

Nick Nicholas  
 Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, University of California, Irvine  
[nicholas@uci.edu](mailto:nicholas@uci.edu)

## A SURVEY OF MODERN GREEK DIALECTAL COMPLEMENTATION\*

### Abstract

This survey concentrates on the semantic factors subject to cross-dialectal variation in the distribution of complementiser- $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ . The Standard Modern Greek constraint that  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ -complements be factive is violated in six distinct dialects (Italiot, Corfiot, Tsakonian, Western Macedonian, Thracian, Livisiot)—which have developed completely autonomously from each other; in only one instance (Western Macedonian) can linguistic contact serve as an explanation. The constraint that  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ -complements be stative is likewise violated in two dialects (Italiot, Corfiot).

Three issues of theoretical interest arise from these findings. First, on the available evidence the dialects themselves are inhomogeneous in their distribution of  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ . This indicates that linguistic change in complementiser distribution normally occurs piecemeal, akin to lexical diffusion; while analogical levelling completes the process, one may find instances where the process remains incomplete. Second, not all semantic factors are equal:  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  is constrained most frequently by Information Modality, less frequently by Evaluation Modality, and least frequently by Semantic Class (after Ransom 1986). This implies a hierarchy of salience of these semantic factors. Lastly, diachronic developments are contingent realities, and cannot be outright predicted; it may be argued that the Mainland Greek (= Standard Greek) distribution of  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ , if anything, is the oddity in the account.

### 1. Standard Modern Greek Distribution

Modern Greek complementation is based on two paradigmatic oppositions: that between  $\pi\omega\varsigma/\sigma\tau\iota$  and  $\nu\alpha$ , and that between  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  and  $\pi\omega\varsigma/\sigma\tau\iota$ . The former distinction appears reasonably straightforward (*grosso modo* realis/irrealis), and the distribution of  $\nu\alpha$  has drawn relatively little comment.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, while there are other complementisers available in Standard Greek and Greek dialects,<sup>2</sup> they have not drawn much discussion in the literature, though their distribution is in some cases involved (but see Delveroudi 1994 on  $\kappa\alpha\iota$ .)

---

\*I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne, and the University of Melbourne Travelling Fund, for making possible my research in Greece during 1995–96, and the generosity of Dr Eleftheria Giakoumaki and the staff of the Centre for the Compilation of the Historical Dictionary of Modern Greek at the Academy of Athens, in allowing me access to their dialectological archives.

<sup>1</sup>The exception has been the dubitative stative use of  $\nu\alpha$  after weak assertives, e.g.  $\pi\iota\sigma\tau\acute{\epsilon}\omega\ \nu\alpha$ ,  $\nu\omicron\mu\acute{\iota}\zeta\omega\ \nu\alpha$ . See for instance Christidis (1982).

<sup>2</sup>Standard Greek:  $\kappa\alpha\iota$  and —. Amongst the dialects of Greek, Apulian Italiot has *ca* (borrowed from Italian dialect), Anatolian Greek has  $\tau\omicron$  ( $\nu\tau\omicron/\tau\omicron\upsilon$ ), Phrasiot has  $\kappa\iota$  (borrowed

The distribution of *που*, on the other hand, has attracted considerable discussion in the literature. Though it is clear that *που* is marked against *πως/ότι* as a realis complementiser, it has proven surprisingly difficult to characterise semantically the distinction between the two in the paradigm:

e.g.	Χαίρομαι που ήρθε/* Χαίρομαι πως ήρθε	'glad'
	Θυμάμαι που ήρθε/ Θυμάμαι πως ήρθε	'remember'
	(Το) Ξέρω που ήρθε/Ξέρω πως ήρθε	'know'
	??Λέω που ήρθε /Λέω πως ήρθε	'say'
	*Νομίζω που ήρθε /Νομίζω πως ήρθε	'think'

It has been a commonplace of Modern Greek linguistics since Christidis (1981) to describe the distribution of the realis complementisers *που* and *πως* in terms of factivity. In broad terms, it has been found that in Contemporary Standard Modern Greek (CSMG), *που* is obligatory following true factive predicates (Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1971), such as *χαίρομαι*, and *πως/ότι* is obligatory following non-factive predicates, such as *νομίζω*. For the predicates Kiparsky & Kiparsky term semi-factive (i.e. whose factivity is defeasible under certain syntactic conditions), *που* is marked as a complementiser, while *πως/ότι* is unmarked.

