

A Construction Morphology Account of Agent Nouns in Modern Greek
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In this paper, we take a thorough look at deverbal noun formations in Modern Greek which - prototypically- denote the agent. By examining this category, we aim at two things. First, we aim at providing evidence that *Construction Morphology* (CM, Booij, 2005), a theory of morphology in which word formation is accounted for by morphological schemas (or templates), has theoretical advantages over *Word Formation Rules* (WFRs, Aronoff, 1976) for the analysis of word formation, in general, and, in particular, for the analysis of this category. Analyses that treat deverbal agent nouns in a WFRs account have the following problems: (a) they fail to examine the systematic correlation between form and meaning, and (b) they do not provide adequate solutions for specific problematic cases. In this study, we argue that within a CM framework, the aforementioned problems find an adequate solution. Second, we aim at examining the polysemy of these formations. Previous studies of the semantic properties of such formations (Kakouriotes, 1993; Ralli, 2003; among others) either do not provide a formal account at all or provide an analysis at the argument structure level. Based on recent analyses for English and Dutch (Booij & Lieber, 2004; Booij, 2007), we claim that these formations have various interpretations, which should not be formalized at the argument structure level. Regarding the polysemy of these nouns, we propose that the correlation between form and meaning can be modelled adequately by means of hierarchically ordered word formation schemas. With this analysis we try to solve the empirical problems and give strong evidence for the autonomous character of morphology as a module of the grammatical organization. Moreover, we intend to compare these formations to relevant cross-linguistic data and concentrate on a number of points that have remained unresolved in previous analyses. More specifically, we pay close attention to: (a) the direction of derivation of deverbal agent nouns denoting female agent, and (b) some pragmatic restrictions imposed on the agent noun coining. We are by no means the first in recent years to study these problems. Indeed, our analysis owes a great deal to previous treatments (Di Sciullo & Ralli, 1999; Kakouriotes, 1993; Michail, 2008; Ralli, 1992; 1996; 2003; 2005; 2007), but, as we hope to show, goes beyond them in explaining the aforementioned problematic points.

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