

Ouk 'Ismen Oudén: Negative Concord and Negative Polarity in the History of Greek*

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Abstract

In Ancient Greek a single set of indefinite enclitic pronouns was used indifferently in both negative/affective environments (i.e. like negative polarity items (NPI)) and in positive ones (i.e. like positive polarity items (PPI)). At the same time the negative pronouns used as negative quantifiers (NQ) were also employed as emphatic NPIs, with negative concord. The two functions of each class (i.e. PPI-like vs NPI-like, NQ vs NPI) were determined by syntactic distribution. In the specific case of negative sentences, an indefinite before a sentential negative marker (NM) functioned like a PPI but after a NM like an NPI, while a negative pronoun before a NM was an NQ but after an NM an NPI. This pattern was at odds with the canonical VSO clause structure that evolved in later antiquity, in which focal constituents were contrastively stressed and fronted to the left periphery: neither indefinite nor negative pronouns could be focalised because of the prosodic and/or semantic restrictions on their distribution. This deficiency was eventually remedied by formal/prosodic recharacterisation, the loss of NQs and the generalisation of NPIs to all syntactic positions available to DPs, including the focus position, a process that triggered their reinterpretation as involving universal quantification over negation rather than, as before, existential quantification under negation. The Modern Greek PPI *kápjos* and NPI *kanís* are traced from their

* Ancient Greek *ouk ismen oudén* = [not know-1p] nothing], lit. 'we don't know nothing'.

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origins in Ancient Greek and their role in the evolution of the system is explored. The final outcome is typologically to be expected in so far as NQs are redundant in a system in which NPIs appear freely both before and after NMs.

Keywords

existential quantification – focus/focalisation – negation – negative concord – negative polarity – negative polarity item – negative quantifier – positive polarity item – universal quantification

1 Introduction

1.1 *The Scope and Purpose of the Article*

When the negative pronoun *oudeís* ‘no one’¹ appears preverbally in Ancient Greek (AG, c. 8c BC–c. 7c AD), the sentential negative marker (NM) *ou(k)* ‘not’ cannot be used simultaneously unless a double negative reading (e.g. ‘no one didn’t see Socrates’) is intended, cf. (1a).² By contrast, when a form of *oudeís* appears postverbally, *ou(k)* is all but obligatorily present, at least with finite verb forms (see 2.2 below, and cf. Chatzopoulou 2012 for a full discussion). In this case no double negation is involved, cf. (1b):

- (1) a. *oudeís* (**ouk*) *eíde* *tòn* *So:kráte:s*³
 no-one-NOM not saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘No one saw Socrates.’
- b. *ho* *So:kráte:s* *ouk eíden* *oudéna*.
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM not saw-3sg no-one-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw no one/didn’t see anyone.’

1 *Oudeís* ‘no one’ is a compound of *oudé* ‘not even’ + *heís* ‘one’ (masculine), and is almost exclusively singular.

2 Most negative sentences below contain the NMs *ou(k)* (AG)/*u(k)* (MedG) or *(u)ðen* (MedG/MG) [= NEG-1], though a few have the alternative NM *mé:* (AG)/*mí(n)* (MedG/MG) [= NEG-2], which is characteristic of ‘non-veridical’ contexts (see the discussion of (5), and Chatzopoulou (2012)). For the purposes of this article, the choice of NEG-1 or NEG-2 is immaterial.

3 As noted, this sentence with *ou(k)* added is in fact grammatical, but only on a double negative reading (though see 2.2 below for some qualification).

In Modern Greek (MG, *c.* 17c AD–present), by contrast, there is no negative pronoun corresponding to *oudeís*,⁴ and the NM *ðen* ‘not’ (< AG *oudén* ‘nothing’ used adverbially = ‘not at all’) appears obligatorily in combination with *kanís/kanénas* ‘anyone’⁵ in the translation equivalents of both (1a) and (1b): i.e. forms of *kanís/ kanénas* appear in both pre-verbal (2a) and post-verbal positions (2b):

- (2) a. *kanénas* *(*ðen*) *íðe* *to* *Sokráti*.
 anyone-NOM not saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘No one saw Socrates’.
- b. *o* *Sokrátis* *(*ðen*) *íðe* *kanéna*.
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM not saw-3sg anyone-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw no one/didn’t see anyone’.

Neither sentence has a double negative reading. Indeed, the fact that *kanís/ kanénas* can also appear in certain non-negative contexts = ‘anyone’ shows that it cannot be inherently negative, cf: *íðes kanéna?* [saw-2sg anyone], = ‘did you see anyone?’ The use of these items with an apparently negative meaning in isolation from a NM (e.g. *íðes kanéna?*—*kanéna* ‘did you see anyone?’—‘no one’) is therefore assumed here to be a matter of ellipsis,⁶ i.e. *kanéna* (*ðen íða*) [anyone (not saw-1sg)], cf. Giannakidou 2000a: 485–7.

In the case of indefinite pronouns, AG made no formal distinction between ‘someone’ and ‘anyone’, using the enclitic pronoun *tis* for both.⁷ After negatives,

4 Other than as a residue from AG, with limited uses (for Medieval Greek see 2.2).

5 These are distinct only in the nominative (the forms are partly interchangeable), and are treated here as a single item. The component *-is/-énas* is again the numeral ‘one’ (*is* is the modern pronunciation of the AG masculine form *heís, énas* a medieval innovation): *kanís/kanénas* has only a singular paradigm. Note that when used with a NM, as here, these and other related items may be emphatically stressed, while in non-negative environments they are always unstressed, cf. Giannakidou 1998 and subsequent work.

6 As also in formal/academic French, cf. (9) below.

7 *Tis* has both singular and plural paradigms. As an enclitic it forms a phonetic word with its host, does not appear clause-initially or after a pause and is not normally accented (though disyllabic forms receive a secondary accent on their final syllable to accommodate cases that would otherwise break the rule that an accent must fall on one of the last three syllables). There are, however, a few examples used contrastively at the beginning of a clause, presumably, via a natural semantic extension, as an indefinite quantifier, a role in which it is accented in its own right (cf. (16a) below).

therefore, *tis* overlaps with *oudeís*, *tis* being neutral, *oudeís* more emphatic (cf. (3d) with (1b)):

- (3) a. ... *tis* *eíde* *tòn* *So:kráte:*
 someone-NOM saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘Someone saw Socrates’.
- b. *ho* *So:kráte:s* *eíde* *tina*
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM saw-3sg someone-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw someone’.
- c. ... *tis* *ouk eíden* *tòn* *So:kráte:*
 someone-NOM not saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘Someone did not see Socrates’.
- d. *ho* *So:kráte:s* *ouk eíde* *tina.*
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM not saw-3sg some-/anyone-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw no one/didn’t see anyone’.

MG, however, has two formally contrasting items corresponding to English *some(one)* and *any(one)*, namely *kápjōs* and *kanís/kanénas*:⁸

- (4) a. *kápjōs* *íðe* *to* *Sokrátī.* */*kanénas*
 someone-NOM saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC / anyone-NOM
 ‘Someone saw Socrates’.
- b. *o* *Sokrátīs* *íðe* *kápjō.* */*kanéna*
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM saw-3sg someone-ACC / anyone-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw someone’.
- c. (i) *kápjōs* *ðen íðe* *to* *Sokrátī.*
 someone-NOM not saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘Someone didn’t see Socrates’.

8 *Kápjōs* has both singular and plural forms, whereas *kanís/kanénas*, as noted, has a singular paradigm only.

- (ii) *kanénas* *ðen íðe* *to* *Sokráti.* /cf. (2a)
 anyone-NOM not saw-3sg the-ACC Socrates-ACC
 ‘No one saw Socrates.’

- d. *o* *Sokrátis* *ðen íðe* *kanéna* /**kápjo.*
 the-NOM Socrates-NOM not saw-3sg anyone-ACC /someone-ACC
 ‘Socrates saw no one/didn’t see anyone.’

The purpose of this article is to trace the development from a pronominal/specifier system that contrasted ‘no X’ with a formally undistinguished ‘some/any X’ into a system that contrasts ‘some X’ with ‘any X’ and has (virtually) dispensed with ‘no X’. The analysis of the evolution of negation in Greek will, however, also be used to advance a claim that languages typically lack items meaning ‘no X’ when those meaning ‘any X’ may appear both before and after the negative that licenses them (as in MG, cf. (4c.ii) and (4d), but not in English, cf. **anyone didn’t see Socrates*).⁹ It is also argued that the availability of pre-negative ‘any’ depends on which of two possible semantic interpretations is assigned to the items in question (on which see 1.3).

1.2 Some Key Concepts

Many languages, including English, make a formal distinction between ‘positive polarity items’ (PPIs = ‘some X’) and ‘negative polarity items’ (NPIs = ‘any X’). The former are used in positive assertions, as in (5a), the latter in conjunction with a negative element, such as the enclitic NM *-n’t* in (5b):

- (5) a. John saw **someone**.
 b. John **didn’t** see **anyone**.

Since the negative that licenses English NPIs always precedes them (cf. **anyone didn’t see John*), it seems that NPIs in English must always fall within the semantic scope of negation: ‘[it is **not** the case that [any X ...]]’ We should note, however, that many NPIs, including *any* in English, may also be used in a range of ‘affective’ environments, including interrogative, modal, habitual, conditional, future-referring, and imperative sentences, where they might more precisely be called ‘affective polarity items’ or APIs. These all involve what Giannakidou

9 It is also worth noting that many languages with inherently negative pronouns/specifiers fail to distinguish between ‘some’ and ‘any’, and use the negative elements without a supporting ‘not’ both pre- and post-verbally, e.g. Germanic other than English.

(1998, 2000a, 2000b, 2005, 2011) has called non-veridicality, i.e. semantic functions that do not ensure truth. Unlike in the negative case, which is specifically *anti-veridical*, non-veridical contexts usually offer a choice between the use of PPIs and NPIs associated with differences of specificity and/or existential commitment: cf. *if someone comes ... /if anyone comes ...* etc. Recall that wider usage of this kind tends to preclude the possibility that the NPIs in question are themselves inherently negative (cf. the discussion of (2) above), though it is clear that routine association with a NM may lead over time to a situation in which the NM becomes subsidiary (and may even be lost), and the NPIs themselves evolve towards NQ status (see fn. 13 for the case of colloquial French). This may then entail a situation in which the former NPIs retreat from affective environments leaving PPIs as the sole survivors in this domain.

