

# LAD Conferences

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L a b o r a t o i r e d e r e c h e r c h e s u r l e s a s y m é t r i e s d ' i n t e r f a c e s

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## On the Role of Constraints in Compound Formation: Evidence from Modern Greek

In this presentation, I address the issue of constraints in word formation. I claim that the absence of derivational suffixes within Modern Greek compounds is due to the operation of the so-called *Bare-stem constraint*, which applies to output configurations. The analysis builds on different types of compounds from Standard Modern Greek and its dialects. However, I focus mostly on dvandva [V V] compounds, which are unique in Modern Greek from all Indo-European languages. I also discuss a limited number of counter-examples, and show that they are only apparent exceptions to the operation of the constraint. I argue that most of them result from a reanalysis procedure, or refer to lexicalizations and loan words, which do not usually obey the rules of the language.

The paper also adds to the discussion about the interaction between derivation and compounding. It is argued that the two processes intermingle in such a way that compounding cannot be treated separately from derivation. This conclusion is advocated by the postulation of a morphologically proper constraint restricting the form of compounds with a derived item as left-hand constituent, as well as by the unclear order according to which the two processes occur.

**Angela Ralli** is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Patras (Greece), Chair of the Department of Philology, and Director of the Centre of Modern Greek Dialects of the University of Patras. Her main fields of interests are morphology, dialectal morphological variation, and language contact. At the Linguistics Division of the Department of Philology, she teaches courses within these topics and supervises students for their dissertations at all levels, from undergraduate to Ph.D. Professor Ralli is a permanent co-organizer of the Mediterranean Morphology Meeting (MMM) and the International Conference of Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory (MGDLT), and a member of the Committee of the European Network for Linguistic Morphology (ENLM). She has over 100 publications, and in 1999, she was awarded the Canadian Faculty Enrichment Award. She directs/has directed European projects on the Preservation of Linguistic Heritage, with particular emphasis on the Greek Dialects of Asia Minor, South Italy, the Aegean and Ionian Islands.

### Selected Publications

- Ralli, A. 2009. V V Dvandva Compounds: A Linguistic Innovation in the History of the Indo-European Languages. *Word Structure* 2009: 48-68.  
Ralli, A. 2009. Morphology meets Dialectology: Insights from Modern Greek Dialects. To appear in *Morphology* 2009.  
Ralli, A. 2008. Compound Markers and Parametric Variation. 2008. *Language Typology and Universals* (STUF) 61: 19-38.  
Ralli, A. 2002. The Role of Morphology in Gender Determination: Evidence from Modern Greek 2002. *Linguistics* 40:3, 519-551.

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