

Defining borrowing hierarchies in the light of sociolinguistic and geodemographic causation: contact-induced morphosyntactic change in Asia Minor Greek

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In this paper, we present the theoretical design of a recently initiated project in which sociolinguistic/geodemographic factors are correlated with morphosyntactic phenomena that emerged in Asia Minor Greek (AMG) varieties due to contact with Turkish (on AMG cf. Manolessou 2019).

AMG has been examined as a par excellence case of “heavy borrowing”, the outcome of high intensity of language contact (cf. Thomason & Kaufmann 1988: 215ff). For instance, the strong impact of Turkish on AMG is manifested through the adoption of discourse markers and subordinators, elements which “occupy a position at the very top of the borrowability hierarchy” (Matras 2009: 193), as in (1), in which the AMG variety employs the grammaticalized-converb/subordinator *deí* from Turkish (< Ottoman *deyü*, Standard Modern Turkish: *diye*):

(1)

írte na gelepfés’ne deí

come.3SG.AOR. M.PRT. speak.3PL.(+PERF.) “(s/he) came so that they discuss”

(Mavrochalyvidis & Kessissoglou 1960: 86)

Cases of “pattern replication” (Matras 2009: 234ff) are similarly suggestive of intense language contact. In one of the few AMG enclaves in today’s Anatolia, the Greek variety “copies” a Turkish construction in which the main verb is grammaticalized to an aspectual one. Thus, the AMG ex. in (2) seems to follow the pattern of the Turkish phrase *yazıp duruyorum* (write.CONV. + stand.PROG.PRES.1SG.) “I keep writing”:

(2)

ghráfo dje sdégo

write.1SG.PRES. and stand.1SG.PRES. “I keep writing”

(Özkan 2013: 149)

While the state-of-the-art literature on AMG is prolific, the approaches on how linguistic and social parameters are exactly interrelated remain largely descriptive.

Similarly, existing borrowability scales (cf. e.g. Matras 2007; Melissaropoulou & Ralli 2019) do not explicitly correlate grammatical phenomena with non-linguistic causation.

Our project aims at (i) compiling an annotated corpus of AMG contact-induced morphosyntactic phenomena within the Universal Dependencies framework focusing on the Cappadocian, Pharsiot and Pontic varieties of AMG and (ii) linking these phenomena with a set of defined sociolinguistic factors based on the linguistic ecology of each AMG (sub)dialect by fitting Bayesian hierarchical models (Gelman and Hill 2007) with Stan on a large sample. Sociolinguistic factors are defined in the light of historical sources and reports and are ordered hierarchically in accordance with a model already proposed for AMG (Theodoridi 2017). Along with gaining further insights on the overall contact of Greek and Turkish in Anatolia, we also expect to establish a concrete link between borrowability hierarchies and language contact intensity, in order that we render their interrelation analysis less impressionistic.

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