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New material in RG 8 Intensive Greek 2

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Main issues

- The genitive case: survey of case use and revision of forms:
- Mood:
 - revision of moods encountered (indicative, imperative)
 - new: the optative
 - Forms (present)
 - Use (optative with ἄν in independent clauses)
- Also:
 - alternative comparison of ἀγαθός and κακός
 - comparison of adjectives like εὐφρων
- This is a somewhat lighter section: a good opportunity to fit in some revision of aorist participles and adjective comparison as well!

The genitive case: background

- The Greek genitive takes on the function of two Proto-Indoeuropean cases – Latinists among you will recognise them! – the genitive and the ablative
- This splits the Greek genitive into two broad ‘areas of responsibility’:
 - expressing in what or to whom something belongs (subjective/objective, possessive, partitive, of source, origin, content, and material) (‘original genitive’)
 - expressing starting points (e.g., for movement, cause of feelings, and comparison)
- The uses of the genitive case we see in this section belong mainly in the first group – the exception is the genitive of comparison

Subjective and objective genitives

- Subjective:
 - ἡ τῶν ἀνθρώπων εὐσέβεια ἡ περὶ τοὺς θεοὺς ‘the respect of the humans for the gods’
 - Possible to paraphrase as ‘the humans (subject) respect the gods’
- Objective:
 - τὸ μῖσος τῶν πολεμίων ‘the hatred for the enemy’, i.e. the hatred that we hold for our enemies,
 - Corresponds to the paraphrase ‘we hate the enemy (object)’

Possessive genitive

- Denoting ownership is the most common function of the genitive
 - ἡ τοῦ Δικαιοπόλεως οἰκία ‘the house of Dikaïopolis’ – for ownership
 - ἡ τοῦ Περικλέους γυνή ‘the wife of Perikles’ – for familial relationships
 - ἡ τῶν στρατιωτῶν ἀνδρεία ‘the bravery of the soldiers’ – for the person who possesses certain duties or certain qualities

Partitive genitive

- The partitive genitive denotes the whole from which a part is taken
- We have seen it with nouns
 - Σωκράτης ἦν σοφώτατος πάντων ἀνθρώπων ‘Socrates was wisest of all people’
- ...but now also see it with adjectives hinting at access to a larger pool of something (knowledge, memory, assets)
 - ἄξιος πλέως αἴτιος
- The partitive genitive can also appear ‘clean’ with verbs:
 - Ξενοφῶν ἐξέπεμψε τῶν ἵππέων ‘Xenophon sent out some of the riders’

Genitive of source

- Sometimes difficult to distinguish from possessive or subjective genitives
 - ἡ Πλάτωνος βίβλος 'Plato's book' – ownership or authorship?
- It focuses on the source point of utterances or phenomena:
- With nouns: οἱ λόγοι οἱ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου 'the words of the man'
- With verbs: ἀκούω τοῦ λέγοντος ἀνθρώπου 'I hear the man speaking'
 - NB: ἀκούω takes accusative for the thing heard, genitive for the source of the sound

Genitive of material

- Denotes the material of which something is made (or made up)
 - στέφανοι χρυσίου ‘crowns of gold’
 - τὸ τῶν πολιτῶν πλῆθος ‘the crowd of citizens’

Genitive of comparison

- In comparisons not using ἤ, the genitive case expresses the starting point of the comparison: it is essentially a separative genitive
 - Latin: ablative
- The thing compared stands in the genitive case:
 - οὐκ ἔστι διδάσκαλος οὐδεις κρείττων ἀνάγκης
'there is no *better* teacher than necessity'
 - Σωκράτης σοφώτερος ἔστι τούτου τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
'Socrates is wiser than this man'

Separative genitive

- We will see the separative genitive mostly strengthened by prepositions (cf. RG 180 C)
- In due course, we will also encounter ‘clean’ separative genitives with verbs denoting movement from something and verbs that denote lack, need, or origin

The optative

- So far we have worked with two moods: indicative ('factual statements') and imperative ('commands')
- Greek has another two moods: optative and subjunctive
- The optative is generally associated with the expression of wishes and potentiality, but...
- ...the meaning of both optative and subjunctive differs significantly on whether it is used in independent or dependent clauses, and with the modal particle $\alpha\upsilon$

Optative forms in the present

Pres. act. opt.

παύοιμι

παύοις

παύοι

παύοιμεν

παύοιτε

παύοιεν

Pres. mid. opt.

παυοίμην

παύοι

παύοιτο

παυοίμεθα

παύοισθε

παύοιντο

The mood is recognisable by the –οι- arising from the thematic vowel followed by a iota before person endings are added

Use with ἄν

- We first encounter main clauses featuring optative forms with ἄν
- Here, the optative expresses a polite request:
- λέγοις ἄν μοι; 'would you tell me, please'
- In RG 12, we will also use optative in independent clauses to express wishes for the future, then combined with εἰ γάρ or εἴθε

ἀνίσταμαι, present middle indicative

ἀνίσταμαι

Infinitive: ἀνίστασθαι

ἀνίστασαι

ἀνίσταται

Participle:

ἀνιστάμεθα

ἀνιστάμενος η ον

ἀνίστασθε

ἀνίστανται

Adjective comparison

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
σοφός	σοφώτερος α ον	σοφώτατος η ον
δεινός	δεινότερος α ον	δεινώτατος η ον
εὐφρων	εὐφρονέστερος α ον	εὐφρονέστατος η ον

Next steps

- This section is useful for firming up knowledge of noun forms – cf. exercises in RG 179
- This week's translation is 8C lines 1-26 – try to submit it by Monday 4th Feb.
- As you work through the text, take into account the alternative forms for comparison of ἀγαθός as well!