

LUCIEN VAN BEEK, LUK HUITINK

Ancient Greek

Morphosyntactic Structures – Part 1: Agreement and Nominal Structures



Universiteit
Leiden



Roadmap

- Morphosyntactic categories
- Agreement
- Noun Phrases
- Linearization

Morphosyntactic Categories

Number: singular, plural, (dual)

Case: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, (vocative)

Gender: masculine, feminine, neuter

Person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Tense-Aspect: present (imperfect), aorist, perfect (pluperfect),
future (future perfect)

Voice: active, middle-passive

Mood: indicative, subjunctive, optative, imperative

(Degree: positive, comparative, superlative)

Morphosyntactic Categories

For nouns: number, case, (gender)

For adjectives: number, case, gender, degree

For articles, demonstrative and relative pronouns: number, case, gender

For personal pronouns: person, number, case

For finite verbs: person, number, tense-aspect, voice, mood

For participles: number, case, gender, tense-aspect, voice

Infinitives: tense-aspect, voice

Basic Rules of Agreement

- A finite verb agrees in person and number with its subject:

ἡ ναῦς ἀνάγεται the ship is setting out (*third person singular*)

ἡμεῖς ἀναγόμεθα we are setting out (*first person plural*)

- But with neuter plurals, the subject is normally singular:

τὰ ἔθνη ταῦτα τῇ πόλει πολέμια ἦν. (Thuc. 5.51.2)

These tribes were hostile to the city.

Basic Rules of Agreement

- Modifying articles/adjectives/participles/adnominal pronouns agree with the head of an NP in case, number and gender:

ὁ σοφὸς ἀνὴρ	the wise man (<i>nom. sg. masc.</i>)
τοῖς σοφοῖς ἀνδράσιν	the wise men (<i>dat. pl. masc.</i>)
ἡ γυνή ἡ σοφὴ	the wise woman (<i>nom. sg. fem.</i>)

- But predicative neuter adjectives often occur with masc./fem. nouns:

σοφὸν ... ἡ προμηθία. (Hdt. 3.36.1)

Foresight is a sensible thing.

Basic Rules of Agreement

- A relative pronoun agrees in number and gender (but not case) with its nominal antecedent:

ἡ ναῦς ἣν ὁρᾷς the ship which you see

- Relative attraction

τῇ νηϊ ἣ ὁρᾷς the ship which you see

ἔσεσθε ἄνδρες ἄξιοι τῆς ἐλευθερίας ἣς κέκτησθε. (Xen. An. 1.7.3)
You will be men worthy of the freedom which you possess.

Noun Phrases

- Definiteness is marked by the article ὁ/ἡ/τό

ἡ σωφροσύνη	restraint
οἱ λέοντες	lions (as a species)
ὁ Ξενοφῶν	Xenophon

Complex Noun Phrases

attributive position of the modifier (the modifier is preceded directly by the article):

ὁ <u>ἀγαθός</u> ἀνὴρ	}	the good man
ὁ ἀνὴρ ὁ <u>ἀγαθός</u>		
ἀνὴρ ὁ <u>ἀγαθός</u> (<i>less frequent</i>)		

predicative position of the modifier (the modifier is not preceded directly by the article):

<u>ἀγαθός</u> (...) ὁ ἀνὴρ	}	the man, being good, ... (<i>or</i> : the man is good)
ὁ ἀνὴρ (...) <u>ἀγαθός</u>		

Types of Modifier and their Position

- Predicative: demonstrative pronouns, quantifiers (usually), αὐτός 'self'

ὁ πόλεμος ὅδε / ὅδε ὁ πόλεμος	this war
ἄμφω τὼ πόλεις	both cities
ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτός / αὐτὸς ὁ ἀνὴρ	the man himself

- Attributive: possessive pronouns, αὐτός 'the same'

ἡ ἐμὴ μήτηρ	my mother
ὁ αὐτὸς ἀνὴρ/ὁ ἀνὴρ ὁ αὐτός	the same man

Types of Modifier and their Position

- Attributive genitives may occur in both positions:

ὁ δῆμος ὁ τῶν Ἀθηναίων The Athenian people

ὁ δῆμος τῶν Ἀθηναίων

- But partitive genitives and genitive of personal pronouns stand in predicative position; those of other pronouns in attributive position:

οἱ πλούσιοι τῶν πολιτῶν the rich among the citizens

ἡ οἰκία μου my house

τὸ ταύτης βιβλίον the book of that woman

Other Types of Modifier

- Adverbs:

παίουσιν ... τοὺς ἐνδον ἀνθρώπους. (Xen. An. 5.2.17)

They struck the people (who were) inside.

- Prepositional phrases:

ὁρῶσι τὰ ἐπὶ ταῖς πύλαις πράγματα. (Xen. An. 7.1.17)

They saw the things (that were happening) at the gates.

Linearization

- Both Head-Modifier and Modifier-Head occur

ταφαὶ δὲ τοῖσι εὐδαίμοσι αὐτῶν εἰσὶ αἶδε· τρεῖς μὲν ἡμέρας προτιθεῖσι τὸν νεκρὸν.
(Hdt. 5.8)

The burial rites of the more prosperous (Thracians) are as follows: they lay out the corpse for three days.

People from India only go out into the desert, ζευξάμενος ἕκαστος καμήλους τρεῖς
(Hdt. 3.102.3)

... each first yoking three camels.

Discontinuous Noun Phrases

- ‘Y1 Hyperbaton’:

Without [μεστῇ [πολλῶν ἀγαθῶν NP] AP] ‘full of many good things’ (Xen. *An.* 3. 5. 1)

With Y1: πολλῶν μεστὸν ἀγαθῶν ‘full of many good things’ (Pl. *Leg.* 906a)

- ‘Y2 Hyperbaton’:

ἵππον ἔχων λευκόν ‘Having a white horse’ (Xen. *An.* 7. 3. 26)

- Further intervening material:

πλεῖστον ἐκ τῆς πολιτείας εἰληφὼς ἀργύριον ‘Having gained a lot of money from politics’. (Aeschin. 3. 173)