



Research Networking Programmes

Short Visit Grant or Exchange Visit Grant

(please tick the relevant box)

Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file – maximum of eight A4 pages) should be submitted online within one month of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

Proposal Title: A contrastive analysis of the linguistic encoding of boundary crossing in Ancient Greek, Italian and French

Application Reference N°: 6988

1) Purpose of the visit

The main purposes of my visit to Vienna were collecting the bibliography to build the theoretical framework for my Ph.D. thesis and discussing some issues related to the topic of the linguistic expression of motion events with some specialists in the field. University of Vienna offered the unique chance to meet scholars with different backgrounds, whose competence provided a fundamental contribution to my research project.

2) Description of the work carried out during the visit

During the two weeks I spent in Vienna under the supervision of Professor Wolfgang U. Dressler, I had the great opportunity to study at the “Education, Linguistics and Comparative Literature Library” (in Sensengasse 3a), where I could find all the books and articles I needed on the topic of the encoding of motion events in Ancient Greek, in comparison with Italian and French. I used to spend the whole morning there, both during the week and at the weekend. During the first and the first half of the second week I met different scholars to whom I submitted my research project.

Dr. Eva Maria Freiberger, who worked on the acquisition of motion event expressions in early German child language for her Ph.D.

thesis, helped me find some introductory readings about the morphosyntactic devices languages of the world use to encode motion. Moreover, we discussed the coding system she referred to for her corpus-based analysis.

Dr. Sabine Laaha, whose Master's thesis was about the metaphorical uses of spatial and directional prepositions in French and Russian, recommended some basic readings to frame the different lexicalization patterns of motion events across languages.

Professor Soonja Choi, specialist in the development of spatial semantic categories in child language, discussed with me the way different kinds of Path can influence or determine the choice of a particular syntactic construction. She also recommended some articles by Papafragou on the expression of motion events in Modern Greek and English.

With respect to the morphological section of my research project, I had the great opportunity to meet one of the main specialists in the field of word-formation processes, Professor Franz Rainer. We discussed some issues related to the topic of preverbalization in modern and ancient Indo-European languages and he gave me some bibliographical inputs. Professor Franz Rainer also contacted Professor Thomas Lindner, from University of Salzburg, who had some important advice for my thesis as well.

At the beginning of my second week in Vienna, I met Professor David Goldstein, an American syntactician, specialist in Ancient Greek, whose suggestions were extremely useful. He strongly promoted the comparison between Greek and other ancient Indo-European languages, in order to check their preference for synthetic or analytic constructions to express motion events. He also recommended to contact some scholars (mostly Italian) applying the models of General Linguistics to the study of Ancient Greek, such as Tatiana Nikitina, Sonia Cristofaro, Silvia Luraghi, Maria Elena Napoli, Anna Pompei.

Professor Martin Peters, specialist in Ancient Greek and Proto-Indo-European, suggested some readings on the use of prepositions and cases in Ancient Greek.

Professor Wolfgang U. Dressler was my supervisor for the two weeks I spent in Vienna. He contacted all the scholars I met and arranged my appointments with them. We met twice or three times a week and discussed my research project: he helped me address the main research questions and suggested to take into account some morphological issues, such as nominal derivation (*nomina agentis* and *nomina actionis* derived from motion verbs).

3) Description of the main results obtained

During the two weeks I spent in Vienna under the supervision of Professor Wolfgang U. Dressler, thank to the collaboration with scholars from different backgrounds and to the papers and books I could read in

the library, I defined the details of my Ph.D. project and identified the main aims of my research:

1) compiling an inventory of the lexical items involved in the encoding of the basic semantic components of a motion event in ancient Greek and creating a form for the coding of the data. For this purpose I identified the three main *loci* where Path and Manner can be lexicalized and tried to create specific morphosyntactic and semantic labels for each of them;

2) investigating the distribution of the elements and the competition between different sub-systems (preverbs, prepositions, adverbs, suffixes, case markers): what are the functional reasons governing the preference for one particular morphosyntactic device over the others?

