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THE VERBS ΠΗΓΑΙΝΩ AND ΕΡΧΟΜΑΙ IN MODERN GREEK

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1. Introduction

The analysis of linguistic units such as the verbs *πηγαίνω* 'go' and *έρχομαι* 'come' requires not only the consideration of the usual factors in verb study (aspect, tense, modality), but also of certain parameters of the situation of enunciation: as they describe the same movement in a different orientation, their semantico-referential function very often remains ambiguous if we do not deal with the enunciative coordinates.

2. Semantic definition

According to the dictionary of Dimitrakos (1959) *pijeno* means 'to head for, to pass over from one place to another or to proceed, to go, to walk, to frequent, to suit', and *erhome* 'to move towards the place where the person who is calling me is, or to who I am talking about, to arrive, to return, to approach'. Taking these definitions into account one can say at first that the semantics of the verbs imply the idea of movement. However, can we define movement at the linguistic level?

The dictionary of Littré (1950:1294) defines movement as 'the action to move something to a different place or to move to a different place'. This definition seems very significant because it indicates:

- (a) The existence of two participants, the person that performs an action (actant) and the person or thing that is subjected to this action (patient), although the movement can also be experienced by the person who is causing it.
- (b) The existence of a departure and arrival point (considered by Fillmore 1975:87 as the source and the goal).
- (c) Transition from a state S1 to a state S2.
- (d) A temporal dimension.

This shows, in fact, that the two verbs indicate a process which supposes a place change implying also a change in patient's state as in the following examples:

- (1) Simera o Petros pai sti Thesalomiki
'Today Peter goes to Thesalomiki'
(2) Simera o Petros erhete sti Thesalomiki
'Today Peter comes to Thesalomiki'

where the person who performs the action is at a time T1 and at a place P1 (which is different from his destination): so there is an indicated state S1, called initial state, for example, *ime sto Parisi* 'I am in Paris'. This state S1, once the arrival place P2 is reached in a time T2, gives way to a new state S2, called final state, for example:

- (3) Ime sti Thesalomiki
'I am in Thesalomiki'

In this way we can provide a linguistic definition of movement as 'every process consisting of the actant's passage from one co-ordinate system to another, in other words every process in which states S1 and S2 are localizations'. In fact, if we adopt the system of linguistic representations, we can consider localization as an operation of locating between two terms x and y. In this operation there is a spatial mark S rooted in the situation of enunciation and every process has to be defined in relation to that mark. Therefore, according to Culioli (1990:185):

to say that x is located relative to y, means that x is situated with reference to y, whether the latter is thus a locator (reference point), it is itself located by another locator, or whether it is itself an origin.

Then we can bring forward the hypothesis that the determination of deictic verbs involves taking into account the relationship which exists between the spatial mark S and the enunciator. The question which now arises is how the two types of verbs are differentiated.

Kerbrat-Orecchioni (1980:290) explains the difference between 'Pierre va vient à Paris tous les semaines' in the following way:

the two sentences describe exactly the same objective movement, without though conveying the same information, with the first one adding to the second the presupposed idea that the subject of enunciation is in Paris when he is speaking. So the two verbs show a different deictic relationship in describing respectively a movement of approaching/distancing from the speaker's sphere.

Despite some reservations on the idea of 'description of a movement of approaching/distancing' we must agree on the fact that the two verbs indicate a

located movement in deictic relation to the enunciative coordinates and it is on this point that the research of their differences must focus. It is a case of a movement activated by the speaker and oriented in relation to the place of enunciation.

3. Uses

To improve the description of *pijeno* and *erhome* we first examine their behaviour in utterances in close contact with the enunciation and in accordance with the following conversions: 'x moves towards y in a Time T, this movement being taken on by a speaker S0 for the information of the person who is speaking to A0 at a time T0 and a place P0'. In this way we can say that the verb *pijeno* is used in all the cases of movement with the exception of the case when x moves towards the place of enunciation. Conversely the verb *erhome* is used only in the case when x moves towards the speaker's place.

Therefore if we describe the processes that the verbs express when they have an intransitive use as 'A causes A to pass from P1 to P2 in Sito (So, Po, To)', we can have:

1. if $p1=P0$, it is the place of departure that is marked in relation to the situation of enunciation and to the speaker: so we use *pijeno*.
2. if $p2=P0$, it is the place of arrival that is marked in relation to the situation of enunciation and to the speaker: so we use *erhome*.

4. Functions

The referential value of the verbs *pijeno* and *erhome* can result:

- (a) from marking the relation to the origin of enunciation Sito (So, To); it is the case of deixis:

- (4) Fijaksu ligo, thes kathrepti? Tha 'rthi tora na se di
'Tidy yourself up. Do you want a mirror? He is coming to see you now'

- (b) from marking the relation to a mark different to the origin of enunciation, and defined by the context; it is the case of anaphora:

- (5) To pasha, san imastan pedja, pijename sto spiti tu sto Halandri
'At Easter, when we were kids, we used to go to his house in Halandri'

4.1 The absolute construction

'Absolute construction' is defined here as the case in which the verbs are not followed by a complement. In this case utterances are implicitly marked in relation to the place of enunciation. *Pijeno* brings out the notion of change of place, as in the following examples:

- (6) Imaste konda tha pame me ta podia
'As we are near, we will go on foot'
(7) Pao jati o irelos tha me psahni
'I'm going because the crazy one will be looking for me'

Actually example 1 clearly indicates that the notion of movement implies the passage from state S1 to state S2, because *imaste konda* 'we are near' bounds the initial state of the process before the departure. So the idea of place change which is defined in this case by the verb *pijeno*, implies that the movement marks an operation of differentiation in relation to the speaker.

