Morphological annotation of Calabrian Greek (Greko)

(Research work with FLEx)

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Structure

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2. The text corpus we used
3. Information about FLEx
4. Research I: Null Spatial Ps (Svetlana Berikashvili)
5. Research II: Usage of genitive constructions in Greko (Jan Steyer)
6. Some thoughts on working with FLEx
7. Literature
8. Discussion

„Welcome to Gallicianò, here alone in the mountains, full of pain and songs.“

https://www.reportageonway.com/2016/12/galliciano-condofuri-rc.html

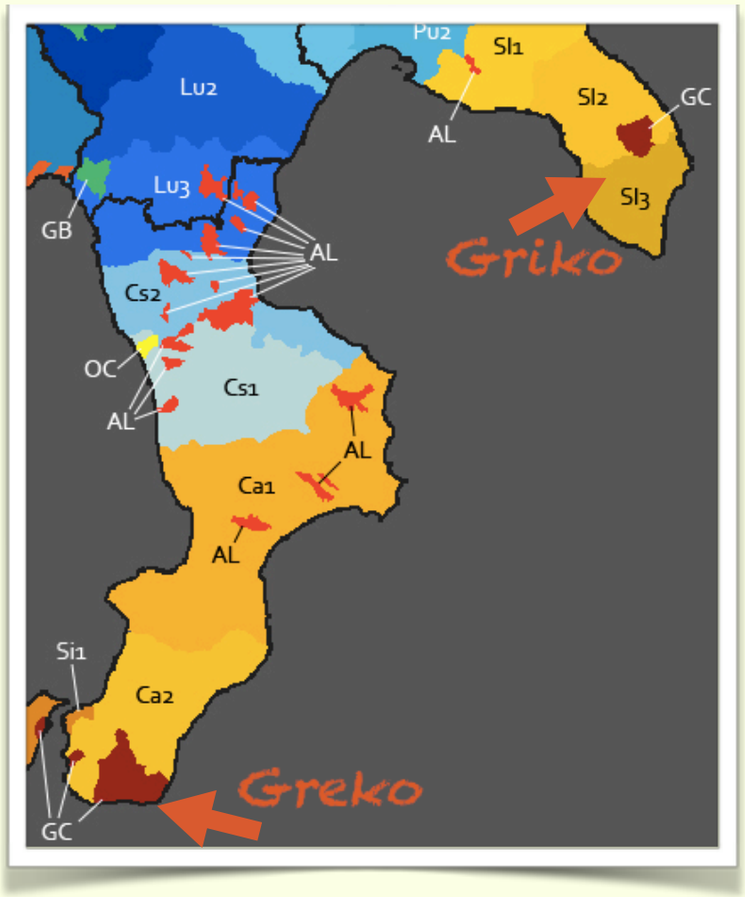
About Greko

in the Southern part of Italy are still spoken two Greek dialects

in Puglia (Salento) Griko is spoken
in Calabria Greko is spoken

both varieties are mutually understandable

both languages are critically endangered languages, each of them with only a few hundred speakers



Map of the languages and dialects in Italy, https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dialetti_e_lingue_in_Italia.png

About Greko

Greko and Griko speaking areas are remains of a former bigger Greek-speaking territory in Southern Italy

three theories about the history of the formation of Greko and Griko:

1. Greek varieties were consistently spoken in Southern Italy since the first Greek settlements of Magna Graecia - a theory represented mainly by Mosino

2. Greek varieties derived directly from the Magna Graecia period and were still spoken during the Roman Empire in a situation of multilingualism; Greek was largely ousted by Romance languages in Norman times (since 11th century CE), Greko and Griko are the remnants of this Greek from the Magna Graecia era, enriched by Byzantine influences - theory made by Rohlfs

3. The Greek of the Magna Graecia did not survive the Roman conquest. Greko and Griko derived from Byzantine Greek in the 6th century CE during Byzantine rule over Southern Italy. - theory represented by Morosi and others

Magna Graecia ancient colonies and their dialect groupings, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Graecia#/media/File:Magna_Graecia_ancient_colonies_and_dialects-en.svg

About Greko

Greko was once spoken in the whole Aspromonte mountains and the coast line of Mèlito and Bova Marina

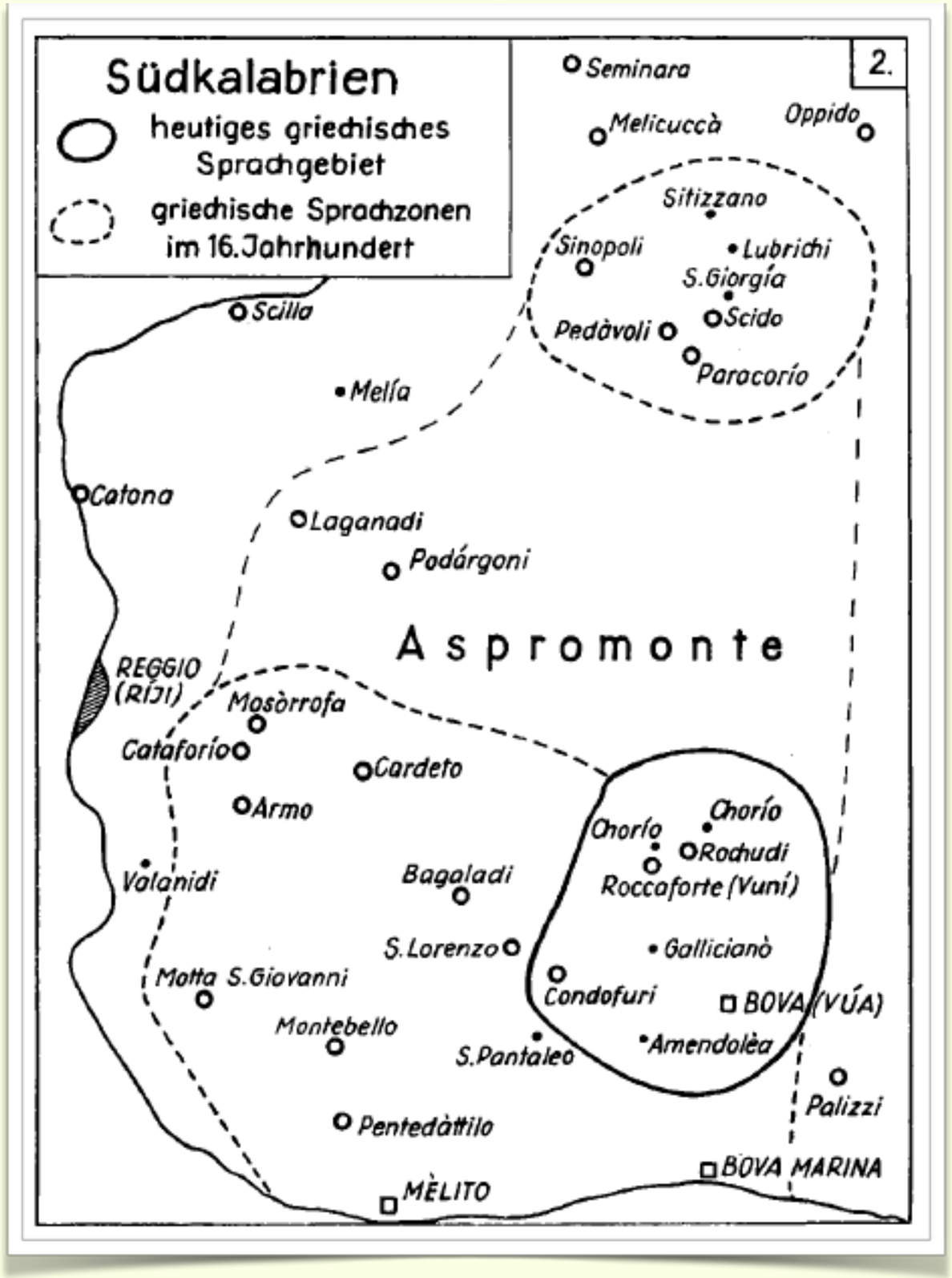
shrinking of the Greko-speaking territory since Norman era:
Romance languages were considered more prestigious, so Greek was used only in family and neighbourhood context

in 16th century CE Greek alphabet was replaced by the Latin one

there are many mutual language influences between the local Italian dialects and Greko

nowadays Greko is only used in five municipalities of the province:

- Bova Marina
- Bova
- Condofuri (mostly in Gallicianò)
- Ruchudi Nouvo
- Reggio Calabria



The atrophy of the Greko-speaking area in Calabria, Rohlfs 1964: XIII

About Greko

Factors of endangerment of the language:

