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Alexandra Fiotaki's doctoral dissertation, "A semasiosyntactic corpus study of Sequence of Tense in Modern Greek: the case of *na* clauses," is a comprehensive and well-structured investigation into the intricate phenomenon of Sequence of Tense (SOT) in Modern Greek. The study focuses primarily on the constraints imposed by matrix verbs on the tense and interpretation of subordinate clauses, specifically those introduced by the complementizers *oti* and *na*.

The dissertation is organized into six chapters, each addressing a specific aspect of the research. Chapter 1 introduces the topic, provides background information on SOT, and outlines the research aims. Chapter 2 presents the methodology employed in building and analyzing the corpus. Chapters 3 and 4 delve into the analysis of SOT in *oti* and *na* subordinate clauses, respectively. Chapter 5 discusses the LFG/XLE implementation of the Greek grammar, and Chapter 6 concludes the dissertation by summarizing the main findings and suggesting directions for future research.

A significant strength of Fiotaki's dissertation lies in the thorough construction and analysis of the corpora used to investigate the Sequence of Tense (SOT) in Modern Greek. The author's approach to data collection, annotation, and evaluation is rigorous and innovative, ensuring the reliability and validity of the findings.

Fiotaki created two specialized corpora: the *oti* corpus, containing 80,000 words, and the *na* corpus, comprising 250,000 words. The decision to focus on these specific types of subordinate clauses demonstrates the author's understanding of the need for targeted data collection to address the research questions effectively. The size of the corpora is substantial, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of syntactic and semantic patterns related to SOT in Modern Greek.

The data was sourced from the Hellenic National Corpus (HNC), a well-established and representative collection of Modern Greek texts. Fiotaki's choice to include a diverse range of genres, such as books, newspapers, and magazines, enhances the corpora's representativeness and mitigates potential genre-specific biases. The author provides a clear and detailed account of the data retrieval process, ensuring transparency and replicability.

One of the most impressive aspects of Fiotaki's methodology is the thorough data wrangling process, which consists of data manipulation, annotation, and evaluation. The author employed a combination of automatic and manual annotation techniques to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the annotated data. The *Ilsp_nlp_depparse_ud* tool, specifically designed for processing Greek texts, was used for automatic annotation, while the *BRAT Rapid Annotation Tool* was utilized for manual validation and correction. This multi-step annotation process demonstrates Fiotaki's commitment to producing high-quality, reliable data for analysis.

The use of the *R* programming language for data processing, manipulation, and statistical analysis is another notable strength of the methodology. *R* is a widely used and powerful tool in data science, and Fiotaki's competence in using it for tasks such as data cleaning, transformation, and visualization showcases her technical skills and attention to detail. The author's code and scripts are well-documented and organized, facilitating reproducibility and future extensions of the research.

Fiotaki's decision to make the annotated corpora available as a linguistic resource, known as the *ellexis* linguistic resource, is commendable and aligns with best practices in open science. By providing access to the corpora and the associated tools, the author promotes transparency, replicability, and further research in the field. This resource has the potential to benefit not only researchers interested in SOT but also those working on other aspects of Modern Greek linguistics.

While Fiotaki's focus on *oti* and *na* clauses is well-justified given the scope of her research, exploring the potential for extending the methodology to other types of subordinate clauses in Modern Greek could have provided a more comprehensive picture of SOT in the language.

This could have opened up avenues for future research and increased the broader applicability of the findings.

To further enhance the methodological description, the inclusion of spoken data in the corpora could be explored as an additional area for expansion. Although the HNC primarily consists of written texts, incorporating spoken data could have offered insights into the use of SOT in conversational contexts and potentially revealed differences between written and spoken language.

Despite these minor opportunities for enhancement, the methodology and data employed in Fiotaki's dissertation are of high quality and well-suited to the research objectives. The author's rigorous approach to corpus building, annotation, and analysis sets a strong foundation for the subsequent chapters, which explore the details of SOT in *oti* and *na* clauses. The creation of the *ellexis* linguistic resource is a valuable contribution to the field, facilitating future research and collaboration.

