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### Review of the PhD Thesis

#### THE NOTION OF COMPLETION IN MODERN GREEK: AN ANALYSIS OF ASPECTIVELY ADVERSATIVE SENTENCES

presented by Kamil Trąba  
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(received in 30 July 2019)

#### **A. General remarks**

Kamil Trąba's thesis examines in depth the problem of Aspect in the adversative sentences which have the structure "S(entence)<sub>1</sub> *alla* 'but' S(entence)<sub>2</sub>. This thesis belongs to the field of the study of the Aspect (aspectology), which consists a very complicate phenomenon from a morphosyntactic and semantic point of view, in which the scientific community is interested for the most recent decades.

Kamil Trąba's thesis is a very serious study in respect to its structure and its content. More specifically:

**1. Structure:** this thesis consists of six balanced and in logical order chapters: in the first chapter (1) a general theoretical view of the studies on verbal Aspect (aspectology) is presented analytically. The diachronic development of linguistic thought on the aspect from antiquity up today is described. After, in chapter two (2) several approaches to the Greek aspect are reviewed with remarks on the problems of terminology, while the author focuses on the classification of lingual units and the clarifications of aspectual meanings. Then in chapter three (3) all the fundamental concepts and scientific terms are explained, while in the same chapter the methodology is also clarified. In chapter four (4) the structure of the research is presented, while the author discusses how he prepared the corpus of aspectively adversative sentences and explains the criteria he took into consideration to insert sentences to this corpus. In chapter five (5) the author answers the arisen questions why a sentence signifying completion should necessarily signify also termination and holicity, proposing a system of postulates and corollaries. Finally, chapter six (6) is dedicated to explain singular aspective phenomena of Modern Greek, focusing on when and why a verb of a sentence indicates completion. The thesis is accompanied by an epilogue with the report of the final results of the study and by tables containing the definitions of all the terms in use, the postulates, the hypotheses and the corollaries. Apart from the bibliography, there is also an abstract in both Polish and English language.

**2. Content-Methodology:** the author based in a very rich bibliography data and after having described in detail the basic concepts in the theory of the study first on the Aspect in general and then especially in Greek, states his scientific questions about the concept of Completion in the adversative sentences which have the structure “S(entence)<sub>1</sub> *alla* ‘but’ S(entence)<sub>2</sub>”. His basic questions are: a) how the completion is expressed in Modern Greek? b) in which degree is the Completion grammaticalized? c) why some aorist verbal structures of certain verbs indicate sufficient completion when others do not? d) why some verbs of adversative sentences are grammatically and semantically incorrect, when others do not? The author takes into consideration the semantic categories of the verbs of the adversative sentences and their complements as well (i.e. presence or not of a direct object/ object in accusative, the presence or not of adverbial or adjectival determiners) and applying as model of explanation Hempel & Oppenheim’s deductive model, he succeed in answering and explaining the arisen questions of

his research. In general, the thesis is characterized by high academic style and strict methodology.

**3. Terminology:** The thesis is characterized by accuracy in the definitions and the terminology used. The author, after he has explained all the scientific terms in use (i.e. *adversative, completion, holicity, elicity, totivity, semelfactivity* etc.), uses them consistently in the elaboration and the explanation of his corpus. The author insists in the clarification of those terms derived from the same etymological root (i.e. *lingual-linguistic*), while in chapter two (2) the author pinpoints the lack of uniform terminology in the studies of the Greek Aspect, and he achieves to overcome this problem.

**4. Bibliography:** The bibliography (in Greek and in other language) is really very rich. I would suggest the author to take under consideration some more studies for the total examination of his subject (see below B2.1 & B2.2).

**5. Presentation:** The written presentation of this thesis is perfect. Very little spelling errors are found. In respect to the presentation of the bibliography, I suggest the improvement of the references for works of the Greek Literature (see below B3.1). Also, very few mistakes are found in some infra references and in the full citations in the bibliography (see below B3.2).

## **B. Specific remarks – Suggestion for the improvement of the thesis**

### **1) In respect to the examples of the corpus**

- The author must cite all his corpus of the adversative sentences he has elaborated and analyzed in an appendix of this thesis.