The term ‘negative concord’ (NC) is standardly used to describe the use of more than one negative item in a construction that carries only a single negative reading, as in the Italian example in (6), where *nessuno* ‘no one’ is necessarily accompanied by the NM *non* ‘not’ but the meaning is simply ‘Gianni saw no one/didn’t see anyone’, involving just one instance of negation semantically:

- (6) *Gianni *(non) ha visto nessuno.*
 Gianni not have-3sg seen no-one
 ‘Gianni didn’t see any one.’

In such cases the pronoun appears to ‘agree’ with the NM in negativity without contributing a negative meaning of its own (though see 1.3 below for further discussion). The situation in AG, as illustrated in (1b), is very similar.¹⁰

By contrast, when *no one* is combined with *not/-n’t* in (standard) English, the two negatives are interpreted separately to give a double negative reading equivalent to an emphatic positive, as in (7a)).¹¹ When a negative meaning is intended, *no one* appears without *not*, as in (7b)), which is semantically equivalent to (5b):

10 A distinction is commonly drawn in the literature (e.g. Giannakidou 1998 and subsequent work) between strict and non-strict NC, the former requiring the co-presence of a NM with negative pronouns and adverbs in all environments, the latter with such items only in a subset of environments.

11 An NC reading as opposed to a double negative reading of (7a) is acceptable in many colloquial varieties (= ‘John didn’t see anything’), though this is impossible in standard English.

- (7) a. John didn't see **no one**. (= 'John did see *someone*')
 b. John saw **no one**.

Negative items like *no one*, which retain a negative reading of their own when in combination with another negative, are called 'negative quantifiers' (NQ).

1.3 *Some Important Issues*

Consider now the Italian sentences in (8). When *nessuno* 'no one' appears preverbally as a subject, as in (8a), it functions as a NQ and no further negation is required; indeed the presence of *non* forces a double negative reading. But in (8b) (= (6)), where *nessuno* is a postverbal object, *non* is obligatory, i.e. postverbal *nessuno* must fall within the scope of a licensing negative, leading to a case of NC:¹²

- (8) a. *Nessuno* (**non*) *ha visto Gianni*.
 no-one not have-3sg seen Gianni
 'No one saw Gianni.'
- b. *Gianni* *(*non*) *ha visto nessuno*.
 Gianni not have-3sg seen no-one
 'Gianni didn't see anyone.'

In (standard/formal) French, by contrast, there are no NQs, and NPIs like *personne* 'anyone' appear both pre- and post-verbally in conjunction with obligatory sentence negation, as in (9a) and (9b), neither of which has a double negative reading:¹³

12 Italian treats post-verbal subjects in the same way as objects: contrast *nessuno* (**non*) *è venuto* [no-one (*not) be-3sg come-pple] with *(*non*) *è venuto nessuno* [* (not) be-3sg come-pple no-one].

13 In colloquial French, by contrast, the NM *ne* has been largely abandoned, with the result that its formal partner *pas* has developed into the regular/dominant NM (cf. *je ne sais pas* > *je sais pas* 'I don't know'). In very informal varieties former NPIs such as *personne* have become NQs (cf. *j'ai vu personne* 'I saw no one'), which has in turn led to double negative readings alongside NC ones in cases such as *personne (n) a vu rien* = 'no one saw nothing'/'no one saw anything'.

- (9) a. *Personne n' a vu Jean.*
 anyone not have-3sg seen Jean
 'No one saw Jean.'
- b. *Jean n' a vu personne.*
 Jean not have-3sg seen anyone
 'Jean didn't see anyone.'

Furthermore, since French NPIs, unlike their English counterparts (cf. the discussion of (5)), may precede as well as follow the licensing negative, it seems that they are not required to fall within the scope of the licensing negation (cf. the MG example in (4c)(ii): 'for **any** X [it is **not** the case ...] It is again assumed that the use of such items in isolation from a NM (e.g. *qui est là?* ('who's there?')—*personne* ('no one')) is a matter of ellipsis, *personne (n'est là)* [anyone (not be-3sg there)].

To summarise, the following pre-/post-verbal pairs of single-negation structures involving NQs and NPIs have been illustrated from Greek, English, Italian and French:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| (10) | Pre-Verbal | Post-Verbal | |
| | a. NQ + V | V + NQ | |
| | b. NQ + V | NM-V + NPI | (NPI within scope of Neg) |
| | c. NQ + V | NM-V + ?NQ/?NPI | (NQ/NPI within scope of Neg) |
| | d. NPI + NM-V | NM-V + NPI | (NPI not nec. within scope of Neg) |

Since the postverbal case of (10c) involves items that may otherwise appear unambiguously as NQs (cf. *oudeís* in (1b) with preverbal *oudeís* in (1a), or *nessuno* in (8b) with preverbal *nessuno* in (8a)), the question arises as to whether these should be treated as 'real' NQs or, despite their negative form, as NPIs homophonous with the corresponding NQs (on which see immediately below). For the moment, however, note that only unambiguously negative NQs, i.e. those that contribute negation in the absence of an overt NM, allow double negative readings in combination with a further negative, and that there is a significant semantic difference between the pre- and post-verbal cases, cf. (11a) and (11b) respectively:

- (11) a. NQ + NM-V 'no-X does-not-V ...' = 'every-X does V ...'
 b. NM-V + NQ '... does-not-V no-X' = '... does V **some-X**'

Given the differing forms and distributions of NQs and NPIs across languages, there has been a great deal of debate about the semantics of these items, e.g. whether NPIs are themselves semantically negative,¹⁴ whether NQs and NPIs should be treated as distinct sets of elements,¹⁵ etc. There is further disagreement about how best to deal with NC, a matter which depends largely on whether NQs/NPIs are treated as negative or not. See Giannakidou 2000a, 2000b, 2005, 2011, Horn and Kato 2000, Werle 2002, and Penka 2010 for a range of views and their consequences, and Horn 2010 for a recent general bibliography. The detailed investigation of such issues is beyond the scope of this article, but the positions adopted here (more or less following Giannakidou 1998, 2000a, 2000b, 2005, 2011) must first be briefly stated.

It is assumed, hopefully uncontroversially, that NQs express, without the presence of any further negation, the non-existence of items with the specified attribute(s) and as such contribute to double negative readings when used with other negatives. Accordingly, *oudeís* in (1a), *no one* in (7a/b) and *nessuno* in (8a) are all treated as NQs.

It is also assumed that formally ‘non-negative’ NPIs such as MG *kanís/kanénas*, *anyone* and (standard) French *personne* (cf. the discussion of (2), (5) and (9)), though licensed by negation, are not themselves negative in meaning and therefore do not contribute to double negative readings. Rather more controversially, *oudeís* in (1b) and *nessuno* in (8b) are also treated here as NPIs despite their ‘negative’ form, primarily on the grounds that they too co-occur with a NM without contributing negation of their own.¹⁶

The choice of what can serve as an NPI is therefore between items that are already associated with non-veridical contexts (viz. APIs) and items that are already associated with negation (viz. NQs). The appearance of APIs as NPIs in specifically *anti*-veridical environments presumably reflects a fairly simple and natural process of extension, but the latter case is clearly more difficult to explain. We saw in (11), with regard to sentences involving double negation, that there is a significant difference between NQ subjects, which take wide scope over negation (‘there is no X such that it is not the case that ...’), and NQ

14 (Standard) French *personne*, for example, appears to have a non-negative form while Italian *nessuno* a negative one, but both have functions as NPIs.

15 NQs might, for example, be treated as NPIs licensed by ‘covert’ as opposed to overt negation, as argued in Penka 2010.

16 Note that (unstressed) *nessuno* may sometimes appear in affective environments where a negative meaning is not a prerequisite: *ha arrivato nessuno?* [have-3sg arrived anyone], = ‘has anyone arrived?’ This is not the case for *oudeís*, however.

objects, which have narrow scope under negation ('it is not the case that there is no X ...'). This relates directly to the absence of NC readings of sentences like *no one didn't take a turn*: (apparent) NQs in subject position cannot be read as NPIs because they do not lie within the scope of the negation (cf. also the discussion of *anyone* in (5)). The AG data in (1) confirm this conclusion and further suggest that the reanalysis leads to the (eventual) demise of 'bare' NQs in positions in which they could in principle fall within the scope of negation, i.e. if an NM were introduced. The key to this reanalysis is clearly the specific scopal sequencing 'not [no (X)]', which becomes 'not [any (X)]' through 'deletion' of the negation lexically incorporated within *no*. What this process actually amounts to, and what exactly drives it, are again complex issues beyond the scope of this article.

Whatever the proper analysis of negative-form NPIs, we shall henceforth treat NC as a rather more general phenomenon than example (6) suggested, namely as the selectional relationship between negation, prototypically a NM, and whatever set of NPIs (if any) it licenses in a given language, whether these are of negative or non-negative appearance. Languages like (standard) French and MG would then exhibit 'strict NC', i.e. a NM licenses NPIs in all syntactic environments,¹⁷ while AG, Italian and English have 'non-strict NC', i.e. a NM licenses NPIs only in those syntactic environments in which the NPI falls within the scope of the negation.

When NPIs of whatever form appear syntactically only to the right of the negative element that licenses them, i.e. when the language in question has non-strict NC, as with *oudeís* in AG (cf. (1b)), *any* in English (cf. (5b)) and *nessuno* in Italian (cf. (8b)), they are interpreted here as involving narrow-scope existential quantification under negation:

- (12) 'it is **not** the case that there is **some/any** X such that [X has role R in event E]'

17 (Standard) French and MG happen to have 'non-negative' NPIs but this is not necessarily the case in strict NC languages. Russian, for example, has clearly 'negative' NPIs in all contexts: *nichevo ne proizoshlo* [nothing not happened], *on nichevo ne zdelal* [he nothing not did], vs *on ne zdelal nichevo* [he not did nothing]. Correspondingly, English and AG show that languages with non-strict NC may also have NPIs of either type.

This crucially links the obligatory pre-NPI position of the licensing negative¹⁸ with a reading in which negation necessarily has wide scope.¹⁹ In other words, it accounts for the impossibility of placing an NPI before a licensing negative and motivates the simultaneous presence of NQs in the relevant languages, assuming we understand these as items that combine negation and existential quantification *lexically* as an alternative means of expressing (12) where NPIs (+ NM) are either unavailable or disallowed. Though in principle stable (cf. Italian), this form of complementary distribution is potentially vulnerable to levelling, e.g. through the generalisation of NPIs to pre-NM position via the adoption of a different, though synonymous, reading (thereby fatally undermining the role of NQs).