What *που* is marked for after semi-factives is what has proven so elusive to pin down. There have been two trends in the literature:

- (1) The distinction is in terms of truth valuation/assertivity: a sentence containing *πως/ότι* makes distinct complement (fact) assertion and matrix assertions, while *που* 'presupposes' the truth of its (event) complement, and does not assert it as a claim distinct from the matrix. (Christidis 1981; Svalberg 1992; Ginzburg & Kolliakou 1997 [1995])
- (2) The distinction is in terms of givenness/theme: a *πως/ότι*-complement is foregrounded in discourse, whereas a *που*-complement is backgrounded, or alternatively constitutes a discourse theme. (Kakouriotis 1982; Delveroudi, Tsamadou & Vassilaki 1994 [1993]; Varlokosta 1994)

The difficulty in determining the distribution of complementiser-*που* in CSMG has led to speculation on the diachronic processes that have led to it. This speculation has been couched in the more general terms of the major paradigmatic opposition involving *που* in Greek: *που* versus *να*. Christidis (1986) and Papadopoulou (1994) have characterised this opposition in terms of a metaphoricist grammaticalisation account: they argue that the modern range of meanings *που* and *να* have taken in the language originates in their etymologies. In particular, *να* is held to originate in a directional relativiser;<sup>3</sup> accordingly, Christidis and Papadopoulou claim, its modern meanings metaphorically extend direction-

---

from Turkish), and Tsakonian and Calabrian Italoit retain use of the supplementary participle.

<sup>3</sup>As I argue in my dissertation (Nicholas 1998 Chapter 5), this claim is not borne out by the linguistic evidence; the directional sense of *ίνα* is secondary.

ality in space to irrealis in the world. Similarly που originates in the static locative όπου; its modern meanings are thus characterised by a metaphorical extension from stationarity in space to givenness in discourse.

As I have argued in my dissertation (Nicholas 1998), the diachronic data does not support this view of the development of που. But diachrony is not the only challenge to this view. A source of data has hitherto ignored in investigating the semantics of που is the distribution of complementiser-που in the dialects of Modern Greek, which has not been surveyed until now. As becomes clear from the Modern Greek dialectal data, the Standard Modern Greek distribution of complementiser-που was by no means the only possible outcome, and should not be regarded as in some way privileged.

## 2. Semantic Factor Analysis

By contrast to the often fine semantic judgements invoked in CSMG studies on complementisers, the attrition of Modern Greek dialects means that a survey of dialectal complementation can only be undertaken based on written sources. As a result, a survey can only rely on factors readily discernable from printed texts: in the first instance the matrix predicate of the complementiser, and to a lesser extent the polarity of the complement, and whether it presents new or given information. As it turns out, the disparity in distribution between CSMG and several dialects is great enough that such a restricted approach can still unearth a wealth of information.

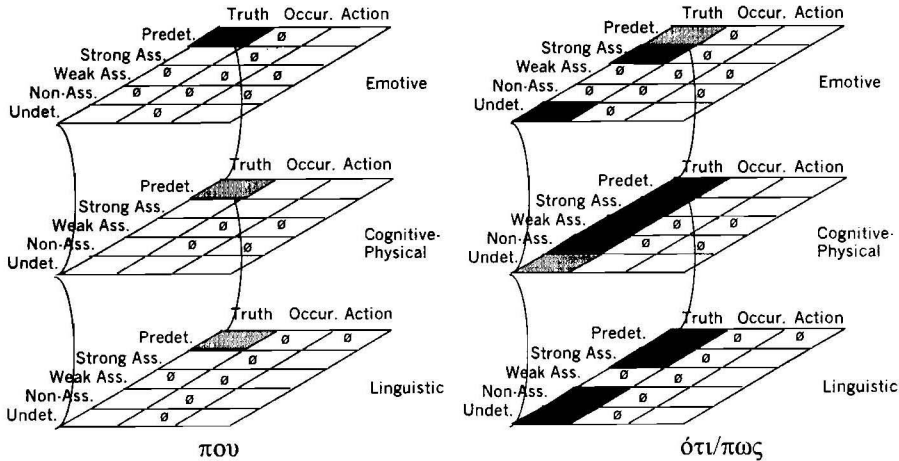
Relying on matrix predicates to describe the distribution of που-complements means that a survey needs to posit a vector space classifying those predicates, in order to allow the distribution of που to be classified objectively. The scheme used here follows Ransom (1986), and uses a vector space consisting of three dimensions: *Semantic Class* (the semantic domain of the predicate), *Evaluation Modality* (how strongly the validity of the complement is held), and *Information Modality* (the ontology of the complement):

SEMANTIC CLASS:	Emotive	e.g. χαίρομαι 'glad'
	Physical/Cognitive	e.g. ξέρω 'know' e.g. βλέπω 'see'
	Linguistic	e.g. λέω 'say'
EVALUATION MODALITY:	Predetermined	e.g. ξέρω 'know'
	Determined: Strongly Asserted <sup>4</sup>	e.g. βέβαιος 'certain'
	Determined: Weakly Asserted	e.g. νομίζω 'think'
	Undetermined:	e.g. ελπίζω 'hope'
	Indeterminate:	e.g. απορώ 'wonder'

<sup>4</sup>I have introduced *assertivity* (Hooper 1975) into the Evaluation Modality cline, as a semantic cline commensurable with it for Determined predicates.