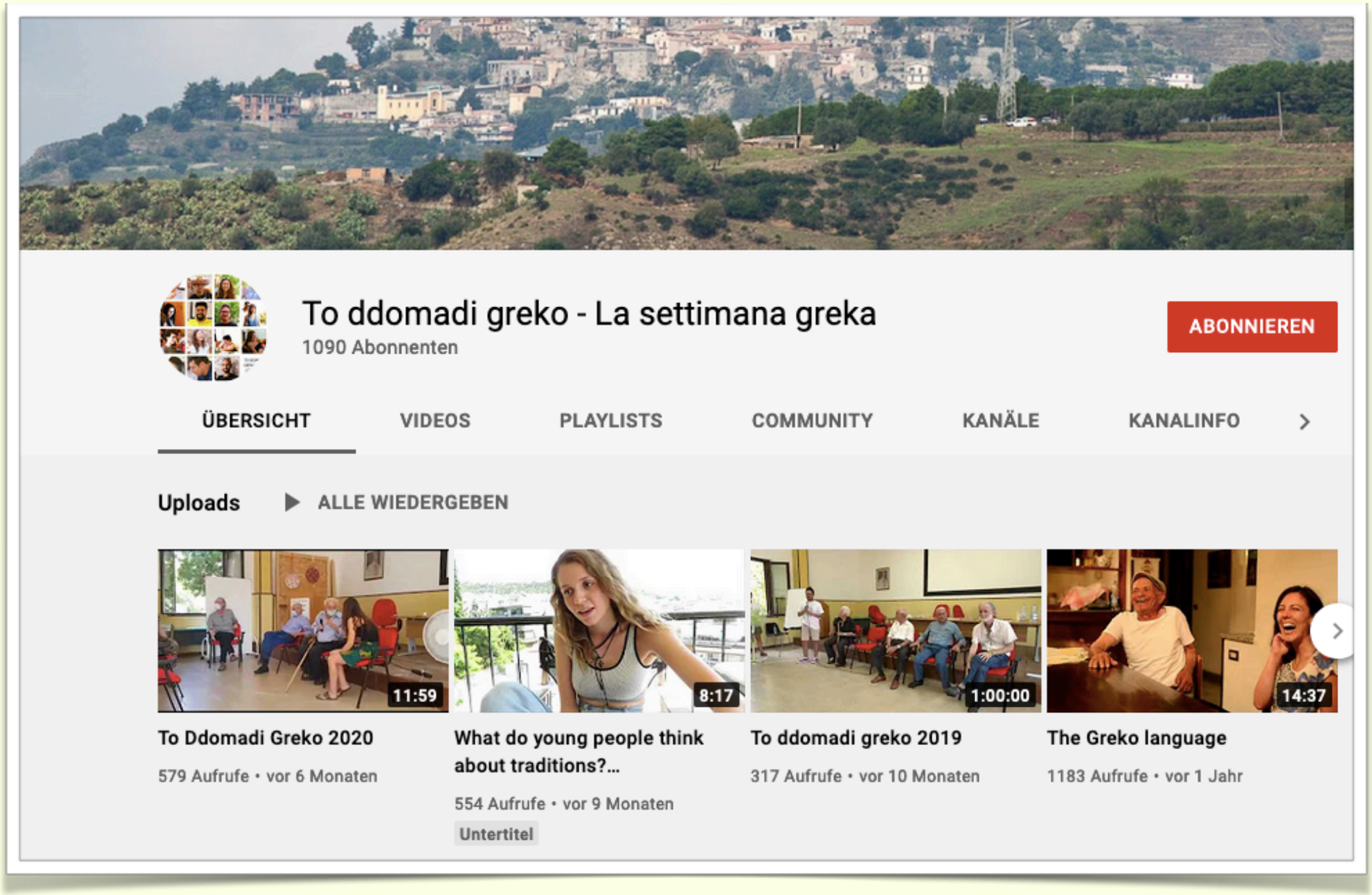
- for a long time there was no contact to or exchange with the Greek mainland
- most Greko speakers lost their awareness of speaking an independent language, believing instead that they speak only a „weird“ local babbling
- emigration: as part of the economical underdeveloped Mezzogiorno many people tried since the end of the 19th century their fortune in the industrialised cities in the North of Italy or as immigrant workers in North America or Central Europe (France, Germany); even today there is still a very hight unemployment rate among younger people (over 50% unemployment)
- heavy flooding disasters in 1953 and 1972 in the mountains caused damage of several villages; people had to abandon their villages and go to the coastal side of Bova Marina or to other, more distant regions of Italy
- Greko was not used in formal contexts (administration, school, etc.) and was limited to informal situations of communication
- especially during the fascist time there was an oppression of the Greek varieties and a nationalist tendency of Italization

About Greko

But there are also positive factors for a revitalization of the language:

- in 1968 the first local association for Greko was founded
- contacts to Greek state authorities and cultural associations in Greece were established; these cultural contacts resulted in the visiting of Greece by local Greko-speaking people
- the exchange and communication inside such an internal Greek community changed the self-awareness of the Greko speakers and their look at their own language
- in 1999 the Italian state declared the protection of the historical linguistic minorities by law 482/1999
- in some villages road signs are bilingual (Italian - Greko)
- in Bova Marina was a permanent observatory for the language and culture of the Greko community established, as well as a regional Institute of Hellenophonic Studies
- the law 482/1999 promotes the presence of Hellenophones in schools, but in fact there is a lack of teacher who understand Greko; in the last years there were a few optional courses (parallel to normal school activities) for Greko in primary schools and also kindergartens (financed by EU funds)

About Greko



Youtube channel of To ddomadi greko, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi78kt_y5y9CLzUIoyVTjnA

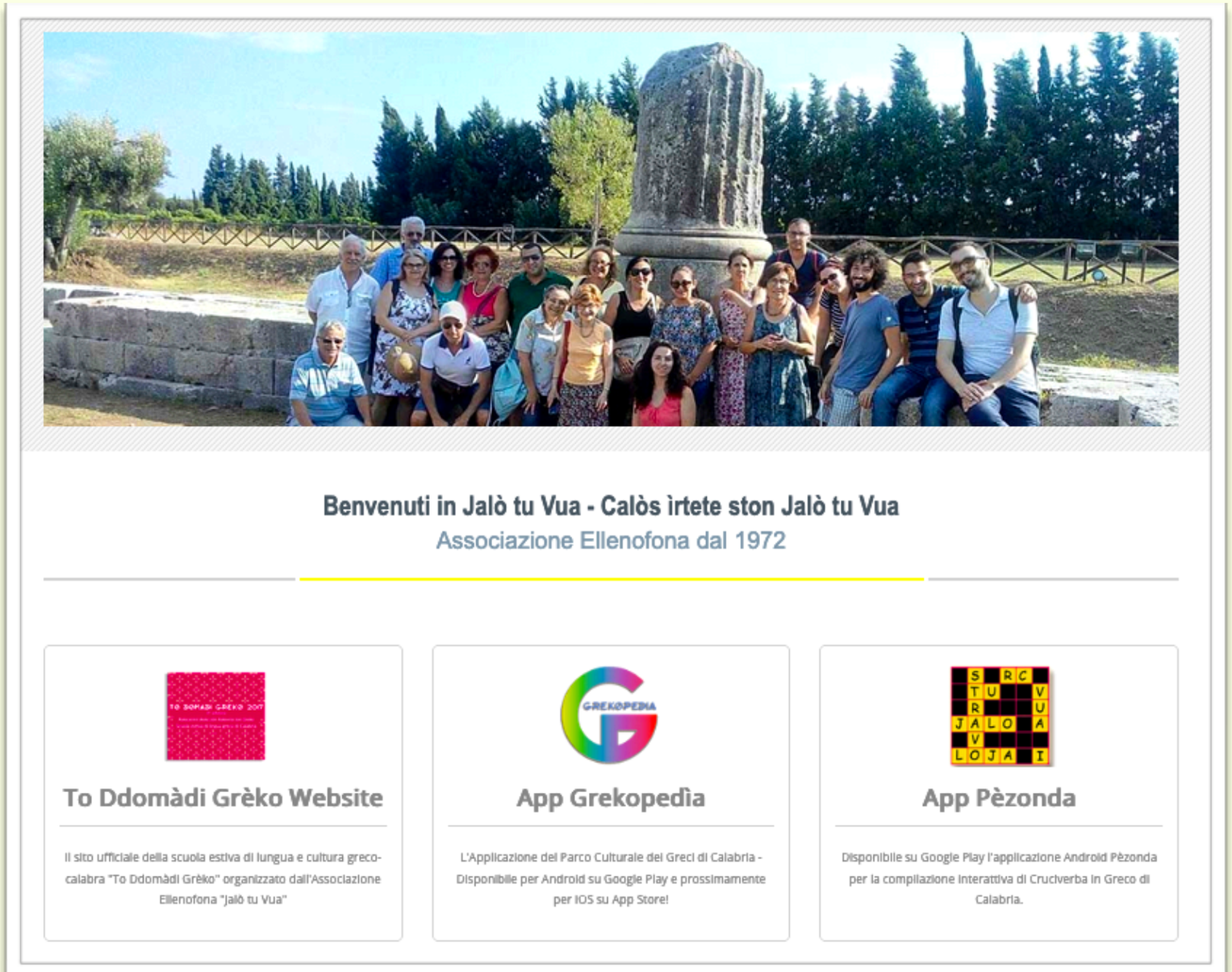
Since a few years some young language activists and young linguists try to help revitalize the language by creating linguistic and didactic appropriate material for language acquisition.

They also use digital social media to make the language better known in society and to offer attractive learning opportunities.

About Greko

2017 the Greko association *Jalò tu Vua* launched for example a crowd funding campaign to collect money for remunerating Greko teachers. The aim behind this campaign was to build up a long term job perspective for young Greko teachers in this structurally weak region of Italy.

If you are interested in the living language and culture of the Greko community, we recommend to visit the website of *Jalò tu Vua*: www.jalotuvua.com



Actual screenshot of the webpage www.jalotuvua.com

The corpus

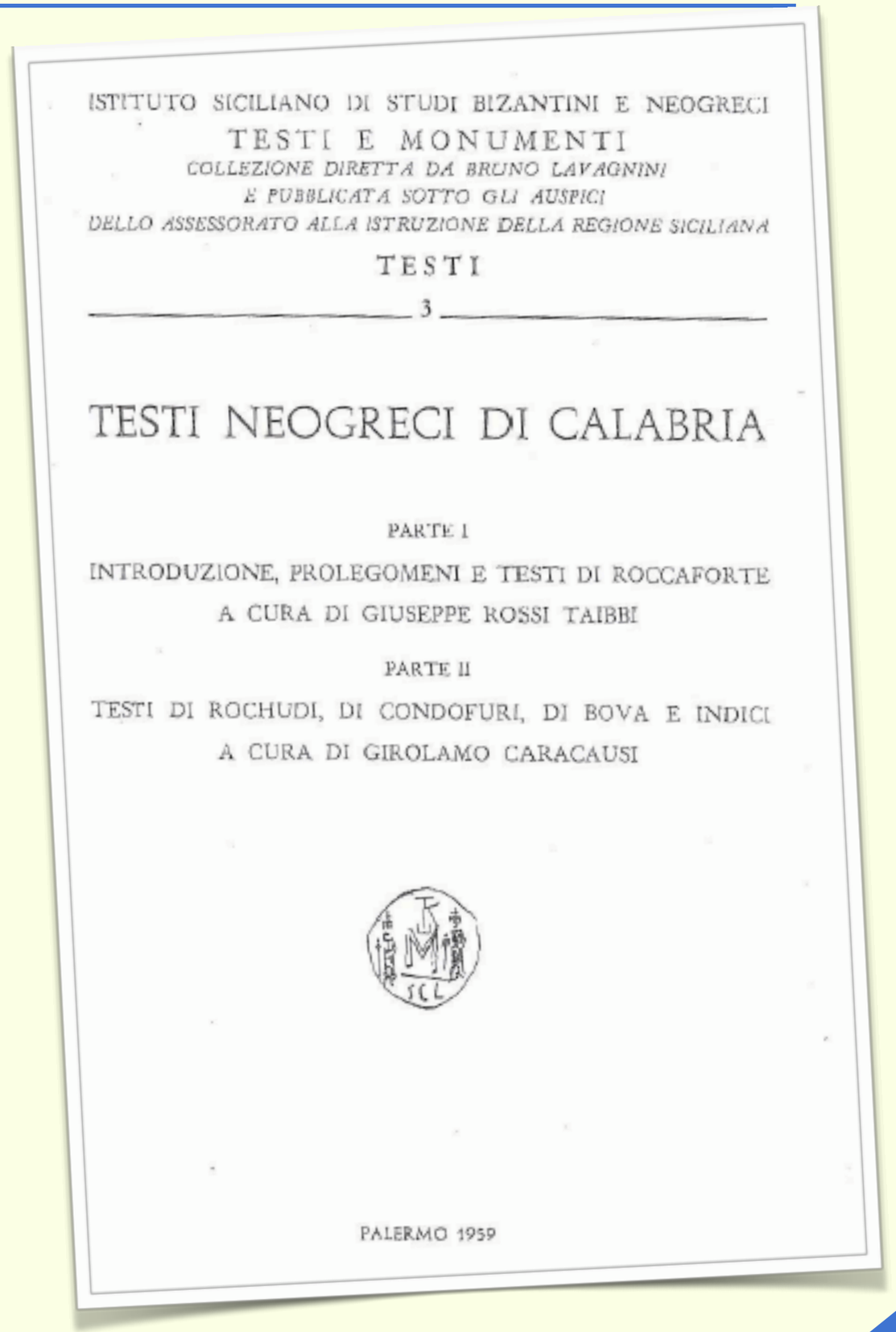
academic interest in Greko has existed since 1821 as Karl Witte wrote an article about this language