- The author uses in this thesis an example, extracted from the Greek bibliography, for the correctness of which I am a little skeptical:

(a) *Tin agapuse (imperfv.)*. ‘(S)he loved her.’

(b) *Tin agapise (perfv.)*. ‘He fell in love with her.’

I think that the verb *agapo* ‘I love’ can have both these meanings independently from the aspect, i.e.

(c) *I mana agapise (perfv.) ti neogeniti korula tis* ‘The mother loved her newly born daughter’

(d) *Agapouse* (imperfv.) καθε ομορφι γιναικα ‘He used to fell in love with every beautiful woman’

- About the example in page 188 *Teliona to vivio alla den to teliosa* “I was to finish the book, but I didn’t”, I note that I belong to the native speakers who consider this sentence correct from a grammatical and semantical point of view. So, I suggest that the author should comment this example more in order to be understood why he uses the symbol (?).

## 2) Bibliography

### 2.1. Bibliography for the diachrony of the phenomenon

In the chapter with the diachronic issues of the phenomenon, the author should take into consideration the following scientific articles:

Leiwo M., Halla-Aho H., 2002. A marriage contract. Aspects of Latin-Greek language contact. *Mnemosyne*, 2002 (55, fasc. 5): 560-580.

Spevac O., 2016. À propos de l’aspect verbal en grec ancien, en slave et en latin. *Bulletin de la Societe de Linguistique de Paris* 111(1):243-275

The author should study also the recently edited grammar of medieval Greek:

Holton, D. G. Horrocks, M. Janssen, T. Lendari, Io Manolessou, N. Toufexis. 2019. *The Cambridge Grammar of Medieval and early Modern Greek*, vol. 1-4. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

From this multi-volume work, it must be studied the 4<sup>th</sup> volume which is dedicated to the medieval Greek syntax.

### 2.2 Bibliography for the synchronic study of the phenomenon

The author should study the following articles or books, which are missing from the bibliography of this thesis. I suggest to be written at least one paragraph where the author should

note that these studies prove that the interest in the Greek aspectology has been increasing since the last decades. Below the suggested extra bibliography is cited:

- Βαλετόπουλος Φ., 2001. Το γραμματικό ποιόν ενεργείας στη διδασκαλία της ελληνικής ως δεύτερης ή ξένης γλώσσας. Στο Μ. Βάμβουκας και Α. Χατζηδάκη (εκδ.), *Μάθηση και διδασκαλία της ελληνικής ως μητρικής και ως δεύτερης γλώσσας*. Αθήνα: Ατραπός, 59-69.
- Μόζερ Α., 1999. Άποψη και τροπικότητα στα συμπληρώματα των αντιληπτικών ρημάτων. In A. Moser (ed.) *Greek Linguistics '97: Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Greek Linguistics, Athens, September 1997*, pp. 170-178. Αθήνα: Ελληνικά Γράμματα; 1999.
- Μόζερ Α., 2007. Άποψη, χρόνος και ιστορία. *Μελέτες για την ελληνική γλώσσα* 27: 286-299.
- Νατσόπουλος Δ. Σ., Παναγοπούλου Ε., 1985. Η μάθηση της ρηματικής όψης της νέας ελληνικής σε εξαρτημένες προτάσεις από ξενόγλωσσους. Εξελικτική σύγκριση προς τους φυσικούς ομιλητές. *Μελέτες για την Ελληνική γλώσσα* 5: 185-200.
- Paraskevas-Shepard C. 1987. *A context-dependent approach to tense, mood and aspect in Modern Greek*. Ph.D. diss., University of Kansas.
- Psaltou-Joycey A., 1987. Aspectual oppositions in Greek and in English. *Selected papers on theoretical and applied linguistics* vol.1, 70-80.
- Reed S., 2014. A Distributed Morphology analysis of tense and aspect in Greek. In Annamaria Bartolotta, ed. *The Greek Verb. Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting on Greek Linguistics, Agrigento, October 1-3, 2009*, 277-290.
- Spyropoulos V., Revithiadou A., Kappa I., Nikolou K., Lengeris A., Stamatogiannis N., Markopoulos G., Anagnostopoulos, P. 2013. A comparative study of Albanian-Greek: Aspects of phonological and morphosyntactic structure. *Albanohellenica* 5: 53-74
- Stephany U., 1987. A contrastive analysis of aspectual meanings of Modern Greek verb forms and their equivalents in an English translation of Nicos Kazantzakis novel 'Βίος και πολιτεία του Αλέξη Ζορμπά'. *Selected papers on theoretical and applied linguistics* vol. 1, 1-12
- Τζεβελέκου Μ., 1989. Χρόνος, ρηματική όψη και ποιόν ενεργείας: πλευρές των σχέσεών τους. *Μελέτες για την ελληνική γλώσσα* 9:369-388.
- Χειλά-Μαρκοπούλου Δ., Μόζερ Α., 2001. Τελικότητα και αναφορικότητα στη ρηματική φράση της νέας ελληνικής: ποιόν ενεργείας και άρθρο. Στο Γ. Αγγουράκη, Α. Αρβανίτη, J. Davy, Δ. Γούτσος, Μ. Καρυσολαίμου, Α. Παναγιώτου-Τριανταφυλλοπούλου, Α. Παπαπαύλου, Α.