INFORMATION	Truth	e.g. ξέρω 'know'
MODALITY: <sup>5</sup>	Future Truth	e.g. προβλέπω 'predict'
	Occurrence	e.g. βλέπω 'see'
	Action	e.g. αρχίζω 'begin'

The terms in which complementiser distinctions have been traditionally discussed can be readily translated into this framework. Factivity corresponds to *Predetermined* Evaluation Modality (the complement is always valid) and *truth* information modality (the complement is always a fact); true factives are *Cmotive*, while semi-factives are *Cognitive-Physical*. With the semantic factors made explicit, it is possible to describe the distribution of *που* and of *ότι/πως* in terms of the matrix predicates they follow; dark squares indicate normal use, while lightly shaded squares indicate marked or atypical use:<sup>6</sup>



As this presentation shows, *που* is:

- near-obligatory for Emotive Predetermined Truth (true factives)—though as it turns out, less so for subject complements (*appraisals*, using Ransom's (1986) terminology) than object complements (*reactions*), as already noted by Christidis (1981);
- marked for Cognitive-Physical Predetermined Truth (semi-factives);
- marginal for Linguistic Predetermined Truth;
- disallowed for any other evaluation or information modality.

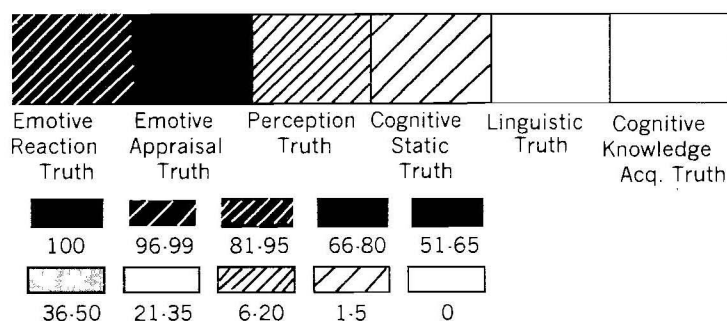
<sup>5</sup>*Truth* complements are stative, and may be considered facts. *Occurrence* and *Action* complements are non-stative, and may be considered events; Action complements are additionally volitional.

<sup>6</sup>The classification of CSMG predicates is undertaken at some length in Nicholas (1998 Chapter 4); a similar survey appears in Papadopoulou (1994:142–189).



These trends are borne out by investigation of CSMG texts. As an instance of this, I have analysed (Nicholas 1998 Appendix C.1) the complement-taking predicates in *To Trίto Στεφάνι* (Tahtsis 1971 [1963]), a representative CSMG text, inasmuch as it avoids the ruralism of much Greek twentieth-century prose. The extent of *που* is as predicted: it occurs with 85% of true factives, 3% of semi-factives, and 0% in linguistic predetermined truth and any other modalities.

It is possible to refine the semantic categories: *που* occurs after 93% of Emotive Predetermined Truth Reactions, but only 69% of Emotive Predetermined Truth Appraisals. Furthermore, Physical (perception) and Cognitive semi-factives behave differently: *που* occurs 7% of the time for the former (indicating direct rather than indirect perception), but only 2.4% for the latter. Cognitive semi-factives can be subdivided yet further; as noted by linguists from Christidis (1981) on, static knowledge predicates allow *που*-complements (1.6% in *To Trίto Στεφάνι*), while knowledge acquisition (learning) predicates do not (0%). The following chart plots the relative preponderance of *που* versus *ότι/πως* complements for the various established semantic categories of matrix predicates.

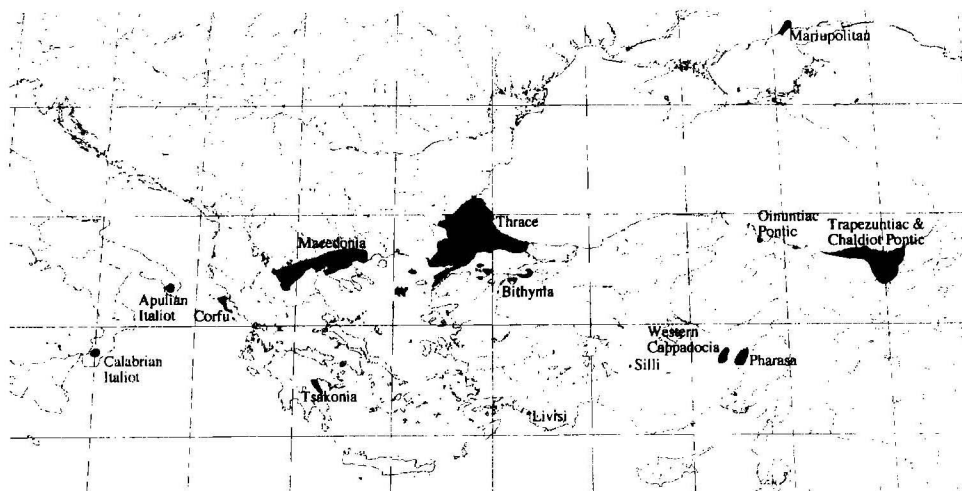


Given this framework, we can now attempt to apply it to Modern Greek dialect data.

