Some remarks on the rise of declarative Modern Greek complement marker $\pi\omega\varsigma$

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Περίληψη

Στο άρθρο αυτό εξετάζουμε όψεις της διαχρονικής εξέλιξης του νεοελληνικού δείκτη υπόταξης πως. Στη βάση μιας κριτικής ανάγνωσης των θέσεων του Nicholas (1996) και παρουσιάζοντας νέα παραδείγματα, προτείνουμε ένα εναλλακτικό σενάριο για την ανάδυση του πως σύμφωνα με το οποίο ο νεοελληνικός δείκτης υπόταξης δεν προέρχεται μόνο από το ερωτηματικό πῶς της Αρχαίας και Κοινής Ελληνικής, όπως προτείνει ο Nicholas, αλλά και από το αναφορικό ὅπως.

Λέζεις - Κλειδιά: Γλωσσική Αλλαγή, Διαχρονική Σύνταζη, Συμπληρωματικές Δομές, Παρεμφατικότητα, Νέα Ελληνικά

1 Introduction

1.1 The (lack of) research on the diachrony of the Modern Greek Complement Markers

While in recent decades there has appeared a plethora of excellent studies (especially from the derivational/generative grammar paradigm) dealing with the Standard Modern Greek (MG) complement markers (CM)¹ and the complementation system in general, for the most part these studies and publications chiefly revolve around the analysis of control structures introduced by the subjunctive *na*-clauses and the challenge this constitutes for the mainstream syntactic theoretical model². Due to this theoretical emphasis, the diachronic research on the MG complementation has also been focusing on the development of *na*-finite structures³, being someway negligent in the overall development of the MG complementation.

An exception to this research trend constitutes Nicholas' two most valuable studies on the diachrony of the CM $\pi\omega\varsigma/pos$ and $\pi\omega\upsilon/pou$ (in 1996 and 1998 respectively). His analysis is based on grammaticalization theoretical models, which may be considered more appropriate in describing the graduality of the syntactic and semantic change of the pos and pou CMs from their Ancient (and Middle) Greek predecessors $\ddot{o}\pi\omega\varsigma-\pi\ddot{o}\varsigma/h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s-p\~{o}s$ and $\ddot{o}\pi\omega\upsilon/h\acute{o}pou$. The rise of the pos and pou CMs occurred not as a parametric change linked with syntactic operations, such as Move, but as a gradual shift (or rather extension) from adverbial and relative to complement hypotactic functions without significant restructuring of the clausal architecture, at

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¹ We opt for the term "complement marker" to describe both clausal subordinators and preverbal mood markers. The term "complementizer", in turn, is reserved for its technical interpretation as the head of a Complementiser Phrase (C° of a CP). Cf. also Karantzola and Sampanis 2016.

² For a state-of-the-art overview, cf. Anagnostopoulou 2013: 20ff.

³ Cf. Joseph 1983, Markopoulos 2007, Roberts and Roussou 2003, pp. 74 -87.

least at the surface level⁴. Thereby, a functional methodology seems to match better in this case⁵.

In this paper we critically discuss certain points addressed in Nicholas 1996 concerning the diachrony of *pos* and we put forward a slightly alternative scenario to the one he proposes.

1.2 A comparative overview of the Ancient (Classical) and Modern Greek Complementation systems.

A striking distinction between the Ancient Greek (AG) and the MG complementation systems is the absence of non-finite predicate complements in the latter. The gradual decline and loss of infinitival structures and the parallel rise of finite constructions has been largely discussed in the literature⁶.

