Changing alignments in the Greek of southern Italy

Adam Ledgeway  
University of Cambridge  
anl21@cam.ac.uk

Norma Schifano  
University of Birmingham  
N.Schifano@bham.ac.uk

Giuseppina Silvestri  
University of California, Los Angeles  
g.silvestri@ucla.edu

Abstract

This article investigates a peculiar pattern of subject case-marking in the Greek of southern Italy. Recent fieldwork with native speakers, coupled with the consultation of some written sources, reveals that, alongside prototypical nominative subjects, Italo-Greek also licenses accusative subjects, despite displaying a predominantly nominative-accusative alignment. Far from being random replacements within a highly attrited grammar, the distribution of these accusative subjects obeys specific structural principles, revealing similarities with historical attestations of the so-called ‘extended accusative’ in early Indo-European. On the basis of these data, Italo-Greek is argued to be undergoing a progressive shift towards an active-stative alignment, a claim supported by additional evidence from auxiliary selection, adverb agreement and sentential word order.

Keywords

Greko – Griko – extended accusative – subjects – active-stative alignment

1 Introduction

Greek has been spoken as an indigenous language in southern Italy since ancient times (Falcone 1973:12-38; Horrocks 1997:304-306; Manolessou 2005:112-21; Ralli 2006:133). According to one, albeit now unpopular, view championed most notably by Rohlfs (1924; 1933; 1974; 1977), the Greek spoken in southern Italy, henceforth Italo-Greek, is to be considered a direct descendant of the ancient (mainly Doric) Greek varieties which were imported into Magna Graecia as early as the eighth century B.C.E. with the establishment of numerous Greek colonies along the coasts of southern Italy. The opposing – and now widely accepted – view, argued most vehemently by Battisti (1924; cf. also Morosi, 1870; Parlangèli, 1953), sees the Greek of southern Italy as a more recent import dating from the Byzantine period of domination between the sixth and eleventh centuries. However, as argued by Fanciullo (1996; 2001; 2007), these two apparently opposing views can be reconciled if we accept that Italo-Greek is largely a Byzantine import preserving some ancient Doric features, a view further supported by Ralli (2006:134) who argues that ‘[Italo-Greek] preserves some traces of an ancient Doric substratum, which could point to the continuous uninterrupted presence of Greek speakers in South Italy’ (cf. also Squillaci 2017:7-9; Ralli in press). Whatever the correct view, it is clear that by
the beginning of the second millennium C.E. Greek was still widely spoken as a native language in north-western Sicily, Calabria and Apulia. Indeed, as late as the fourteenth century Petrach is reported to have advised those wishing to study Greek to go to Calabria.

Today, by contrast, Italo-Greek survives precariously only in a handful of villages of southern Calabria and Salento in the respective areas of Bovesia and Grecia Salentina (cf. Schifano and Silvestri 2017). In Bovesia, where the local variety of Greek is known as Greko, the language is today confined to five remote villages of the Aspromonte mountains (namely, Bova (Marina), Chorio di Rochudi, Condofuri (Marina), Gallicianò and Roghudi (Nuovo)),1 where it is reputed, according to some of the most generous estimates (cf. Katsoyannou 1995: 27-31; 2001:8-9), to be spoken by around 500 speakers (see also Spano 1965; Martino 1980:308-313; Stamuli 2007:16-19; Remberger 2011:126f.; 2018:138f.; Squillaci 2017:14f.). In Grecia Salentina, on the other hand, the language, locally known as Grikó, has fared somewhat better, in that it continues to be spoken in a pocket of eight villages of the Otranto peninsula (Calimera, Castrignano de’ Greci, Corigliano d’Otranto, Martano, Martignano, Soletó,2 Sternatia, Zollino) by as many as 20,000 speakers according to the most optimistic estimates (Comi 1989; Sobrero and Miglietta 2005; Manolessou 2005:105; Marra 2008:52f.; Romano 2008).

In what follows we shall focus on one feature of the syntax of Italo-Greek which has to date gone unnoticed in the literature and which we believe is otherwise unattested in other modern dialects and varieties of Greek outside of Italy.3 The phenomenon in question concerns the possibility of marking a subset of surface subjects with accusative case.4 A careful analysis of such attestations reveals that accusative-marked subjects cannot be disregarded as random replacements within a highly attrited grammar but, rather, obey regular structural principles that underlie an ongoing progressive shift towards an active-stative syntactic alignment. It is our contestation that this change in the alignment of Italo-Greek is the result of contact with Romance where reflexes of an active-stative alignment are otherwise abundantly attested.