Thus when NPIs occur syntactically before their licensing negatives (i.e. when a language has strict NC), as with *kanís/kanénas* in MG ((4c.ii) and (4d)) or *personne* in standard French ((9a) and (9b)), they can only be understood to involve wide-scope universal quantification over negation:

(13) ‘for any X, it is **not** the case that [X has role R in event E]’

‘Any’ so interpreted does not bind the relevant set of entities collectively (like ‘all’), or individually and specifically (like ‘each/every’), but on the basis that a random, potentially hypothetical,²⁰ selection of a member of the set will in every case identify individuals of whom the associated negative proposition is true. But the crucial thing here is that this interpretation of NPIs works satisfactorily regardless of syntactic position, given that the universal quantifier invariably has scope over the negation.²¹ It is therefore reasonable, and

18 The discussion here relates to NPIs only. The ‘free-choice’ use of *any* (cf. *any man will do/won't do*, etc) is a different matter, usually treated as involving a form of universal quantification.

19 By contrast PPIs in English involve wide-scope existential quantification over negation (if present) and the meaning is quite different, viz. ‘there is **some** X such that it is **not** the case that [X has role R in event E]’; i.e. at least one X did not have role R in event P, but other X's (probably) did. Contrast *I didn't read any of the books* with *I didn't read some of the books*.

20 Hence the more general association of NPIs with non-veridical/affective environments, cf. also the discussion of (5) above.

21 By contrast, when negation has wide scope, ‘not ... any ...’ is normally understood to involve existential quantification, as described above. But this combination may also involve universal quantification, and be taken to mean that the relevant proposition is true not of a random individual of the specified kind but (by implication) of some specific one. Thus, subject to the necessary intonational requirements, *she didn't meet anyone* may

certainly more economical, to assume that, in languages where (13) applies at all, it applies by default to NPIs in all environments. Languages that treat NPIs in this way have no need of NQs, and any NQs that may survive from an earlier period in which interpretation (12) was in play are likely to be abandoned or reinterpreted. The highly relevant example of Greek is considered in detail in Sections 2 and 3.

In the light of this discussion non-strict NC seems to be inherently associated with the reading (12) for NPIs, strict NC with reading (13), i.e. the two readings distinguish languages like Italian and AG that do not allow [... NPI ... NM-V ...] from those like (standard) French and MG that do. Further implications of the two different readings of NPIs will be explored below. Here we simply note that Greek has shifted from an Italian-like position in its ancient form to a (standard) French-like position in its modern one, or equivalently from exhibiting non-strict NC to having strict NC. See Zeijlstra 2006 for the different contribution of NMs in languages with strict NC and non-strict NC, Haspelmath 1997 and Israel 2011 for recent discussion of the full range of issues surrounding indefinite pronouns, negative polarity items and their relations.

2 Ancient Greek to Medieval Greek I: The Data²²

2.1 *Indefinite tis in AG vs Indefinite tis/tinás in MedG*²³

A number of issues relating to negation and negative polarity in Greek, both ancient and modern, have been examined in the recent literature (e.g. Giannakidou 1998, 2000a, 2000b, 2005, 2011), Klein 2011, Tsimpli and Roussou 1996, Willmott (2013), and, in part, Chatzopoulou 2012); Kiparsky and Condoravdi

mean either 'she met no one' or 'she didn't meet any random person' (implying that she did meet someone specific). The importance of this for Greek will become apparent in 3.2.

22 I am grateful to Marjoijine Jansen for her wide-ranging help with the Medieval Greek data.

23 *Tis* and *tinás* are both nominative singular forms: the former reflects the ancient language directly, the latter is a medieval innovation. As we have already seen, texts from the earlier periods of Greek attest a single indefinite enclitic *tis* with an 'existential' reading independently of the presence or absence of negation. We may, however, reasonably say that its role is 'PPI-like' or 'NPI-like' according to whether or not there is a licensing negative and if so, whether the existential quantification falls inside (= NPI-like) or outside (= PPI-like) the scope of the negation. In what follows terms such as 'PPI reading' and 'NPI reading' are used on this understanding, and there is no associated implication that there were two distinct but homophonous lexical items, one a PPI the other an NPI.

2006 deals specifically with Jespersen's Cycle in relation to Greek. But the focus of this article is different in that it deals specifically with the transition from the AG to the MG system of negative indefinites (i.e. NQs and NPIs), as outlined in 1.1. The key to an understanding of this process is the treatment of negation and negative indefinites in Medieval Greek (MedG, c. 8c–c.16c AD).

In AG and in written forms of MedG that reflect the contemporary vernacular in some degree²⁴ forms of *tis/tinás* correspond to English *some(one)* in both pre- and post-verbal positions in positive sentences, i.e. they assert the existence of one or more people/things. In MedG, however, and unlike in AG where it was enclitic (see fn. 7), *tis/tinás* may routinely appear clause-initially and/or be emphatically stressed (e.g. as in (14a)(ii), where the focal status of *tiná* is indicated by italicisation), indicating it had lost its clitic status and taken on the role of an indefinite quantifier:²⁵

(14) a. preverbal

- (i) *aeí... ho Kébe:s lógous tinàs*
 always the-NOM Cebes-NOM words-ACC some-ACC
anereunâi ...
 look-for-3sg
 'Cebes is always on the look-out for some discussion ...'
 PLATO (428–347 BC), *Phaedo* 63a2

- (ii) *ek ton pollón... tiná prestisámin*
 from the-GEN many-GEN some-ACC.PL set-beside-1sg
 'Of her many (complaints) I have set before you (just) some'
Ptochoprodromica (12c AD), 1.114

24 The registers used for medieval Greek writing were largely genre-determined: belletristic and official (imperial and ecclesiastical) texts required styles that affected a classical appearance in lexicon, morphology and (to some extent) syntax, while popular forms of Christian writing, low-level documentation and certain poetic genres (satire periodically and romance more generally) allowed the use of more vernacular-looking varieties. The focus here is necessarily on the latter since these texts offer a more realistic, though still partial, view of the spoken realities 'on the ground'.

25 Extrapolating from the corresponding MG practice, and assuming that the new (non-clitic) distribution was associated with a normal range of stress options.

b. postverbal

- (i) *allà dià tí... met' emoû k^haírousí tines ...*
 but for what with me-GEN rejoice-3pl some-NOM.PL
diatribontes?
 spending-time-NOM.PL.PPLE
 'But why do some take pleasure in spending time with me?'
 PLATO (428–347 BC), *Apology* 33b9

- (ii) *éxusi yar tiná ritá pikrías*
 have-3pl for some-ACC.PL sayings-ACC.PL bitterness-GEN
peplisména
 filled-ACC.PL
 'For they contain (some) expressions full of bitterness'
Ptochoprodromica (12c AD), 1.122

Forms of *tis/tinás* occurring after a negative element, however, correspond to English *any(one)* in both AG and vernacular MedG, i.e. in conjunction with a negative they assert the non-existence of people/things with the relevant attributes. Again MedG *tis/tinás* in this sense may freely appear in clause-initial position and/or receive emphatic stress (e.g. as in (15b)):

- (15) a. *oute ét^hapse tō:n tet^hneó:to:n tinàs oúte*
 neither buried-3sg the-GEN-PL dead-GEN.PL any-ACC.PL nor
tō:n halónto:n oudéna elúsato
 the-GEN.PL captured-GEN.PL. none-Acc-SG ransomed-3sg
 'He neither buried any of the dead nor ransomed any of the prisoners'
 HYPERIDES (c. 390–322 BC), Fragment 76.16

- b. *úte filima m' éðoken úte tiná*
 neither kiss-ACC.SG me-ACC gave-3sg nor any-ACC-SG
lalían
 conversation-ACC.SG
 'She neither kissed me nor spoke to me at all'
Digenes Acrites G (13/14c AD MS), 1.308

The parallelism in (15a) between the neither-clause and the nor-clause, together with the fact that the latter contains an unambiguous use of the NPI *oudéna* = 'ANYone' (i.e. the emphatic equivalent of *tiná*, cf. (1b) and (3d)), argues strongly that *tinás* in the former should also be taken as falling within the scope of the negation and that it an NPI-like rather than PPI-like role (the latter =

‘he didn’t bury some of the dead’, with the existential quantifier having wide scope). This conclusion is supported by the fact that positive readings in negative sentences in AG involve preposing of the indefinite before the NM, as in (16), where syntactic position and semantic function correspond, i.e. with *tis* standing to the left of the NM just as the existential quantification lies outside the scope of the negation:²⁶

- (16) a. *éniai ... kenoúntai katà tàs ampó:teis,*
 some-PL.NOM empty-3pl.MID according-to the-ACC tides-ACC,
tinàs²⁷ d’ ou pantápasin epilépei tò húdo:r
 some-PL.ACC but not at-all leaves the-NOM water-NOM
 ‘Some (inlets) empty with the tides, but others the water never leaves at all’

STRABO (1c BC – 1c AD), *Geographica* 3.2.4.25

- b. *epei dè kharádran tinà bat^heían ouk éíase*
 since and ravine-ACC some-ACC deep-ACC not allowed-3sg
diabe:nai toùs Ak^haíous ho Ára:tos ...
 cross-INF the-ACC Achaeans-ACC the-NOM Aratos-NOM
 ‘And as Aratos did not allow the Achaeans to cross a certain deep ravine ...’

PLUTARCH (c. 46–120 AD), *Agis and Cleomenes* 27.4.1

In the medieval period, however, a major change took place in this pre-negative use of *tis/tinàs* in the spoken language and in written styles that reflected the vernacular most closely. Contrast the examples in (16) with the MedG data in (17):

26 Since AG has only the single indefinite *tis*, and since there is no semantic difference between PPIs and NPIs when the latter are given the ‘existential’ reading (12), it seems reasonable to argue that AG was rather like modern Germanic (other than English), with ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ readings of *tis* associated automatically with its position (pre- or post-NM position, cf. (15) and (16)).

27 This is one of the rare examples where *tis*, being both clause-initial and contrastive, is accented normally (cf. fn 8).

