

Abstract

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The submitted thesis is a study of isolated nominal forms in Ancient Greek undergoing semantic change. Synchronically isolated lexemes are defined as forms which cannot be classed with their respective cognates by the speakers due to formal disparities. This leads to increased opacity which in turn hampers the mapping of meaning onto the forms during the acquisition phase. Accordingly, a hypothesis that isolated forms are susceptible to semantic change is tested. An argumentation is developed based on the assumed information structure in the mental lexicon of speakers and the mechanism of word meaning acquisition. This process allows for reanalysis on the part of speakers which results in semantic change from the diachronic point of view. Lexemes which have been selected according to the proposed research method are organized in a dataset and their occurrences textually analysed. A synthesis aims to describe the mechanism of semantic change for the transparent as well as isolated forms.

Keywords: mental lexicon, derivational family, isolated forms, semantic change, deetymologization