AG infinitives could be found both in Control and Obviation (cf. "Accusativus cum Infinitivo") contexts but also, notably, in cases of "insubordination", i.e. in root (or matrix) infinitives or, more crucially, after *verba dicendi*. Along with the infinitives, AG predicates selected participial and finite complement clauses, mainly introduced by the (assertive) CM $\delta \tau v/h \delta ti$ or $\delta c/h \delta s$. In broad strokes, the AG (i.e., as already said, the Attic/Classical Greek) complementation followed the following rules9:

- i. Verbs of saying and claiming (e.g. λέγειν 'to say', ὁμολογεῖν 'to agree', ὑπισχνεῖσθαι 'to promise') + ὅτι or ὡς (rarer: Infinitives, e.g. after φάναι 'to say, to claim')
- ii. Verbs of opinion (e.g. νομίζειν 'to deem', οἴεσθαι 'to suppose, to hold (that)', ἡγεῖσθαι) + Infinitiv
- iii. Verbs of perception (e.g. ὁρᾶν 'to see') and knowledge (e.g. εἰδέναι 'to know') + ὅτι or ὡς; + Participle
- iv. Verbs meaning 'to point' (e.g. δεικνύναι 'to point, to indicate') or 'to announce' (e.g. ἀγγέλλειν 'to announce') + + ὅτι or ὡς; + Participle (rarer: + Inf.).
- v. Verbs of will or wishing (e.g. βούλεσθαι 'to wish') + Infinitive.

Contrary to AG, MG does not have non-finite complements at language's disposal. Yet, (coincidentally) similarly to AG, the complementation of the modern language does not follow a Control versus Obviation pattern¹⁰. The same grammatical

⁴ It is reasonable to state that the MG subordinated interrogative marker π ώς is merged in a SpecCP position while the CM π ως is a Complementiser merged in the head of a CP. To examine how this shift occurred is beyond the scope of this paper.

⁵ Needless to say, that a derivational model can be more insightful in cases involving radical structural changes. Ideally, a linguist should make the best of both worlds by combining formal and functional approaches as in Fischer 2007. Cf. also the analysis of *na* in Roberts and Roussou 2013: 74ff.

⁶ Joseph 1983 for the loss of infinitives within the Balkansprachbund context. Sampanis 2011 and 2013 indicated that the MG *na*-clauses have taken over certain functions of the AG participial complementation as well.

⁷ Cf. Evans and Watanabe 2016

⁸ Cf. Keydana 2017.

⁹ Based on Bornemann and Risch ¹²2008: 286.

¹⁰ French and German for example after a volitional predicate we find an infinitival complement when matrix and embedded subjects are identical while in obviation contexts French selects a 'that'+subjunctive clause and German a 'that'+indicative one: French: a. *je veux lire*, b. *je veux que tu lise*. German: a. *ich will lesen* b. *ich will, dass du liest*.

category, the subjunctive mood as instantiated by a verbal form headed by the CM (or actually the Mood Marker/Particle) na^{11} , serves for both "Control" and Obviation as in (1):

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(1)
θέλω να διαβάσω/διαβάσεις
want-1SG. M.PRT. read-1SG./2SG.SUBJ.(+PERF.)
"I want to read/I want you to read"
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The *na*-subjunctive complement clauses are selected by predicates with future-oriented, deontic or dynamic and phasal semantics. Predicates entailing a "realis", assertive meaning such as verbs of saying, thinking, believing select complements introduced by *óti* and *pos*. The MG complementation mosaic is completed by the CM $\pi ov/pou$ selected by the so-called factives, i.e. verbs (expressing emotions, perception or remembrance)¹³ that commit "the speaker to the truth of a subordinate proposition" (Matthews ²2005: 125).

While the distribution of every CM is mostly clearly delineated from each other, there are some cases of overlapping, which however can be easily interpreted if we consider differentiations in the semantic content of the matrix predicate. So, there are some straightforward cases in which a shift in CM leads to change in meaning, for example $x\acute{e}ro + \acute{o}ti/pos$ means 'I know that' whereas $x\acute{e}ro + na$ is equivalent to English 'I know to...' or 'I know how...'. Yet, there are pairs or even "triplets" of CMs that occur after a single predicate, for example after verbs of perception¹⁴. In these cases, which we do not examine herein, it is the complement clause, not the matrix predicate, that determines the exact semantics of the overall phrase.