- (17) a. *allá kata tus thesmús mu, útos pió,*
 but according-to the-ACC principles-ACC me-GEN, thus act-1sg,
óti tiná u ðilió
 that anyone not fear-1sg

'I act according to my own principles, (namely) that I fear no one'

Vitae et Miracula Sancti Anastasii Persae: Miracula Romana (?10c AD), B. Flusin,
Saint Anastase le Perse et l'histoire de la Palestine au début du VIIe siècle, 1. Paris,
 CNRS 1992: 165–187, section 7,13

- b. *tinás mi to kafxáte*
 anyone-NOM.SG not it-ACC.SG boast-SUBJ.3sg
 'Let no one boast of that'

Digenes Acrites E (?11c AD, 15c MS), 36

- c. *kakós exθrós i filakí ... / ... φίλον*
 bad-NOM enemy-NOM the-NOM prison-NOM friend
tiná uk éxi
 any-ACC not have-3sg

'Prison makes a bad enemy ..., ... it has no friend'

MICHAEL GLYCAS (12c AD), *Verses written while imprisoned*, 239–40

- d. *poté tinán i evjenikí uk íxen ayapísi*
 ever anyone-ACC the-F.NOM noble-F.NOM not had-3sg love-INF
 'The noble girl had never loved anyone'

War of Troy (13/14c AD), 310

At least from the 10th/11th centuries AD onwards, but most probably earlier, forms of *tis/tinás* in this position can only mean 'any(one)' (i.e. 'no(one)' in combination with the following NM), and the PPI reading of AG is excluded. Given the difference between the ancient and (vernacular) medieval senses of, for example, (16a) (viz. 'there are some inlets that empty out with the tide and others that do not' vs ?? 'there are some inlets that empty out with the tide and none that do'), many uneducated people must at times have felt extremely puzzled when listening to older forms of Greek, e.g. in biblical readings etc.

Evidently, the shift to a 'modern' distribution and interpretation of indefinites, as illustrated with corresponding modern forms in (4c) and (4d), had occurred by around the end of the first millennium AD. We should note here that only written registers above the most vernacular still retain plural forms of *tis/tinás* and a significant use of this item with PPI readings. Otherwise,

it exhibits mostly singular forms (with innovative nominative *tinás*) and is increasingly used in negative/affective environments to the exclusion of positive ones. Relevant numbers are given in (18) for the Escorial (E) *Digenes Acrites* (?12c AD, 15c MS), the *Ptochoprodromica* (12c), the Grottaferrata (G) *Digenes Acrites* (13/14c MS), the *War of Troy* (13/14c, first 5000 lines), and both the Copenhagen (H) and Paris (P) manuscripts of the *Chronicle of the Morea* (14c). These are all to some degree ‘vernacular’ texts but are divided here into ‘less’ vs ‘more’ vernacular according to the level(s) of language employed. The numbers of nominative and accusative forms of *tis/tinás* with PPI and NPI readings (the latter in both negative and affective environments) are then given, together with an indication of whether plural forms occur:

(18)		PPI-like	NPI-like	
	a. Less vernacular			
	Grottaferrata <i>Digenes</i> (G)	6	11	(sg and pl)
	<i>Ptochoprodromica</i> (in part)	5	5	(sg and pl)
	b. More vernacular			
	Escorial <i>Digenes</i> (E)	0	5	(sg only)
	<i>Chronicle of the Morea</i> (H + P)	4	21	(sg only)
	<i>War of Troy</i> (1–5000)	0 ²⁸	77	(sg only)

Given that the innovative PPI *kátis/kápjios* ‘some(one)’ and NPI *kanís/kanénas* ‘any(one)’ were already in competition with *tis/tinás* in this period (see 3.1 for details), it seems that the appearance of these formally contrasting pronouns/specifiers in the spoken vernacular was intimately bound up with:

- (19) a. The progressive loss (other than in written styles retaining aspects of traditional practice) of *tis/tinás* with PPI readings in favour of the true PPI *kápjios*.
- b. The convergence (other than in written styles retaining aspects of traditional practice) of the use of *tis/tinás* with an NPI reading with that of the true NPI *kanís/kanénas*—which has only a singular paradigm and is used both before and after licensing negatives.

28 The first is l. 5348: *Enéas tiná eskótose* [Aeneas-NOM some-ACC killed-3sg], ‘Aeneas killed someone’.

To pursue this investigation of the transition from the ancient to the modern system of negative/indefinite pronouns and specifiers we must therefore consider the origins and development of a formal ‘some/any’ contrast in MedG, and the associated issue of the loss of the NQ *oudeís* ‘no(one)’ in favour of the generalisation of the NPIs *kanís/kanénas* and *tinás* to pre-NM environments (for which see 3.1). But this requires that we first examine the use and distribution of *oudeís/uðís*²⁹ ‘no(one)’ in AG and MedG.

2.2 *Oudeís/uðís: NQ vs NPI in AG and MedG*

We begin with the distribution of *oudeís* as a NQ in AG, as illustrated in (20) and (21) for pre-verbal and (apparent) post-verbal positions respectively:

(20) preverbal (double negation possible before NM *ou(k)*)

- a. *ho:s dè oudeís epeksé:iei es mák^he:n*
 when but no-one-NOM came-out-3sg to battle-ACC
 ‘But when no one came out to fight’

THUCYDIDES (c. 460-c. 395 BC) 1.6

- b. *kai oudéna po:pote apestére:sa k^háritos*
 and no-one-ACC ever robbed-1sg charm-GEN
 ‘And I never yet robbed anyone of their charm’

PLATO (428–347 BC), *Hippias minor* 372c5

c. (with double negation):³⁰

- épeita tô:n horô:nto:n oudeís*
 then the-GEN.PL watching-GEN.PL no-one-NOM
ouk épaskhé ti
 not suffered-3sg something-ACC
 ‘Then none of those watching failed to suffer’

XENOPHON (c. 430–354 BC), *Symposium* 1.9.4

29 *Uðís* is the MedG/MG pronunciation of AG *oudeís*.

30 The construction illustrated in (20c) is in fact very rare and the usual expression of double negation is *oudeís hóstis ou(k)* [no-one who not], ‘(there is) no one who (does) not ...’

(21) postverbal (no double negation possible after NM *ou(k)*)³¹

- a. *ent^humeítai gàr ... oudeís homoíā ... kai ... epeksérkhetai*
 plan-3sg for no-one alike-ACC.PL and execute-3sg
 ‘No one plans and puts into practice on a parallel basis’

THUCYDIDES (c. 460-c.395BC), 1.120.5

- b. *apágontes apékteinon kai eksáireton epoié:santo*
 taking-away-NOM.PL killed-3pl and exceptional-ACC made-3pl
oudéna

no-one-ACC

‘Taking (them) away they put them to death with no exceptions’

THUCYDIDES (c. 460-c. 395 BC), 3.68.2

- c. *e:díke:san mèn ... oudéna pó:pote*

wronged-3pl FOC no-one-ACC ever

‘They never *wronged* anyone’

DEMOSTHENES (384–322 BC), *Epitaphios* 7.4

It is important to note, however, that while the preverbal use of *oudeís* as a NQ is normal in positive sentences and (just about) possible in negative ones containing *ou(k)* ‘not’ (see fn. 30), the corresponding postverbal use is very rare in positive sentences and impossible in negative ones after NM *ou(k)*. Furthermore, when *oudeís* does occur postverbally there is usually contextual evidence that the verb has been fronted over it for reasons of emphasis or contrast, as in (21a) and (21c).³² Since sentences of this kind do not have pragmatically neutral word orders they do not constitute evidence for the ‘normal’ use of NQs

31 Interestingly, when *oudeís* is associated with following negatives other than the NM *ou(k)* (or *mé:*), the latter are always treated as NPIs, e.g. Plato, *Philebus* 65e5: *p^hróne:sin kai nouñ ...oudeís pó:pote ou^h húpar ou^h ónar aisk^hròn ou^he eíden ou^he epenóe:sen oudamé:i oudamós: ou^he gignómenon ou^he ónta ou^he esómenon* [wisdom-ACC and mind-ACC no-one-NOM ever neither awake nor asleep disgraceful-ACC neither saw nor thought-of nowhere in-no-way neither becoming-ACC nor being-ACC nor about-to-be-ACC], ‘No one ever, either asleep or awake, either saw or thought of wisdom and mind as in any way (or) by any means becoming or being or about to be unseemly.’

32 Thus in (21a) ‘planning in good faith (*tê:i pístei*)’ is contrasted with ‘delivering in practice (*tó:i érgo:i*)’ by means of a chiasmic order created by the fronting of *ent^humeítai*: [plan in-good-faith] X [in-practice deliver]; in (21c) the particle *mèn* is inherently focalising, its purpose being to contrast what precedes it with something in the next clause (also focalised and immediately followed by the particle *dé* ‘but’).

in postverbal position. Even (21b) might be read as involving topicalisation of *eksaíreton*, with an associated focalisation of the verb ('as for exceptions, they made none').³³ Evidence for the regular postverbal use of *oudeís* as a NQ is therefore vanishingly rare in Greek of the 5th-century BC and onwards, and we find instead *oudeís* used as an emphatic NPI after a preceding negative in parallel distribution with *tis* in its NPI-like uses (cf. (15) above), and even this combination becomes steadily less frequent in later antiquity:

- (22) a. *oudè ep^háíneto out' epì tou̅ ték^hous*
 and-not appeared-2sg neither on the-GEN wall-GEN
oudeís ...
 no-one-NOM
 'And no one either appeared on the wall ...'
 THUCYDIDES (c. 460-c.395 BC), 5.7.5
- b. *ouk ék^ho: ... soi eipeîn tô:n ... nûn rhe:tóro:n*
 not can-1sg you-DAT tell-INF the-GEN now orators-GEN
oudéna
 none-ACC
 'I cannot tell you of any of today's orators'
 PLATO (428–347 BC), *Gorgias* 503b5
- c. *ou̅te ... tô:n p^hílo:n ... oudeís he:mîn dialégetai*
 nor the-GEN friends-GEN no-one-NOM us-DAT converse-3sg
 'Nor does any of our friends talk to us'
 DEMOSTHENES (384–322 BC), *Philippics* 4.54.1
- d. *ou̅ ... oíomai toũto ... metrío:s he:mîn epoísein*
 not think-1sg this-ACC moderately us-DAT charge-INF.FUT
oudéna
 no-one-ACC
 'I do not think anyone will lay this charge against us in a moderate way'
 POLYBIUS (c. 200–118 BC), *Historiae* 9.20.5

33 If this and similar cases really are cases of postverbal *oudeís* used as a NQ, the option may have been deliberately chosen for stylistic effect as reflecting an older phase of the language in which *oudeís* etc were invariably NQs.

