



RQ1: Which verb categories bearing NAct voice are produced by the two groups of Heritage Speakers?

RQ2: Do these categories diverge from monolingual productions and is this predicted by language contact?

RQ3: Do we find non can-conical morhological marking?

Methodology

Voicemail to police

Voicemail to a friend

Written witness report

text to
a friend

Participants

	HSs in Germany	HSs in the US	Monolinguals
N	47	63	64
Mean age	22;6	23;0	21;4
Mean age of onset	1;8 (range 0-6)	1;3 (range 0-8)	-
Mean hours of bilingual education	6118 (range 0-12480)	2167 (range 0-3120)	-
Curernt input in HL	1.1 (range 0-3)	0.75 (range 0-3)	-

Final discussion

The findings indicate:

a) quantitative differences between HSs and monolinguals on NAct productions;

b) HSs generalize NAct to all anticausatives
unlike previous findings

c) Hs create novel [+/-] transitive deponents

Both findings b-c are not explained by language contact

Findings

Monolinguals produced 66 different types of verbs, HSs in Germany 32 and HSs in the US 26

VERBS	HSs in the US	HSs in Germany	Monolinguals
Deponent	593 [-trans.] 1 [+ trans.] (17.2 %)	612 [-trans.] 3 [+ trans.] (17%)	990 [-trans.] 13[+ trans.] (20.2%)
Reflexive	2 (0.05%)	20 (0.5%)	54 (1%)
Reciprocal	15 (0.4%)	5 (0.1%)	61 (1.2%)
Passive	8 (0.2%)	24 (0.6%)	46 (0.9%)
Non- target	6 [+ trans.] (0.17%)	1 [- trans.] 1 [+ trans.] (0.05%)	0
Tokens of Verbs	3445	3594	4961

8 non-target forms in Greek HSs

USbi07FG (both parents of Greek origin: one 1st one 2nd generation immigrants, weekend school 208 hours of formal education)

(3) Ena aftokinito aspro ***spastike** ena
aftokinito ble

break.NACT

DEbi12FG (both parents of Greek origin both 1st generation, bilingual school, 4160 hours of formal education)

(4) [...] gia na min ***patithi** tus anthropus
run over.NACT [+] transitive

(5) [...] den ihe ora na ***stamatithi**

stop.NACT. [-] transitive

“ [...] didn’t have time to stop.”

Learn more
about the
RUEG project?
Just scan!

Greek has two sets of Voice forms, Act vs. NAct

NAct is used with: passives, reciprocals, reflexives and certain anticausatives as well as in deponent verbs (Embick, 1997; 1998; Alexiadou & Anagnostopoulou, 2004).

While in passives, reflexives, reciprocals and certain anticausatives NAct is canonical, marking [-] Transitivity

Deponent verbs are a mismatch as

- NAct appears with [+agent] subject and the verb is transitive

(1) O Janis hriazete leptomeries

The John need.NAct. [+] trans. details.ACC
John needs details.

In addition, several change of state verbs form anticausatives with Act

(2) to vaso espase
the vase broke

What we know from few previous studies is that Greek HSs in Argentina and Australia generalize Act in deponents and Act on anti-causatives (Zombolou & Alexiadou 2012; 2014)

References: 1. Alexiadou, A. and Anagnostopoulou, E. (2004). Voice morphology in the causative-inchoative alternation: Evidence for a non-unified structural analysis of unaccusatives. In: Alexiadou, A., Anagnostopoulou, E., and Everaert, M., (eds.) *The unaccusativity puzzle*, pages 114–136. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 2. Embick, D. (1997). *Voice and the interfaces of syntax*. PhD thesis, University of Pennsylvania. 3. Embick, D. (1998) Voice Systems and the Syntax/Morphology Interface. In H. Harley (ed.) *MITWPL 32: Papers from the UPenn/MIT Roundtable on Argument Structure and Aspect*, MITWPL, 41–72. 4. Wiese, H. (2017). Language Situations: A method for capturing variation within speakers’ repertoires. In: Yoshiyuki A. (ed.) *Methods in Dialectology XVI*. Bamberg Studies in English Linguistics. Frankfurt a. M.: Peter Lang. 5. Zomolou, K., Alexiadou, A. (2014) The canonical function of the deponent verbs in modern Greek. In: Rainer, F. Gardani, F. Luschützky H. C. & Dressler, W. U. (eds.) *Morphology and Meaning*, pp. 331-344. John Benjamins. 6. Zomolou, K. & Alexiadou, A. (2012) Incomplete acquisition of anticausatives in heritage speakers of Spanish-Greek and English- Greek bilingual adults. Talk presented in the *Variation in Language Acquisition on February 10th, 2012*. 10. Zomolou, K. & Alexiadou, A. (2014) Acquiring verbal idiosyncrasy in heritage Greek. In proceedings of IGG40, February 14th 2014.