The CMS *óti* and *pos* are in free distribution although *pos* is considered more colloquial. The syntactic and semantic interchangeability of the two CMs is illustrated below:

Predicate + CM <i>óti</i> or <i>pos</i>	Attestations
nomízo óti versus nomízo pos (nomízo = 'I think')	210.646x versus 66.064x
xéro óti versus xéro pos (xéro = 'I know')	109.576x versus 45.839x
léi óti versus léi pos (léi = '(s/he) says')	61.786x versus 17.709x
elpízo óti versus elpízo pos (elpízo = 'I hope')	33.154x versus 8.842x
tharó óti versus tharó pos (tharó = 'to believe', 'to trow')	797x versus 3.494x

Table 1 | Distribution of *óti* and *pos*, Source: Sketch Engine's Greek Web 2014 (elTenTen14) Corpus

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¹¹ Cf. e.g. Philippaki-Warburton 1994, Sampanis 2012.

¹² Sensu stricto, in (1) the volitional *thélo* 'I want' is not an obligatory control verb (as modal verbs are for example) since it obviously allows for obviation. What we want to point out here is that both in non-obviation and obviation structures there occurs the same grammatical category as a complement. As we saw, this is also the case in English but not in French or German.

¹³ For a detailed account cf. Christidis 1982, Roussou 2006, Holton et al. ²2012: 531ff.

¹⁴ Cf. Roussou 2006: 103.

In all cases of semantically distinct predicates both δti and pos are featured while, as expected, pos is less frequent in written attestations. In our samples, the only exception is after the verb $\theta\alpha\rho\rho\dot{\omega}$ thar $\dot{\phi}$ which has a more archaic/poetic vernacular nuance.

From (both) ὅπως and πῶς to MG πως

Unlike $\acute{o}ti$ which stems from an AG subordinator, pos rises as a CM in a later period. Etymologically, pos is associated with the AG interrogative $\pi \tilde{\omega} c/p\tilde{o}s$ 'how' and its relative equivalent $\tilde{o}\pi \omega c/h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$. Both forms, phonologically evolved as $\pi \acute{\omega} c/p\acute{o}s$ (stressed and accentuated in its written form in order to become distinct from CM $\pi \omega c$) and $\acute{o}pos$ in MG, are still in use in MG and the latter introduces adverbial clauses of manner ('as', cf. Holton et al. ²2012: 560) or stands as a free relative (meaning 'no matter how...'). From a typological perspective the grammaticalization path from interrogative/relative of manner to complementizer seems to be rare¹⁶.

Nicholas (1996) plainly suggests that the AG interrogative $p\tilde{o}s$ as the sole predecessor of the modern CM pos and, in the light of a number of attestations, he attempts to trace i) possible cases of reanalysis, in which the meaning of $p\tilde{o}s$ in Koinē and Early Middle Greek texts swings between the embedded interrogative and the complementation reading, and ii) cases of (analogical) extension in which the CM usage is attested in indisputably complement contexts. Consider the following example (Nicholas 1996: 198):

- (2) ἀπήγγειλέ τε ἡμῖν πῶς εἶδε τὸν ἄγγελον ἐν τῷ οἴκῷ αὐτοῦ σταθέντα καὶ εἰπόντα αὐτῶ
- "..narravit autem nobis quomodo vidisset angelum in domo sua stantem et dicentem sibi..."
- "He told us **how** he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying to him..."

(New Testament: Acts 11:13)

- In (2) both an adverbial and a complement interpretation of the subordinated clause introduced by $p\tilde{o}s$ are possible. Given that in older texts we always encounter the grapheme $\langle \pi\tilde{\omega}\varsigma \rangle$ it is uncertain whether this element really bore an accent or not. Therefore, only the context could determine the status of the subordinated clause, although this may not be decisive since $p\tilde{o}s$ here may oscillate between an adverbial and a complement interpretation. Yet, both the English and the older Latin translation opted for the interrogative meaning. The following case (Nicholas 1996: 200) is less vague:
 - (3) Καὶ λέγω ὑμῖν πῶς ἡ ψυχή, ὡς λέγει ὁ ἄγιος Γρηγόριος, τριμερής ἐστι. Έχει γὰρ τὸ ἐπιθυμητικὸν, καὶ τὸ θυμικὸν, καὶ τὸ λογικόν.