Turning now to MedG, and using the same corpus of vernacular texts as for *tis/tinás* (cf. (18)), the numbers of nominative/accusative forms of *uđís* (including rare examples of innovative nominative *uđénas*), in pre- and post-verbal positions, both without and with a NM, are as follows:³⁴

(23)		Pre-V:		Post-V:	
		-NM	+NM	-NM	+NM
a.	Less vernacular				
	Grottaferrata <i>Digenes</i> (G)	16 (NQ)	0	0	0
	<i>Ptochoprodromica</i> (in part)	0	0	0	0
b.	More vernacular				
	Escorial <i>Digenes</i> (E)	0	0	0	0
	<i>Chronicle of the Morea</i> (H + P)	1 (NQ)	0	0	0
	<i>War of Troy</i> (1–12000)	12 (NQ)	2 (NPI)	0	2 (NPI)

This distribution shows that the postverbal use of *uđís* was by now in its death throes, even as an NPI following a NM. The evidence from the *War of Troy* for an extension of NPI *uđís* (i.e. without double negation) to pre-NM/preverbal position, thus replicating the MedG distribution of *tinás* with NPI-like function (cf. (17)), is entirely out of keeping with the general trend and probably best explained as due to editorial intervention (see fn. 34):

(24) *uđís uk éni ap' emás is ólon to*
 no/anyone-NOM not be-3sg from us-ACC in all-ACC the-ACC
fussáton ...
 army-ACC
 'There is none of us in all the army ...'
War of Troy (13/14c), 7967

Uđís thus survives principally as a preverbal NQ, mostly as a subject (nominative) and without a following NM, i.e. more or less in continuation of the AG use in this position. But even here the numbers are small, and the almost complete absence of *uđís* from the more vernacular of these texts, ignoring the *War*

34 The reader should be warned that the numbers for the *War of Troy*, based on the edition of Papathomopoulos as used by the TLG, are highly questionable, since the editor sometimes prints *oudeís* where the MSS have *tinás*. This observation does not detract from the overall argument, and in fact enhances it, as noted in the text.

of *Troy* but including the relevant parts of the *Ptochoprodromica*, is striking. It is tempting to speculate that it was no longer current in everyday spoken Greek or in poetry with a strong oral/popular background like the Escorial *Digenes*, and that its already 'literary/archaic' quality might also have rendered it inappropriate for the 'of-the-moment' urban satire of the *Ptochoprodromica*.

3 Ancient Greek to Medieval Greek II: Analysis of the Developments

3.1 AG > MedG: The Loss of NQs and the Reinterpretation of NPIs

The uses of *tis* and *oudeís* in AG may be summarised as follows:

(25)		Positive/ Negative S	Pronoun	Pron Position	Function	Meaning
a.	(i)	positive	<i>tis</i>	pre-/post-V	PPI-like	'someone'
	(ii)	negative	<i>tis</i>	pre-NM	PPI-like	'some(one) ... not ...'
	(iii)	negative	<i>tis</i>	post-NM	NPI-like	'... not ... any(one) ...'
b.	(i)	negative (- NM)	<i>oudeís</i>	pre-/ (post-V)	NQ	'no one'
	(ii)	negative	<i>oudeís</i>	(pre-NM)	NQ	'no(one) ... not ...'
	(iii)	negative	<i>oudeís</i>	post-NM	NPI	'not ... ANY(one) ...'

The fundamental contrast is between *tis* = 'someone' (PPI-like) and *oudeís* = 'no one' (NQ). The former appears in positive sentences pre- and post-verbally and the latter in negative sentences pre-verbally without an NM (post-verbal *oudeís* as a NQ is marginal at best, as noted above). These same meanings are retained when a NM is present, but only when the two items precede it (though the double negative use of *oudeís* is very rare, as noted). This contrast between *tis* and *oudeís* is neutralised, however, in negative sentences after a NM, where both function as NPIs = 'any(one)' (albeit with a difference of emphasis, again as noted).

Since NPI-like *tis* cannot be generalised to pre-negative positions (pre-negative *tis* is always PPI-like), an alternative means of expressing the non-existence of people/things had to be employed in sentences in which a negative would otherwise follow an indefinite, viz the NQ *oudeís*. The latter, however, was (all but) impossible postverbally and was therefore in (virtual) comple-

mentary distribution with *ou(k)* + NPI *tis/oudeís*. Thus of the two possible readings of NQs/NPIs (cf. (12) and (13)) only that involving narrow-scope existential quantification under negation can account for the distribution of the relevant pronouns/specifiers in AG, as noted. The complementary (26a) and (26b) therefore both mean (26c):

- (26) a. *oudeís* [NQ] ... V ...
- b. *ou(k)* V ... *tis/oudeís* [NPI] ...
- c. it is **not** the case that [there is **some/any** X such that [X has property P]]

where the order of the negative and indefinite elements (compounded in (26a), separate in (26b)) directly reflects the order of the semantic operators in (26c).

In vernacular MedG, however, PPI-like *tis* has largely been replaced by PPI *kátis/kápjos* and *tis/tinás* is now employed before as well as after a NM as a true NPI. Correspondingly, the emphatic NPI *oudeís/uđís* has mostly been replaced by *kanís/kanénas*, which, like NPI *tinás*, has also been extended to pre-NM environments. Both NPIs are now stressed normally and may also receive heightened stress, e.g. for emphasis/contrast. In association with a NM, therefore, *kanís/kanénas* and *tinás* more or less replace both the preverbal NQ *oudeís/uđís* (in the order NPI + NM) and the post-negative NPI *oudeís/uđís* (in the order NM + NPI). PPI *tis* and NQ *oudeís* thus serve chiefly as markers of more conservative registers, or at least of efforts to appropriate something of their prestige as ‘ancient’ forms. It should be noted further that the loss of NQs in the vernacular entailed the automatic loss of double negation.

The key changes are summarised in (27), where it can be seen that the principal contrast is now between the PPIs *kátis/kápjos* on the one hand and the NPIs *tinás* and *kanís/kanénas* on the other. The most striking differences between AG and MedG are marked in bold. Note in particular that pre-NM *tis* (always PPI-like in AG) is formally replaced in MedG in its PPI function and continues here only as an NPI (a role unavailable in AG):

(27)	Pos/Neg S	PronPosition	AG-form	AG-role	MedG-form	MedG-role
a.	(i) positive	pre-/post-V	<i>tis</i>	PPI-like	> <i>kátis/kápjos</i>	PPI
	(ii) negative	pre-NM	<i>tis</i>	PPI-like	> <i>kátis/kápjos</i>	PPI
	negative	pre-NM	<i>tis</i>	PPI-like	> <i>tinás</i>	NPI
	(iii) negative	post-NM	<i>tis</i>	NPI-like	> <i>tinás</i>	NPI

b.	(i)	neg (- NM)	pre-/post-V	<i>oudeís</i>	NQ	> \emptyset	\emptyset
	(ii)	negative	pre-NM	<i>oudeís</i>	NQ	> <i>kanís</i>	NPI
	(iii)	negative	post-NM	<i>oudeís</i>	NPI	> <i>kanís</i>	NPI

Before examining the two newcomers in detail, however, we should first emphasise that the across-the-board generalisation of NPIs to pre-NM positions, resulting in the elimination of NQs, crucially presupposes their reinterpretation as involving universal quantification over negation (cf. again (12) and (13)), a shift associated in Greek with the need to allow the relevant items to be focalised (for which see 3.3). Once this shift has taken place, the universal quantifier has the wider scope, and the indefinite pronouns/specifiers may now freely precede or follow the licensing negative:

- (28) a. *tinás/kanís ... ou(k) V ... tinás/kanís*
 b. for **any** X [it is **not** the case that [X has property P]]

This decisive interpretative change means that, unlike in AG, a uniform meaning is carried by a uniform construction in all syntactic positions, viz. NPIs in association with a (preceding or following) NM. It also means that PPIs and NPIs now interact with negation in the same way, i.e. both involve a form of wide-scope quantification over negation, the former existential ((29a)), the latter universal ((29b)):

- (29) a. there is **some** X such that [it is **not** the case that [X has property P]]
 b. for **any** X [it is **not** the case that [X has property P]]

Following discussion of the possible origins of *kátis/kápjos* and *kanís/kanénas* in 3.2 we turn in 3.3 to the underlying motivation for this redistribution and reinterpretation of NPIs.

3.2 *The New Indefinites: PPI kátis/kápjos and NPI kanís/kanénas*

For well-known cultural and historical reasons, relatively little material composed in more ‘natural’ forms of Greek has survived from the period between the 7th and 11th/12th centuries AD. One of many unfortunate consequences of this state of affairs for the historian of Greek is that the origin and spread of the innovative indefinite pronouns characteristic of MedG cannot be traced in the documentary record. By the time the relevant forms are securely attested, the medieval system outlined above is already in place. The most one can hope to do, therefore, is to link the late antique to the medieval system through reconstruction of the key interim developments.

Fortunately, there is AG evidence that is potentially indicative of the origins of both *kanís* and *káppos* to help point the way. Beginning with the former, *heís* ‘one’ (later *eís*, then *is*) already overlapped with *tis* as an indefinite pronoun/specifier in more vernacular registers of AG, sometimes in combination with the latter as *heís tis*, sometimes alone as in the following example, where *heís* clearly means ‘a certain’ or ‘some’:

- (30) *pérdiks men heís kápe:los*
 partridge-NOM on-one-hand one-NOM innkeeper-NOM
o:nomázdeto
 called-3sg-PASS
 ‘One/some lame innkeeper was called ‘partridge’
 ARISTOPHANES (c. 448–380 BC), *Birds* 1292–3

This usage became increasingly normal with the passage of time and was well-established by late antiquity, by which time (*h*)*eís/is* had acquired a clear role as an indefinite article, exactly as in MedG and MG:

- (31) (*h*)*eís de geo:rgòs emist^hó:sato autón*
 one-NOM and farmer-NOM hired-3sg him-ACC
 ‘And some/a farmer hired him’
 JOANNES MOSCHUS (c. 550–619 AD), *Spiritual meadow* 183 (Migne p. 3056, l. 5)

The AG emphatic particle *ká:n* ‘even’ was the product of the fusion of intensifying *kaí* ‘even’ with the conditional conjunction *á:n* ‘if ever’, < *eá:n* < **ei án*.³⁵ In classical Greek (5th/4th c. BC) the modal particle *án* in its generic function combined only with subjunctives in subordinate clauses. *Ká:n* was therefore originally used in future-referring/generic conditionals with subjunctive verb forms and the expected meaning ‘even if (ever) ...’. But it also came to be used more generally as an intensifier by abstraction from its use in elliptical expressions such as that in (32), where the first *ká:n* appears in a complete conditional clause and the second in a conditional clause where the verb *pése:i* [fall-3sg-SUBJ] ‘he fall’ has been omitted, thus opening the way for reinterpretation simply as an intensifier of the following PP:

35 I am indebted to Julián Méndez Dosuna for pointing out the best approach to understanding *ká:n*, and for some of the supporting data below.

