MWEs and the Emotion Lexicon: typological and cross-lingual considerations

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1   Introduction

In this paper we will present work aimed at studying predicates that pertain to the semantic field of emotions the focus being on MWEs and their *syntactic* and *semantic* properties. After defining a typology of emotion-denoting MWEs in Greek, we attempted their mapping onto their French counterparts. Our aim is to establish correspondences between the lexicons of emotions in Greek and French in view of extracting useful generalizations over the two languages.

2   MWEs denoting emotion: the data

An initial list of Greek MWEs denoting emotion was extracted from existing lexical resources and then manually updated and extended on the basis of corpus evidence.   The study presented here builds on previous work aimed at the systematic treatment of nominal and verbal predicates denoting emotion in Greek. More precisely, a set of noun (single-word) predicates denoting emotion (*Nsent*) in Greek has been identified and their combinatorics with specific verbs have been extensively described (Pantazara et al 2008; Fotopoulou at al 2009). Additionally, verbal MWEs that pertain to the semantic field *emotion* have been systematically encoded as paraphrases of verbal emotion predicates (*Vsent*) (Giouli and Fotopoulou 2014). More precisely, they constitute support verb constructions (SVCs) for which a number of features (as for example, syntactic structure, selectional restrictions, control, and their combinatorics) were also defined and encoded formally. The list of Greek MWEs was further enriched manually from two sources: (a) existing lexica (cf. the conceptual lexicon *Antilexicon*), and (b) a suite of general and specialized corpora for the Greek Language (Hatzigeorgiu, N. et al. 2000; Giouli and Fotopoulou, 2014).

For the French D. Leeman (1991), M. Gross (1995), Tutin et al (2006)

3   Classification of MWEs denoting emotion

At the next stage, MWEs classification was performed along the following axes: (a) grammatical information (part of speech), (b) syntactic configuration of the expression, (c) selectional restrictions imposed over their Subjects and Objects (+*hum*, -*hum*), (d) lexical choice, and (d) semantic information dealing with *aspect*, *intensity of the emotion (low, medium* and *high)*, *control*, *manifestation of verbal expression*, etc.

When dealing with MWEs, one has to cope with the notion *degree of fixedness* (G. Gross 1996). To this end, appropriate criteria were applied for determining the compositionality, substitutability and modifiability of the Greek expressions under investigation. These properties were appropriately encoded to the Greek data resulting in the following MWE classes: *fixed, semi-fixed, support verb constructions and collocations*.

4   Cross-lingual considerations

In this study, we aimed at studying the typologies of emotion MWEs in Greek and French from a cross-lingual perspective the focus being on SVCs of the form and on nominal expressions. More precisely, the syntactic and lexical properties of the Greek and French verbal constructions were systematically examined, by taking into account the aspect and style modalities, as well as the specification of register in relation to the lexical elements involved (namely, support verbs and nominal heads). The focus will be on the aspects of *fixedness* and *intensity* elaborating further on cross-lingual considerations. The comparison of

Greek and French constructions shows that they generally share the same properties, in terms of

(a) syntactic structure, namely:

> *N0 hum Vsup Nsent (E Prep + N1)*
>
> *N0hum V Prép Nsent*
>
> *Nsent V Nhum,*

(b) and lexical choice of the (support) verb. In terms of the underlying semantics, in both languages, the verb selected, ultimately, functions as an intensifier of the emotion denoted:

> (1) EL. Η Άννα (*νιώθει* + *αισθάνεται*) **χαρά**
>
>   FR. Anna (éprouve + ressent) **de la** joie
>
>   EN. The Anna feels happiness (=Lena is happy).

> (2) EL. Η Άννα *πετάει* από (**χαρά** + τη **χαρά** της)
>
>   FR. Anna rayonne de joie
>
>   EN. The Anna jumps by (joy + the joy POSS) (=Anna is very happy).

5   Conclusion

In the paper we will further elaborate on the classification of Greek and French MWEs denoting emotion on the basis of the afore-mentioned criteria (degree of fixedness, syntactic and semantic properties, etc) and the resulting typologies for the two languages.

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