### 3. Dialect Survey

The areas in the Greek-speaking world in which significant deviation from CSMG complementation is to be noted are plotted in Map 1. As can be seen, the map includes the 'usual suspects', the outlier dialects of Greek, including Pontic, Italiot, and Tsakonian. But it also includes quite mainstream dialects of Greek: Thracian (including Bithynia and islands of the North-East Aegean), Western Macedonian, and Corfiot.

Deviation from the CSMG norms of *που*-complementation can be described as the expansion in extent of *που*-complements along all three semantic axes posited by Ransom.



Map 1. Regions of deviant *που*-complementation.

### 3.1. Spread in Evaluation Modality

Weak assertive *που*-complements, which are disallowed in CSMG, are to be found in Thracian, Western Macedonian, Corfiot, Livisiot, and Italiot (1 instance in my corpus). For example:

- (1a) Βρωμάει η κούκος, νομίζει *που* βρωμά η φωλιά του  
 The cuckoo stinks, he thinks *that* it's his nest that stinks (HDMS  
 1065:145; Palladari, Bithynia)

Semi-factive *που* is found used in broader contexts than is allowed in CSMG. For example, *που* occurs before cognitive complements not only not presupposed or given, but in fact known to be false (2a); and introducing complements of indirect perception predicates (2b). This spread occurs in the following dialects: Thracian, Western Macedonian, Corfiot, Livisiot, Italiot, and Tsakonian:

- (1b) Αφού μάς έδειξαν *που* πρέπει να καταφρονούμε του πατέρα μας τη γλώσσα, είτανε συνέπεια να καταφρονήσουμε και τον πατέρα τον ίδιο που τη μιλεί.  
 Since they have shown us *that* we should have contempt for our father's language, it was only natural that we should also have contempt for our father who speaks it. (Psichari 1987 [1888]:120; Constantinople)
- (1c) Έκουσαμ *βου* χοιρόσβαξαν, κι ιπήρασ σούβλις κι έτρεξαν.  
 They heard *that* they'd slaughtered pigs, and they took spits and ran (Mouseou-Bouyoukou 1961 §1125; Livisi)

### 3.2. Spread in Semantic Class

Linguistic *που*-complements are at best marginal in CSMG (?Σου το είπα που θα έρθω). However they turn up, with varying degrees of frequency in Thracian, Corfiot, Livisiot, Western Macedonian, Italiot (1 instance in my corpus), and possibly also Tsakonian (my only example is a dictionary entry). Note that while Linguistic *που*-complements in CSMG are restricted to given, topicalised contexts, this does not obtain with the dialectal data; as with semi-factives, the *που*-complement may even be false:

- (2) Μη ματασκιαχτής, όδας ματαπεράσης βωρέ κουτέ, τι ψέματα λένε  
*που* βρικόλακxιασε ο γέρο Ντίος.  
 Don't you get scared when you pass by again, you fool, because they're  
 lying saying *that* old man Dios turned vampire. (HDMS 817:286; Othoni,  
 near Corfu)

The proportion of Linguistic *που*-complements varies greatly even within the single dialect of Thracian. Though my corpus was unsatisfactorily small, it still yielded surprising variability. The proportions I found of linguistic *που*-complements to combined linguistic *που*- and *πως/ότι*-complements were:

- 100% in Kouvouklia (Bithynia) (Deliyannis 1940) [corpus contained 4 Linguistic complements]
- 100% in Saranda Ekklisies (Psaltis 1905) [4 predicates]
- 93% in Psychari (1975 [1901]—written in 1886) [56 predicates]
- 35% in Cavafy (1975) [17 predicates]
- 43% in Lemnos (Kontonatsiou 1989) [28 predicates]
- 12% in Marmara (HDMS 756) [26 predicates]

The proportion of Linguistic *που*-complements is likely to be sensitive to many factors, not least of which is the subject matter under discussion. Nonetheless, this inhomogeneity within a relatively small geographical area suggests that there has been something akin to lexical diffusion (McMahon 1994:50–56) at work underlying the distribution of complementiser-*που*: *που* spread from context to context following linguistic predicates at different rates in various locales within the broader Thracian area. The effects of such diffusion in most paradigms *που* is used in would have been smoothed over in most dialects through analogical levelling (Harris & Campbell 1995:77); this process does not appear to have run to completion in Thracian.