The article is organized as follows. After providing a brief introduction to some basic concepts in the general description of morphosyntactic alignments (§2), we briefly consider the distribution of case-marking and formal splits in the verb system of Standard Modern Greek (§3) and their differing characterizations in terms of alignment. This is followed by an examination of the fundamental properties and distribution of the so-called ‘extended accusative’ in early Indo-European (§4), which we subsequently compare with the distribution of accusative subjects in the Italo-Greek varieties of Grikó (§5.1) and Greko (§5.2) which are shown to follow an emerging active-stative alignment. In support of this analysis, the following sections (§§6.1-3) review further evidence from Italo-Greek for the emergence of morphosyntactic reflexes of an active-stative alignment. The final section (§7) summarizes the results and offers some general conclusions and remarks about the nature and role of Romance-Greek contact in shaping the grammars of Italo-Greek in southern Italy.

2 Alignments: some preliminary observations

---

1 To these villages one can also add the small diaspora of speakers now dispersed across Melito di Porto Salvo and across the city of Reggio Calabria (e.g. in the district of San Giorgio Extra) following the forced evacuations of their villages following natural disasters such as landslides and earthquakes.

2 Grikó is widely reported to have been abandoned in the village of Soletó during the second half of the previous century (Rohlfs 1977:69; Sobrero 1980:399; Aprile et al. 2002:680; see also Pellegrino 2016:141, fn.3). However, during our fieldwork in 2016, we were able to find one speaker from Soletó whose data are reported below.

3 Instances of accusative subjects in Italo-Greek were already identified by Rohlfs (1977:69) and Katsoyannou (1999), who either discarded them as random speech errors and/or incorrectly interpreted them as the consequence of a collapsing morphological case system. For a comparative discussion of non-nominative subjects in non-personal constructions across the Balkans, see Friedman & Joseph (2018).

4 Unless otherwise indicated, all the data reported in this study come from our fieldwork with native speakers in loco during 2016.
Before looking at the details of accusative subjects in the Greek of southern Italy, we must first review some basic concepts and distinctions about morphosyntactic alignments which will prove essential in our discussion of Italo-Greek below. Following a widely-accepted typological distinction (Dixon 1994:6-8; see also Comrie 1989:110-116), we can distinguish three core sentential participants labelled A and O (1a), the subject and object, respectively, of a transitive construction, and S (1b-c), the subject of an intransitive construction:

(1) a. **John** (A) was smoking **a cigarette** (O).
    b. **John** (S) was smoking.
    c. **The gun** (S) was smoking.

In a number of areas of their grammars, many languages make a further distinction between two types of intransitive S(ubject): (i) an S with an agentive interpretation (1b) and hence, to all intents and purposes, identical to A(gent), bar the presence of an O(bject); and (ii) an S with an UNDERGOER interpretation (1c) and hence, to all intents and purposes, identical to O(bject), bar the presence of an A(gent). The former we may call S_A and the latter S_O.

To varying degrees, languages make available the means to encode these three core participants through nominal marking systems (case, adpositions), verb marking systems (agreement, auxiliaries, voice distinctions), and through sentential word order. Together these three mechanisms of argument marking variously place the three nuclear sentential participants into one of the following three typological organizations (cf. La Fauci 1997:12; Ledgeway 2012:ch. 7):

(2) a. A is formally distinguished from O and, in turn, shares the same formal marking as S_A/O;
    b. O is formally distinguished from A, and, in turn, shares the same formal marking as S_A/O;
    c. A is formally distinguished from O, but the formal marking of S is split between A (= S_A) and O (= S_O);

The arrangement described in (2a) is traditionally termed a nominative-accusative alignment, while the arrangement described in (2b) yields an ergative-absolutive alignment. The third and final active-/stative alignment in (2c) represents a compromise between the two preceding alignments, in that S is formally aligned in part with A and in part with O. It is doubtful, however, that the full grammatical apparatus of any language can be consistently described in terms of just one of these three alignments, although it is often possible to associate particular languages with one predominant orientation. For example, below we shall see that Italo-Greek combines an inherited nominative-accusative orientation with an emerging active-stative orientation in certain areas of the nominal and verbal systems, as well as at the level of the sentence where we shall review evidence for an active-stative orientation in the patterns of sentential word order.