¹⁵ Cf. Holton et al. 2019: 1884ff.

 $^{^{16}}$ In Heine and Kuteva 2004: passim there is no comparable case. Nicholas (1996: 196) states that: "Greek is not unique in having a manner connective become a complementizer. (Schwyzer [1950] cites Avestan $y\bar{a}$, cognate to ho:s)". Cf. also West 2011: 80. The Avestan case however seems to have retained its adverbial/manner content while MG pos usage expanded over genuine complement functions.

"And I tell you 'how/that the soul, as St Gregory says, is composed of three parts. For it has a desirous part, and a wrathful part, and a reasoning part."

Whereas "technically" the subordinated clause could be ambiguous, the occurrence of $\gamma \dot{\alpha} \rho$ in the following sentence and the parenthetical reference to St. Gregory, point to a complement analysis of the embedded clause.

Most of cases gleaned by Nicholas exhibit the same ambivalence so that it is impossible to determine a *terminus post quem*, a date after which the usage of *pos* in complement clauses is established. As he ascertains, in "a period critical to the development of Modern Greek (700–1100)" the vernacular language was poorly documented and, in his view, it is difficult to mine out first-hand information about the evolution of $p\tilde{o}s$ at that time. Therefore, his examination turns to Late Middle and dialectal Greek, reaching the conclusion that the pos CM "did not take off immediately, but remained in marginal use for some time - thereby failing to secure a foothold in Greek relic dialects".

Nicholas (1996: 218) examines the logical possibility that MG $\pi\omega\zeta$ pos stems from AG $\delta\pi\omega\zeta$ hóp δs after the latter underwent the following phonological reduction following an accent shift from penultima to ultima: $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s > \acute{o}pos > op\acute{o}s > pos$. This change pattern was applied to other grammaticalized lexemes as well, e.g. $h\acute{n}a > ina > in\acute{a} > na$; $h\acute{o}pou > \acute{o}pou > opo\acute{u} > pou$ and it even seems to have affected $\acute{o}ti$ as the presence of a postverbal enclitic di/ti in the Anatolian Greek dialect of Pharasiot suggests¹⁷. Yet, Nicholas dismisses this scenario mainly on the basis of the following arguments: i) In Standard MG $\acute{o}pos$ is a Puristic revival, "since it had been displaced in the vernacular by the collocations kata pos/pou and san pos/pou ('according to that' and 'like that')"; ii) AG $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ was an irrealis complementizer usually in a purposive function. Additionally, Hult (1990) demonstrates that $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ "had already been displaced by $h\acute{i}na$ in the vernacular by v AD" (ibid.), iii) dialectal forms such as $ap\acute{o}s$ or $ap\acute{o}s$ are interpretable = through analogy to $apo\acute{u}$, a dialectal variant of $apo\acute{u}$.

Nicholas' statement against a derivation of MG pos from AG hópōs is however too categorical and, in fact, there are two main counterarguments to his approach:

i. In AG, hópōs had indeed a predominantly purposive interpretation, yet it habitually appeared after verbs meaning 'to strive' (e.g. σκοπεῖν/σκοπεῖσθαι), 'to plan' (e.g. βουλεύεσθαι, φροντίζειν, ὀρᾶν), 'to care for' (μέλειν μοι, ἐπιμέλεσθαι), 'to prepare oneself' (παρασκευάζεσθαι) as below:

(4) καὶ τὸ μὲν καλῶς ἔχον ὅπως χρονίζον εὖ μενεῖ βουλευτέον
 "We must take counsel that what is well shall continue to be well"
 (Aeschylus, Agamn. 846-7, apud Goodwin 1889: §339)

While most of these $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ -clauses are undoubtedly adverbial, they were often selected as belonging to the valency of the afore-mentioned predicates. As the translation of (4) indicates, the embedded clause can be readily interpreted as a complement one. Yet, there are examples more suggestive of the non-purposive interpretation of $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$:

 $^{^{17}}$ Cf. Bağrıaçık (2018: 298, fn. 4): "Consider also the fact that di in Andriotis (1948) and Anastasiadis (1976) is written with an immediately preceding apostrophe, i.e., 'di or 'ti. These authors adopt this convention because they assume the deletion of the initial [\acute{o}] in $\acute{o}ti$ in PhG and they mark the deleted constituent with an apostrophe."

