

LUCIEN VAN BEEK, LUK HUITINK

Ancient Greek

Morphology – Part 2: Compounding



Universiteit
Leiden



Roadmap

- Compounding
 - Definition
 - Typology
 - Right-oriented compound types
 - Left-oriented compound types

Definition

- What counts as a compound? Criteria relevant for Ancient Greek:
 - 1. One main accent, sometimes on a different syllable:
 - κουρο-τρόφος ‘nursing sons’ <-> τροφός ‘nurse’
 - 2. Usually, morphological simplification:
 - Stem-compounding: 1st component is a stem, 2nd component is inflected
 - δουρικλειτός ‘famous for his spear’: is it a compound (dat. δουρί)?

Definition

- 2. Morphological simplification
 - When compounded, words may lose their suffixation:
Αἴγυπτο-γενής (1. 'born in Egypt': ἡ Αἴγυπτος)
2. 'of Egyptian descent': Αἰγύπτ-ιος
 - Usually no separate feminine form, except in PNs
 - e.g. Ἀντίγονος MN versus Ἀντιγόνη FN

Types of Compounds

- Basic syntactic division: subordinated vs coordinated compounds
 - **subordinated**: one component syntactically dependent on the other
 - κουροτρόφος (right-oriented)
 - ἔφαλος = what is ἐφ' ἀλί 'by the sea' (left-oriented)
 - **coordinated**: no dependency relation
 - δυώδεκα = "two-ten"

Types of Compounds

- Basic semantic division:
 - **Endocentric**: one component (the **head** of the compound) determines the semantic category
 - κουροτρόφος = a type of τροφός (right-headed)
 - **Exocentric (or headless)**: none of the components determines the semantic category
 - ἔφαλος = an entity located at the sea (left-oriented)

Greek Compound Types

- Right-oriented:
 - endocentric determinatives
 - exocentric determinatives (*bahuvrihis*)
 - exocentric V2 compounds (*verbale Rektionskomposita*)

- Left-oriented:
 - exocentric prepositional compounds
 - exocentric V1 compounds

Right-oriented Compounds

- Right-headed **endocentric** determinatives, examples:

ἀκρόπολις ‘upper town’ [A N]

οἰνόπεδον ‘vineyard’ [N N]

πόδαργος ‘swift-footed’ [N A]

ὑπέρυθρος ‘reddish’ [Prep A]

Right-oriented Compounds

- **Exocentric** determinatives (*bahuvrihis*)
 - underlying NP is a possession or property of the referent
 - recessive accentuation (exception: -ής)
- Morphological changes in 2nd component:

κράτος (n.) 'power'

> πολυ-κρατής 'powerful'

δίκη 'justice'

> ἄ-δικος 'having no justice, unjust'

φρήν 'sense, mind'

> εὖ-φρων 'having sense, prudent'

ὕδωρ 'water'

> μελάν-υδρος 'having dark water'

Right-oriented Compounds

- Exocentric **V2 compounds** (*verbale Rektionskomposita*)
 - Present a verbal action as typical of the referent
 - Accentuation depends on phonology/morphology/semantics
 - 1st component often an argument of the verb

βου-πλήξ ‘ox-goad’	(root cpd.)
τηλε-φαν-ής ‘visible in the distance’	(usually inagentive)
πατρο-κτόνος ‘who has killed his own father’	(agentive)
συ-βώ-της “who feeds swine”, ‘swineherd’	(masc. agent nouns)

Left-oriented Compounds

- **Prepositional:** nominalization of prep. phrase
 - ἔφαλος ‘located at the sea’ (Adv → A)

- **Exocentric V1 compounds:**
 - φερέοικος ‘carrying one’s house’
 - >> productive with thematic present/aorist
 - τερψίμβροτος ‘causing delight to mortals’
 - >> Productive with sigmatic aorist