On the other hand, *erhome* designates a movement to a place which is associated with the speaker, a place including also the other participants of the speech. Here are some examples:

- (8) Irthame tosos kozmos
'So many of us came'
(9) Tora tha erthi
'He is coming now'

4.2 *Pijeno* < *erhome* + *complement*

By complement we mean every term (word, or group of words) which we add to a syntactical basis (substantive, adjective, verb or adverb), either in an optional way in order to bring a complementary determination, or in an obligatory way, in order to complete the syntactic structure and produce an utterance.

4.2.1 *The preposition se*

According to grammatical analysis, the preposition *se* 'to' can indicate movement towards someone or something, position or action, time, relation. So in this case *pijeno* and *erhome* are located by a reference point which is defined by the context. With the preposition *se* inserted, a new location to the syntactic subject of the phrase is created. The difference between the two verbs concerns the way in which the process marked by *pijeno* and *erhome* is considered by the speaker. Let us examine the following examples:

- (10) Pao sti Nadia, kimate arga
'I'm going to Nadia's, she goes to bed late'
(11) Pigame sto pazari
'We went to the market'

Although *pijeno* implies the association of the departure point with the speaker's coordinates, it also notes a movement to a place different from that of the speaker. Consequently the verb also marks here an operation of

differentiation concerning the final state which will be established when the process will reach an end.

The use of *erhome*, on the other hand, implies not only the association of one part of the process with the speaker, but it presupposes also the relation of the final state in the enunciative situation. Here are some examples:

- (12) Erhome stin Athina sihna
'I come to Athens very often'
(13) Tora tha erthun ki ali sto kupe
'Other people will come to the compartment now'

In these utterances it is supposed that the states *ime stin Athina* 'I am in Athens' and *ime sto kupe* 'I am in the compartment' are shared also by the speaker in the time of speaking. This is also the case when the process is considered as a repeatedly occurring event as in the following example:

- (14) Kathe fora pu erhete stin Athina, tu leo...
'Every time he comes to Athens, I tell him...'

the relation [*aftos*] *erhete stin Athina* '[he] comes to Athens' is ratified for all the occurrences of *kathe fora* 'every time' in condition that *ime stin Athina* 'I am in Athens' is validated also by the speaker.

4.2.2 *The particle na*

The study of this case involves not only taking into consideration the particularities of the verb, but also the different semantic values of *na* 'to', as well as the aspectual and temporal characteristics of the verb clause (called verb 2) which is introduced by the particle.

According to Delveroudi, Tsamadou and Vassilaki (1993), *na* constructs a fictive point from which the totality of a notional domain (p, p') is apprehended. So from this fictive point one of the values p or p' could be aimed. Consequently, there is a paradox in this case in that *na* does not mark an asserted utterance. And on the other hand, *pijeno* and *erhome* are connected in the enunciative event. So the explanation of this could be that *na* is not related to the actuality of *pijeno* or *erhome* but to the process noted by verb 2. It must also be said that when one of the two verbs is followed by *ke* 'and', the process introduced by the second verb is validated and the whole utterance is considered as an assertion. Here is one example:

- (15) Piga ke kathisa stin akri tu muraju
'(I went and sat) I went to sit at the end of the pier'

Similarly one must distinguish between utterances like:

- (16) Pao na diavaso stin trapezaria
'I'm going to study in the dining-room'
(17) Pao na agoraso isigara
'I'm going to buy cigarettes'

and others like:

- (18) Pao na trelatho
'I'm going crazy'
(19) Pai na skasi apo ti zilja tu
'He is going to (burst) die from jealousy'

In the first case *na* marks an operation of aim, and in the second an operation of temporal locating. Actually, when *na* marks an operation of temporal locating, the process indicated by V2 is considered by the syntactic subject as in the starting point. Contrary to *pijeno*, in *erhome*, *na* serves only to situate the process marked by V2, in an ulterior time of that of the movements' realisation. For example:

- (20) Tha erho na mino mazi su
'I'll come to stay with you'
(21) Iriha na do ti Romi
'I came to visit Rome'

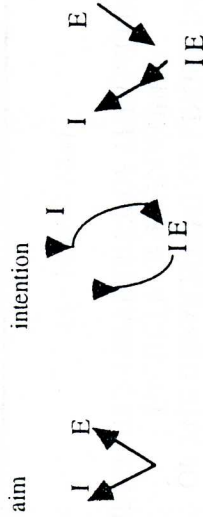
Therefore the problem is to know the difference between the two verbs. Let us compare the following utterances:

- (22) Erhome na paro ta pedja mu
'I'm coming to pick up my children'
(23) Pigeno na paro ta pedja mu
'I'm going to pick up my children'

With *erhome* the delay of the realisation of the second process seems more constant and imminent. Then we can put forward the hypothesis that with *pijeno* the notion of movement implies the aim of the syntactic subject, and with *erhome* its intention. In other words, aim consists in representing an arrival point from a real point of departure. Intention, on the contrary, consists in representing the departure point of a process whose arrival point will be a real position. So if we consider that metalinguistically a notional domain P is composed by three zones:

- a. the interior, noted I
b. the exterior, noted E
c. the outside of P, noted IE

the two verbs can be presented in the following (schematic) way:



5. Conclusion

We conclude the discussion on the verbs *pijeno* and *erhome* and hope that, although the points made do not do justice to the problem, the analysis has nonetheless brought to light several important shortcomings of the referential model of deictic verbs. Linguistics must have the means to take into account the operations effected by the speaker in producing an utterance, and the way in which it would be possible to reconstruct the operations connecting the utterances to the subjects that produce them. Only in this way, linguistics could become a science of language and not of grammar.

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