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ON MODERN GREEK DENOMINAL ADJECTIVES[*]

ABSTRACT

The Modern Greek adjectival system is described by means of D. Corbin's model and illustrated with the analysis of four suffixes.

1. Introduction

This contribution aims at presenting the general principles of the Modern Greek (MG) denominal adjectival system according to Danielle Corbin's model (University Lille3, France)[1]. This model explicitly formalises an ordered set of rules and principles that synchronically characterise the constructed part of the lexicon of a language, allowing us to distinguish between accidental and systematic gaps. Thus it is a model whose aim is to describe the speakers's lexical competence, by means of formal grammar and as a result to interpret not only the constructed words already existing but all the words that it would be to construct (possible words), since their creation will depend on the same rules. In contrast to many other theories and models, the notion of the attested form here acquires only relative importance as far as the lexicon is concerned, since it is only the concept of the possible word that is significant at the level of lexical competence.

As a result the description of the lexical system does not correspond to the observable lexicon. In other words the course of abstraction adopted for the remaining levels of linguistic analysis has to be followed by the study and interpretation of the lexicon as well. A form is not considered to be regular or irregular according to the surface structure which is dominated by heterogeneity nor is a form considered to be non-existent if it is not directly observable.

In this paper, we will first examine Corbin's model, i.e. the principles of analysis, namely associativity and stratification, the Word Formation Rules (WFR), the stratification of the meaning of the constructed words, the modules of the lexical component, and secondly the MG denominal adjectival system.

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[1] For more details see Corbin (1987 and 1991) and Anastassiadis-Symeonidis (1992).

2. Corbin's Model

2. 1. Principles of analysis

Derivation morphology constitutes an autonomous grammatical component which is internally stratified into four subcomponents (principle of stratification). The meaning of a constructed word is structured at the same time as its morphological structure (principle of associativity). The choice of the principle of associativity as a way of presenting the relationship between the form and meaning of the constructed words involves, on the one hand, an accurate definition of the notion of a constructed word and, on the other, the possibility of rectifying a distortion between the form and the meaning that may appear in the observable data. The derivational base is not the word, but rather the lexical morpheme. It is all too clear that because MG is an inflectional language, the lexical morpheme is accompanied on its right by the inflectional morpheme, when it is actualised in discourse.

The constructed word is the construction resulting from the application of a WFR of a morphological structure which does not necessarily coincide with the observable form and meaning of the word, not necessarily identified. A word, in order to be considered constructed has to satisfy three conditions:

a) Each of the constituent elements of the morphological underlying structure belongs to a grammatical category and is related to one meaning in a reproducible way.

b) The predictable meaning is compositional in relation to the underlying morphological structure.

c) Possible distortions have to be interpreted with special regular mechanisms[2].

2. 2. The Word Formation Rule

The WFR is the application of one of the means (for example a suffix) of morphological paradigm on to its base (= a lexical morpheme belonging intrinsically to a grammatical category) and four components are included :

a) A structural operation that imposes a categorial relationship between the constructed word and its base, ex. The relational WFR constructing adjectives from nouns.

b) A semantic operation that constructs the basic meaning of all the words constructed by the relational WFR, eg. the meaning of the adjectives resulting from the application of the above mentioned rule is "of/concerning the Noun".

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[2] The distorsions between the underlying structure and the surface structure, the form and the meaning of constructed words may be settled because the surface structure of a constructed word may derive from the application of rules that correct an underlying structure which cannot be presentable in the way it is. These distorsions may be caused by the truncation of a segment or the presence of a class marker.

c) A morphological paradigm which includes all the means of construction.

d)Various restrictions eg. the restrictions concerning the compatibility between the suffix and its base.

2. 3. The meaning of constructed words

The semantic interpretation of a constructed word includes (i) the predictable meaning and (ii) the conventional meaning.

(i) The predictable meaning is not identical either to the definitions given by traditional lexicography –this is attested meaning– or to its paraphrase given by a native speaker, but rather it is a combination of three parameters: (a) the meaning which is constructed by the WFR and is shared by all the products of the same WFR. (b) The meaning that is specified by the morphological means used constructing adjectives from a noun base. (c) The meaning inherited from the base and given to the constructed word.

(ii) The conventional meaning of the attested constructed words results from the adaptation of the predictable meaning to the extra-linguistic reality[3].