the decades of 1860 to 1890 were the period when academics began to collect a huge amount of traditional poems and songs in Greko

one result of this lively collecting activity is the corpus of the *„Testi Neogreci di Calabria“* that was first published in 1959

this large collection contents songs, poems, proverbs, fairy tales from Roccaforte, Condofuri, Rochudi, Bova, Cardeto

we used extracts of the *„Testi Neogreci di Calabria“* as corpus for our own linguistic research questions regarding Greko


ISTITUTO SICILIANO DI STUDI BIZANTINI E NEOGRECI
TESTI E MONUMENTI
COLLEZIONE DIRETTA DA BRUNO LAVAGNINI
E PUBBLICATA SOTTO GLI AUSPICI
DELLO ASSESSORATO ALLA ISTRUZIONE DELLA REGIONE SICILIANA
TESTI
3
TESTI NEOGRECI DI CALABRIA
PARTE I
INTRODUZIONE, PROLEGOMENI E TESTI DI ROCCAFORTE
A CURA DI GIUSEPPE ROSSI TAIBBI
PARTE II
TESTI DI ROCHUDI, DI CONDOFURI, DI BOVA E INDICI
A CURA DI GIROLAMO CARACAUSI
PALERMO 1959

Title page of the *Testi Neogreci di Calabria*, edition from 1959

About FLEx

For our annotation work and the morphological analysis we used the Fieldworks Language Explorer (FLEx) in its Version 9.0 (https://software.sil.org/fieldworks/).

FLEx was developed by SIL International (formerly Summer Institute of Linguistics) and is available for Windows and Linux systems. (Unfortunately not for MacOS, in this case using a virtual machine is recommend by SIL.)

The software is designed to facilitate the entry and analysis of linguistic (and anthropological) information. In fact, FLEx is a collection of different software tools that are internally coordinated and interact with each other.

FLEx enables semi-automated analysis, as well as an automated creation of a lexicon and a grammar sketch.

Automated resp. semi-automated features of FLEx are for instance:

- automatically generated dictionary created from the lexical entries
- automatically generated concordance of words within the text corpus
- automated interlinearization of text corpora with morphological parser
- automatically generated grammar sketch derived from grammar rules
- assisting with morphological parsing
- creating charts of the grammatical structure of the text

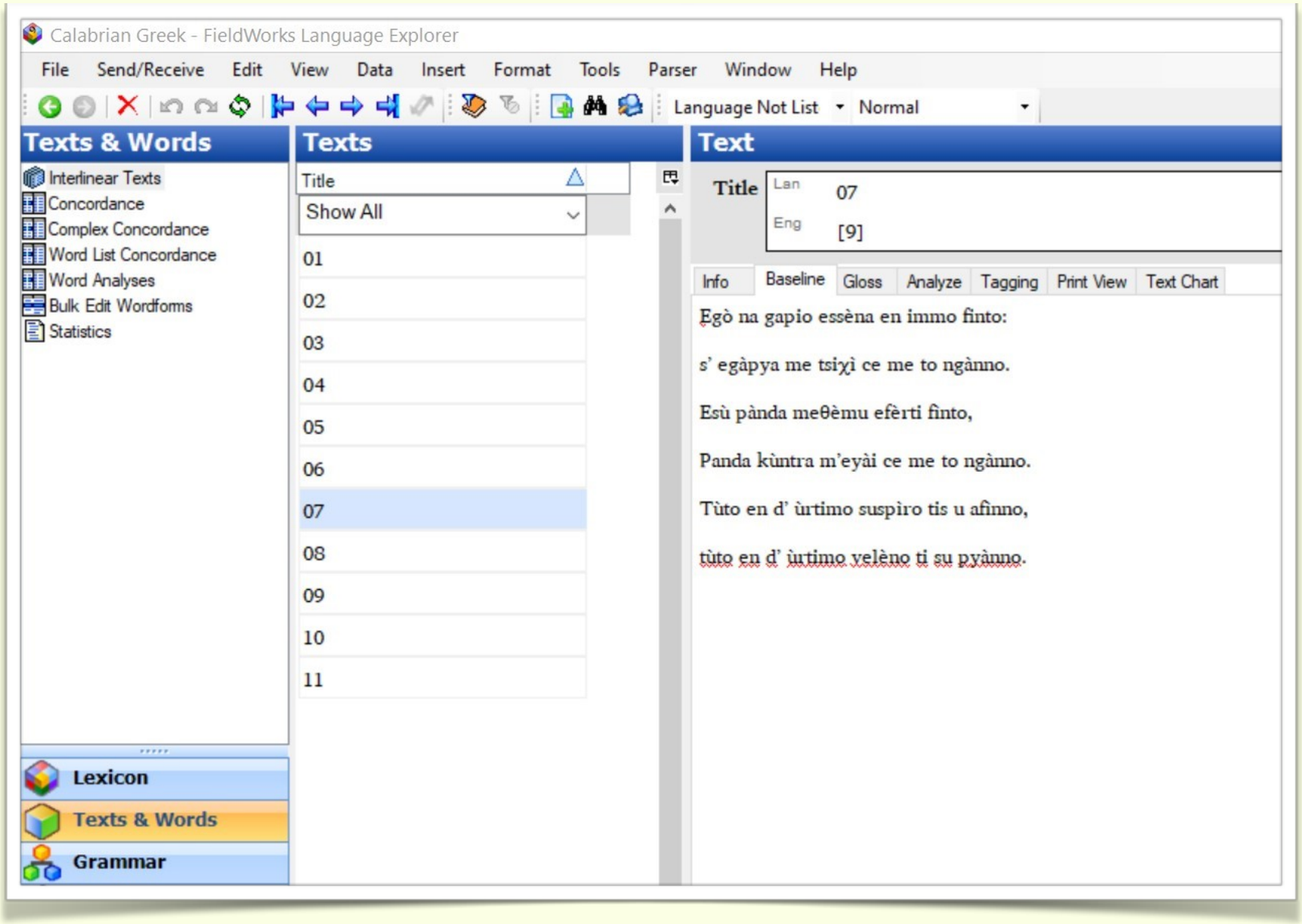
FLEx can handle different languages and different character sets.

Null Spatial Ps

Size: 964 words

Genres:

- Poems (197 words)
- Proverbs (231 words)
- Fairy-tales (536 words)



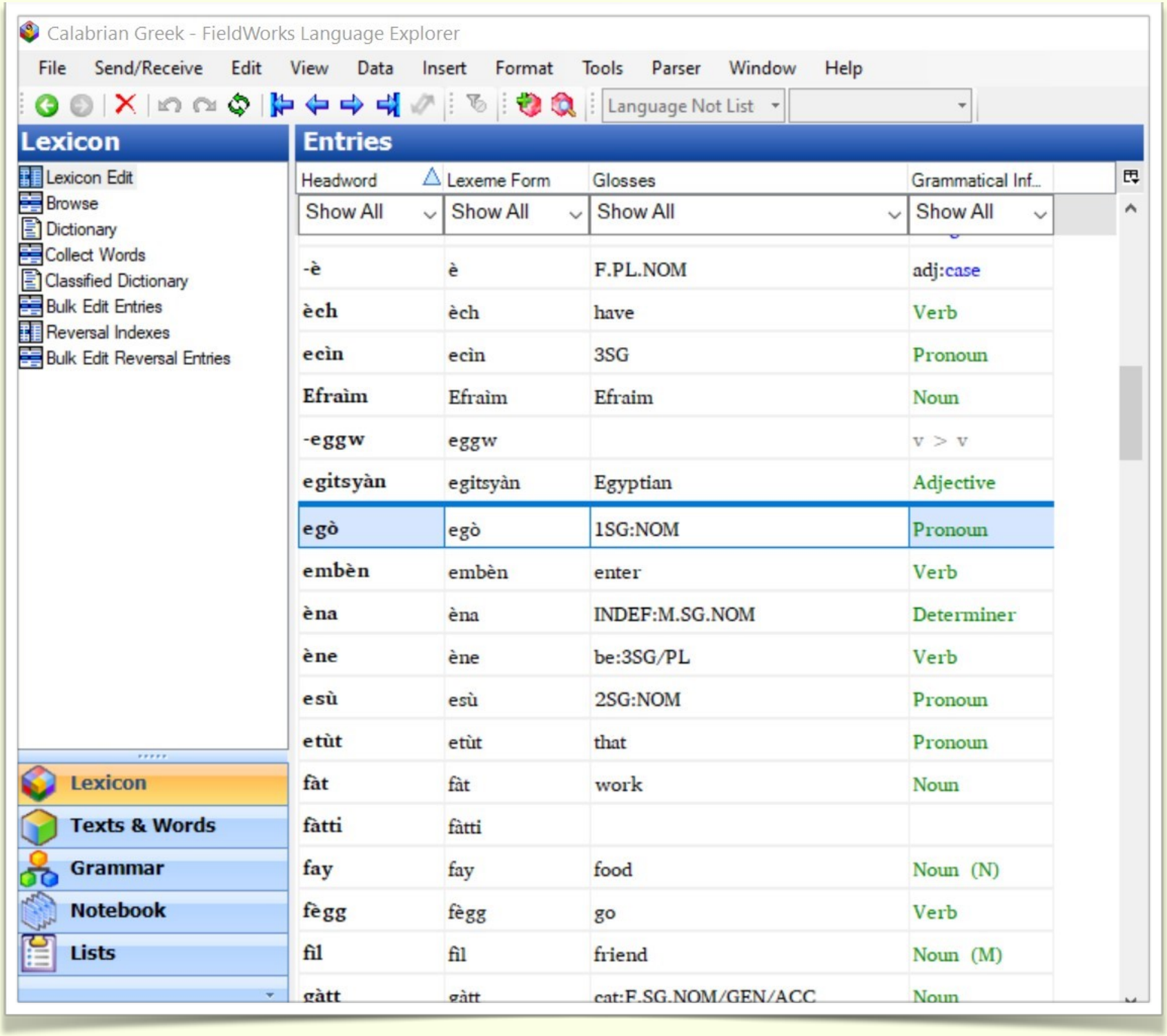
Canti di Bova, 9, p. 313.

