Introduction

Corien Bary and Rob van der Sandt

Radboud University Nijmegen

This volume brings together a collection of papers on the semantic analysis of linguistic phenomena in Ancient Greek. All the contributions derive from the conference ‘Ancient Greek and Semantic Theory’ organized at the Radboud University Nijmegen in December 2010. This conference was motivated by a desire to bring together researchers from different backgrounds in order to bridge the gap between modern semantics and classical scholarship and to stimulate a cross-fertilization between these disciplines. The papers included are written from a wide range of theoretical backgrounds and address a host of stubborn empirical issues pertaining to the analysis of Ancient Greek. A detailed exposition of the different theoretical backgrounds is beyond the scope of this volume, but following the lead of the conference each of the papers explains its theoretical commitment and provides ample references. All provide translations of the examples and relevant glossing thus making the papers accessible to both classical and non-classical scholars. Moreover, the papers selected for this volume profited enormously from the discussions during the conference and extensive reworking afterwards.

Allan’s paper on clause intertwining and word order in Ancient Greek is written from the perspective of functional grammar (as in Dik) and discourse pragmatics (as in Chafe and Lambrecht). It discusses word order in complement taking verbs and their infinitival complements. Elements of the complement clause may pop up in the main clause (a phenomenon which is known as extraction). But Ancient Greek shows a much broader variety than most other European languages. The basic tenet of the paper is that information structure determines word order.

Beck, Malamud and Osadcha’s contribution stands squarely in the tradition of possible world semantics. They provide a unified semantics for the particle *ἄν* as used both in and outside conditional sentences within the framework of Stalnaker (1968), Lewis (1973), Kratzer (1981) and much subsequent work.

The analysis follows an earlier proposal by Gerö arguing that $\tilde{\alpha}\nu$ indicates the presence of a universal quantifier over (possible) situations.

Kiparsky's contribution presents an in-depth analysis of Greek clitic anaphors in the framework of BOT as set out in Kiparsky (2002) analyzing the Greek anaphoric systems from Homeric to classical times. He evaluates his own proposal and the well-known theory of Reinhart & Reuland (1993) on the basis of Greek and Germanic data, discussing both accounts to binding theory in some detail.

Both Bary and Maier look at the intricate issues of indirect discourse. Both take a variant of discourse representation theory as their theoretical framework. Maier analyses a pervasive phenomenon in Ancient Greek texts: unmarked switching between direct and indirect discourse and the use of $\delta\tau\iota$ as a quotation marker. He provides a general analysis of both phenomena as instances of mixed quotation. Bary analyses the behaviour of tense in Ancient Greek reports and shows that they have both an indexical and anaphoric component thereby incorporating and integrating earlier ideas of Partee, Klein and Von Stechow in a unified account.

Rijksbaron's paper discusses the question whether Ancient Greek only uses an elliptical negative answering particle or has an independent word for *no*. He argues against the established view—found in e.g. Denniston and Kühner-Gerth—by adducing a host of evidence that $\sigma\upsilon$ never acts as a negative answering particle but can always be analyzed as sentential negation. His paper links up to current work on negation, biased questions and polarity. He compares the Ancient Greek phenomena with those of Latin and Old French and finally discusses modern Greek (where the distinction is realized as $\acute{o}\chi\iota$ versus $\delta\epsilon(\nu)$).

De Swart, Eckhoff and Thomason apply a quantitative methodology on the basis of annotated data from the PROIEL corpus. They investigate the distribution of $\acute{\alpha}\pi\acute{o}$ and $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa$ in the New Testament Gospels. The paper is innovative and inspiring in applying probabilistic semantics and statistical techniques in an area where this is not normally done.