2. 4. The lexical component

The lexical component concerns the "internal syntax" of constructed words, that is, it includes all the necessary operations so that the form, the morphological structure, their semantic interpretation as well as the principles that govern the combination of all these in the possible and attested constructed words of a language are interpreted. The lexical component is stratified into four (sub)components :

a) The **base component.** It includes (i) the list of base entries each of which is accompanied by its properties (phonological representation, grammatical category, distinctive elements, ex. degree of affix availability), as well as (ii) rules.

b) The **derivational component.** It includes a list of WFRs and it is there that the potentially constructed words of the language are produced, each of which is accompanied by all its predictable properties. The WFRs are applied to base entries that belong to the major categories (autonomous or non autonomous). The WFRs are complex operations that simultaneously construct a) the morphological structure and b) the predictable meaning of constructed words. The products of the derivational component may appear in syntactic structures, except for those in which the rules of post-derivational component apply.

c)The **post-derivational component.** It includes operations that correct the forms produced according to the WFR and cannot appear in this way in the surface structure. These operations are mechanisms concerning form that can function in a recurrent way

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[3] The acquisition of the conventional meaning of constructed words consists in 'unlearning', in this way limiting the possibilities offered by the WFRs.

and allow the transition from the predictable level to the observable level in case of distortion. These mechanisms are : (i) the rules of morphological truncation and (ii) the rules of class marking. With these mechanisms, the number of exceptions in the lexicon is reduced significantly.

(i) The rules of truncation allow us to explain the absence of segments in the surface structure, the presence of which is predicted by a morphological structure in accordance with their interpretation, e.g. τένις 'tennis' -ιστας 'ist' -->τενίστας 'tennis-player', αν-ενημέρωτος -->ανημέρωτος 'non-informed'.

(ii) The class marker is a suffix-like ending without having any semantic role. Its task is to give to the word, where it is present, the suitable form as far as its grammatical category or its reference class are concerned and to allow us to explain the presence of suffix-like ending not necessary for semantic interpretation, in the surface structure. Cf. e.g. άκαρδος 'heartless' and ανεδαφικός 'groundless', products of the same WFR that are differentiated as far as the presence of the class merker -ικός in ανεδαφικός is concerned. The class marker is not accidentally selected, but it is copied according to the copy principle from the suffix that bears the corresponding suffixed, but not prefixed, adjective, e.g. διεθνικός 'international' where the class marker -ικός is copied on the suffix –ικ(ός)[4] of εθνικός 'national'. The copy principle concerns a surface process with a wide range of applications entitled to limit the selection of the ending segment. The constructed lexicon includes the products of the derivational component and the post-derivational component.

Finally d) the **conventional component.** Its task is to interpret the conventional lexicon, that is the unpredictable sector of the constructed lexicon.

3. The Modern Greek Denominal Adjectival System

Herein, we will attempt to apply the theoretical framework presented above to four suffixes of the MG language. We will be presenting them in the following order : 1) -΄ιν(ος), which is connected with materials/substances, 2) –ιάτικ(ος) which is connected with time. The third and the fourth suffixes, -ίστικ(ος) and –(ι)άρ(ης) respectively, are connected with negative connotations.

3. 1. The suffix -΄ιν(ος)

In order to determine the range of this suffix, we should emphasize the importance of the posistion of the stress on the word in MG. In this way, we can distinguish between a) the suffix -΄ιν(ος) e.g. πέτρινος 'made of stone', b) the suffix -ιν(ός) eg. βραδινός 'evening' and c) the segment -ίν(ος) eg. θεατρίνος (ham actor).

In adjectives formed using the suffix -΄ιν(ος), the noun base is, first of all, interpreted extensionally, eg. : in πέτρινο γεφύρι 'bridge made of stone'. But it can be

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[4] The inflexional morpheme is placed in brackets, which is a standard convention in this model.

interpreted intensionally, eg. : in πέτρινη καρδιά 'heart of stone'.

Let us, therefore, compare πέτρινο γεφύρι 'bridge of stone' with πέτρινη καρδιά 'heart of stone'. The intensional interpretation of the noun base is considered to be derived from its extensional interpretation. If a bridge is made of stone, a human heart can not possibly be, apart from perhaps having one or more properties of stone, in this case the hardness of that material.

