

WORKSHOP: CLITICS IN MORPHOLOGY – MORPHOLOGY OF CLITICS

Beyond Formenlehre? Indo-European Morphology with fuzzy boundaries and interface phenomena (16th Fachtagung of the Society for Indo-European Studies)

Clitics, roughly definable as unstressed words forming a prosodic unit with a preceding or following word, continue to challenge both synchronic and diachronic analysis, ranging from the question of word-hood and their prosodic features to their position on the scale of grammaticalization from independent lexeme to affix (cf. for a general introduction SPENCER / LUÍS 2012).

Paths of development

Lexical units (especially pronominal or adverbial elements but also case forms of nouns and, rarely, inflected verb forms) are prone to a cyclic evolution from an orthotone to a clitic stage and vice versa. Cf. for the first direction of development the evolution from orthotone adverbs to preverbs (and later prefixes) in Latin, e.g. *prō-* < **prō* (clitic) < **pró* (orthotone). An example for the reverse development is the orthotonisation of the reflexive clitic **sue* in Greek: *ἔ* < **sue* (orthotone) << **sue* (clitic).

These developments can be accounted for on a prosodic, i.e. phonetic level, although the exact mechanisms behind these changes are still not well understood. Cf. HILL et al. 2019 on changes in word-hood and prosodic as well as syntactic properties resulting from unknown prosodic and/or syntactic changes tentatively labelled *prosodic jump*.

Other cases, which involve changes within the realm of morphology (see below), require entirely different explanations.

Contribution of clitics to the morphology of inflection and derivation

Although former clitic elements are certainly not to be considered the only historical source of inflectional and derivational formants in general, they may ultimately pass through a process of univerbation and thus evolve into affixes, bringing about innovations in inflectional as well as derivational morphology.

Univerbation processes involving clitic elements can create single innovative inflectional forms: cf. the 2sg imperative medio-passive desinence of thematic verbal stems Sanskrit *-a-sva* < **-e-sue* << *-e=sue*. Besides, univerbation can also give rise to entirely novel grammatical categories, e.g. the medio-passive / impersonal *-sk*-forms in North Germanic or the Romance future originating from a periphrastic construction.

The univerbation of clitics also rarely contributes to derivational morphology, but on a much smaller scale; cf. e.g. OETTINGERS 2013 account of the verbal iterative suffix **-sk'e/o-* including the clitic particle **k'e* 'here'.

These univerbation processes are not unidirectional. Fully univerbated elements can be decomposed; e.g. the adverb French *très* decomposed from nominal compounds such as *très grand* << *très-grand* (now obsolete) < **trāns-grandem*; Modern Scandinavian *for* 'too' decomposed from nominal compounds like Old Norse *for-mikill* 'too big'.

Furthermore, inflectional elements can become clitics; cf. e.g. the phrase clitic status of the genitive *-s* in Modern English phrases such as *the king of England's throne* (ALLEN 1997, 2003).

Mechanisms that lead to changes in cases like these are still elusive and cannot be accounted for on a solely prosodic level but appear to involve phonological as well as morphological processes.

Research questions

We welcome contributions to the workshop that address the topics outlined above from one (or more) of the following perspectives:

- case studies illuminating the outlined processes and unresolved questions,
- reconstruction of the Indo-European state of affairs of specific clitic elements or entire systemic groups of clitics,
- etymological studies of individual clitic elements,
- phonological accounts of clitisation focussing, e.g., on regular or (seemingly) irregular phonetic developments resulting from the clitic status of a given element,
- typological investigations (ideally including also non-Indo-European data) in order to improve our understanding of the processes described above.

Convenors:

Daniel Kölligan (University of Würzburg)

Michael Frotscher (University of Cologne)

Keynote speaker:

Eugen Hill (University of Cologne)

Towards a diachronic typology of clitics and clitic systems in Indo-European

Discussant:

Dieter Gunkel (University of Richmond)

References

- ALLEN, Cynthia L. 1997. The Origins of the ‘Group Genitive’ in English, *Transactions of the Philological Society* 95, 111–131.
- ALLEN, Cynthia L. 2003. Deflexion and the development of the genitive in English, *English Language and Linguistics* 7, 1–28.
- HILL, Eugen / KÖLLIGAN, Daniel / SCHEUNGRABER, Corinna / FROTSCHER, Michael. 2019. The development of prefixation in time and space – Ditropic clitics and prosodic realignment in dialects of Indo-European, *Transactions of the Philological Society* 117, 157–198.
- OETTINGER, Norbert. 2013. Die Herkunft des idg. Verbalsuffixes *-sk'e/o-*, *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 67, 57–64.
- SPENCER, Andrew / LUÍS, Ana R. 2012. *Clitics. an introduction*. Cambridge textbooks in linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Contributions / Call for Papers:

Potential contributors to the workshop should send abstracts to fachtagung2020@ivs.uzh.ch by the 1st of December 2019, including the name of the workshop and the title of the paper in the subject line. We welcome contributions in the usual conference languages English, French, and German.