

The Variation of Evaluation

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Abstract The essay discusses the phenomenon of evaluation and different dimensions of evaluative morphology in Modern Greek both from a descriptive and a theoretical perspective, focusing on intensification, deintensification, augmentation, and diminution. It is shown that adverbial preverbs in Modern Greek that have a degree function are used as evaluative morphemes and are categorized into the evaluative classes of boosters, maximizers, diminishers, and maximizing minimizers. The semantic analysis provided captures formally these categories. The study is of importance since it presents the variation of evaluation in Modern Greek.

Keywords Evaluation. Evaluative morphology. Affixes. Adverbial preverbs. Intensification. Deintensification.

Summary 1 Introduction. – 2 Evaluation and Evaluative Morphology. – 3 Intensification and Deintensification. – 3.1 Intensification. – 3.2 Deintensification. – 4 The Semantics of Evaluation. – 5 Augmentation and Diminution. – 6 Conclusion.

1 Introduction

The term ‘evaluation’ is used to express the speaker and writer’s stance for a person, a situation, or another entity, considered to be subjective and placed within a societal value-system (Hunston 1994). In earlier more descriptive literature, evaluation had a restricted use referring to those words and phrases expressing the speaker or writer’s emotions (Carter 1987). Nowadays, evaluation is a vague term used for “the expression of the speaker or writer’s attitude or stance towards, viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions or desirability or any of a number of other sets of values” (Hunston, Thompson 2000, 5). Investigation into the evaluation has preoccupied