### 3.3. Spread in Information Modality

Change along the third axis is rather more infrequent in Greek: Occurrence and Action *που*-complements are certain only in Italiot (14 instances in my corpus), with a dubious instance also in my Corfiot corpus:

- (3a) *oles ttes tenne kkànnonta,/ larga a'tti Kkalimèra,/ èftasa pu 'in essiànosa/  
ti χχari ttu Teù.  
facendo tutti i mestieri/ lontano da Calimera,/ perveni a mettere insieme/  
la grazia di Dio.  
Doing all sorts of jobs, far from Calimera, I managed to bring together  
God's grace. (Palumbo 1971:169; Calimera, Apulia)*

In CSMG, of course, this would be expressed not with πως, but with να: κατάφερα να περιμαζέγω τις χάρες του Θεού. (In English likewise the predicate takes an infinitival rather than a *that*-complement.) For που to displace να rather than πως as a complementiser is startling, and a development quite different in nature to those considered above.

There is also a syntactic phenomenon in which που occurs routinely with Italiot Action complements: Morosi (1870:156) reports that in Apulian Italiot, though the usual progressive is *steo ce* (στέ[κ]ω και) VERB<sub>FINITE</sub> 'I stand and VERB = I keep VERB-ing', this becomes *steo pu* VERB when the action is located in the present. In Calabrian Italiot, the equivalent locution is *steko* VERB<sub>PARTICIPLE</sub> (Rohlf's 1950:221—cf. Calabrian *steko legonda* and Standard Italian *sto dicendo*); it is quite likely that the Apulian που-complement is calquing the participle, now obsolete in its supplementary function in Apulia. Although examples of Morosi's phenomenon are hard to come by, I believe the following is an instance, though mistranslated by its collector Anastasios Karanastasis:

- (3b) *ιλέανε,που στέουνε, που γλαίουνε τα παιδιά, έχουνε μέα βεσό<sup>ν</sup>-<sup>ν</sup>ο  
ατσέ ν-νερό  
λέγουν (που) ότι κλαίνε τα παιδιά, έχουν μεγάλη ανάγκη από νερό  
they said that children are rying, they have great need of water  
[Karanastasis]  
they said, when children keep crying, they have great need of water  
(HDMS 836:171; Corigliano, Apulia)*

The results obtained show that the relative 'impermeability' of the που/πως barrier follows the hierarchy EVALUATION MODALITY > SEMANTIC CLASS > INFORMATION MODALITY.

The tendency namely of που to spread at the expense of πως/ότι, and to efface the grammaticalised differentiation between the two poles of the axis, recurs in the most dialects for Evaluation Modality, and the least for Information Modality. This is a result borne out cross-linguistically; the distinction most frequently expressed by a choice of complementiser is that between facts and events, an Information Modality difference—already expressed with remarkable stability across the dialects of Greek by πως/ότι versus να. Conversely, a complementiser differentiation between evaluation modalities is relatively rare cross-linguistically (see the survey in Ransom 1986); so one would expect that the distinction between που and πως/ότι is cross-dialectally unstable.

### 3.4. Reduced presence of που

Up to this point, dialects have been considered in which που is more widespread than in CSMG. There are also dialects in which the reverse is the case. As a complementiser, που is wholly absent in Silliot and Mariupolitan. This holds even for the CSMG shibboleth of obligatory use after emotive predicates: the two dialects retain the archaic ότι in this function:

- (4a) Ρουγιουμής σεβινδά πολ'ύ, *ότι* φαζάνησι πολ'ύ παρά.  
*The goldsmith is very much pleased that he has gained much money.*  
 (Dawkins 1916:298; Silli)
- (4b) *Limbizmen ot' perasan n' dunja liyus pidija*  
*Regretting that they had traversed life without children.* (Karpozilos 1994  
 verse 4; Mariupol)

που is also wholly absent as a complementiser in Western Cappadocian and Pharasiot. The seeming exception to this from Silata (4c) may be explained by the fact that Dawkins was only able to obtain texts in that village from school-children, who had thus been exposed to Constantinopolitan (the prestige language variant in Anatolia) and its widespread use of complementiser-που:

- (4c) Ας το αινά μέσα θώρινεν το κορίτ, και δεν ινάνδανεν *όπου* το  
 σκότωσαν.  
*In the looking-glass she saw the girl, and did not believe that they had  
 killed her.* (Dawkins 1916:440; Silata)

The relativiser που itself is marginal in Silli and Cappadocia, which instead use *κιατ* and *το/του* respectively. The failure of complementiser-που to take hold in the Anatolian hinterland and the Crimea (where the Mariupolitans originally dwelled) should therefore be explained as an archaism. On the other hand, the relativiser *το/του* is in prominent use as a complementiser throughout Anatolia; but for a variety of reasons, it is best regarded as a Turcism, and is not a phenomenon related to the diffusion of που considered here. In that it calques the Turkish personal participle, however, *το/του* is being used in exactly the same fashion as I have claimed for *steo pu* in Apulian Italiot.

