

Root small clauses in Greek

PLC 47

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A) Introduction

- Root small clauses--
 - 'Mad Magazine' utterances: 'What? Me worry?' (Akmajian 1984. Lambrecht 1990, Progovac 2006, 2007)
 - Reduced participials in Italian (Cecchetto & Donati 2022)
 - BARE NOUN REDUCED Paziente guarito patient.M.SG heal.PPRT.M.SG 'The patient recovered'
- Ellipsis or more minimal?
- How much structure is needed for illocutionary force?
- Why a restricted distribution (root phenomenon)

B) The data--Expanding the discussion to Greek

- OTHER-DIRECTED WISHES—BLESSINGS, CURSES
- EMPATHETIC OBSERVATIONS (EMPATHY WITH ADDRESSEE)
- REDUCED SUGGESTIONS, DEMANDS
- PROCLAMATIONS

Nominal [Predicate: DP]

- (1) a. Synxaritiria Eleni]! [PP Stin to-the.f.acc Eleni congratulations
 - 'Congratulations to Eleni!'
 - b. Dropi sou!
 - shame you.gen.cl
 - 'Shame on you.'

[Predicate: ADJP] Adjectival

- (2) a. Panta aksios kyrios Nounesis]! $[\mathbf{DP} \ \mathbf{0}]$ always worthy.m.nom the.m.nom Mr.m.nom Nounesis.nom
 - 'Mr Nounesis is ever worthy!'
 - b. Oreas $[\mathbf{DP} \quad \mathbf{0i}]$ **ntomates** beautiful.pl.f/m.nom the.pl.f/m.nom tomatoes.pl.f.nom
 - 'The tomatoes are beautiful (delicious-looking).'
 - c. Aionia eternal.f.nom the.f.nom memory.f the.f.gen mother.gen yours.pl.gen 'May your mother's memory be eternal.'
 - d. Perastika sou/ [pp stin Anna]! passing you.gen/ to.the.f.acc Anna

 - 'Get well soon (you)! / May Anna get well soon.'
 - e. Aghios Theos]! the.m.nom God.nom [holy.m.nom 'God is holy!'

[Predicate: ADV] Adverbs

- paidia] /*kalos-se (3) kalos –tin / kalos [DP ta well - cl.3f.acc the.pl.n kids well -cl.2s.acc well 'Welcome!' Literally: well-her /well the kids! / *well you!
- paidhia], piso [DP oi (4) brosta [DP ta meghaloi] in.back the.pl.nom grownups the.pl.n.nom kids, 'the kids should go/be in the front, and the grownups in the back.'

c) Reduced, not elliptical; major properties

These cannot be analyzed as elliptical sentences—they sometimes have different meanings & syntactic properties than apparently corresponding sentences with verbs

- Word order for RSC =rigidly PREDICATE SUBJECT
- Word order non-verbal predication with copula=flexible

GENERIC SUBJECT IMPOSSIBLE

- petres einai varies b. varies einai oi petres the.pl stones are heavy.pl heavy.pl are the.pl stones 'the stones are heavy.'/'stones are heavy (contrastive focus).' (generic)
- (6) varies oi petres]
 - heavy.pl the.pl.nom stones
 - 'The stones are heavy.' / *'stones are heavy.' (generic reading not possible)

IMPOSTER REQUIRED

- (7) a. kalos-irthis! b. (se-) kalos-orizo well-set well arrived.2sg Literally: 'You came well.' (i.e. 'Welcome!) 'I welcome you.' (8) kalos –tin kalos ta pedia /*kalos-se
- well the.pl.n kids well - cl.3f.acc well –cl.2s.acc 'Welcome!' Literally: well-her /well the kids! / *well you!

'WRONG' CASE

- b. Dropi sou (9) a. sedropiasan cl.2.acc - shamed.3pl shame cl.2.gen 'They shamed you.' 'Shame on you.'
- NO TAGS FOR PROCLAMATIONS; OK FOR NON-VERBAL PREDICATION WITH COPULA (10)a. Aghios einai o Theos, dhen eina?
 - holy is the God, not is 'God is holy, isn't He?'
 - b. Aghios o Theos, *dhen einai holy the God, *not is intended: 'God is holy, isn't he?'

A closer look at the meanings expressed by RSCs indicates that they systematically involve addressees, and often interlocutor-addressees:

- Other-directed wishes—blessings, curses (1a, 2b, 3)
- Empathetic observations —elicits empathy with addressee (2a, 9)
- Suggestions, demands—imperatives (4)
- Proclamations—-(5)

Interlocutor/Addressee sensitivity of Greek elsewhere in its grammar.