- (32) *all' ándra k^hré;* *kà:n sô:ma genné:se:i méga,*
 but man-ACC it-is-neccessary, even-if body grow-3sg.SUBJ great,
dokêîn peseîn án, *kà:n apo smikrou̇*
 expect-INF fall-INF MODAL, even (if) from small
kakoû
 evil (fall-3sg.SUBJ)
 'But a man, even if he grows his body great, must expect to fall, even (if he
 falls) from a small misfortune'
 SOPHOCLES (c. 496–406 B.C.), *Ajax* 1077–8

Kà:n thus starts to appear as a variant of intensifying *kaí* in a range of non-veridical environments including not only conditionals but also modal verb forms, imperatives, futures, habituais, etc (cf. the discussion of (2) and (5) above). The examples in (33) all contain conditionals or imperatives, while *kà:n* in (33a) actually modifies a conditional conjunction (*ei* 'if' + optative marking a 'remote' possibility), confirming that, at least in colloquial varieties partly reflected in comedic dialogue, extension of the range of *kà:n* had begun by the later 5th century BC (*Frogs* was first performed in 405 BC):

- (33) a. *kà:n eí me túptois,* *ouk àn anteípoimí soi*
 even if me beat-2sg.OPT, not MODAL reply-1sg.OPT you-DAT
 'Even if you were to beat me I wouldn't reply'
 ARISTOPHANES (c. 446 BC-c. 386 BC), *Frogs* 585
- b. *eàn dè hápaks kà:n mikràn epídosin lábe:i ...*
 if-ever but once even small-ACC advance-ACC take-3sg.SUBJ
 'But if once he makes even a small improvement ...'
 ARISTOTLE (384–322 BC), *Categories* 13a.25
- c. *eíselth^e kà:n nún*
 enter-2sg.IMP even now
 'Come in even now (if you must)'
 MENANDER (c. 341/42–c. 290 BC), Fr 342, 1
- d. *eàn hápso:mai kà:n tô:n hi:matío:n autoû,*
 if-ever touch-1sg-SUBJ even the-GEN clothes-GEN him-GEN
so:t^hé:somai
 saved-1sg-FUT.PASS
 'If I touch even his clothes, I shall be saved'
 ST MARK (1st c. AD), 5. 28

Unsurprisingly, we eventually start to find examples in specifically negative environments too:³⁶

- (34) a. ... *hoís oudè kà:n ónos hupê:rkse pó:pote*
 whom-DAT not-even even ass-NOM existed-2sg ever-yet
 ‘... who had never yet owned even an ass’

LUCIAN (c. 125-post 180 AD), *Timon* 20

- b. *metà ... kurío:n ou lupéi kà:n k'ho:rìs*
 with proper-names-GEN not hurt-3sg even without
toû idíou árt'rou
 the-GEN own-GEN article-GEN
 ‘With proper names there is no harm done even without their own articles’

APOLLONIUS DYSCOLUS (2c. AD), *On Syntax (Grammatici Graeci* 2.2, p 114.7)

- c. *oudè kà:n epì posòn ... paremut'hésato tè:n*
 not-and even to any-amount softened-3sg the-ACC
idían dié:ge:sin
 own-ACC narrative-ACC
 ‘And he didn’t soften his own statement even to some degree’

ORIGEN (184/5–253/4 AD), *Commentary on the gospel of St John* 20.24.216

Kà:n was quite frequently combined syntagmatically with *(h)eís* (= ‘even one’), as in (35), where preceding negative elements are also marked in bold:

- (35) a. *adúnaton ... gegéne:tai kà:n (h)éna tinà*
 impossible has-become-3sg even one-ACC any-ACC
prosagagést'hai autô:n
 recruit-INF them-GEN
 ‘It has become impossible to recruit even one of them’

LUCIAN (c. 125- post 180 AD), *The fugitives* 21.4

36 The use of *kan* ‘even’ in negative environments survives into MG, see e.g. Giannakidou 2007 for discussion.

- b. ... *hō:n ek^hrē:n mónon kà:n (h)én ... ti ...*
 which-GEN ought-3sg only even one-ACC any-ACC
anegno:kénai
 have-read-INF
 ‘... (books) even one of which he only needed to have read’
 GALEN (129-c. 200 AD), *Against Lycus* (*Opera Omnia* ed Kühn, 18a, p 219.6)
- c. *ei kà:n (h)én ti ... enantioúmenon p^haínoito*
 if even one-NOM some-NOM opposed-NOM appear-3sg-OPT
toís állois ...
 the-DAT others-DAT
 ‘If even one (of the particulars) should appear opposed to the others ...’
 SEXTUS EMPIRICUS (c. 160–210 AD), *Pyrrhoniae Hypotyposes* 2.195
- d. *mè: polloùs ... allà me:d’ olígous allà kà:n (h)éna*
 not many-ACC but not-even few-ACC but even one-ACC
deiknú:to: ... toioúton
 show-3sg.IMP such-ACC
 ‘Let him show not many nor even a few but even one of such a calibre’
 ORIGEN (184/5–253/4AD), *Against Celsus* 2.8.3
- e. *ouk^h hupárk^hontos kà:n (h)enòs paramuth^houménou autoús*
 not existing-GEN even one-GEN consoling-GEN them-ACC
 ‘though there was not even one person to console them’
 ORIGEN, *On Lamentations* Fr 10.12 (*Origenes Werke* 3, ed. Klostermann)

As recognised at least since Jannaris (1897:163–4), such examples illustrate the kinds of context in which *ká:n + (h)eís/is* might first have developed into a compound. In the specific case of examples falling within the scope of negation this coalescence seems to have led to a natural semantic development (i.e. one appropriate to the pronominal status of the compound) whereby ‘not ... even *one*’ > ‘not ... *anyone*.’ It is easy to imagine how, during the early middle ages, a vernacular pronoun *kanís/kanénas* might first have replaced the emphatic NPI *uḗís* in positions after a NM and then, once generalised to pre-NM positions and reinterpreted as in (13)/(28), replaced the now redundant preverbal NQ *uḗís* as well.³⁷ *Tis/tinás* in NPI function was naturally drawn into

37 Unlike NPI *oudeís*, however, *kanís* was never restricted to negative contexts and so continued to be used in the full range of affective environments once occupied by *tis*.

the same distributional pattern, thus losing its enclitic status, before finally being replaced by its rival in the early modern period.

The resulting uniformity of role and consistency of interpretation of *kanís/kanénas* across all syntactic positions (i.e. as an NPI licensed by a NM) clearly represented a significant overall simplification *vis-à-vis* the functional and distributional complexities of ancient *oudeís*. In the following extracts, dating from c. 11th – c. 14th centuries AD, forms of *kanís* appear before and after a NM both as subjects and as direct objects:

- (36) a. *ke i fáres an se akoluθún, esén*
 and the-NOM mares-NOM if you-ACC follow-3pl, you-ACC
kanís ou fθáni
 any-NOM not catch-3sg
 ‘And if the mares follow you, no one will catch you’

Digenes Akrites E (?11c AD, 15c MS), 281

- b. *uđen ivréθiken kanís ina me*
 not found-3sg-PASS anyone-NOM that me-ACC
katafθási
 get-better-of-3sg-SUBJ
 ‘No one was found to get the better of me’

Digenes Akrites E (?11c AD, 15c MS), 155

- c. **kanénan uk afínusi na évji, na ipajéni**
 anyone-ACC not let-3pl that leave-3sg-SUBJ that go-3sg-SUBJ
 ‘They don’t allow anyone to leave, (anyone) to go’

War of Troy (13/14c), 1065

- d. *ekí yar ux evríkasi kanénan is ton kósmon*
 there for not found-3pl anyone-ACC in the-ACC world-ACC
 ‘For they didn’t find anyone whatsoever there’

War of Troy (13/14c), 10005

But inherently negative/affective indefinites require inherently positive indefinites to complement them. It is interesting to note that MG NPIs other than *kanís/kanénas* are simply ‘strengthened’ forms of the enclitics that in AG appeared freely in both positive and affective/negative environments: thus accented *tinás* (AG *tis*) ‘anyone’, *típota* (AG *ti*) ‘anything’, accented *poté* (AG enclitic *poté*) ‘ever’, *puθενά* (AG *pou*) ‘anywhere’. On the other hand the corresponding PPIs all contain the accented prefix *ká(n)-*: thus *ká-tis* ‘someone’, *ká-ti*

'something', *kám-posos* (AG enclitic *posós*) 'some amount/number (of)', *ká(m)-pote* 'sometimes', *ká-pu* 'somewhere'. Some tentative thoughts on the probable sequence of events in the development of the PPI/NPI opposition are offered below, once the likely origin of the PPIs has also been discussed.

There are no examples of PPI-like *tis/tinás* (cf. (18)) or any 'modern' PPI replacement in the Escorial *Digenes Acrites*, nor are there innovative PPIs in the more learned Grottaferrata version. But there are examples in other vernacular texts from c. 12c onwards, where the forms *okátis/okápjios*, *okáti* and related adverbs are common, *ukátis/ukápjios*, *ukáti* and related adverbs less so. Examples of *okátis/ukátis* etc are given in (37), and of *okápjios/ukápjios* etc in (38):³⁸

- (37) a. *okátis pálin étroje kaθ' ípnu tu*
 someone-NOM again was-eating-3sg in sleep-GEN him-GEN
pepónin
 melon-ACC

'and now someone was eating a melon in his sleep'

MICHAEL GLYCAS (12c AD), *Verses written while imprisoned* 266

- b. *eán ... okátines ánthropi u okátines jinékes*
 if some-NOM men-NOM or some-NOM women-NOM
pérni u klépti tas órniθás mu
 take-3sg or steal-3sg the-ACC bird-ACC me-GEN
 'If some men or some women take or steal my birds ...'