The selection of one or other interpretation of the noun base is realised in relation mainly to the modified noun. Consequently, the suffix -'ιν(ος) allows both an intensional and an extensional interpretation of the noun base.

In an attempt to determine the type of base to which the suffix -'ιν(ος) can be applied, we can ascertain that the noun base preferably denotes material, eg. the nouns πέτρα 'stone', μάρμαρο 'marble', μπρούντζος 'bronze', πηλός 'clay' etc. and therefore belongs to uncountable nouns. This particular suffix cannot be applied to a noun base which does not denote material. However, should the primary meaning of a noun be something other than material, the application of the suffix -'ιν(ος) to that base produces the selection of properties which are connected still with the meaning of 'material', eg. βροχή 'rain' (a meteorological phenomenon), but in the combination βρόχινο νερό 'rainwater', the word βροχή 'rain' functions as a noun which denotes material. Consequently the semantic relationship imposes restrictions on the selection of the noun base and of the modified noun.

We are certain that in the case of the extensional interpretation of the noun base, the adjectives are not modified in terms of degree *πολύ πέτρινο γεφύρι *'a very stone bridge'. Conversely, the adjectives are modified when the noun base has an intensional interpretation, eg. *πολύ πέτρινη καρδιά *'a very stone heart'. Consequently, the syntactic characteristics of the denominal adjectives are connected to their predictable meaning.

Finally, MG nowadays has a small number of adjectives which denote colour and which are formed with the suffix -'ινος : πράσινος 'green', κίτρινος 'yellow', κόκκινος 'red' etc. We consider that the noun bases of these adjectives (πράσο 'leek', κίτρο 'citron', κόκκος 'tinctorial grain') can take an intensional interpretation, since a feature which can be perceived by sight –i.e. the colour– is selected.

3. 2. The suffix -ιάτικ(ος)

From a semantic point of view, we can ascertain that approximately 85% of the corpus consists of bases which are temporal nouns. However it is necessary to differentiate between two levels : the referential level, where the temporal axis is organised in calendar time, and the semantic level. The temporal nouns of the corpus are divided into two groups according to either the characteristic of consecutivity or that of non-consecutivity of the occurrences of the referents of a class. In the first group belong the names of units used for measuring time, eg. χρόνος 'year', μήνας 'month', εβδομάδα 'week', and in the second group their reanalyses which include two sub-

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groups a) the special denominations of the units eg. Δευτέρα 'Monday', Ιανουάριος 'January', b) the denominations of the internal structure of units e.g. πρωΐ 'morning', άνοιξη 'spring'. In the following diagram, we can observe that at a linguistic level, the periods of time are not of equal importance. To be more specific, the framework of the 24 hours has a great importance for mankind, because of the social use of time (Taylor 1989).

Apart from these temporal nouns, the base of an adjective with the suffix –ιάτικ(ος) can be chosen from the list of names of the important holidays or spiritual celebrations. For these reasons we consider these words to be temporal nouns, eg. Πρωτομαγιά 'May Day', Πρωταπριλιά 'April Fool's Day', Πρωτοχρονιά 'New Year's Day', Πάσχα 'Easter', Χριστούγεννα 'Christmas', Άγιος Βασίλειος 'Santa Clauss', αποκριά 'carnival'. Finally, out of a total of approximately fourty bases of adjectives ending in -ιάτικος, only 6 do not have a clear semantic relationship with the meaning of time. These nouns are παιδ(ί) 'boy', γιορτ(ή) 'celebration', σκόλ(η) 'feast day, φεγγάρ(ι) 'moon', γαμπρ(ός) 'groom', νύφ(η) 'bride'. We must first examine the meaning of the bases, since we can see a difference between the meaning of the two derived adjectives βραδιάτικος and βραδινός with the same noun base but a different suffix. If we make use of the distinctions between expert categories and 'folk' categories (Taylor 1989 : 72), we can assume that temporal nouns, such as καλοκαίρι 'summer', ημέρα 'day', Ιανουάριος 'January' have got the expert's definitions, meaning definitions from physicists and which are derived as a result of their classifications of the basis of necessary and adequate conditions. However, these nouns have also got folk definitions as a result of folk categories which are created around the prototypical elements which are created by the way in which people comprehend things around them and influence them (Taylor 1989 : 72).