(5) οὐ μὲν οὐδὲ φήσω ὅκως Αἰγύπτιοι παρ' Ἑλλήνων ἔλαβον ἢ τοῦτο ἢ ἄλλο κού τι νόμαιον

"Nor again will I say **that** the Egyptians took either this or any other custom from the Greeks."

 $(Herodotus, 2.49)^{18}$

The dialectal form $\delta \kappa \omega \varsigma / h \acute{o} k \bar{o} s$, a "cognate" to $h \acute{o} p \bar{o} s$, is often found in Ionic Greek as introducing a complement clause (and it would be an interesting working hypothesis to contemplate to what extent Ionic syntax contributed to the formation of Koinē later). Likewise, in late Classical Greek (CG) we also find similar complementation patterns, especially after negative matrix verbs:

(6) ἀλλ' ὅπως μέν, ἐγὼ ἄχθομαι ὑμᾶς τρέφων μηδ' ὑπονοεῖτε

"Do not let yourselves imagine, Cyrus and the rest of you Persians, **that** I am embarrassed at having to support you."

(Xen. Cyrop. 3.3.20)

In early Koinē, Horrocks (22010 : 90–94) observes the first signs of recession of the infinitival complementation. In the example below (ex. (7), ibid.: 90), it is an $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ -clause that is selected by a matrix verb which in CG would have an infinitive as its complement:

- (7) ἐπὶ τοῦ παρόντος κρίνω ψηφίσασθαι ὑμᾶς ὅπως τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν παρ' ὑμῖν Θεσσαλῶν...δοθῆι πολιτεία
- "...for the present I decree that we vote **that** citizenship be granted to those of the Thessalians living among you" (219 BC)

In papyri texts both $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ and $p\~{o}s$ are attested. Although an earlier attestation, $h\acute{o}p\={o}s$ -clause in (8) is better construed as a complement of a verb of knowledge. The $p\~{o}s$ -clause after a similar verb here is ambiguous but more meticulous research in papyri corpora would probably yield less vague examples. What is important here is to mention how both forms are used as complements of semantically comparable verbs.

- (8) Εἴ γνοῦναι ὅπως ανθρόπω [ἔ]τ[ι] ὀφείλω ὀβολόν. "to know **that** I still owe money to this man" (2nd c. AC)
- (9) οἶδας γὰρ **πῶς** αὐτοῦ ἐκάστης ὥρας χρήζωι "for you know **how**/ **that** I need him all the time" (1st c. AC)

Thus, we see that $h \acute{o} p \bar{o} s$ was not restricted in purposive meanings. On the contrary, its function as a CM is easy to trace up to Koinē.

ii. Nicholas' second argument about the decline of $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ in favour of $h\acute{i}na$ similarly does not seem to hold, as in the case below:

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http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Hdt.%202.49&lang=original (09.05.2020).

¹⁸ Retrieved from:

(10) Έλθωμεν οὖν εἰς ταπείνωσιν καὶ ὁ Θεὸς ἀποκαλύπτει ἡμῖν τὰ μυστήρια αὐτοῦ, <u>ἵνα</u> ὅπου δεῖ ἀεὶ λαλῶμεν, καὶ ὅπου οὐ δεῖ, ἀεὶ σιωπῶμεν, **ὅπως** γίνωνται τὰ ἀμφότερα εἰς ἀφέλειαν ἡμῶν τε καὶ τῶν ἀκουόντων

"Let us then come to humiliation and God reveals us his mysteries, in order that we always speak, when (<where) we should, and we always be silent, when we shouldn't (talk), so that both happen to our and listeners' benefit."

(Barsanuphius et Joannes, 644.47, 6th c.)