3 **Standard Modern Greek**

The nominal system of Standard Modern Greek can unequivocally be described in terms of a nominative-accusative alignment. By way of illustration, consider the three sentences in (3a-c):

(3) a. **John** (A) was smoking **a cigarette** (O).
    b. **John** (S) was smoking.
    c. **The gun** (S) was smoking.
Whether the grammatical subject corresponds to the A of a transitive predicate (3a), the SA of an (intransitive) unergative predicate (3b), or the SO of an (intransitive) unaccusative predicate (3c), it invariably surfaces in the nominative. This is indicated by the nominative, masculine singular definite article o and the final inflexion -s borne by the nominal Jani- in the examples above. By contrast, the grammatical O(bject) of a transitive verb surfaces in the accusative form marked in (3a) above by the distinctive accusative form of the feminine singular definite article tin (cf. nominative form i). It follows that the nominal system of Standard Modern Greek formally contrasts A and SO (marked nominative) with O (marked accusative) to yield a canonical nominative-accusative orientation which proves totally insensitive to the semantic characterization (AGENT vs UNDERGOER) of the subject.

By contrast, the verb system is less consistent in its morphosyntactic orientation. As the examples in (3a-c) already clearly illustrate, in the active voice the verb system also operates according to a nominative-accusative alignment, in that the finite verb invariably agrees in person and number with the nominative subject (witness the final 3SG inflexion -i in all three examples above), and not with the accusative object when present. However, Greek also presents a medio-passive voice, which formally brings together intransitive UNDERGOER subjects variously drawn from the passive (4a) and unaccusative structures including some deponents, anticausatives, inherent reflexives and reflexive constructions (4b), which all share a distinct set of non-active morphological forms (cf. final 3SG inflexion in -te):

(4) a. I  the.FSG.NOM  the.MSG.NOM  newspaper  diavaze  read.NON-IPFV.NON-PST.3SG  (SMG)
   efimerida  newspaper.FSG.NOM-ACC  Janis.MSG.NOM  diavaze  read.ACT.IPFV.NON-PST.3SG  the.FSG.ACC
   'The newspaper is being read by Janis.'

b.  Erkete  the.MSG.NOM  Janis.MSG.NOM  come.NON-IPFV.NON-PST.3SG  (SMG)
   o  the.MSG.NOM  Janis.MSG.NOM  Janis.NOM.MSG  diavaze  read.ACT.IPFV.NON-PST.3SG  the.FSG.ACC
   'Janis is coming.'

As the active-passive contrast between (3a) and (4a) reveals, the surface passive subject in the latter is underlyingly an O, hence its SO status. Analogously, the overwhelming majority of non-passive middles are unaccusative predicates (cf. 4b), whose surface subject is analysed in many current formal frameworks as a derived subject moved from or related to the verb’s complement position, hence its UNDERGOER interpretation and SO status. We thus see that Standard Modern Greek
combines a nominative-accusative formal distinction in the nominal system, inasmuch as all surface subjects (be they A, S\textsubscript{A} or S\textsubscript{O}) are systematically marked nominative, with a mixed alignment in the verb system: syntactically the person and number agreement of the finite verb is invariably controlled by a nominative-marked argument in accordance with a nominative-accusative alignment, but, morphologically, the finite verb predominantly displays an active-stative alignment with distinct morphological paradigms for verbs with active subjects (A/S\textsubscript{A}) on the one hand and stative subjects (S\textsubscript{O}) on the other (cf. 3\textsuperscript{sg} -i vs -te in (3) vs (4) above).\textsuperscript{5}

4 Extended accusative in early Indo-European

The label ‘extended accusative’ is traditionally used to refer to the extension of accusative case to mark the subjects of a subclass of (intransitive) verbs, a phenomenon commonly attested in many ancient Indo-European languages (Moravcsik 1978; Plank 1985) including, among others, Avestan (Lazzeroni 2002:311-313; Danesi 2014), old Persian (Kent 1946), Gothic (Delbrück 1900), early Germanic (Barðdal (2011), Ancient Greek (Lazzeroni 2013) and Latin.\textsuperscript{6} In some cases such attestations have been dismissed as cases of textual corruption, morphological conflation or anacolutha (Ledgeway 2012:329; Adams 2013:ch. XII, §6.3). Although there is no doubt some truth to some of these claims in a small number of cases, overall their number is too great and their structural distribution too regular for them to be dismissed as such. The question therefore arises as to whether those attestations which are recognised as genuine outputs of the grammars under investigation should be analysed as constructions simply inherited from a common proto-stage of Indo-European, or as independent developments that arose in individual members of the family (see, for example, Danesi 2014).\textsuperscript{7} For the sake of the present discussion, it will suffice to observe that, despite individual differences, the distribution of the extended accusative shares some common features across early Indo-European. These include: (i) the greater frequency of the extended accusative in lower-register texts; (ii) the optionality of the extended accusative, insofar as it continues to occur alongside nominative subjects in the same contexts; and (iii) the class of subjects involved, which is generally limited to inactive or involuntary intransitive subjects that exert minimal or no control over the relevant event or situation (Moravcsik 1978:254; Plank 1985). Only rarely and in later chronological periods is the extended accusative found with dynamic intransitive subjects and, even much more rarely, with transitive agentive subjects.\textsuperscript{8}

