vocabulary acquisition is most effective by means of paired-associate learning. However, vocabulary activities seem to stimulate word retention better. As a result, neither the paired-associate method, nor the Involvement Load Hypothesis is rejected. On the contrary, they rather seem to complement each other. The didactical implications of this study are: i) students should acquire foreign vocabulary by means of paired-associate learning, and ii) after the acquisition stage, students better do vocabulary activities in order to improve retention (see also Hulstijn 2001 for similar conclusions).

Selected references:

- de Groot, A. (2010). *Language and cognition in bilinguals and multilinguals*, London: Psychology Press
- Hulstijn, J. (2001). "Intentional and incidental second language vocabulary learning: A reappraisal of elaboration, rehearsal and automaticity." Robinson, P. (ed.), *Cognition and second language instruction* 258-286, Cambridge: University Press.
- Hulstijn, J. & B. Laufer (2001). "Some empirical evidence for the involvement load hypothesis in vocabulary acquisition". *Language Learning* 51(3):539-558
- Mondria, J.-A., (2003). "The effects of inferring, verifying, and memorizing on the retention of L2 word meanings" *SSLA* 25:473-499.

Abstract:

An Optimal solution for a Small problem: An unexplained accent pattern in the Ancient Greek diminutive.

One very frequent diminutive-forming process in Ancient Greek is with /-ion/. The normal pattern of accentuation of such words is Recessive. Whether the Stem is Recessive (i.e. unmarked for accent in the lexicon) or not doesn't matter.

<u>Recessive:</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	láguunos	laguúion
	kúberton	kubértion
	óstrakon	ostrákion
	kártallos	kartállion
<u>Lexically marked</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	omphalós	omphálion
	kephaleé	kephálion
	kibootós	kiboótion
	gurgathós	gurgáthion

For these diminutives the weight of the pre-antepenultimate syllables is apparently irrelevant. For longer diminutives this also holds. This is definitely not the case with disyllabic Stems however. A heavy penultimate syllable in the Stem will affect the position of the accent, shifting it to the penultimate syllable (i.e. the diminutive marker) in the corresponding diminutive.

Once again the distinction between Recessive and Lexically marked Stems is irrelevant.

<u>Recessive:</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	ópson	opsíon
	mítraa	mitríon
	keépos	keepíon
<u>Lexically marked</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	drakhmeé	drakhmíon
	desmós	desmíon
	kaulós	kaulíon

Light initial syllables do not trigger this pattern:

<u>Recessive:</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	ónos	ónion
<u>Lexically marked</u>	<u>Noun</u>	<u>Diminutive</u>
	lobós	lóbion

I will attempt an explanation of this puzzling pattern in terms of an OT analysis where both constraints on syllable structure and word structure play a role. Some traditional ideas on syllable division in Ancient Greek have to be rejected however in view of the patterning observed here.

*** menu ***

bij Kapitein Zeppos in het Gebed zonder End



Bouillon van lente-ui met rode paprikaschuim
Bouillon aux onions blancs avec méringue aux poivrons
Onion Bouillon with méringue of red pepper

of **ou or**

Gravad lachs; gemarineerd met dille en grove mosterd
Gravad lachs, mariné avec de l'aneth et de la moutarde
Gravad lachs; marinated with dill and mustard

Melanzane alla parmigiana met kletskep van peccorino en salsa verde
Melanzane alla parmigiana avec du peccorino et de la salsa verde
Melanzane alla parmigiana with peccorino cheese and salsa verde

of **ou or**

**Dorade filet met een pakketje van groene kool, prei en kervel,
polentakokjes en saffraan beurre blanc**
*Filet de dorade avec des bisquits de polenta
et du beurre blanc au safran*
**Gilt head bream fillet with vegetables, polenta-bisquits
and saffron beure blanc**

ou or

**Tournedos met gratin van prei en aardappel, spruitjes,
kastanje-champignons en rode port-jus de veau**
*Tournedos avec gratin de poireaux et pommes de terres,
choux de Bruxelles et jus au vin porto*
**Tournedos with potato and leek gratin, Brussels sprouts
and sherry-port jus de veau**

Parfait van witte chocolade met saus van honing en saffraan
Parfait de chocolat blanc à la sauce de miel et de safran
Parfait from white chocolate with honey and saffron sauce

of **ou or**

Appelcrumble met vanille ijs
Appelcrumble (tarte aux pommes) avec de la glace vanille
Applecrumble with vanilla icecream

prix du menu: €34,50