

## Summary of PhD Proposal

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### *Compounding in Classical Greek and its historical development*

Compounding is one of the basic processes of word formation across languages and various definitions have been proposed about it. According to Jannaris (1968 [1897]): 303), compounding is “the blending of two separate words which otherwise would stand to each other in the syntactical relation of either subordination (dependence) or co-ordination”. On the other hand, Ralli (2007: 18–19) assumes that compounding is a process which creates morphologically complex elements from the combination of at least two stems or two words.

Many scholars have studied compounding in Ancient Greek –especially in diachronic perspective- both in historical grammars of Ancient Greek (Schwyzer 1953, Smyth 1956, Jannaris 1968 [1897]) and other works (Tserepis 1902, Debrunner 1917, Ralli & Raftopoulou 1998, Raftopoulou 2005). Since Mycenaean and Homeric times Greek possessed a rich set of compounds and probably this flexibility in forming compounds derived from Proto-Indo-European (hereafter PIE), which also had a big number of compounds (Beekes 2004: 252–254, Fortson 2010: 122–123).

In *realizational* approaches to morphology (see *Distributed Morphology* (Halle & Marantz 1993, 1994) among others) both grammatical (syntacticosemantic features) and lexical meaning constitute abstract morphemes without phonological content. Instead, their phonological representation takes place later, where an exponent simply realizes them.

Within a realizational morphology framework there are not a lot of studies about compounding. In particular, within the Distributed Morphology framework, Harley (2009) has analyzed compounding in English, Nóbrega (2015) has worked on root compounds in Brazilian Portuguese and Modern Greek and Nóbrega & Panagiotidis (2020) have studied exocentric compounding; with regard to Modern Greek, the relevant literature about compounding is not sufficient (Michelioudakis & Angelopoulos 2013, 2019), whereas there are currently no studies about compounding in Ancient Greek.

This gap in the literature as well as the fact that ancient languages are generally underrepresented in modern linguistic research motivated my initiative for the proposed

doctorate research which aims at providing with an account of compounding in Classical Greek (5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE) including the main Ancient Greek dialects. More specifically, after classifying compounds of Classical Greek into types according to their headedness and grammatical relations of their components (Scalise & Bisetto 2009, Ralli 2007), I will identify their components and their internal structure and I will propose an analysis of their properties couched within a realizational morphology framework. Furthermore, I will study possible variations in compounding (both types and structures) in Ancient Greek dialects. Finally, based on my findings, I will examine if the typology of compounds in Classical Greek also exists in older stages of Ancient Greek, i.e., in Mycenaean and Homeric Greek, as well as in PIE and I will attempt to investigate the routes of the relevant developments.

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