

Passives in Asia Minor Greek

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In this presentation, I investigate passives in Asia Minor Greek, a cluster of Greek varieties originally spoken in the area historically known as Asia Minor (present-day Anatolia, Turkey) within the generative framework. The main objective of the presentation is twofold: (a) to briefly review the history of the study of passive constructions in generative grammar, starting with Chomsky's (1957) original Standard Theory, and (b) to provide empirical data on passives from Asia Minor Greek. As for (a), I discuss the most problematic aspects of the passive in all these approaches, which are (i) the representation of implicit external arguments, *by*-phrases and their relationship, and (ii) the treatment of passive as a universal crosslinguistic rule. As for (b), I provide empirical data from Asia Minor Greek varieties, which support Alexiadou et al's (2018) proposal for the existence of two types of passives across languages, a fully productive, as found in English, and a semi-productive one showing various gaps, as found in Standard Modern Greek and Asia Minor Greek. Alexiadou et al's (2018) showed that a way of dealing with this difference in a configurational approach to argument structure alternations is in terms of decomposition combined with the view that the passive Voice domain constitutes a phase in Standard Modern Greek- and Asia Minor Greek-type languages. On the other hand, in languages like English, the passive is built on the active, as originally proposed by Chomsky (1957). Data from Asia Minor Greek support the existence of a Passive projection (Pass) on top of a basically active VoiceP lacking a specifier due to an unchecked D-feature.

References

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