In this excerpt, the register of which is obviously non-learned or even vernacular, both hina and $hóp\bar{o}s$ appear in closely related but distinct semantic functions, the former as a final and the latter as a purposive subordinator. That $hóp\bar{o}s$ was still in regular use as shown in the example below gleaned from the same text:

(11) Οὕτω λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσι τὰ καλὰ ὑμῶν ἔργα

"Let the light so shine in front of the people, **so that** they see our good deeds" (Barsanuphius et Joannes, 834.16)

Thus, $h \acute{o} p \bar{o} s$ seems to have still been in use in the spoken language without having been replaced by $h \acute{i} n a$ as suggested. Moreover, again in texts without blatant archaisms, $h \acute{o} p \bar{o} s$ is attested as a CM, introducing a complement in a context where CG would select $h \acute{o} t i$ or $h \bar{o} s$:

(12) γινώσκων δὲ καὶ τοὺς αὐτοῦ γονεῖς, καὶ ἐπιστάμενος ὅπως ἦσαν ἐν πλούτῳ, ἠθέλησεν ἐλεῆσαι αὐτὸν

"Since he knew his parents and <u>was aware of the fact</u> that they are wealthy, he wanted to assist him."

(Moschus, Pratum Spirituale: 193)

Interestingly, even authors diligently imitating classical patterns, may use $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ -clauses as complements in the same context, as Anna Komnene does in the 12^{th} c.

(13) ὁ βασιλεὺς....μεμαθηκὼς ὅπως ἐπὶ τοσοῦτον χρόνον καὶ τοσούτων κύκλων περιόδους ἔμφρουροι ὄντες οὐδὲ ἄπαξ ἥλιον ἐθεάσαντο οὐδὲ τῶν δεσμῶν ἐλύθησαν...

"The king...<u>having learnt</u> **that**, while being kept in prison for a very long time and many months, neither did they see the sun once nor were they freed of their chains, ..."

The matrix verbal form selecting $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ (actually pronounced $\acute{o}pos$ in the 12^{th} c.)¹⁹ is here a verb of knowledge as in the previous example. So, we observe that the syntax deviates from CG although the author's style went "by the book". It could be proposed that $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ is an embedded interrogative, and this is the reading preferred by some translators, such as Dawes (2000) who translates "[he] learned how they had been kept in prison". Yet, syntactically this is not possible: $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ introduces a finite clause, so it is constructed with the phrase οὐδὲ ἄπαξ ἥλιον ἐθεάσαντο ("they did not see the sun once"). Dawes' translation in turn attaches $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s$ to the participle ὄντες 'being' presupposing a rather awkward construction. Therefore, it is reasonable to

¹⁹ The pronunciation in the 12th c. was certainly closer to Modern Greek, hence *ópos* is a more appropriate transliteration here. The AG transliteration is kept due to the archaic register of the text.

surmise that Komnene's deviation from the classical grammatical rules reflects syntactic practices of the spoken language of her time.

Based on our argumentation above we postulate that $h\acute{o}p\bar{o}s/\acute{o}pos$ was still in use in the spoken language after the 5th c. steadily developing to a CM along with its counterpart $p\~{o}s$. In turn, Middle Greek $\acute{o}pos$ underwent regular accent shift to ultima, giving rise to the modern genuine CM pos.

3 Concluding remarks

Our succinct study demonstrated that even issues seemingly uncomplicated get thorny once we dig deeper into the corpora. Variation, analogical influences, stylistics, diglossia and numerous other phenomena are all factors in play that yield a clear-cut interpretation of language change a challenging enterprise. As Nicholas (1996: 220) stated, the historical linguist needs "to take a broader view of what constitutes diachronic evidence than merely the textual attestation of one prestige dialect of a given language." On these grounds, it is evident that what is needed is i) a more "philological" work on Middle and Early Modern Greek Greek and dialectal corpora and ii) a comprehensive treatise of the history of Greek complementation. Besides, as Nicholas (ibid.: 197) remarks, a revision of Jannaris' (1987) emblematic, yet linguistically outdated, work "is long overdue".

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