The core of Alexandra Fiotaki's dissertation lies in Chapters 3 and 4, which present a comprehensive and insightful analysis of Sequence of Tense (SOT) in Modern Greek, focusing on *oti* and *na* subordinate clauses, respectively. The author's careful examination of the various tense and aspect combinations, along with the consideration of grammatical, lexical, and semantic factors, reveals the complex nature of SOT in Modern Greek and contributes significantly to the broader understanding of this linguistic phenomenon.

In Chapter 3, Fiotaki investigates the behavior of verbs of saying, such as *leo* (say), *ischyrizomai* (claim), and *omologo* (confess), in *oti* clauses. The analysis is well-structured and thorough, taking into account the different tense and aspect combinations in both the matrix and subordinate clauses. The author carefully examines the interpretations available in each configuration, drawing upon a wealth of corpus data and examples to support her findings.

One of the key findings in this chapter is the influence of the grammatical aspect of the embedded verb on the availability of simultaneous and prior-to-the-matrix readings. Fiotaki demonstrates that when the embedded verb is in the imperfective aspect, both readings are possible, depending on the context. In contrast, when the embedded verb is in

the perfective aspect, the simultaneous reading is only available when the verb denotes an inchoative state. This observation highlights the intricate interplay between grammatical aspect and lexical semantics in determining the temporal interpretation of oti clauses.

Another significant finding in Chapter 3 is the emergence of the double access reading in the present-under-past configuration. Fiotaki's analysis reveals that this reading, in which the embedded event is interpreted as holding both at the time of the matrix event and the time of utterance, arises when the embedded verb is in the present tense and the matrix verb is in the past tense. The author's discussion of this phenomenon is thorough and well-supported, demonstrating her deep understanding of the semantic and pragmatic factors at play.

Chapter 4 analyzes the more complex realm of *na* clauses, exploring a wider range of verb classes, including verbs of saying, knowing, epistemic predicates, perception verbs, and volitional verbs. Fiotaki's decision to expand the scope of the analysis in this chapter is well-justified, as it allows for a more comprehensive understanding of SOT in Modern Greek and highlights the diverse behaviors of different verb classes.

The analysis in this chapter is particularly impressive, as Fiotaki navigates the complex web of factors influencing the interpretation of tense in *na* clauses. The author demonstrates that the lexical semantics of the matrix verb plays a crucial role in determining the available readings, with certain verb classes, such as verbs of saying and epistemic predicates, exhibiting distinct patterns. Fiotaki's identification of these patterns and regularities within verb classes is a significant contribution to the field, as it provides a more nuanced and systematic account of SOT in Modern Greek.

Another notable finding in Chapter 4 is the role of the perfective non-past (PNP) form of the embedded verb in the interpretation of *na* clauses. Fiotaki shows that the PNP consistently encodes a future-oriented interpretation, regardless of the matrix verb. This observation is significant, as it reveals a unique property of the Modern Greek verbal system and its interaction with SOT.

Throughout both chapters, Fiotaki's analysis is characterized by a careful attention to detail and a deep engagement with the existing lit-

erature on SOT and related phenomena. The author's use of corpus data is exemplary, as she consistently provides relevant examples to support her claims and illustrate the various interpretations. The inclusion of carefully constructed contexts for each example helps to clarify the subtle distinctions between different readings and enhances the overall persuasiveness of the analysis.

One potential area for further exploration in these chapters could have been a more explicit comparison of the findings for *oti* and *na* clauses. While Fiotaki does discuss the differences between the two types of subordinate clauses, a more systematic comparison of the patterns and factors influencing SOT in each case could have provided additional insights into the underlying mechanisms at work. This could have also strengthened the overall cohesion of the dissertation, as it would have highlighted the connections between the two core chapters.

Another avenue for expansion could have been a more detailed discussion of the implications of the findings for cross-linguistic theories of SOT. While Fiotaki does situate her work within the broader context of SOT research, a more in-depth exploration of how the Modern Greek data aligns with, or challenges existing theories could have further enhanced the significance of the study.

Despite these potential areas for further development, the analysis and findings presented in Chapters 3 and 4 are of exceptionally high quality and make a substantial contribution to the understanding of SOT in Modern Greek. Fiotaki's work not only illuminates the complex factors influencing the interpretation of tense in subordinate clauses but also provides a solid foundation for future research on this topic.