Assizes B (Cyprus, 13c AD/ms 15c) 450.23

- c. *... tas plevrás .../ strongiloíðís ukáti*
 the-ACC sides-ACC round-ACC something-ACC
 '... the sides somewhat rounded'

ERMONIAKOS (fl. first half 14c), *Iliad* 3.170

38 No satisfactory explanation of this 'prothetic' *o-* (or *u-*) has yet been proposed. In the case of *o-* appeals are sometimes made to the analogy of 'indefinite' relative pronouns and adverbs which also begin with *o-* (cf. *ópjos* 'whoever', *ópote* 'whenever', etc), but these are generic (= 'any X that ...') and so rather unlike the PPIs under discussion, which typically mean 'a certain/some particular X', etc.

d. ... *ke ótan esósan is nerón u káti na*
 and when reached-3pl to water-ACC some-ACC that
*perásun*³⁹

pass-3pl-SUBJ

‘... even when they came to some water to cross’

Chronicle of the Tocco (15c) 2316

(38) a. *okáppas kan jítónissas rúxon na*
 some-GEN even neighbour-woman-GEN dress-NOM SUBJ
eparelíthin

fall-apart-PAST.3sg

‘even some neighbour’s dress might fall apart’

Ptochoprodromica (12c), 3.162

b. ... / *to pos okáppos vasiléas ... / ... /pollá práγmata*
 the that some-NOM king-NOM many-ACC things-ACC
épike

did-3sg

‘... that some king had done many things’

Chronicle of the Morea H (14c), 882

c. *ke an tíxi ukápote is kerón na to*
 and if happen-3sg-SUBJ sometime in future-ACC that it
évrís ...

find-2sg-SUBJ

‘And if it happens that you find it some time in the future ...’

Spaneas V (ms c. 1200 AD) 42

d. *ukáppa trayúðia etrayúðisan*
 some-ACC songs-ACC were-singing-3pl

‘They were singing some songs’

Alexander Romance F (16c), 80.3

It is important to note that both the *o*-forms and the rarer *u*-forms are first attested from c. 12c onwards (cf. (37a) and (38c)), and that both are sometimes attested in a single text, e.g. the 13c *Assizes* from Cyprus (cf. (37b) with ... *afíni ukátinos ape ton víon* [leave-3sg.PRES someone-GEN from the-ACC life-ACC]

39 The two elements are graphically separated in the ms.

'... leaves to someone part of his/her estate' in *Assizes B* 388.6), and the 14c *Chronicle of the Tocco* from the Ionian islands/Epirus (cf. (37d) with examples like (*próloyon*) *ton élejen okátis* [(prologue-ACC) which-ACC spoke someone-NOM] '(introduction) that someone spoke' at 1702). Though both the *Chronicle of the Tocco* and Ermoniakos' *Iliad* (cf. (37c)) are associated with a 'northern' region where raising of unstressed mid-vowels took place in the middle ages (i.e. /e/ > /i/ and /o/ > /u/, see e.g. Newton (1972), Horrocks (2010: 404–6)), the *u*-forms also appear in texts from places where no such changes occurred, e.g. Cyprus, as above. Furthermore, *u káti* in the *Chronicle of the Tocco* is unique (*o*-forms are the norm), and in Ermoniakos' poem (where *u*-forms are standard) there is no general notation of unstressed mid-vowel raising. This evidence taken together therefore suggests that the *u*-prefix may well be an original form rather than simply a regional variant of *o*-, albeit a residual one with sporadic attestation by the time of our earliest vernacular texts. This possibility is explored immediately below.

Forms without the *u*-/*o*- prefix begin to be attested somewhat later (*kápjos* is the standard MG form, as noted), though forms with and without a prefix co-existed for some considerable time:

- (39) a. *vulete kátis evjenís, zití na to*
 want-3sg some-NOM noble-NOM, seek-3sg that it-ACC
trijísi
 harvest-3sg-SUBJ
 'Some nobleman wants, asks to harvest it (a vineyard)'

Achilleid N (?14/15c, ms 15/16c), 1050

- b. *kátines ta evrísku is ton viθón*
 some-NOM them find-3pl is the deep
 'Some find them in the deep'

Assizes B (Cyprus, 13c AD/ms 15c), 299.12

- c. *évlepe kápja próvata*
 was-seeing-3sg some-ACC sheep-ACC
 'She was watching over some sheep'

Voskopoula (Crete, 16/17c), 11

- d. *éstilén ton is kápjan ipiresían*
 sent-3sg him-ACC on some-ACC service-ACC
 'He sent him on some service'

Life of Aesop K (16/17c), 167.4

The variation between the root elements *-tis* and *-pjós* is readily explained: the former is the ancient indefinite, the latter an early medieval innovation bringing the masculine/feminine interrogative and indefinite pronouns into line with the majority of other interrogative/indefinite pronouns and adverbs beginning with /p/ (though, curiously, the neuters *tí* ‘what?’ and *(ká)ti* ‘something’ were retained). Thus *pjós* ‘who?’ (< AG *poîos* ‘what sort of?’) replaced the interrogative *tís* ‘who?’ just as the indefinite *(ká)pjós* ‘someone’ (< AG *poiós* ‘some sort of’) replaced the indefinite *tis* ‘someone’, cf. *pósos* ‘how much?’ and *(kám)posos* ‘some amount/number’, *póte* ‘when?’ and *(ká)pote* ‘sometime(s)’, *pú* ‘where?’ and *(ká)pu* ‘somewhere’, *pós* ‘how?’ and *(ká)pos* ‘somehow’.

The element *o/uka(n)-* is more problematical. One standard account (advocated, for example, in the online *Dictionary of Standard Modern Greek*⁴⁰) traces *ka(n)-* directly to the intensifier *ká:n* in composition with AG indefinite enclitics, and accounts for the general, though not total, loss of /n/ as due to the influence of a mis-segmentation of *kanís* in line with its syllabification as /ka'nis/.⁴¹ The additional *o-* prefix is then explained as a generalisation of the *o-* element seen in indefinite relative pronouns and adverbs such as *ópjos* ‘whoever’, *ópote* ‘whenever’, etc. One problem with this approach is that AG *ká:n*, as we have seen, was associated with affective and later, negative, environments and it is therefore difficult to understand why the apparently near-synonymous *tis* and *(h)eís* should have evolved in such different ways when they eventually came to be compounded with this element. Even more damaging is the fact it is difficult, perhaps ultimately impossible, to find convincing ancient examples of any relevant combination other than *kà:n (h)eís*, whether in affective or positive environments (the common sequence *ká:n tis* means ‘even if anyone/ someone ...’). This suggests that *ká:n* did not originally combine with enclitics at all. Furthermore, we might reasonably ask how convincing a model indefinite-generic relatives would have provided for the analogical extension of *o-* to indefinite but specific PPIs. In any case, this version of events does not deal with the distribution of *u-*, which, as we have seen, cannot simply be a ‘northern variant’. These issues must be addressed if a satisfactory account of *kátis/kápjós* is to be provided.

The syntactic string *ouk án tis*, comprising NM + modal particle + indefinite pronoun, together with an optative or past indicative verb form was common in pre-verbal position in main clauses from the earliest texts through to the classicising writers of later antiquity. Properly, *án* here modified the following

40 http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/modern_greek/tools/lexica/triantafyllides/.

41 Only *(u-/o-)kámposos* ‘some amount/number’ regularly shows *kam-* (with assimilation of the nasal), though *(u-/o-)kámpote* ‘sometime(s)’ is also occasionally attested.

verb to create a ‘potential’ meaning, with the whole expressing what one ‘could not do/could not have done’:

- (40) a. ... *ál·la* *te hó·sa* *ouk án tis*
 other-things-ACC and as-many-as-ACC not POT anyone-NOM
nûn proí·doi
 now foresee-3sg.OPT
 ‘... and all the other things that one cannot foresee at present’
 THUCYDIDES (c. 460-c. 395 BC) 1.122.1

- b. *kai ouk án tis* *eí·poi* *ó·ute né·os* *ó·ute*
 and not POT anyone-NOM say-3sg.OPT neither young-NOM nor
palaiós ...
 old-NOM
 ‘And no one young or old could/would say ...’
 PLATO (428–347 BC), *Symposium* 182b3

- c. *kai ouk án tis ...* *egnó·rise* *tòn tó·pon*
 and not POT anyone-NOM recognised-3sg the-ACC place-ACC
 ‘And no one ... could/would have recognised the place’
 JOSEPHUS (37-c. 100 AD), *Jewish war* 6.8

In the later post-classical period (c. 2nd/3rd c AD onwards), however, when contrastive vowel length had been lost in spoken Greek, along with the optative mood and potential *án* (now markers of ‘learned/written’ registers, albeit often used unclassically, cf. Horrocks forthcoming), many speakers may have regarded this string as a kind of compound and resegmented it as *ou-kán-tis* [NM-intensifier-indefinite] = ‘not-even-one’ > ‘not-any(one)’ (cf. the proposed origin and development of *ka:neís/kanís* above), thus creating a novel preverbal NQ to complement [*ou(k) ... ka:neís/kanís*] just as preverbal *oudeís/uḗís* complemented [*ou(k) ... tis*] (cf. (26)).⁴² The different position of the accent compared with *ka:neís/kanís* now follows automatically: *án* followed by an enclitic was already accented in AG, as in (40). At this stage past indicatives, originally counterfactual, cf. (40c), would have been reinterpreted as simple negations of past events, and *ou-kán-tis* extended to the full range of affective environments

42 The fact that no compelling contemporary written evidence survives for the assumed compound status or the postulated resegmentation is unsurprising. The formal education presupposed by literacy reinforced both the traditional spelling and traditional usage involving optatives etc.

associated with intensifying *ká(:)n*. The sentences in (41), for example, contain present and future indicatives, subjunctives and modal verbs, none of which originally combined with potential *án*:⁴³

- (41) a. *ou-kán-tis katalábe:i tòn noûn Kuríou*
no-one-NOM understand-3sg.SUBJ the-AVV mind-ACC Lord-GEN
'No one may/will understand the mind of the Lord'

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (c. 376–444 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah*, PG 70, p85.10