More specifically, I will:

- analyze the semantic distinction between Path (βαίνω 'to come', ἔρχομαι 'to go', ἰκνέομαι 'to arrive') and Manner verbs (πλέω 'to sail', ῥέω 'to flow', πέτομαι 'to fly');
- identify the tools Ancient Greek employs to encode the Source and the Goal of motion, and check the possible asymmetry between these two sub-components of the Path. As several other languages of the world, Ancient Greek seems to have sophisticated means to express the Goal of motion: as a matter of fact, this subcomponent of Path can be encoded by the following prepositions (and the correspondent preverbs) followed by a noun in the accusative case: ἀνά ('up'), εἰς ('towards, into'), ἐπί ('upon'), κατά ('up to'), παρά ('on'), πρός ('towards'), ὑπέρ ('over, above'), ὑπό ('under, below'); in contrast, the Source of motion can be expressed only by two of the 18 so-called proper prepositions: ἐκ ('out of') and ἀπό ('from');
- investigate the role played by the the noun in the selection of the preposition to express the Source or the Goal of motion (i. e. the way the features of the Ground influence the choice of the preposition). In the following example taken from the first book of Herodotus' Histories two Goals of motion are encoded; with the name of the city the preposition εἰς is used, while one finds ἐπί selecting the name of the river: καταπλώσαντας γὰρ μακρῆ νηί **εἰς** Αἶαν τε τὴν Κολχίδα καὶ **ἐπὶ** Φᾶσιν ποταμόν.
- examine the way different kinds of Path can influence or determine the choice of a specific syntactic construction (transitive vs. intransitive constructions). In Choi's article about the typological differences in the expression of Path and Causation, an important distinction is drawn between End-Paths and Trajectory Paths. According to the kind of Path encoded, languages may differ in their preference for transitive or intransitive construction (see, for instance, English / *left the train vs. I left from the train*). I will check if this holds true also for Ancient Greek;
- investigate the different morphosyntactic encoding of bounded and unbounded motion events (i. e. is the Goal reached?);

- examine the difference between Location and Direction (dative vs. accusative case), and the selectional restrictions verbs of motion apply to locative complements. In a first phase of the Ancient Greek languages, stative verbs can select directional complements, as well as verbs of motion can be followed by locative complements . I will check if this is still possible in Classical Greek. As far as the bibliography on this topic is concerned, the works by Nikitina, Nikitina and Maslov, Skopeteas, could be of interest;

- investigate the co-occurrence of preverbs and prepositions within the same sentence, as well as the portion of Path they encode. See, for instance, the following examples in which the preverb and the preposition: coincide (a.); differ, though encoding the same portion of Path (b.);

differ and encode different portions of Path (c.).

(a.) οἱ νεηνῖαι **ὑπο**δύντες αὐτοὶ **ὑπὸ** τὴν ζεύγλην

(b.) τῆς Φοινίκης **ἐς** Τύρον **προσ**σχόντας

(c.) οὕτω μὲν Ἰοῦν **ἐς** Αἴγυπτον **ἀπι**κέσθαι λέγουσι Πέρσαι

- examine the expression of Manner and its salience in Ancient Greek (see Slobin's works);

- analyze the instances of multiple preverbation, such as:

ἔθελοντὴν αὐτὴν τοῖσι Φοῖνιξι συν-εκ-πλῶσαι

ὑπ-εκ-δύς

Other possible extensions of my research could concern:

- verbal compounds containing a motion verb, in order to check which semantic components can be incorporated;

- nominal derivation, in order to examine the interaction between preverbs and nominal suffixes. Do simple verbs take the same suffixes as preverbed verbs to form *nomina actionis* and *nomina agentis*?

A possible comparison with Italian and French (two typologically different languages) and Modern Greek (in order to investigate the diachronic evolution of motion event encoding) could be of interest. For both cases, I would use the translations of the texts. Moreover I will take into account the encoding of motion events in other ancient Indoeuropean languages.

4) **Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)**

5) **Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant (ESF must be acknowledged in publications resulting from the grantee's work in relation with the grant)**

I plan to publish an article on the topic of the morphosyntactic encoding of motion events in Ancient Greek.