που is also vestigial as a complementiser in Pontic: whereas there are 80 που-complements in the 118,000 word CSMG corpus of Tahtsis (1971 [1963]), my 200,000 word corpus of Pontic yielded just 16 που-complements. It is possible that in the case of Pontic, the που-complements represent merely a contingent reanalysis of *ντο*, which like που is both a relativiser and a complementiser, but is much more widely used (193 instances in my corpus as a complementiser.) Thus, even though 9 of the 16 instances of complementiser-που in my corpus are Emotive Predetermined Truth Reactions—a proportion reminiscent of CSMG—*ντο* occurs in the same function 27 times, and even *πως* occurs 20 times. Thus που is not a salient member of the Pontic complementiser paradigm, and its development there is probably unrelated to that in European Greek.

### 3.5. Diachronic Explanation

As can be seen on Map 1, the regions in which the ‘deviant’ behaviour of complementiser-*που* obtains are geographically scattered. Though there is no space to expound this here, I have established (Nicholas 1998 Chapter 6) that almost all the dialects involved are also diachronically independent from each other. In particular, there is no reason to accept the earlier belief by linguists like Hatzidakis that Livisi was a Northern Greek (i.e. Macedonian or Thracian) colony (see discussion in Andriotis 1961). And although data from Western Thrace is scant, there is no reason to believe that Thracian and Western Macedonian are part of a contiguous zone in their handling of *που*-complements.

The only region where one can speak of diachronic relations is Anatolia; Dawkins (1937:21–23) speculated that Mariupolitan is closest diachronically to Silliot, constituting the remnants of Old Western Anatolian Greek. This would explain their conservative retention of *ὅτι*, reduced to the verbal clitic *δι* in Phrasa and absent in Western Cappadocian and Pontic. The retention of *ὅτι* with emotives makes these the most archaic dialects with regard to *που* in the Greek-speaking world; the absence of complementiser-*πως* in Silli and Cappadocia (though not Mariupolitan, judging from the texts in Ashla 1999) confirms this conservatism. The fate of the other two Anatolian dialects reflects their extensive Turcicisation: as a calque of the Turkish personal participle, *το/του/ντο* has effaced the older complementation strategies of Cappadocian, and essentially preempted the spread of *που* into Pontic.

There is only one European Greek dialect in which external influence might be invoked to account for the prominence of *που* as a complementiser: the use of *που* in Western Macedonian Greek is strongly reminiscent of Macedonian Slavonic *deka* ‘where; relativiser; non-factive realis complementiser’ (Koneski 1961–66 *s.v. deka*); the factive complementiser in that language is instead *što* ‘what’. Furthermore, the part of Western Macedonia in which I have been able to identify significant discrepancies in the use of complementiser-*που* is the area of Greek/Slavonic bilingualism; in Chalcidica, where Slavonic has not been spoken in modern times, no appreciable deviation from CSMG was noted.

I have not been able to establish that the same has occurred with Bulgarian and Thracian Greek. While non-standard Bulgarian extends the locative-derived relativiser *deto* (cognate to *deka*) to a factive complementiser (Rudin 1985:45), I have seen no evidence that Bulgarian makes of *deto* a *non-factive* complementiser, particularly in the southern dialects adjoining Thracian Greek.<sup>7</sup> The developments in Thracian, it seems, are independent of Western Macedonian, and should rather be attributed to common linguistic drift. Likewise, although there is a suggestive parallel between Calabrian Italiot *steko legonda* and Standard Italian *sto dicendo*, the Apulian decision to calque this with a *pu*-clause, and to extend *pu* to Occurrence and Action contexts, is unmotivated by any traits of Italian or Salentino—

---

<sup>7</sup>The spread in complementiser-*που* includes Sozopolis in coastal Eastern Rumelia, though Philipoupolis (Plovdiv), north of modern Western Thrace, seems to have had CSMG complementation.

though Apulian Italiot strongly favours the borrowed Southern Italian complementiser *ca*, and thus would be amenable to such influence.

So with the apparent exception of Western Macedonian, the breakdown in the distinction between  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  and  $\pi\omega\zeta/\acute{o}\tau\iota$  in Greek dialect has neither a single origin in time, nor in place: it represents a common development on the part of several dialects, essentially moving along the same lines (with the single, though spectacular exception of Italiot), yet proceeding to different extents from dialect to dialect and from region to region.

#### 4. Extensions

The expansion of  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  from a factive into a non-factive domain is a cross-linguistically commonplace instance of loss of markedness. One development it is strongly reminiscent of is that of Biblical Hebrew *asher* (Giv—n 1991), which seems to have been originally a locative, and which developed from a relativiser into a generic complementiser. Two of the pathways it followed in doing so were factive, and have their parallels in Greek: causative > emotive complementiser, and appositive > cognitive complementiser. The third does not: *asher* was also a purposive, allowing it to become an irrealis complementiser just as happened with Greek  $\acute{\iota}\nu\alpha > \nu\alpha$ .

