



It is our great pleasure to invite you to the following online talk as part of our Departmental Forum for the academic year 2021–2022:

**The evaluative and polarity properties of adverbial preverbs in Modern Greek**

by

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**Abstract:**

This research concerns the nature of Modern Greek adverbial preverbs *poly-* ‘much-’, *para-* ‘over-’, *kalo-* ‘well-’, *yper-* ‘over-’, *kata-* ‘completely-’, *kara-* ‘extremely-’, *psilo-* ‘a little’, *miso-* ‘half’, *koutso-* ‘poorly’, *psefto-* ‘fake-’, *xapo-* ‘half-heartedly’, *skylo-* ‘to death’, *xilio-* ‘thousand-’, and *mirio-* ‘million-’. I argue that these bound degree modifiers appearing in a preverbal position have evaluative components related to the speaker’s stance towards the propositional content, as well as polarity properties.

More specifically, I provide a new syntactic account for the base position of preverbs (*adverbial preverbs* and *prefixes*;) that captures their properties (meaning, conjoinability, nominalization, vowel deletion, stress shift). Furthermore, I show that, within the *(Non)Veridicality Theory of Polarity* (Giannakidou 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, *et seq*), the bound morpheme *poly-* ‘much-’ functions as a strong Negative Polarity Item appearing only in antiveridical contexts. Interestingly, the presence of *para-*, *kalo-*, *yper-*, *kata-*, *kara-*, *psilo-*, *miso-*, *koutso-*, *psefto-*, *xapo-*, *skylo-*, *xilio-*, and *mirio-* is limited in veridical environments escaping the scope of antiveridical operators. I argue that they are *bound degree PPIs* falling under the class of weak PPIs and having more flexibility regarding nonveridical operators. Their polarity sensitivity efficiently holds under the notions of speaker’s commitment and subjectivity, formulated within the *(Non)veridicality Theory of Polarity*, taking into consideration nonveridical contexts where the truth of a proposition may be disputed by the speaker. In addition, Modern Greek adverbial preverbs exhibit evaluative properties: they are distinguished into *boosters*, *maximizers*, *diminishers*, and *maximizing minimizers*, and have a preferential attitude with a negativity expressive component.

**Wednesday, 25 May 2022 @ 18:00**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucy.zoom.us/j/92073212280?pwd=R2I3cC9tcjlqRUhuemlXdm1lR1N6QT09>