Dissertation Summaries


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prefixation, morphology, grammaticalization, resemanticization, expansion of combinatorial properties, productivity.

1 Introduction

The subject of this study most generally is prefixation as it is realized in Modern Greek dialects. More specifically, though, I scrutinize the leftmost components of complex morphological form, in particular ακρο- [akro], μωρο-[moro], πλακο- [plako], σιο-/σο-/σα- [sjo]/[so]/[sa] and χαμο- [χamo]. All of these derive from a lexical ancestor, and so their diachronic presence in the Greek language is studied, as well as their synchronic presence in the dialectal varieties of Modern Greek.

The examined data are completely dialectal in character. By selecting phenomena which do not occur in standard Modern Greek, I aim to provide a representative image of the way in which prefixation operates in Modern Greek dialects independently of the way in which equivalent procedures may work in the standard language. In addition, a dialectal approach gives the opportunity to study the transition from compounding to derivation, and in this case to prefixation.

The borderline between compounding and derivation is an extensively discussed topic of study within modern morphological theory (see among others Siegel 1979, Allen 1978, Aronoff 1976, Booij 1977, 2005, Lieber 1992, Scalise 1994, Ralli 1988, 2004, 2010, ten Hacken 2000, Bauer 2005 and Amiot 2005), as it involves word formation processes which show both similarities and differences. The data under examination offer the possibility of thorough discussion about this issue, as they constitute instances of grammaticalization, either fulfilled or in progress, in which the ancestor for the...
compounding prefix is not a preposition, but an autonomous lexical item, such as an adjective, a verb, an adverb or a noun.

2 The Study

Starting with a definition of the relation between compounding and derivation, and a determination of their basic characteristics, I observe the process of grammatical change of the examined morphemes, and their conversion from autonomous lexemes and parts of compounds, to attached prefixes and left-most components of complex morphological forms. Relevant studies are found in bibliography: see among others Anastasiadi – Simeonidi 2008, Amiot 2005, van Goethem 2008a, 2008b, Stevens 2004, Giannoulopoulou 2006. The novelty of the present dissertation lies in its dual orientation, both synchronic and diachronic, and in the utilization of both written data (literature, notary and chronography texts, newspapers, questionnaires) and oral data (recordings, oral questionnaires), in order to investigate the phenomenon in each of its historical phases. The observation of every stage of the transition from compounding to prefixation (prefixization, cf. Amiot 2005) allows the suggestion of specific parameters which guide it, as well as their rating.

Considering the general criteria of grammaticalization (cf. Lehmann [1982] 1995, Heine & Kuteva 2002, 2005, 2007), we propose a triple set of parameters which control prefixization (phonological, semantic and morphological parameter). As a “hyponym” process of grammaticalization, which takes place within the domain (or phase, according to Lehmann 1995) of morphologization, we propose a triple set of parameters. The observation of every stage of the transition from compounding to prefixation (prefixization) allows the suggestion of specific parameters which control it.

The structure of the dissertation is as follows. The first chapter includes the limitation of the subject under research. In the second chapter, I carry out a review of the theoretical approaches in connection with prefixation, of the borderline between compounding and prefixation and also prefixization. In the third chapter I present a thorough description of dialectal data, as well as the methodology behind their selection. In the fourth chapter, I analyze the data on the basis of the parameters suggested above. In the fifth chapter, the parameters of prefixization are weighed, one against the other. I also deal with the relation of this specific process of grammaticalization (prefixation) with independent mechanisms of language change (analogy, reanalysis, lexicalization). Finally, in the sixth chapter, conclusions are drawn, from the entire dissertation, and novel matters for future research are proposed.