Null Spatial Ps

- **Dictionary**

Morpheme types:

- stems
- suffixes
  (derivational, inflectional)
- prefixes
- clitics
  (proclitics, enclitics)
- particles



Null Spatial Ps

- **Dictionary**

Entries

Entries

Headword	Lexeme Form	Glosses	Grammatical Inf...
Show All	Show All	Show All	Show All
regàlet	regàlet	gift	Verb
s=	s	in	Adposition
-s	s	M.SG.NOM	n:
san	san	when	Adverb
scìdd	scìdd	dog	Noun
se	se	in	Adposition
sekùnd	sekùnd	second	Adjective
sèrv	sèrv	need	Verb
spìt	spìt	house	Noun (N)

Entry — Show Hidden Fields

s= *adp* in

Lexeme Form	Lan s
Morph Type	proclitic
Citation Form	Lan
Complex Forms	
Components	
Note	Eng
Messages	

Sense 1

Gloss Eng in

Entries

Headword	Lexeme Form	Glosses	Grammatical Inf...
Show All	Show All	Show All	Show All
-es	e	F.SG.NOM/ACC	adj:case
		F.SG.NOM/ACC	pro-form:case
è-	è		v:augment
-è	è	F.PL.NOM	adj:case
èch	èch	have	Verb
ecìn	ecìn	3SG	Pronoun
Efraìm	Efraìm	Efraim	Noun
-eggw	eggw		v > v
egitsyàn	egitsyàn	Egyptian	Adjective
egò	egò	1SG:NOM	Pronoun
embèn	embèn	enter	Verb
èna	èna	INDEF:M.SG.NOM	Determiner
ène	ène	be:3SG/PL	Verb
esù	esù	2SG:NOM	Pronoun
etùt	etùt	that	Pronoun
fàt	fàt	work	Noun

Entry — Show Hid

-eggw *v > v sfx*

Lexeme Form	Lan eggw
Morph Type	suffix
Citation Form	Lan
Complex Forms	
Components	
Note	Eng
Messages	

Sense 1

Gloss Eng

Definition Eng

Grammatical Info. Verb > Verb

Example

Semantic Domains

Lexical Relations

Variants

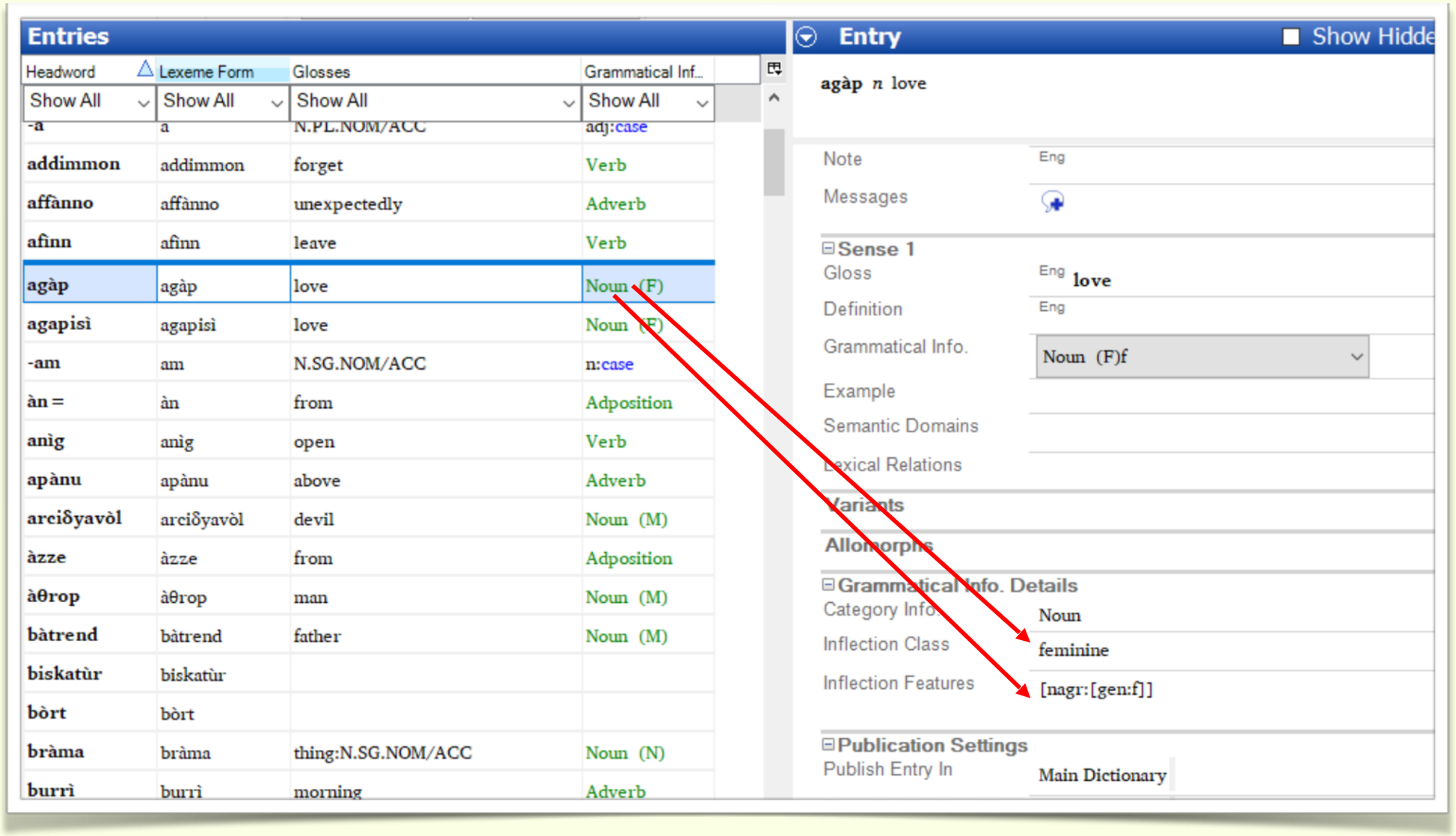
Allomorphs

Null Spatial Ps

- **Dictionary**

Information included:

- Part of Speech
- Inflection Features
- Inflection Classes
- Stem Allomorphs



If they ...	then use ...
have no semantic differences (i.e. have the same meaning), have non-phonologically motivated shape differences, and are not involved in (syntactic) agreement	inflection class
have semantic differences (i.e. actually have different meaning)	inflection features
are involved in (syntactic) agreement	inflection features
are really declension classes or conjugation classes	inflection classes
are noun classes or gender	inflection features

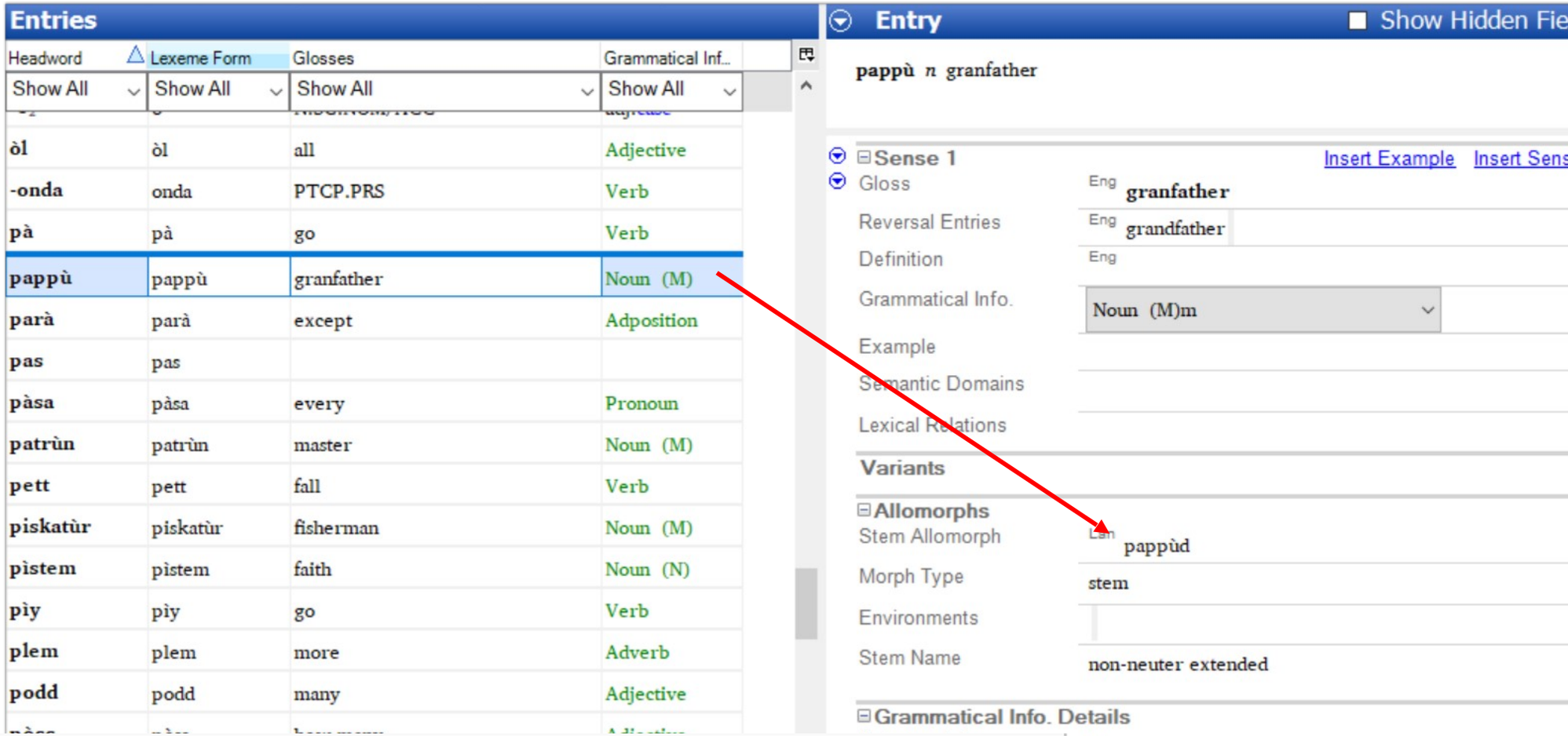
Black, Andrew, 2014: 2.1.2.8 Inflection Classes versus Inflection Features