In this way we can characterise the weather during the halcyon days in January as being 'spring' weather, although we well know that we should talk about winter if we want to be specific. While, according to the expert definition the winter is the time of the year which begins on the first of December and lasts until the 28th /29th of February, according to the folk definition we can call winter any time of the year which is judged as being extremely cold. Consequently, the concept 'winter' is dependent on the knowledge we already have about the winter. This knowledge is the basis of the representation of the winter in our mind and explains why winter, according to the folk definition, may differ from the 'winter' of the expert definition. It is, therefore, possible to view information about the semantic character of words as a net of cultural, conventional and up to a point idealised knowledge which is contained in a 'model' of ideas and practice.

For us, the suffix –ιάτικ(ος) is undoubtedly a morphological means used by MG to create adjectives which modify a noun with their prototypical or stereotypical features (Geeraerts 1985:30), which are derived from the folk definition of the referent of their base. In that way, we say ανοιξιάτικος καιρός 'spring weather' but εαρινή ισημερία 'spring equinox'. Consequently, different suffixes, when added to the same base,

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assume different features from this base. For this reason, the words βραδιάτικος and βραδινός can not be synonyms.

I will now go on to make an assumption about the words in the remaining 15% of the corpus which, as we said before, do not seem to be temporal nouns. Provided that the suffix -ιάτικ(ος) is applied to bases which indicate time, we can assume that the application of -ιάτικ(ος) to these nouns converts them into temporal nouns, in the sense that the suffix -ιάτικ(ος) takes a meaning from these nouns which enables us to refer to time. In this way, for example 'ένα γαμπριάτικο κοστούμι' is the suit which carries the features associated with being a groom, and within the time indicated by the base. The same is true for 'νυφιάτικο τραγούδι' which refers to the bride within the time period which the wedding lasts ; 'παιδιάτικα καμώματα' which refers to childhood, γιορτιάτικος and σκολιάτικος, where the nouns celebration and leisure are able to place an event in time. Finally φεγγαριάτικος where the base φεγγάρι does not refer only to the natural satellite of the planet Earth but also to the moon's phases which are a result of its movement and which is believed to have an effect on the mental balance of human beings (eg. έχει τα φεγγάρια του 'he's in a really bad mood'). So, the word φεγγαριάτικος means 'mentally unbalanced' like a lunatic.

3. 2. 1. The Formation of the adverb

We can ascertain that the adverbs ending in -ιάτικα are formed from the base of adjectives ending in -ιάτικος, whose base is a noun relating to time. Consequently, the derived adverb 'inherits' a time related meaning from the derived adjective. Therefore, even though we admit that δευτεριάτικα and τη Δευτέρα are time adjuncts in utterances such as δευτεριάτικα άρχισε τη γκρίνια and τη Δευτέρα άρχισε τη γκρίνια 'On Monday he started complaining', it cannot be accepted that the two utterances are synonymous. This difference in meaning between time adverbials of this type and the corresponding construction with the definite article + temporal noun is reproducible, eg :

He ate meat during Easter week   ?Μεγαλοβδομαδιάτικα νήστεψε
Μεγαλοβδομαδιάτικα έφαγε κρέας   ?He fasted during Easter week
Τη Μεγάλη Βδομάδα έφαγε κρέας

He woke me up, at lunchtime   ?Κοιμήθηκα μεσημεριάτικα
Με ξύπνησε μεσημεριάτικα   ?I slept at lunchtime
Με ξύπνησε το μεσημέρι

He wore an overcoat in the summer ?Καλοκαιριάτικα φορούσε κοντομάνικο
Καλοκαιριάτικα φορούσε παλτό   ?He wore an short-sleeved shirt in the summer
Το καλοκαίρι φορούσε παλτό

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From the above examples it becomes clear, I believe, that a) in each group the first two examples are not synonymous with each other, b) the third example is unnatural. I believe that the speaker who selects such an adverb intends to imply along with the temporal determination of the whole utterance, his objection to the representation as for what happens stereotypically during the time period to which the adverb refers. The speaker also wishes to indicate his expectations which are not satisfied as far as the cultural knowledge and the beliefs he has about that particular time period are concerned. Consequently, when the speaker's expectations are justified in the utterance, these adverbs have no place in the utterance.