Παύλου και Α. Ρούσσου (εκδ), *Πρακτικά 4ου Διεθνούς Συνεδρίου Ελληνικής Γλωσσολογίας*, 138-145. Θεσσαλονίκη: University Studio Press,  
Ψάλτου-Joycey Αγγελική 2005. Η λειτουργία της ρηματικής όψης κατά την αναφορά στο παρελθόν. *Πρακτικά του 6ου Διεθνούς Συνεδρίου Ελληνικής Γλωσσολογίας*, τόμ. 1 σ.453-461.  
Ρέθυμνο. Πανεπιστήμιο Κρήτης, Εργαστήριο Γλωσσολογίας.

### 3. Presentation of the bibliography

#### 3.1 The bibliographic presentation of works of the Greek literature

Works of the ancient, post-classical, medieval and early Modern Greek literature must be concentrated all together in a specific part of the bibliography. There, I suggest the author to use abbreviations for the authors' names and their works and after to add the edition of each of them. In other words, it must be followed the practice applied for this kind of references by major lexicographic or grammatical enterprises (see the referential system of Liddell & Scott (1996), of *Cambridge Grammar of Medieval and early Modern Greek* of Holton, Horrocks et al. (2019) etc.).

Suggested abbreviations:

*Adelphotes. Grammar* = *Grammatiki tis koinis ton Ellinon glossis* (Γραμματική τῆς κοινῆς τῶν Ἑλλήνων Γλώσσης) [The Grammar of the common Greek language]. In  
Horbartsch, O. (ed.), *Adelphotēs: die erste gedruckte griech-kirchenslav. Grammatik*,  
L'viv-Lemberg 1591. München: Kubon und Sagner.

Arist. = Aristoteles

*Metaph.* = *Metaphysica*, see *Ta meta ta fysika. Metaphysica. Metafizyka*, vol. 2.  
Lublin: Redakcja, 1996. Wydawnicza Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego.  
(Translation of Źeleźnik, T.)

Chrysol. *Erotimata* = Michael Chrysoloras, (Μιχαήλ Χρυσολωράς) *Erotimata* (Ερωτήματα)  
[Queries], 1517. (<http://anemi.lib.uoc.gr/metadata/a/5/c/metadata-07-0000000.tkl>)  
(Accessed 2016-02-28.)

Dion. Thrax = Dionysios Thrax *Grammatikē Technē*. Athens: Elliniki Glossiki Klironomia (Ελληνική Γλωσσική Κληρονομία), 2003.