The purposive behaviour of *asher* immediately casts doubt on the metaphoricist account promulgated by Christidis and Papadopoulou for the distribution of  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ . A look at the Greek dialectal situation only strengthens that doubt. Pontic  $\nu\tau\omicron$ , for example, has an over-all distribution in its various functions rather similar to CSMG  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ ; yet it is etymologically distant from any notion of stationarity. I believe it is most useful to account for the factive distribution of Pontic  $\nu\tau\omicron$  and CSMG  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ , not in terms of their ultimate etymologies, but in the fact that their spread in the language radiated out from the function of relativiser—itsself inherently factive. And their factivity was perpetuated into novel functions by virtue of the paradigmatic oppositions they entered into; this accounts for its subsequent trajectory much more concretely than invoking metaphor, an approach which has no synchronic corresponding mechanism to actuate it, once etymologies have been forgotten.

The movement away from factive  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  indicates that its etymology was indeed forgotten, and the persistence of factivity in  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  was neither preordained nor guaranteed. As I have found in my doctoral research, this is part of a general pattern of fractiousness in Eastern Greek dialects—Contossopoulos' (1983–84) *Grèce du éίντα*, in which the factivity constraints on the distribution of  $\pi\omicron\upsilon$  are frequently violated, even if in small ways. By contrast, Western [= Mainland] Greek (*Grèce du τι*), which includes CSMG, tends to abide by the factivity constraints very closely.

Tomić (1992) has speculated that the Macedonian Slavonic connective paradigm is simpler and more compositional than its Serbo-Croatian counterpart because Macedonian Slavonic, spoken in an area of high bilingualism, was under pressure to remodel its paradigms into a more analytical, perspicuous system. It is known that Eastern Greek has greater linguistic heterogeneity than Western Greek, more lexical and grammatical archaisms, and a more diversified vocabulary (Contossopoulos 1982–83). Dawkins (1940:7–13) has attempted to explain this division in Greek dialect by the islands being where “the Greek blood is most

purely kept [I] very much less so on the mainland where there have been successive incursions of Slav, Albanian and Roumanian tribes.” (Dawkins 1940:7) While few nowadays would accept that ‘racial purity’ determines linguistic behaviour, long-time coexistence with heterogloss populations is a different story. Dawkins’ comparison of Western Greek to the Hellenistic *koine* is thus highly appropriate: bilingualism on the Greek mainland could well have acted as an impetus to paradigmatic simplifications in the variants of Greek spoken there—a pressure avoided by the more insular populations of Eastern Greek (the Aegean islands, and the Greek linguistic islands in Anatolia).

The examples Dawkins discusses are from Greek morphology; yet there is no reason to think the same did not take place with Greek dialectal syntax. This means that far from being the endpoint of a development governed by universals of grammaticalisation, the distribution of *που* in CSMG, with its consistent adherence to factivity, is in fact the oddity among Greek dialects. Its simplicity results from contact-induced simplification of the *που*-paradigm; left to its own devices, a more ‘natural’ endpoint for *που* is manifested in the chaotic heterogeneity of Eastern Greek. Though it should be obvious, it still bears saying: the modes of diachronic explanation of Modern Greek need to take the vicissitudes of Greek history into account.

## References

- Andriotis, N.P. 1961. *Το Ίδιωμα του Λιβισίου της Λυκίας*. (Λυκία Ια) Athens: Κέντρον Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών.
- Ashla, A. 1999. *Τα Μαριουπολίτικα: Τραγούδια, Παραμύθια και Χοροί των Ελλήνων της Αζοφικής*. Athens: <<Δωδώνη>>.
- Cavafy, C.P. 1975. *Collected Poems*. Translated by Keeley, E. & Sherrard, P. Edited by Savidis, G. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Christidis, A.-P. 1981. *ότι/πως-που*: Επιλογή δεικτών συμπληρωμάτων στα νέα ελληνικά. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 2. 113–177.
- . 1982. Πρόσθετες παρατηρήσεις στις συμπληρωματικές προτάσεις της ΝΕ. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 3. 47–72.
- . 1986. Το μόρφημα <<που>> σαν αναφορικός δείκτης. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 7. 135–148.
- Contossopoulos, N.G. 1983–84. La Grèce du τι et la Grèce du είντα. *Glossologia* 2–3. 149–162.
- Dawkins, R.M. 1916. *Modern Greek in Asia Minor*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- . 1937. The Pontic Dialect of Modern Greek in Asia Minor and Russia. *Transactions of the Philological Society*. 15–52.
- . 1940. The Dialects of Modern Greek. *Transactions of the Philological Society*. 1–38.
- Deliyannis, V. 1940. Σύμμεικτα Λαογραφικά Κουβουκλίων Προύσης. *Μικρασιατικά Έθρονικά* 3. 338–358.
- Delveroudi, R. 1994. Ο Συμπληρωματικός Δείκτης *Και*. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 15. 281–291.