3. 3. The suffix -ίστικ(ος)

Between the noun base and the modified noun there is a relationship of belonging to and, more specifically, we perceive the referential class which is indicated by the modified noun in a stereotypical way within the field of associations which has the referent of the noun base, eg. αγορίστικο παιχνίδι 'game for boys', which characterises boys, δωμάτιο κοριτσίστικο 'a room suited to girls', e.g. pink in colour, nicely decorated, etc.

We observe that the features, which have a relationship with the social norm and which are taken on by the noun base, lead to the concept of sterotypy. More specifically, as far as the bases of the adjectives ending in –ίστικος are concerned, preference is shown for nouns which include in their intension the semantic feature [+ animate], which orientates their reference towards the indication of persons or animals which are connected with certain types of behaviour, eg : καουμποίστικο καπέλο 'cowboy hat', μαϊμουδίστικα καμώματα 'monkey-like behaviour', παπαγαλίστικο διάβασμα 'rote learning'. Naturally, the position of the base can also be taken by a noun [-animate] provided that it refers to special human behaviour, eg : κουκλίστικη εμφάνιση 'pretty appearance', καρναβαλίστικη ατμόσφαιρα 'carnival atmosphere'. The suffix -ίστικ(ος) selects as its base, nouns whose referent symbolises a type of human behaviour. Following on from all the above, it is easy to see that a proper noun, a noun relating to a person or a place can be selected as a noun base. The referent of a noun related to a human name which plays the role of the base of an adjective ending in -ίστικ(ος) does not concern the original referent, meaning the person himself, e.g. Don Juan, although some features of this person are transferred to somebody else. so δονζουανίστικη συμπεριφορά of the person X is behaviour which has the specific characteristics of Don Juan, such as being charming towards women, and unstable in love, etc. Of course, one presupposition both in the choice of a (human) name as a base and in the understanding of the meaning of the relevant derived adjective is that both speakers have the same knowledge of the world. Finally, certain place names can appear as symbols of certain features, e.g. χολιγουντιανίστικος which refers to the mythical wealth of V.I.P.'s, and particularly of actors, who live in Hollywood.

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Thanks to the adjective, the referential class which is indicated by the modified nouns becomes a type/model, since it shares certain features of the referent of the noun base, e.g. in contrast with the νομικό επιχείρημα 'legal argument', which is in accordance with legal science, the phrase νομικίστικο επιχείρημα is an argument which shares certain features with the former one, which are related to the behaviour of the person who uses them, in other words jurists, in their arrogance and quibbling. These stereotypical features are associated with the social norm, and consequently also have a pejorative meaning. The adjectives ending in -ίστικος, since they include a personal evaluation, appear in speech which is characterised by subjectivity and help to underline the ideological-cultural stance of the speaker and his pejorative attitude towards the referent of the modified noun, rather than identifying that referent. Contained with the adjectives ending in -ίστικος with a noun base [+human], a picture of the social norm is clearly projected which Modern Greeks have, regarding the general behaviour of a girl, a boy, a jurist, a philologist, a teacher, a priest, a greengrocer, a soldier etc., meaning discriminations between the sexes and between various professions. The adjectives which end in -ίστικος are traces of the strong presence of the speaker in his speech, and that's why they are not compatible with passages which demand objectivity, as in, for example, scientific texts. Conversely, they appear in the language of argument, eg : in opposing political speech and in informal register. It is worth noting that the noun bases of an adjective ending in -ίστικος can be marked as for the register, e.g. πουτάνα 'whore', but it can also be unmarked e.g. φιλόλογος 'philologist', παπάς 'priest', δάσκαλος 'teacher'. Whatever meaning it has however, the application of the suffix -ίστικ(ος) to these nouns has, as a result, the selection of those characteristics which show the stereotypical views of the speaker in relation to the social norm of behaviour for the referent of the noun base and, therefore, the speaker's evaluation of the referent of the noun base, and consequently his negative view of the modified noun.

