

### **The Historical Development of the Clitic Systems of Three Dialects of Modern Greek**

In this paper, I sketch a diachronic account of the clitic systems of three Modern Greek dialects (Standard Modern, Cypriot and Pontic Greek, SMG, CG and PG), using the framework of Dynamic Syntax (Cann et al. 2005). Following Bouzouita (2008), who argues that routinization drives syntactic change, I argue that the dialects under consideration have emerged via routinization plus parsing trigger generalization. The transition from Koine Greek (KG) to the medieval dialects involves a transition from a system where positioning restrictions are pragmatically driven, and thus not syntactically encoded, to a system where this pragmatic basis got lost and eventually got encoded in the medieval dialects in the form of syntactic restrictions. The difference of the positioning systems in the modern dialects is then attributed to differences in their respective medieval systems. The ancestor of SMG presents a case where proclisis is already generalized to a great extent. Parsing-production mismatches (Bouzouita 2008) caused proclisis to spread across environments previously associated with enclisis. The proclitic environments were so many and eventually became indistinguishable, the upper result being the collapse of all proclitic triggers and the emergence of one general proclitic trigger. The Medieval Cypriot system is a system with less proclitic triggers than the respective modern one. The transition in this case involves generalization of a parsing strategy from item dependant to item neutral use (Chatzikyriakidis 2010). Lastly, it is shown that the unavailability of a general proclitic trigger in medieval Pontic, led to the emergence of one general enclitic trigger in PG.

#### **References**

- Bouzouita, M. 2008. The diachronic development of Spanish clitic placement. Ph.D. thesis, King's College, London.
- Cann et al. 2005. *The dynamics of language*. Oxford: Elsevier.
- Chatzikyriakidis, S. 2010. Clitics in four dialects of Modern Greek: A dynamic account. Ph.D. thesis, King's College, London.