- b. *kai ou-kán-tis toúto tó:n eû p^hronoúnto:n*
and no-one-NOM this-ACC the-GEN well thinking-GEN
arné:setai
deny-3sg.FUT
'And none of the right thinking will deny this'

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (c. 376–444 AD), *Thesaurus*, PG 75, p64.36

- c. ... *hó:n ou-kán-tis ék^hesthai dúnatai dia*
which-GEN no-one-NOM hold-onto-INF can-3sg because-of
tè:n smikróte:ta
the-ACC smallness-ACC
'... (husks) which no one can hold onto because of their smallness'

ORION (5c AD), *Etymology: Alpha*, p 7.12 (*Orionis Etymologicon* ed. Sturz)

- d. *u-kán-tis ta pareliliθóta loyothetí ... i-mi*
no-one-NOM the-ACC past-things-ACC make-account-3sg unless
ton enkekxirisménon ... oliyorián éxi
the-GEN in-hand-things-GEN inattention-ACC have-3sg
'No one audits the past unless he lacks interest in what he has in hand'

PHOTIUS (c. 810-c. 893 AD), *Epistle* 281.22

If we suppose that *oukántis/uká(n)tis* had evolved into a vernacular rival to *oudeís/uđís* by the early middle ages, its apparently miraculous metamorphosis into a PPI in fact has a natural explanation in the context of the reinterpretation of NPIs proposed in 3.1 above. For as long as NPIs such as *tinás* and *kanís* were restricted to post-NM positions and interpreted as involving existential quantification under negation, NQs were understood as their synonymous pre-verbal counterparts = 'not-any (X)', i.e. 'no X at all' (cf. (26)). This treat-

43 In all these examples the postulated (o)u-kán-tis is actually written *ouk án tis*, see fn 33.

ment would at first have applied equally to the innovative pair *uká(n)tis* and *u(k)/(u)ðen ... kanís*. But when NPIs were generalised to pre-NM positions and reinterpreted as involving wide scope universal quantification = ‘for any (random) X’, we might have expected *uká(n)tis* to become redundant in exactly the same way as *uðís*: a morphological compound comprising [NM + NPI] cannot be reanalysed to give a reading in which the NPI has scope over the negation because a lexical meaning ‘any-not’ (as opposed to ‘not-any’) is manifestly a nonsense. But while *uðís* was indeed dropped on this basis, *ukátis* was recycled to conform with the ‘universal’ interpretation of NPIs but crucially, still with narrow scope under the negation as required in a compound, so that *uká(n)tis*, originally = ‘not-any X (at all)’, came to mean ‘not-any (random) X’, i.e. entailing ‘some (particular) X’ (cf. fn. 21).

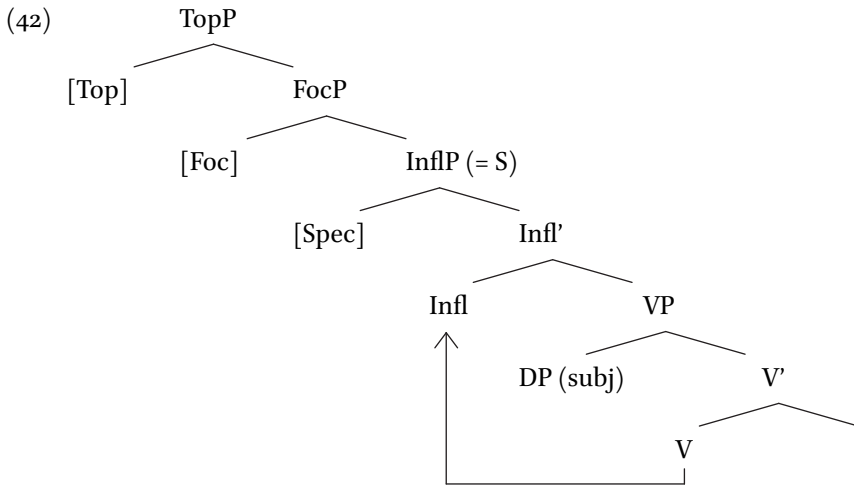
In this way NQ *uká(n)tis* could easily have become a PPI partner to NPI *kanís*, thus producing the split seen in MedG and MG and the final loss of double negation. If so, the positive use of *quondam* NQs as PPIs would have instigated generalisation to all positive environments and induced a rapid dissociation of *u-* from the notion of negation. This in turn might have led to a shift of *u-* to *o-*, perhaps on the analogy of other indefinites beginning with *o-* (though the potential difficulty noted above remains). But in either guise this element was now to all intents and purposes meaningless and it eventually disappeared, through a combination of aphaeresis (many unstressed initial vowels were lost in the middle ages) and the influence of the complementary but prefix-less *kanís/kanénas* (influence which might also explain the widespread loss of *-n-* in PPIs, as outlined above).

A probable chronology of events may conveniently be summarised here. The surviving AG data and the apparent impossibility of combining intensifying *ká:n* with an enclitic suggest that the first indefinite compound to emerge, already in post-classical antiquity, was *ka(:)neís*, which originally had the distribution of an API but eventually took on that of an NPI as well, finally being generalised in this role to pre-NM (and therefore preverbal) position in the early Middle Ages. But when the inherently preverbal AG sequence *ouk án tis* was first reanalysed in late antiquity as the NQ *ou-kán-tis/u-ká(n)-tis*, and then reinterpreted as a PPI in the early middle ages, the two items, originally synonymous and in complementary distribution, immediately became contrastive. A full set of PPIs was then modelled on *uká(n)-tis*, using the ancient indefinite enclitics as a base, and the same items were strengthened, through (normal) accentuation and/or suffixation, to provide a full set of NPIs to complement *kanís*. *Tis/tinás*, lacking the *o/uka(n)-* prefix, naturally fell in with the NPIs and adopted their distribution, eventually giving way in the early modern period to its rival *kanís*.

3.3 *The Motivation for the Generalisation of NPIs to Pre-NM Position*

The principal outstanding issue is why NPIs were generalised to pre-NM positions in the early medieval vernacular, thus forcing the reinterpretation discussed above. It is well known that in the post-classical period there were significant changes in the ordering of constituents. In particular, the possibility of informationally neutral verb-final order within VP was lost and verb-initial order became the rule, not only within VP but as a regular option within clauses, where VSO and SVO were both potentially neutral orders in informational terms.⁴⁴

With the exception of subjects, therefore, late antique Greek, followed by MedG and MG, no longer allowed preverbal constituents that were neither topics (i.e. peripheral constituents with a scene-setting/resumptive role) nor foci (i.e. contrastive or emphatic constituents marked by heavy stress). We are concerned here only with focalisation. One option was simply to stress items *in situ*, but another was to combine emphatic/contrastive stress with displacement from their grammatically defined positions within VP to the left periphery of the clause containing them (see, among many others, Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou 1998, Horrocks 1983, 1994, 2010: 108–9, 277–80, and Roussou and Tsimpli 2006 for various instantiations of this basic idea):⁴⁵



44 In terms of the diagram in (42), assuming that V raises to Infl(ection), these two orders might be accounted for on the basis that, under specified conditions, subject DPs either remain in Spec VP or raise to Spec IP.

45 There are many different interpretations of the data and (42) is intended merely as a non-committal sketch of the properties of Greek sentences from late antiquity onwards.

Even in classical Greek clausal constituents could be fronted for emphasis or contrast (see Dover 1960, and for general considerations of focus and word order in Greek and Latin, Devine and Stephens 1999, 2006), but for a combination of prosodic and semantic reasons both indefinite *tis* and NQ/NPI *oudeís* fell outside this pattern and could not be assimilated to it (cf. 2.1 and 2.2). Thus enclitic *tis* could not stand initially in a clause or be emphatically/contrastively accented; and in negative sentences its meaning changed according to whether it appeared before the NM (= ‘there is some X that did not ...’) or after it (= ‘there is no X that did ...’). Correspondingly, preverbal *oudeís* was a NQ but postverbal *oudeís* (after a NM) an emphatic NPI; and fronting over an NM again changed the meaning (‘there is no X that did ...’ > ‘there is no X that did not ...’).

The function of *tis* (i.e. PPI-like vs NPI-like) and *oudeís* (i.e. NQ vs NPI) in any given sentence was therefore determined by the presence or absence of a NM and, in the presence of an NM, by structural position with reference to it. But in a post-classical world in which the majority of native speakers were no longer from ‘Greece’ and Greek was widely learned as a second language, the fact that neither of these elements could be assimilated to the regular focalisation rule seems increasingly to have been perceived as confusing and problematical. By the early middle ages, therefore, steady pressure towards greater constructional and interpretational uniformity had led to the emergence of a system in which NQs were eliminated, the clitic status of certain indefinites was lost, and the entire class of indefinites was divided into contrasting sets of PPIs and NPIs (the latter licensed by NMs in all environments), both of which could now be focalised in the regular way.⁴⁶ It was precisely this distributional assimilation of NPIs to the norm, including the possibility of focalisation, that first necessitated the semantic reinterpretation discussed in 3.2.

4 Conclusions

It has been argued that the complexities and anomalies of the AG system of negative indefinites (NQs and NPIs) eventually led, in the Early Middle Ages, to a wholesale systemic reconfiguration in which, *inter alia*, the distribution of properly licensed NPIs was extended to all syntactic positions available to DPs (i.e. that Greek shifted from being a language with non-strict NC to become one with strict NC). The ‘price’ paid for this simplification included

46 Though the persistence of non-uniform systems cross-linguistically, as in Italian, shows that complexity *per se* is not enough to guarantee the onset of regularising change.

the loss of NQs and double negation, and the forced reinterpretation of NPIs as elements involving universal quantification over negation (a property of strict NC languages generally).

The likely origin of the formal distinction between NPIs and PPIs has also been explored, and the innovative items *kátis/kápjos* and *kanís* have each been given a full, if partly reconstructed, history, with their beginnings located in recurring sequences of elements in AG that were eventually lexicalised. Interestingly, *kátis/kápjos* seems in origin to have been an NQ that was subsequently reinterpreted as a PPI at the time when NPIs were reinterpreted ‘universally’.

Finally, since the occurrence of NPIs in both pre- and post-NM positions makes NQs redundant, it is suggested that languages in which NPIs are understood as involving wide scope universal quantification over negation (i.e. languages with strict NC) are languages that also lack NQs. The proper testing of this claim is, of course, a matter for further research.

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