3. 4. The suffix -(ι)άρ(ης)

With the aim of determining which adjectives are constructed using the suffix -(ι)άρ(ης), we can apply the principle of associativity to the corpus. Based on this principle, we exclude the word μπεκιάρης ('bachelor' < Turkish word 'bekâr'). Similar examples are the words Γενάρης (January), Φλεβάρης (February), which do not constitute constructed words. Moreover the adjectives ξεμαλλιάρης 'somebody with scruffy hair', ξεδοντιάρης 'toothless person' are not suffixed words, since they are adjectives formed with the prefix ξε- + the noun base μαλλί 'hair', δόντι(α) 'tooth/teeth'. The element -ιάρης, which is applied on the right, is analysed as a class marker which has the role of putting these adjectives into the referential class of adjectives which permanently give a negative feature to the modified noun which deviates from the norm in a way which becomes directly perceptible by the senses.

Another aspect of definig the range of this field is concerned with the relationship

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between -άρης and -ιάρης . In MG Grammar the suffix appears in allomorphic variation , -άρης and -ιάρης . This unification is probably based on etymology, since the latin -ari(u)s led to -άριος, which in turn led to -άρης and -ιάρης, in which the -ι was considered part of the suffix, while it was the thematic vowel of the noun base (Hatzidakis 1905 : 421, 1907 : 527, 582, Petrounias 1991).

Therefore the question is posed whether it is a suffix with two allomorphs or two different suffixes. The answer which will be suggested is supported by semantic criteria. With the first approach, two semantic categories can be distinguished : apart from adjectives ending in -άρης derived from numbers e.g. δεκαπεντάρης 'fifteen year old', (a) adjectives ending in -άρης which at the surface structure appear as 'nouns denoting profession', e.g. αγελαδάρης 'cowboy', βαρκάρης 'boatman', (b) adjectives ending in -ιάρης used to describe people e.g. κοκαλιάρης 'skinny person', κιτρινιάρης 'sickly-looking person'. According to this classification, we could support that there are two suffixes in MG, -άρης and -ιάρης (see Christofidou 1990 : 73), if there were not few examples of 'profession' nouns ending in -ιάρης , without the -ι can be considered part of the base καρβουνιάρης 'charcoal seller', μαϊμουδιάρης 'someone who has performing monkeys', also few adjectives which describe people end in -άρης e.g. πεισματάρης 'stubborn'. Consequently, we consider that there is only one suffix. Nevertheless, the fact is clear that in MG (a) only the form -ιάρης is available to create adjectives which describe people, and (b) the form -άρης is not longer available for the formation of 'profession' nouns. Furthermore, the case of the suffix -(ι)άρ(ης) is interesting as it poses the problem of defining the limits of the morphemes, which is connected with the allomorphy but also with the origins of the morpheme, a topic which presents great interest for research.

Another problem relates to the grammatical category of the base to which the suffix -(ι)άρ(ης) is applied. According to the descriptions up until now, the base belongs to the category (a) of the noun e.g. γ(κ)ρινιάρης 'complainer', κοκαλιάρης 'skinny person', (b) of the adjective e.g. in αγαθιάρης 'good and naive person', κιτρινιάρης 'yellow person', or (c) of the verb e.g. κλαψιάρης 'somebody who cries', λησμονιάρης 'forgetful person'. In an attempt to unify the category of the base, we make the following proposal : the base of adjectives ending in –(ι)άρης belong to the category of the noun. In fact the majority of derivatives ending in -(ι)άρης fit onto the noun base without any problem. The derivatives from the third category can be deverbal nouns. As far as the grammatical category of words ending in –ιάρης is concerned, which always refer to people, and for that reason only have masculine or feminine forms, we suggest the following : denominal adjectives ending in -ιάρης, can be converted into nouns using the process of conversion[5]. The suffix -ικ(ός) can then be applied to the

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[5] Conversion is a kind of derivational process which is very extensively used in MG and involves a change of grammatical category and meaning without the addition of derivational means (suffix or prefix) but only a inflexional one. It can take place before or after the application of a WFR of suffixation e.g. ψιλός_A 'thin' → ψιλά_N 'change'. Sometimes, the application of a conversion WFR

noun form to produce the adjective, as follows :

$[[[\sigma\pi\upsilon\rho\acute{\iota}]_N (\iota\acute{\alpha}\rho(\eta\varsigma))_{suf}]_A]_N (\iota\kappa(o\varsigma))_{suf}]_A$ $\sigma\pi\upsilon\rho\acute{\iota}$ 'spot'