Gaza Grammar = Theodoros Gaza, (Θεόδωρος Γαζής,). *Grammatikis Eisagogis Vivlia Tessera*. (Γραμματικῆς Εἰσαγωγῆς βιβλία Τέσσερα), 1525 [Four Books of Introduction to Grammar]. (<http://digital.lib.auth.gr/record/132027/files/1.pdf>) (Accessed 2016-02-28.)  
Givón

Pl.= Plato

*Cra.* = *Cratylus*, see Kratylos. Lublin: Redakcja Wydawnicza Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, (Translation of Brzostowska Z.), 1990

*Ion*, see Ion. Charmides. Lizys. Kęty: Wydawnictwo ANTYK. (Translation of Witwicki W.), 2002

*Chrm.* = Charmides, see Ion. Charmides. Lizys. Kęty: Wydawnictwo ANTYK. (Translation of Witwicki W.), 2002

*Sofianos, Grammar*= *Grammatiki tis koinis ton Ellinon glossis nyn to proton kata to en Parisois heirografon* (Γραμματική τῆς κοινῆς τῶν Ἑλλήνων Γλώσσης: νῦν τὸ πρῶτο κατὰ τὸ ἐν Παρισίοις Χειρόγραφον) [The Grammar of the common Greek Language: The first of the Parisian Manuscripts]. In Legrandiou, Ai. (ed.), *Collection de Monuments* (La Lingua Neo-Hellenica 6), 27–80. Paris: Librairie Maisonneuve et c, 1880.

### 3.2 Correction of some bibliographic references

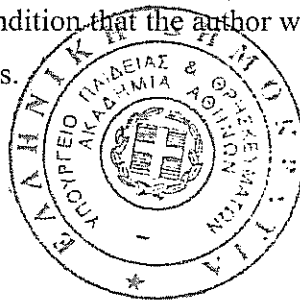
The following bibliographic references must be corrected:

- Katsouda, G. (Κατσούδα, Γ.) 2007. *Synchroni Praktyki Grammatiki Tsepis* (Σύγχρονη Πρακτική Γραμματική Τσέπης) [Pocket Contemporary Practical Grammar]. Athens: Angyra → Katsouda, G. (Κατσούδα, Γ.) 2018<sup>14</sup> *Synchroni Praktyki Grammatiki Tsepis* (Σύγχρονη Πρακτική Γραμματική Τσέπης) [Pocket Contemporary Practical Grammar]. Athens: Angyra

The pagination in the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of this grammar book is just the same as in the first edition

- *Leksiko tis Kinis Neoellinikis [Dictionary of Modern Greek]* by Iakov et al. (1998) → LKN: Institute of Modern Greek Studies (Manolis Triantafyllidis Foundation) 2007<sup>7</sup>. *Leksiko tis Kinis Neoellinikis [Dictionary of Modern Greek]*. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- Klairis, Ch. (Κλαίρης, Χ.) & Μραμπινιώτης, Γ. (Μραμπινιώτης, Γ.) 2005. *Grammatiki tis neas ellinikis: domoleitourgiki – epikoionoiaki (Γραμματική της νέας ελληνικής: δομολειτουργική – επικοινωνιακή) [The grammar of Modern Greek: structural – communicative]*. Athens: Ellinika Grammata (Ελληνικά Γράμματα). → Klairis, Ch. (Κλαίρης, Χ.) & Μραμπινιώτης, Γ. (Μραμπινιώτης, Γ.) 2005 (in cooperation with A. Μρακικού-Ορφανού, A. Moser, St. Skopetea). *Grammatiki tis neas ellinikis: domoleitourgiki – epikoionoiaki (Γραμματική της νέας ελληνικής: δομολειτουργική – επικοινωνιακή) [The grammar of Modern Greek: structural – communicative]*. Athens: Ellinika Grammata (Ελληνικά Γράμματα).

With its profound introduction to the verbal Aspect, the worldview theory, the in-depth analysis of the aspect in adversative sentences, the solid methodology and the explanatory sufficiency, Kamil Trąba's Dissertation is a piece of very serious research on the field of Modern Greek Aspectology. For all these reasons I recommend to be accepted as a PhD Thesis, which can be also published in the future under the condition that the author will take into consideration all the proposed above remarks and observations.



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