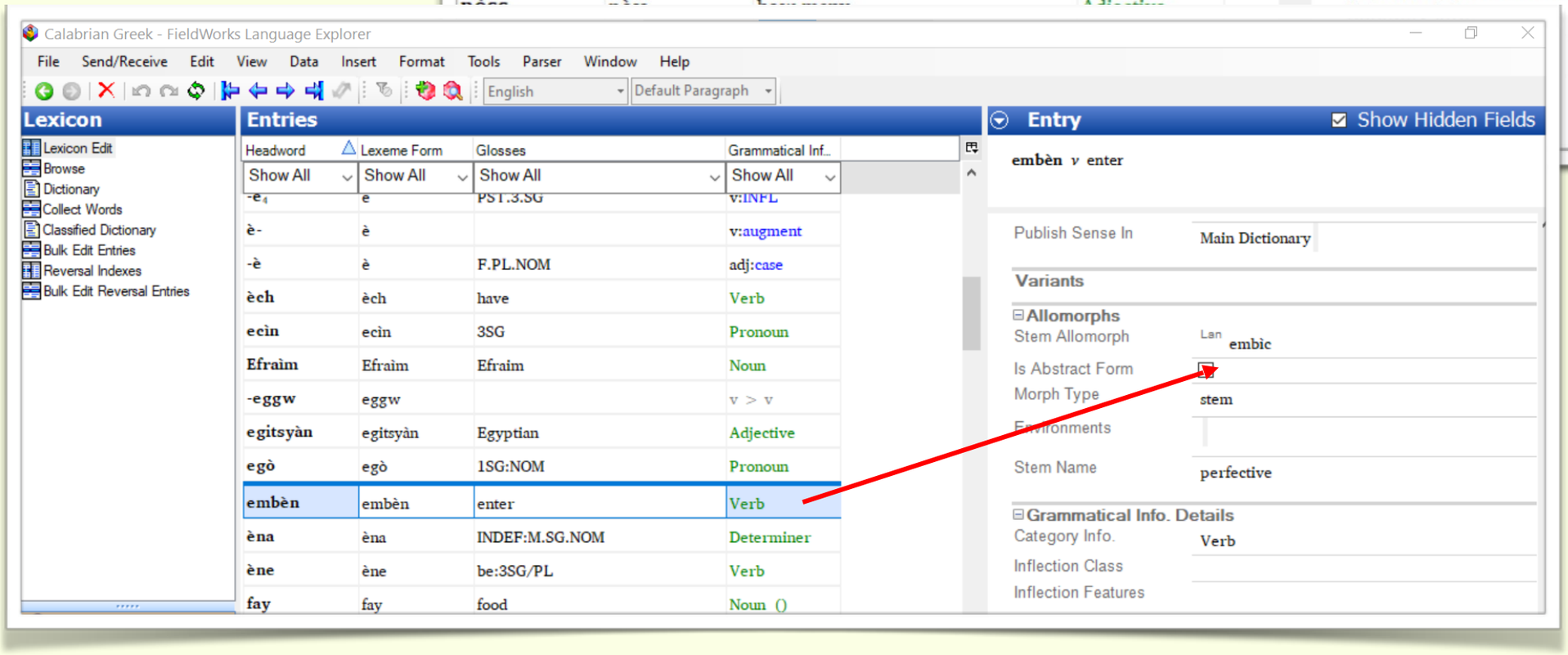
Null Spatial Ps

- **Dictionary**

Stem Allomorphs

synthetic approach



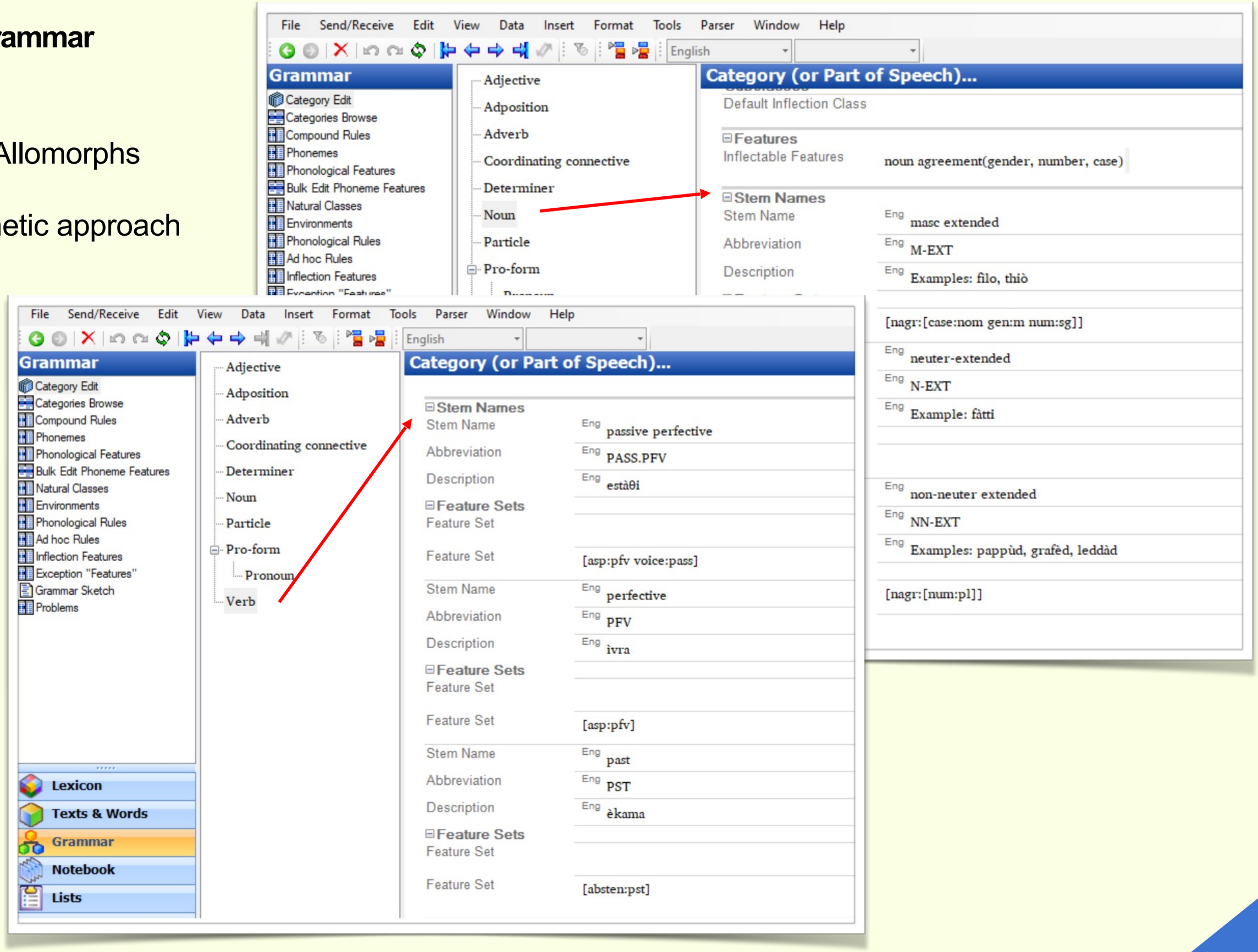


Null Spatial Ps

- **Grammar**

Stem Allomorphs

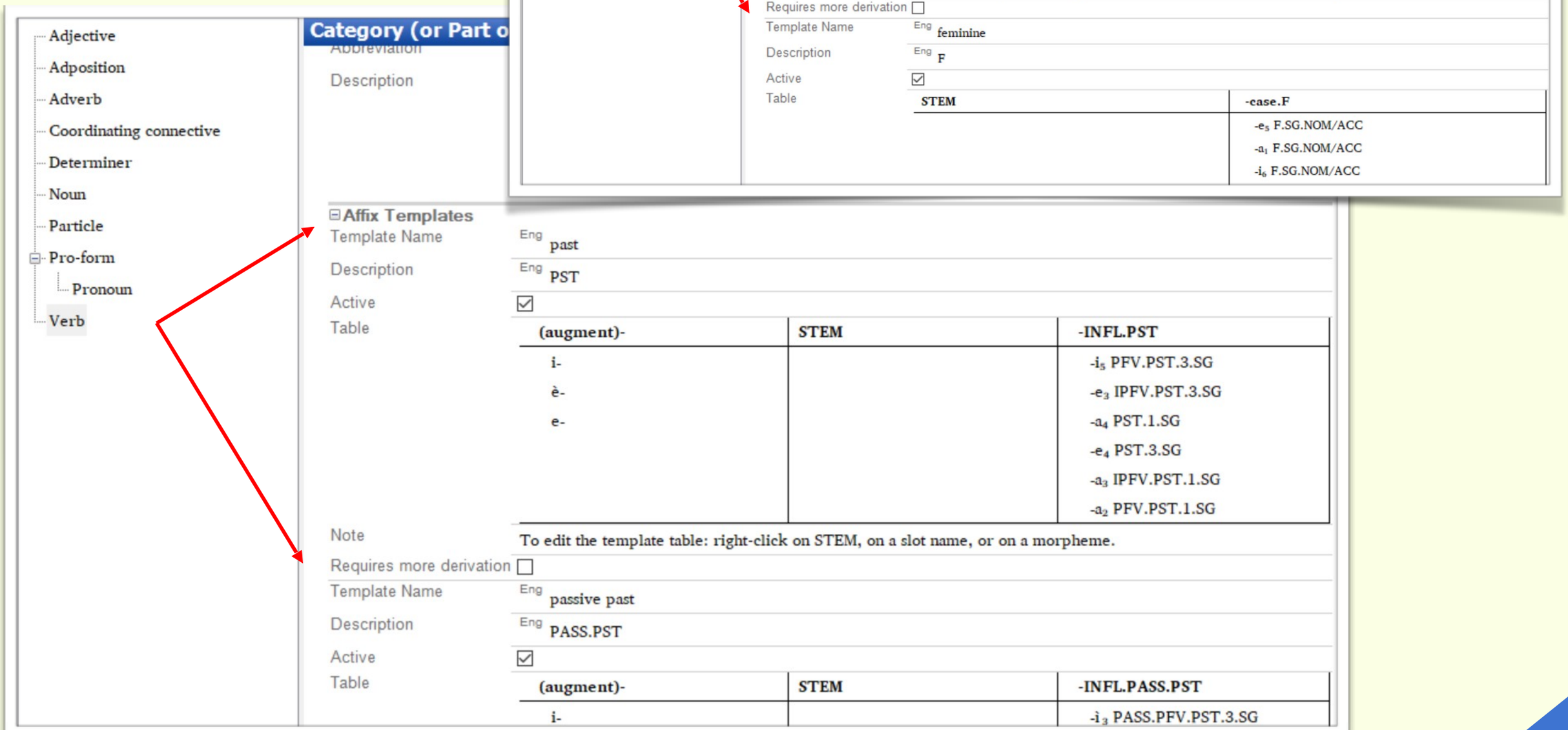
synthetic approach