- Delveroudi, R., Tsamadou, I. & Vassilaki, S. 1994 [1993]. Mood and Modality in Modern Greek: The Particle *Na*. In Philippaki-Warbuton, I., Nicolaidis, K. & Sifianou, M. (eds), *Themes in Greek Linguistics: Papers from the First International Conference on Greek Linguistics, Reading, September 1993*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 185–192.
- Ginzburg, J. & Kolliakou, D. 1997 [1995]. Events and Facts: a Semantics of *pu* and *oti* Clauses. In Drachman, G., Malikouti-Drachman, A., Fykias, J. & Klidi, C. (eds), *Greek Linguistics '95: Proceedings of the 2nd International Congress on Greek Linguistics*. Graz: W. Neugebauer. II:459–470.
- Givón, T. 1991. The Evolution of Dependent Clause Morpho-syntax in Biblical Hebrew. In Traugott, E.C. & Heine, B. (eds), *Approaches to Grammaticalization*. 2 vols. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. II:257–310.
- Harris, A. & Campbell, L. 1995. *Syntactic Change in Cross-Linguistic Perspective*. (Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 74) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- HDMS: Manuscript stored at the Centre for the Compilation of the Historical Dictionary of Modern Greek (Κέντρον Συντάξεως Ιστορικού Λεξικού της Νέας Ελληνικής), Academy of Athens.
- Hooper, J. 1975. On assertive predicates. In Kimball, J. (ed.), *Syntax and Semantics. Vol. V*. New York: Academic Press. 91–124.
- Kakouriotis, A. 1982. Complementation in Modern Greek and English. *Papers and Studies in Contrastive Linguistics* 14. 99–127.
- Karpozilos, A. 1994. The Cretan drama of the Sacrifice of Abraham in the dialect of the Mariupol Greeks. *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 18. 155–185.
- Kiparsky, P. & Kiparsky, C. 1971. Fact. In Steinberg, D. D. & Jakobovits, L. A. (eds), *Semantics: An Interdisciplinary Reader in Philosophy, Linguistics and Psychology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 345–369.
- Koneski, B. 1961–66. *Rečnik na Makedonskiot Jazik so Srpskohrvatski Tolkuvanja*. 2 vols. Skopje: Institut za Makedonski Jazik.
- Kontonatsiou, D.H. 1989. *Η Διάλεκτος της Λύμνου: Εθνογλωσσολογική Προσέγγιση*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. Aristotle University, Salonica.
- McMahon, A.M.S. 1994. *Understanding Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Morosi, G. 1870. *Studi sui dialetti greci della Terra d'Otranto*. Lecce: Editrice Salentina.
- Mouseou-Bouyoukou, K. 1961. *Παροιμίες το υλιβισιού και της Μάκρης*. (Λυκία 1β) Athens: Κέντρον Μικρασιατικών Ερευνών.
- Nicholas, N. 1998. *The story of pu: the grammaticalisation in space and time of a Modern Greek complementiser*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. University of Melbourne.
- Palumbo, V.D. 1971. *Roda ce Kattia*. Edited & translated by Stomeo, P. (Scrittori Salentini V) Lecce: Centro di Studi Salentini.
- Papadopoulou, I. 1994. *The Grammaticalization of the Modern Greek Sentential Complementation System*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. University of Essex.
- Psaltis, S. 1905. *Θρακικά ή μελέτη περί του γλωσσικού ιδιώματος της πόλεως των Σαράντα Εκκλησιών*. (Βιβλιοθήκη Μαρσαλή 306) Athens.
- Psichari, J. 1975 [1901]. Ιστορικά και Γλωσσολογικά Ζητήματα. In Psichari, J. *Ρόδα και Μήλα*. Athens: Παπαδόπουλος. 86–162.
- . 1987 [1888]. *Το Ταξίδι μου*. Edited by Angelou, A. 1st ed. Athens: Ερμής.

- Ransom, E.N. 1986. *Complementation: Its Meanings and Forms*. (Typological Studies in Language 10) Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Rohlf, G. 1950. *Historische Grammatik der unteritalienischen Gräzität*. Munich: Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Rudin, C. 1985. *Aspects of Bulgarian Syntax: Complementizers and Wh Constructions*. Columbus (OH.): Slavica.
- Svalberg, A. 1992. Functions and Encodings of Complements in Modern Greek from a Crosslinguistic Perspective. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 13. 295–309.
- Tahtsis, K. 1971 [1963]. *To Τρίτο Στεφάνι*. 2nd ed. Athens: Ερμής.
- Tomić, O.M. 1992. Discreteness of Grammaticalisation as a Resolution of Language Conflict in Language Contact Situations. *Folia Linguistica* 26. 255–271.
- Varlokosta, S. 1994. Η γεγονотικότητα στα Νέα Ελληνικά. *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 15. 245–256.