- (12) Topothetoume prassa (recipe)
 - add.1pl leeks
 - Literally; We add leeks/ recipe: "Add leeks"

Interlocutor addressee requires imperative form.

selected references

Akmajian 1984; Antonov 2015; Cecchetto & Donati 2022; Cheng, L. L.-S., C. Heycock, and R. Zamparelli (2017); Hill 2007; Lambrecht 1990; Miyagawa 2017; McFadden 2020; Portner, Pak, & Zanuttini 2019; Progovac 2006, 2007

D) Licensing in reduced structures

Proposal: addressee orientation of RSCs due to presence of an allocutive head in these constructions. In support of this proposal, I note that

- RSCs are indeed restricted to root clauses (independently observed in Progovac 2007 for mad magazine utterances, with quite different conclusions).
- [adjunct clause] varies oi petres (ok: ...yiati oi petres einai varies) *Kourástika yiati
 - got.tired.1s because heavy the stones because the stones sre heavy intended: 'I got tired because the stones are heavy.'
 - b.??I Sophia ipe oti varia i petra [embedded indicative] the Sophia said that heavy the stone
 - intended: 'Sophia said that the stone is heavy.' [small clause] [varies tis petres] c.Theoro consider.1s heavy.f.pl the.f.pl.acc stone

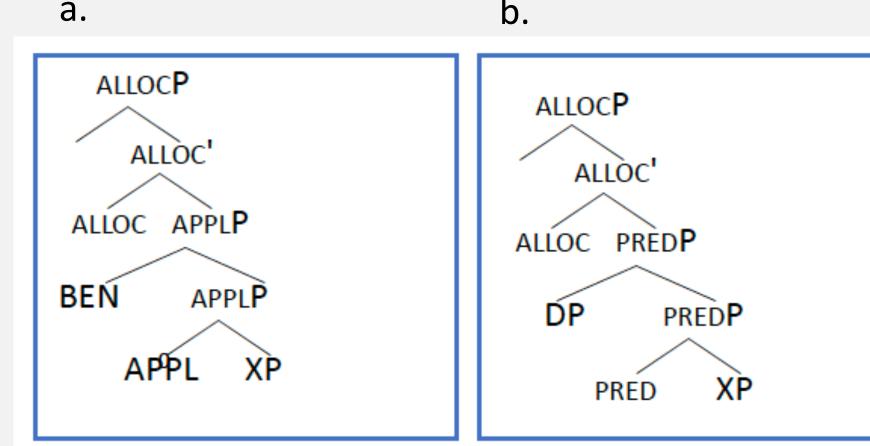
'I consider (the) stones heavy.' (generic interpretation okay)

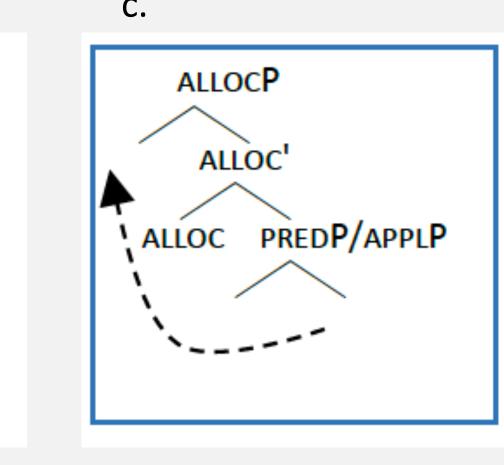
This is a distribution also demonstrated by imperatives and allocutive constructions (in many languages- McFadden 2020, Miyagawa 2017 for allocutivity): they are restricted to root environments.

- allocutivity: addressee is indexed in some way, although not (necessarily) expressed in argument structure
- Same distribution as allocutive agreement (McFadden 2020, Miyagawa 2017)

(14) allocutive head has selected a predication such as an AppliedPhrase (14a) or PredPhrase (14b), and the predicate moves out of that phrase to the specifier of the allocative phrase (14c).

Just as definiteness can be accomplished without a definite morpheme, but instead by word order variation—a phrase moves to the specifier of an empty head to license the DP projection (Cheng, Heycock, & RZamparelli 2017), so too, I argue, can an allocutive phrase (AllocP) be licensed without overt morphology, via movement of an XP (the predicate) to the specifier position of AllocP (14c):





CONCLUSION: RSCs can be constructed out of smaller parts than usual for sentences.

- These are reduced sentences—i.e., not elliptical, rather made out of smaller parts
- Illocutionary force does not require φ-phrase/TP; allocutive phrase can license a variety of smaller structures
- Contra Progovac, lack of embedding of minor sentence types (such as RSCs) does not argue for a different mode of simple sentence creation (other than merge alone); rather shows richness of syntax of speaker/addressee interactions