Null Spatial Ps

- **Grammar**

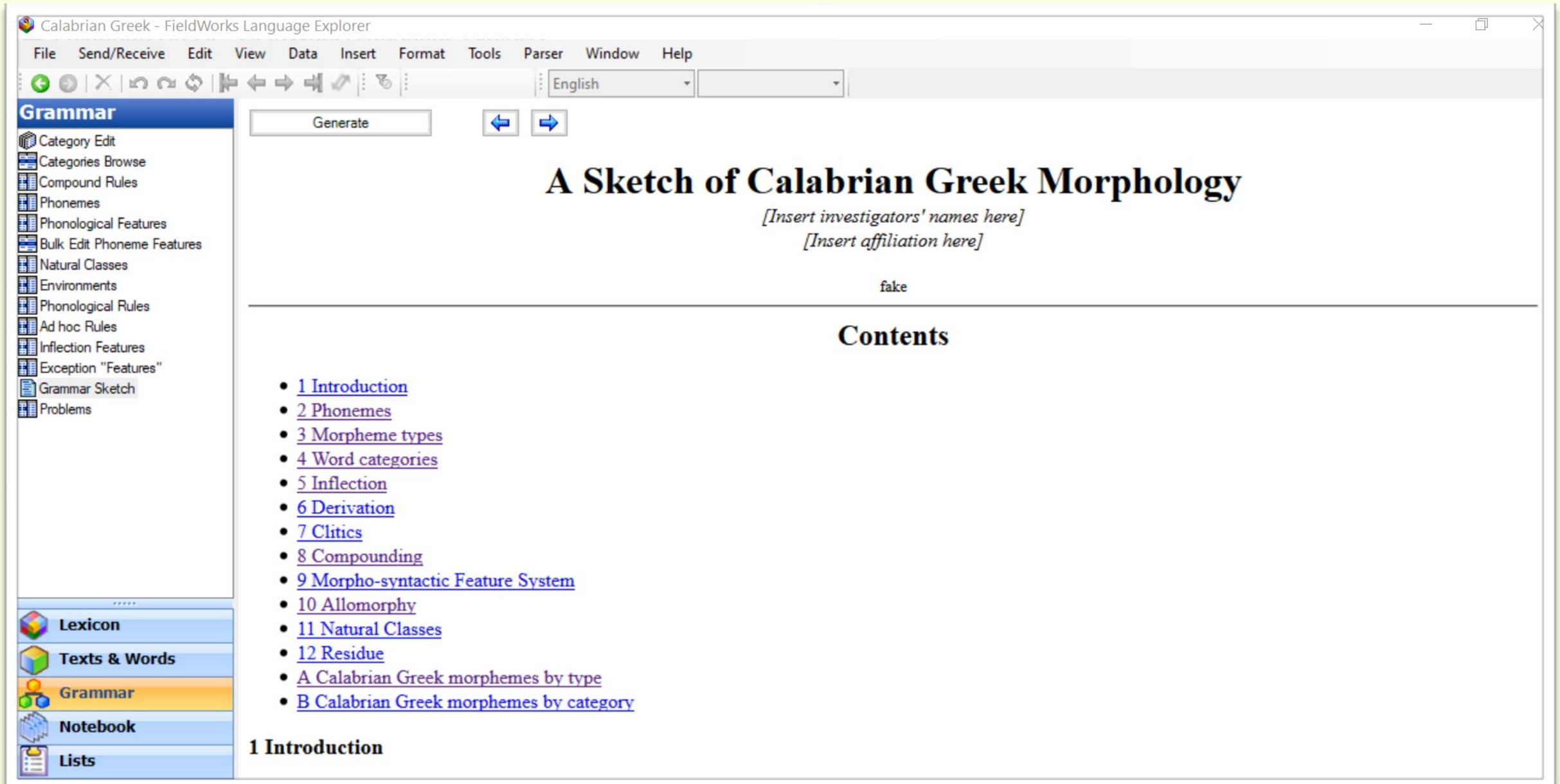
Inflection Templates



Null Spatial Ps

- **Grammar**

Grammar Sketch

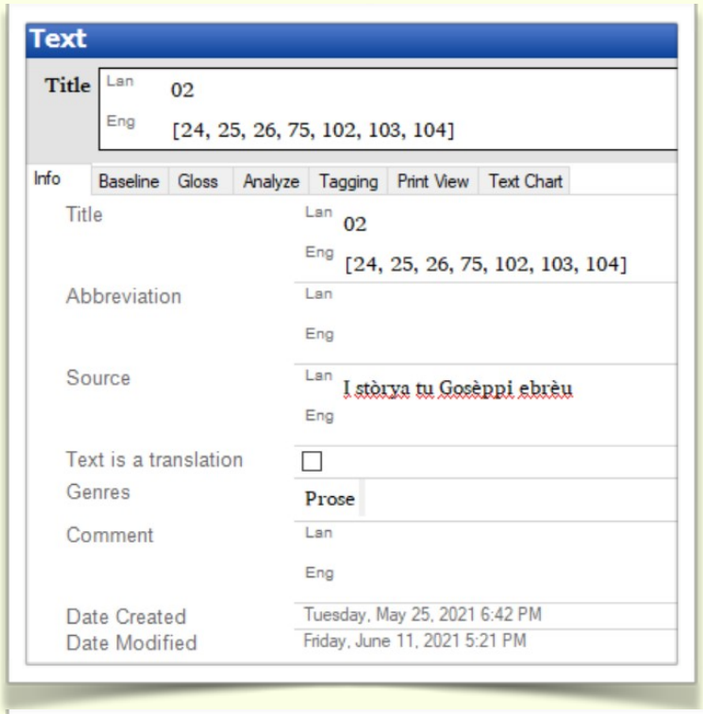


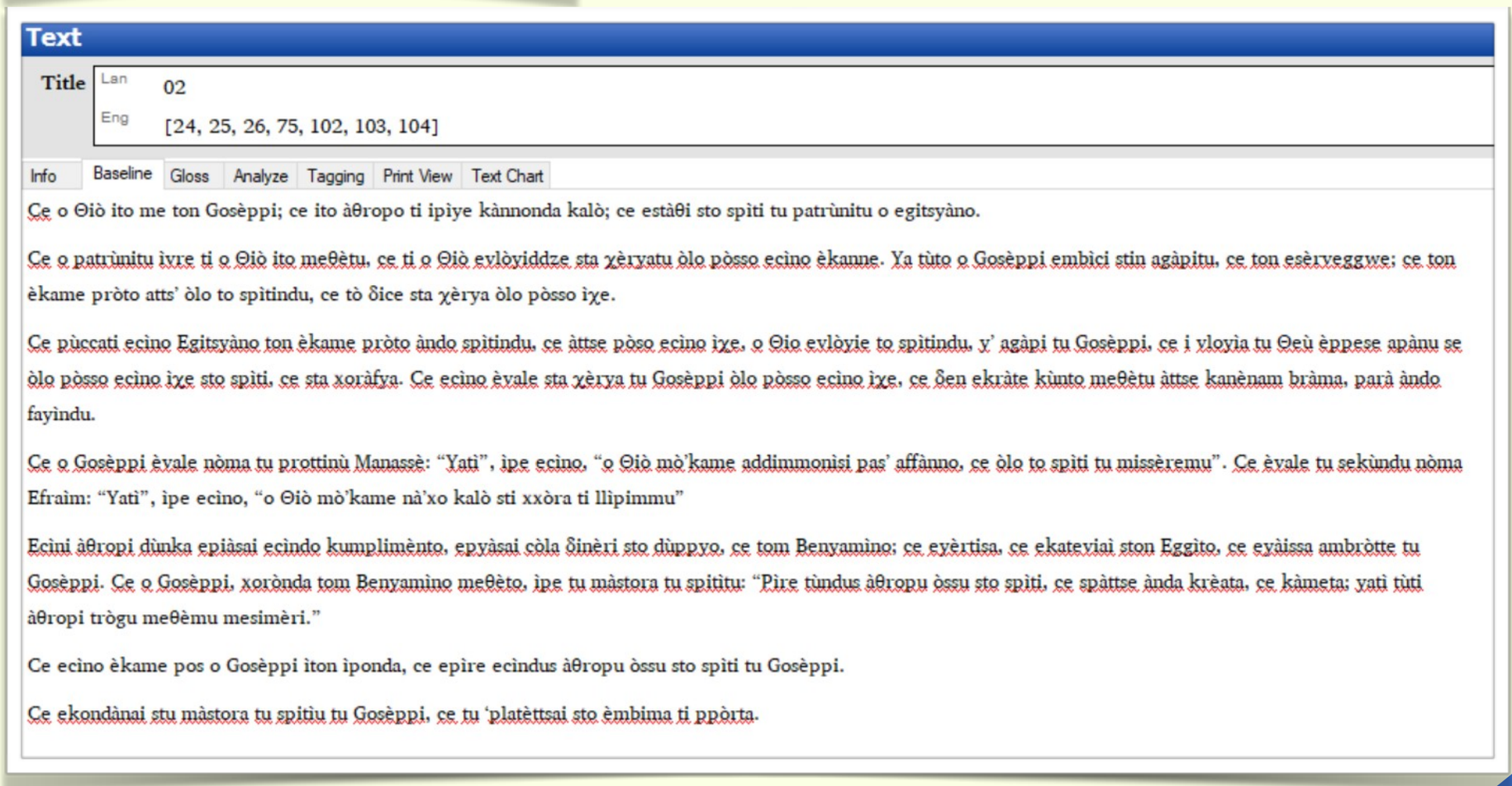
Null Spatial Ps

- **Texts**

Information included:

- Metadata
- Baseline





Null Spatial Ps

- **Texts**

Information included:

- Gloss
- Analysis
(with morpheme breaks)

Text — Add Words to Lexic

Title — Lan: 02 — Eng: [24, 25, 26, 75, 102, 103, 104]

Info | Baseline | Gloss | Analyze | Tagging | Print View | Text Chart

1	Word	Ce	o	Θiò	ito	me	ton	Gosèppi	;	ce	ito	àθropo	ti
	Word Gloss	and	DEF:M.SG.NOM	Lord	be:PST.3SG	with	DEF:M.SG.ACC	Josef		and	be:PST.3SG	man	which
	Word Cat.	coordconn	det	n	v	adp	det	n		coordconn	v	n	pro

ipìye	kànnonda	kalò	;	ce	estàθi	sto	spìti	tu
go:IPFV.PST:3SG	do:PTCP.PRS	good:N.SG.NOM		and	stay:PASS.PFV.PST:3.SG	LOC=DEF:N.SG.NGEN	house	DEF:M/N.SG.GEN
v	v	adj		coordconn	v	adp	n	det

patrùnitu	o	egitsyàno	.
master:M.SG.GEN=CL.3:M/N.SG	DEF:M.SG.NOM	Egyptian:M.SG.NOM	
n	det	adj	

Free And the Lord was with Josef; and he was a prosperous man; and stayed at the house of his Egyptian master.

Text

Title — Lan: 02 — Eng: [24, 25, 26, 75, 102, 103, 104]

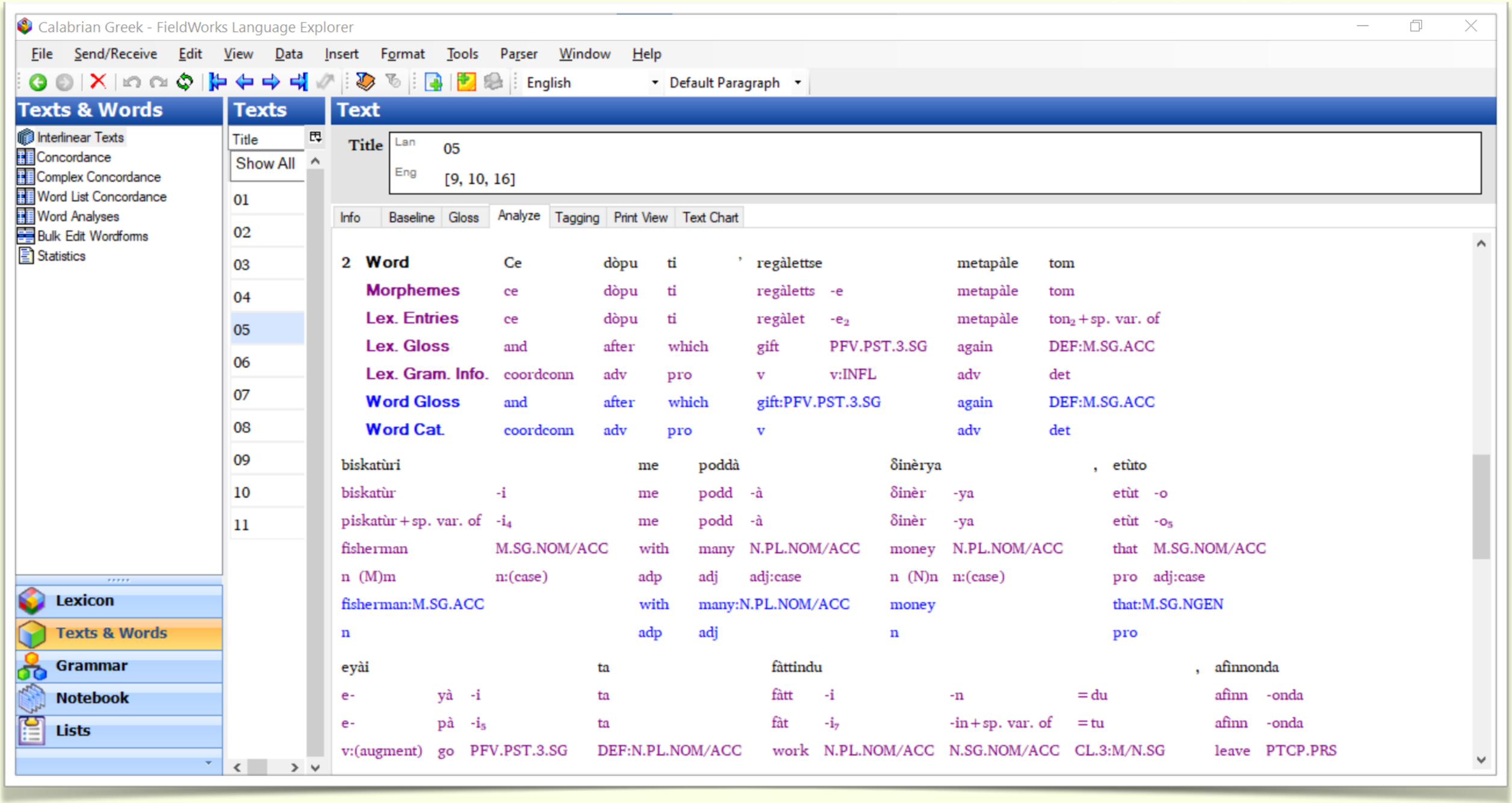
Info | Baseline | Gloss | Analyze | Tagging | Print View | Text Chart

1	Word	Ce	o	Θiò		ito	me	ton	Gosèppi	;	ce
	Morphemes	ce	o	Θi	-ò	ito	me	ton	Gosèppi		ce
	Lex. Entries	ce	o	Θi	-ò$_1$	ito	me	ton$_2$	Gosèppi		ce
	Lex. Gloss	and	DEF:M.SG.NOM	Lord	M.SG.NOM	be:PST.3SG	with	DEF:M.SG.ACC	Josef		and
	Lex. Gram. Info.	coordconn	det	n (M)m	n:(case)	v3 pst	adp	det	n		coordconn
	Word Gloss	and	DEF:M.SG.NOM	Lord		be:PST.3SG	with	DEF:M.SG.ACC	Josef		and
	Word Cat.	coordconn	det	n		v	adp	det	n		coordconn

ito	àθropo		ti	ipìye			kànnonda		kalò		;	ce
ito	àθrop	-o	ti	i-	pìy	-e	kànn	-onda	kal	-ò		ce
ito	àθrop	-o$_4$	ti	i-	pìy	-e$_2$	kànn	-onda	kal	-ò$_2$		ce
be:PST.3SG	man	M.SG.NOM/ACC	which	v:(augment)	go	PFV.PST.3.SG	do	PTCP.PRS	good	N.SG.NOM/ACC		and
v3 pst	n (M)m	n:(case)	pro		v	v:INFL	v	Verb	adj	adj:case		coordconn
be:PST.3SG	man		which	go:IPFV.PST:3SG			do:PTCP.PRS		good:N.SG.NOM			and
v	n		pro	v			v		adj			coordconn

estàθi			sto		spìti		tu	patrùnitu		
e-	stàθ	-i	s=	to	spìt	-i	tu	patrùn	-i	=tu
e-	stèk	-i$_5$	s=	to	spìt	-i$_3$	tu	patrùn	-i$_2$	=tu
v:(augment)	stay	PFV.PST.3.SG	in	DEF:N.SG.NGEN	house	N.SG.NOM/ACC	DEF:M/N.SG.GEN	master	M.SG.GEN	CL.3:M/N.SG
	v	v:INFL	adp	det	n (N)n	n:(case)	det	n (M)m	n:(case)	pro

Null Spatial Ps



TOPIC

Null spatial Ps

arguments of a locative or directional P surface bare and the associated spatial P is missing

(1) *Standard Modern Greek (SMG)* (Terzi 2010: 169)

I Maria girise (sto) spiti arga.
the Maria returned se.the home late.
'Maria returned home late'

TOPIC

Research question:

Are null spatial Ps attested in Greko? If attested do they show similar properties as in SMG?

Null Spatial Ps

If there exists a similar phenomenon with the noun *spiti* 'home', as in SMG

- Null locative Ps

(2) *SMG* (Terzi 2010: 173)
Emina (sto) spiti mexri arga.
I stayed se.the home until late.
'I stayed home until late.'

- Null directional Ps of the goal type

(3) *SMG* (Terzi 2010: 173)
Pao (sto) spiti.
I go se.the home.
'I go home.'

- Null directional Ps of the source type

(4) *SMG* (Terzi 2010: 174)
*Efiga *(apo to) spiti.*
left from the home.
'I left home.'

Null spatial Ps in Greko

(5) *Greko* (*Bova)* (Crupi 1980: 63)

Pao (sto) spiti.
go se.the home.
'I go home.'

(6) *Greko* (*Vuni)* (Karanastasis 1997: 175)

Pao (sto) spiti.
go se.the home.
'I go home.'

Both cases are directional Ps of the goal type.

