

## Lecture 4: Applied Syntax

### 1 Conditionals

- Conditional clauses hard to analyse from several points of view
- So many different realisations with same connection between the clauses
- Sometimes hard to describe that connection in terms of a dependency model
- Also more types of connection than previously thought
- In Functional Grammar they have been usefully described
- Clauses have different levels:
  - Predicational
  - Propositional
  - Illocutionary
- Conditional clauses have connections at these three different levels
  - Predicational level: ‘if it rains, I’ll take an umbrella’
  - Propositional level: ‘if I’m right, she’s married to Bob’
  - οὐδείς δὲ θνητῶν ταῖς τύχαις ἀκήρατος,  
οὐ θεῶν, ἀοιδῶν ἔπειρ οὐ ψευδεῖς λόγοι.  
‘No mortal is untouched by woes, and nor are any of the gods, if the tales of the singers are not false’ (Eur. HF 1314-5)
  - Illocutionary level: ‘if you’re thirsty, there’s beer in the fridge’
  - ἐὰν σὺ βούλη ἰέναι, εἰσὶν ἐμοὶ ἐκεῖ ξένοι οἳ σε περὶ πολλοῦ ποιήσονται  
‘and if you wish to go to Thessaly, I have friends there who will make much of you’ (Pl. Crito 45c2-3)

## 2 Negation

### 2.1 Development of οὐ

1. οὐ γὰρ ὤζυρὲ τούτων ἐπιθυμῶ μανθάνειν οὐδέν.  
You miserable man, I don't want to learn about anything of those

Aristophanes *Clouds* 656

2. Ἰουδαίους οὐδεν ἠδίκησα  
I have not wronged the Jews

Acts 25.10

3. Δὲν ἤξεύρεις. . . τὸ φῶς τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν μου  
You did not find the light of my eyes

Digenes Acritas (Escorial manuscript line 859 TLG), 12th century

- Jespersen's Cycle

- ‘the original negative adverb is first weakened, then found insufficient and therefore strengthened, generally through some additional word, and this in turn may be felt as the negative proper and may then in the course of time be subject to the same development as the original word.’ (Jespersen 1917, p. 4)
- Stage One:  
OE: ic ne secge (I neg say)  
OF: jeo ne dis (I neg say)
- Stage Two:  
ME: I ne seye not (I neg say NEG)  
Standard French: je ne dis pas (I neg says NEG)
- Stage Three:  
ENE: I say not  
Colloquial French: je dis pas

## 2.2 Negative Concord

1. οὐ γάρ με νῦν χέζοντά γ' οὐδείς ὄψεται.  
Now no-one will see me shitting

Aristophanes *Ecclesiazusae* 322

2. δὲν εἶπα τίποτα  
I didn't say anything

3. Κανένας δὲν ἐμφανίστηκε  
Nobody showed up

- Strict vs non-strict
- Italian is non-strict, like Ancient Greek, whereas Modern Greek is strict

4. Ieri non ho telefonato a nessuno  
yesterday NEG have called to n-body  
Yesterday I didn't call anyone

5. Ieri nessuno (\*non) ha telefonato  
yesterday n-body (NEG) has called  
Yesterday nobody called

- cf certain dialects of English  
He don't know nothing
- Zeijlstra has considered this syntactic problem in several languages
- In brief: should consider it as an example of 'syntactic agreement'
- Distinction made between elements that carry 'interpretable' negative feature (iNEG) and elements that carry 'uninterpretable' negative features (uNEG).
  - a. Gianni non ha telefonato ha nessuno
  - b. \*Nessuno non ha telefonato
  - c. Nessuno ha telefonato
- non = iNEG
- n-words (including nessuno) = uNEG.
- In example a. the uNEG feature of nessuno is said to be 'checked against' the iNEG feature of non.
- n-words may appear without the negative marker, as in c.

- In such examples the uNEG feature on nessuno is said to trigger an abstract negative operator
- In strict NC languages such as Modern Greek, neg marker carries uNEG rather than iNEG
- In these languages the negative force of the sentence is always provided by an abstract operator
- Ancient Greek should be analysed in the same way as Italian?
- ‘Truly negative’ negative marker (οὐ) going together with ‘non-negative’ n-words such as οὐδεις, οὐδεν etc.
- Explains why Modern Greek is an example of a strict NC language?
- But can n-words = non-negative?

### 3 Further issues

- Control
  - i) Caesar conatus est [NP consul fieri]
  - ii) Caesar coegit Pompeium [NP consulem fieri]
  - iii) licet Caesari [ NP consuli fieri]
- Raising
  - sino (or veto or iubeo or cogo) te [NP abire]
  - decet (or oportet or iuvat) te [NP abire]

### Bibliography

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