As far as the semantic analysis of these adjectives is concerned, the suffix –(ι)άρ(ης) forms adjectives which establish a permanent relationship between the noun base and the noun which modifies the adjective in -ιάρης. The noun base is interpreted extensionally: ένας ψωριάρης άνθρωπος 'a scabby person' is a person who has ψώρα 'scabies'. If we examine, in particular, the noun base from a semantic point of view, we will see that it refers to (a) illnesses or symptoms of illnesses, human infections by their common name e.g. βλογιά 'smollpox', πανούκλα 'plague', χτικιό 'consumption', ψώρα 'scab', ψείρα 'louse', βήχας 'cough', σπυρί 'spot', but also the hyperonym αρρώστια 'illness', (b) to external imperfections on the body e.g. φακίδες 'freckles', or to one's character, which is expressed by behaviour which is considered socially unacceptable, e.g. γ(κ)ρίνια 'moaning', ζήλια 'jealousy', ξεχασιά 'forgetfulness', παράπονο 'complaining', (c) to entities or external characteristics which downgrade the appearance as different from the social norm, e.g. κουρέλι 'rags', λίγδα 'grease', βρόμα 'dirtiness'.

We believe that the negative connotation, or at least that which is below a socially acceptable norm, which accompanies the meaning of these nouns forms the connection between the 'professions' ending in -(ι)άρης and the adjectives ending in -(ι)άρης and which characterise the professions mentioned. These professions lack social prestige and are considered to be at the lowest levels of the social hierarchy of professions, e.g. μαϊμουδιάρης 'someone who has performing monkeys', σκουπιδιάρης 'dustbin man', βαρκάρης 'boatman' etc. However, can an adjective ending in -(ι)άρης still have negative connotations even though its noun base does not ? In this particular case, it is interesting to note the adjective κιτρινιάρης 'a yellow person'. The base of this adjective is the noun κίτρινο 'yellow', which is derived from the adjective κίτρινος 'yellow', the referential meaning of which is not negative, e.g. κίτρινο λουλούδι 'yellow flower'. However, the word κιτρινιάρης when used to refer to a member of the white race implies a deviation from the healthy colour as it characterises a sick person, which means we can assume that the suffix –(ι)άρ(ης) selects the negative side of the colour yellow in relation to the norm. Because of the negative connotations which are associated with words which are formed from the suffix –(ι)άρ(ης), many nicknames and, consequently, surnames are formed from this particular suffix. Furthermore, if we examine the base of the adjectives ending in –(ι)άρης from a lexicological point of view, we will find that 1) it belongs to [–learned] nouns cf. χτικιό 'consumption' in contrast with φθίση 'phthisis'/φυματίωση 'tuberculosis', αρρώστια 'illness' in contrast with the medical terms ασθένεια/νόσος 'disease', or that 2) in the case that there are doublets, the [–learned] type is selected, eg. διακονία 'diaconate' - διακονιά 'begging'

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imposes an obligatory alternation of the stem vowel, providing that the stem is of Ancient Greek origin e.g. ανατέλλω 'rise (of the sun)' - ανατολή 'rising of the sun', βρέχω 'to rain' - βροχή 'rain', στρέφω 'to rotate' - στροφή 'rotation', τρέφω 'to feed' - τροφή 'food'.

→ διακονιάρης 'beggar' (Setatos 1969). Therefore, we expect these adjectives to be used in informal communication. Thus, the suffix –(ι)άρ(ης) forms adjectives which permanently attach a negative characteristic to the modified noun, so that it deviates from the norm in a way which can be perceived clearly by the senses.

4. Conclusion

As has been discussed in this contribution, the originality of the model consists of the following points: 1) Associativity, 2) Stratification, 3) Overgeneration, a model property according to which the derivational component generates all the constructed words of a language independently of whether these words are attested or not. The application of the theoretical principles of this model has allowed us to explain : A) How it is possible to have derived adjectives which consist of the same noun base but with different suffixes: each suffix takes different characteristics from the noun base. B) Why some suffixes do not apply to some nouns: in order to apply a suffix to a noun base, there should be compatibility between them. C) Why all the adjectives which could be formed with a suffix are not mentioned (possible words).

A detailed description of the MG derivational system, which would be of special interest not only to theoretical linguistics but also to psycholinguistics, to applied and computational linguistics, is not available. The most important feature of this model is that it contributes to a better understanding of the word formation mechanism.

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