Null Spatial Ps

Based on the corpus data:

- No null locative Ps

(7) *Greko* (I stòrya tu Gosèppi ebrèu, 02.1).
ce *estàθi* ****(sto)*** ***spìti.***
and stay:PASS.PFV.PST.3SG LOC=DEF:N.SG.NGEN home:N.SG.NGEN
'And he stayed at home.'

- No null directional Ps of the goal type with the noun *spiti* 'home'

(8) *Greko* (O tinùso ce to šoliko, 01.2.4)
San *eyài* ****(sto)*** ***spìti…***
When go:PFV.PST.3.SG LOC=DEF:N.SG.NGEN home:N.SG.NGEN
'When he went home...'

- No null directional Ps of the source type

(9) *Greko* (O δyàvolo ce i dixatère tu piskatùri, 05.3)
ce *èfiye* *me* *ecìne* ****(àndo)*** ***spìti…***
and left:PFV.PST.3.SG with 3PL.F from=DEF:N.SG.NGEN home...
'And, she left home with them...'

Null spatial Ps in Greko

- Attested null directional P example of the goal type, not with *spìti*, but with *fàtti*

(10) *Greko* (O δyàvolo ce i dixatère tu piskatùri, 5.2)

etùto	***eyài***	***ta***	***fàttindu****…*
That	go:PFV.PST.3.SG	DEF:N.PL.NGEN	work:N.PL.NGEN=CL3:M.SG

'That man went to his work...'

Null spatial Ps in Greko

- The similiar example is indicated in Crupi (1980) and Karanastasis (1997).

(11) *Greko* (Crupi 1980: 63)
pao ***ta*** ***fàttimu***
go the work=my
'I am going for my work (I am leaving).'

(12) *Greko* (Karanastasis 1997: 175)
pao ***ta*** ***ffatti*** *mu*
go the work my
'I go to my work.'

If this example really indicates directional null P, it is countering the claim, that in directional null Ps, **the lack of an overt determiner** contributes to different interpretation of PLACE nouns and common nouns.

Next steps, further empirical observations:

- nominals that may appear with null Ps except of *spiti* ‘home’, e.g. *anglisia* ‘church’, *ozzia* ‘mountains’, etc.’

- reduplicated nominals, as indicated in (13) for Greko

(13) *Greko* (Crupi 1980: 63)

i	*pétudda*	*petai*	***sucìa***	***sucìa.***
the	butterfly	flies	fig_tree.ACC	fig_tree.ACC

‘The butterfly flies from one branch to another.’

Next steps, further empirical observarions:

The interesting thing is that in other Greek variety, namely in Pontic Greek such examples are attested with the nominal *spiti* ‘home’

(14) *Pontic Greek* (PNT-TXT-MR-00000-A11.002)

ti	*nifen*	*elashkizane*	***spit***	***spit.***
the	bride	walk	house.ACC	house.ACC

‘They walked the bride from house to house.’

Next steps, further empirical observarions:

- examples where null Ps are possible with nominals that instantiate PLACE (i.e. are more similar to adverbs when to common nouns) and are followed by other adverbials expressing place, as indicated in example (15)

(15) *Greko* (Crupi 1980: 63)
pao potamon ***ossu.***
go river inside
'I go to the river (towards the river).'

In the similar examples in Pontic Greek, null Ps are impossible

(16) *Pontic Greek* (Tombaidis 1988: 65)
pao **(so)* *xoraf* ***kes.***
go se.the field and.inside
'I go to the field (towards the field).'

Concluding remarks

Desiderata of work

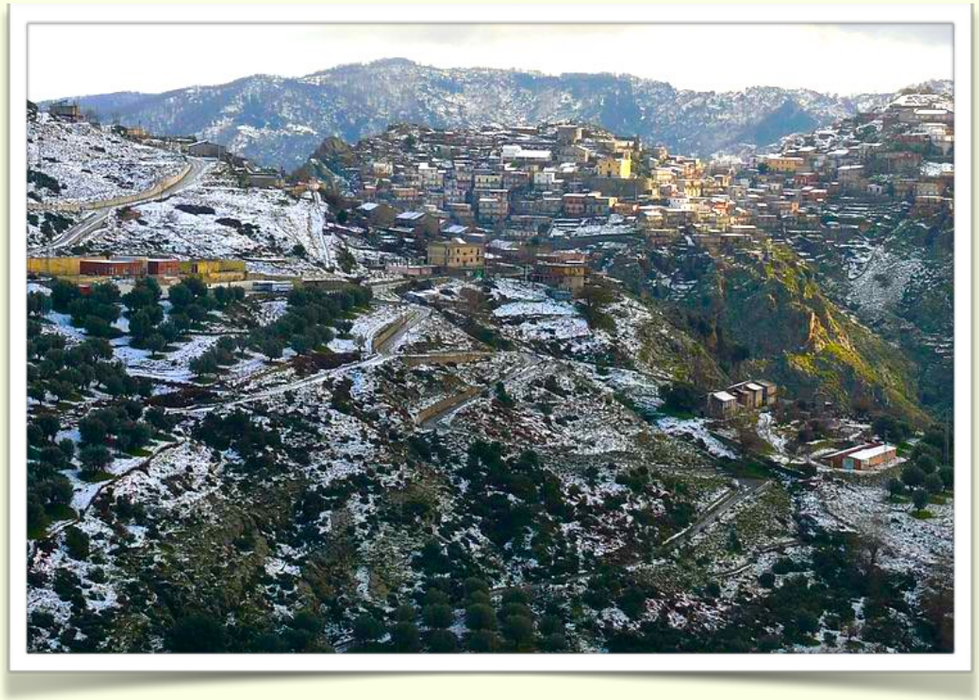
- Null Ps exist in Greko; at least null directional Ps of the goal type; larger amount of data is needed to find the appropriate empirical evidence;
- Based on the empirical evidence some theoretical assumptions of analyzing null Ps can be tested.

Usage of genitive constructions in Greko

corpus: texts from Roccaforte del Greco (To Vunì),
collected by Luigi Bruzzano,
August 1891

To Vunì lies in the north of Bova

in 1881 To Vunì had 1.392 inhabitants,
nowadays about 400 inhabitants
(according to the Italian Wikipedia:
Roccaforte del Greco)



View of Roccaforte del Greco (To Vunì); Photograph: Pasquale58. https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roccaforte_del_Greco#/media/File:Roccaforte.jpg

Map of the Region around Roccaforte del Greco (To Vunì), marked here in blue; https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=12/37.9922/15.8562&layers=Y

Usage of genitive constructions in Greko

text source (a fairy tale) from *„Testi Neogreci die Calabria“*: 878 words

my research looks at the usage of the genitive constructions in Greko

number of genitives in the source:

12 article declension
12 nominal declension
42 pronominal declension

the following genitive forms are found in the corpus:

information in blue shows the Greko paradigm according to Karanastasis (1997)

- pronominal declension

	1	2	3m	3f	3n
SG	mu	su	tu, ecìnu	tis, ecìni	tu, ecìnu
PL	emmàse, emmà	essà(s), sa	tos, ecinò	tos, ecinò ▸ cinò	tos, ecinò

Usage of genitive constructions in Greko

- article declension:

	1	2	3
SG	tu	tis	tu
PL	ton/tos	ton/tos	ton/tos

- nominal declensions:
(I., II., III. nominal declension)

	m	f	n
SG	I.: -u, -a, -i II.: -ù, -u III.: -à, -a, -ù	I.: -à, -a, -ì, -i ▸ -ò(s)* II.: - III.: -à, -a	I.: - II.: -ù, -u, -ì, -i III.: -atu
PL	I.: -o II.: -ò, -o III.: -ado, -ùdo(n)	I.: -ò, -o II.: - III.: -àdo, -ado	I.: - II.: -ò, -o, -ìo, -io III.: -ato

*) as a remnant of an ancient declension type: *i thichatèra - ti(s) thichaterò;* cp. grc. *θυγατρ-ός*

function of genitive usage based on corpus data:

1. marking of the **indirect object**:

*(1) I alapùda **tu** ìp-e:*
DET fox 3SG.M say.PST-3.SG
„The fox said to him:“

(2) *Ce egò **su** dònn-o tin ajo benedizzioni.*
and 1.SG 2.SG give.PRS-1.SG DET holy blessing
„I give you the holy blessing.“

- the most frequent usage in this corpus, often with pronouns

2. as ***genitivus possessivus***:

(3) [*Ecìno*] *ìtone òlese kontènto àn-do matrimònio **tith-thichateròs=tu***
[he] COP all happy with-DET wedding DET.ASS-daughter=3SG.M
„He was totally happy with the wedding of his daughter.“

- the possessive genitive has only one occurrence in the corpus

function of genitive use based on examples:

3. as **prepositional phrase**:

(4) *Trèsete* ***apìsu=mu****.*
run.IMP.2PL after=1.SG
„Run after me!“

(5) *Ce* *ekondòfere* ***s=tu*** ***Pèppi****.*
and return.PST.3SG to=DET Peppi
„He returned to Peppi.“

- these are the only two prepositions in the corpus that require genitive

outcome of the study:

- the corpus study gives an insight in the usage of genitive constructions in Greko
- but to go deeper into the morphology and syntax of the language, a larger amount of data is needed
- „*Testi Neogreci di Calabria*“ can serve as such a source for future studies

Some thoughts on working with FLEx

+ Pros:

- FLEx is a quite useful software tool for annotating and analyzing linguistic data
- the usage is not immediately intuitive, but with the appropriate tools (manual, video tutorials) you can find your way around relatively quickly
- all programme levels work well together, and changes in one level automatically lead to the same changes in the other levels
- the main advantage is that one can easily switch between work levels: lexicon, interlinear text annotation and grammar
- the more data you have annotated, the better the suggestion made by the programme is
- you can integrate different fonts as well as different meta and object languages
- FLEx offers export options for various data types

- Cons:

- FLEx is relatively stable, however, there were still some programme crashes (but the backup copying in the background works excellently)
- for smaller text corpora the workload is too high; but if you have a larger corpus (e.g. over 10k words), utilizing FLEx will certainly pay off
- FLEx is only available for Windows and Linux systems

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Opening of the discussion

Human hand writing Thank You on whiteboard; Photograph: Marco Verch, https://ccnull.de/foto/human-hand-writing-thank-you-on-whiteboard/1008918

for listening to our presentation

After answering to **clarification questions**,

we would like to get into a fruitful **discussion with you** about

a) our specific research projects

b) the circumstances of Greko as an endangered minority language in Europe and the documentation and revitalization challenges