The strength of the analysis lies in Fiotaki's ability to integrate insights from various linguistic subdisciplines, including syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, to provide a comprehensive account of SOT in Modern Greek. The author's findings have important implications for the study of tense and aspect in subordinate clauses more generally, as they highlight the need for a nuanced and multifaceted approach that takes into account the intricate interplay of grammatical, lexical, and semantic factors.

In Chapter 5, Fiotaki presents a computational implementation of the Greek grammar within the Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) framework using the Xerox Linguistic Environment (XLE). The author provides an overview of the LFG framework and the XLE system, making the chapter accessible to readers unfamiliar with these tools.

The LFG/XLE grammar developed by Fiotaki covers a wide range of linguistic phenomena in Modern Greek, including main and subordinate clauses, and incorporates the findings from the corpus study. The grammar is accompanied by a lexicon containing approximately 40,000 wordforms, spanning a diverse vocabulary and accounting for the morphological complexity of the Greek language.

The computational implementation not only serves as a practical application of the research findings but also contributes to the development of language technology resources for Modern Greek. Fiotaki's work in this area demonstrates the potential for bridging the gap between theoretical linguistics and computational linguistics, paving the way for further research and applications in natural language processing and related fields.

In the concluding chapter, Fiotaki summarizes the main findings of the dissertation, highlighting the complexity of SOT in Modern Greek and the various factors that influence the interpretation of tense in subordinate clauses. The author emphasizes the role of grammatical and lexical aspect, as well as the semantic properties of verbs, in determining the available readings in both *oti* and *na* clauses.

Fiotaki also discusses the implications of the study for the broader understanding of SOT across languages and suggests several avenues for future research. These include extending the analysis to a wider range of verb classes, investigating the role of the perfective non-past form in more detail, and expanding the LFG/XLE grammar to incorporate a semantic analysis of tense and aspect.

The dissertation concludes by underscoring the importance of the corpus-based approach employed in the study and the potential for the developed resources, such as the annotated corpus and the LFG/XLE grammar, to be used in various academic and applied contexts.

Alexandra Fiotaki's doctoral dissertation is a significant contribution to the study of the Sequence of Tense in Modern Greek and to the broader field of tense and aspect in subordinate clauses. The author demonstrates a deep understanding of the theoretical and empirical issues surrounding SOT and employs a rigorous methodology to investigate the phenomenon in *oti* and *na* clauses.

The corpus-based approach, combined with the careful annotation and analysis of the data, ensures the reliability and validity of the findings. Fiotaki's attention to detail in the data collection and annotation process is commendable, and the resulting corpus is a valuable resource for future research on SOT and related phenomena in Modern Greek.

The analysis of SOT in *oti* and *na* clauses is thorough and well-supported by corpus data and carefully crafted examples. Fiotaki's findings shed light on the complex interplay of factors influencing the interpretation of tense in subordinate clauses, including grammatical and lexical aspect, as well as the semantic properties of verbs. The identification of patterns and regularities within verb classes is a notable contribution to the understanding of SOT in Modern Greek.

The LFG/XLE implementation of the Greek grammar is another strength of the dissertation, demonstrating the author's ability to bridge the gap between theoretical linguistics and computational linguistics. The grammar and lexicon developed by Fiotaki are valuable resources for the development of language technology applications for Modern Greek.

While the dissertation is generally well-structured and clearly written, there are a few areas that could have been explored further. For example, a more detailed discussion of the implications of the findings for the broader study of SOT across languages would have strengthened the work's contribution to the field. Additionally, a more in-depth exploration of the perfective non-past form and its role in the interpretation of tense in *na* clauses could have provided further insights into this complex phenomenon.

Overall, Alexandra Fiotaki's doctoral dissertation is an outstanding piece of research that makes significant contributions to the study of the Sequence of Tense in Modern Greek and to the broader field of tense

and aspect in subordinate clauses. The author's rigorous methodology, careful analysis, and innovative computational implementation make this work a valuable resource for linguists, computational linguists, and language technology researchers alike.

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