The syntactic and semantic criteria governing the extension of accusative-marking to subjects cross-linguistically are summarized in Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic criterion</th>
<th>unaccusatives → unergatives → transitives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S\textsubscript{O}</td>
<td>S\textsubscript{A}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\textsuperscript{7} On the issue of the origins of other instances of non-nominate subjects in non-personal constructions across the Balkans, see also Friedman & Joseph (2018).


\textsuperscript{9} See Cennamo (2009:341) for a third pragmatic criterion, namely accusative extension to constituents originally denoting the topic.
A good case in point is represented by (late) Latin, where the extended accusative is mainly attested in low transitivity domains in the sense of Hopper and Thompson (1980:252; cf. also Sorace 2000; Rovai 2005:63), in that the appearance of the accusative reflects the underlying semantic case of the UNDERGOER subject formally aligning it with the class of O(bjects). It therefore typically surfaces with So-type subjects in middle constructions with deponents (5a), anticausatives (5b), passives (5c), impersonal passives (5d), and existentials (5e), as well as in active syntax in conjunction with unaccusatives (5f) and, in particular, the verb ESSE 'be' (5g).

(5) a. nascitur ei genuorum contractionem aut claudicationem (Lat., Mul. Ch. 516)
or limp.FSG.ACC
‘his knees are developing a contraction or a limp’
b. multos languores sanantur in ipsis locis (Lat., Ant. Plac. Itin. 165.16)
places.MPL.ABL
‘many weaknesses are healed in these places’
c. ipsas portas aperiuntur (Lat., Itin. Hier.. 11.1)
sames.FPL.ACC gates.FPL.ACC open.PASS.PRS.IND.3PL
‘the(se) gates are opened’
d. et sic fit orationem pro omnibus (Lat., Per. Aeth. 25.3)
and thus to.be.done.PRS.IND.3SG prayer.FSG.ACC for all.NPL.ABL
‘and thus the prayer is made for everyone’
e. habebat de ciuitate forsitan mille quingentos passus (Lat., Per. Aeth. 23.2)
have.IPFV.PST.IND.3SG from city.FSG.ABL perhaps thousand
five.hundred.MPL.ACC steps.M.ACC
‘it was perhaps 1500 paces from the city’
f. ut sanguinem exeat copiosum (Lat., Mul. Ch. 618)
so.that blood.MSG.ACC exit.PRS.SBJV.3SG copious.MSG.ACC
‘s0 that plentiful amounts of blood may run out’
g. si sine uulnere erit, totam curationem
if without wound.NSG.ABL be.FUT.IND.3SG all.FSG.ACC healing.FSG.ACC
haec est (Lat., Mul. Ch. 526)

Cross-linguistically, instances of the extended accusative also tend to occur in varieties whose case systems are undergoing considerable weakening, a feature also readily observable in late Latin (but cf. old Persian, Danesi 2014:251, fn.70). Arguably, this ‘extended’ use of the accusative which increases greatly in frequency in later Latin texts can be construed as a gradual alignment shift in the nominal system, whereby non-active subjects come increasingly to be formally marked on a par with transitive objects. In particular, nominative is reserved for A/S and accusative for O(bjects) and SO subjects in accordance with an emerging active-stative alignment and, more rarely in later periods, also for S subjects in accordance with an ergative-absolutive alignment (La Fauci 1997:57ff; Zamboni 1998:131ff; Ledgeway 2012:332; Bentley 2016:822).

5 Extended accusative in Italo-Greek

5.1 A note on case-marking in Italo-Greek

Just like Standard Modern Greek, Italo-Greek determiners and nominals show morphological case-marking for nominative, accusative and genitive-dative across three genders (masculine, feminine, and two numbers (singular vs plural). However, the morphophonological reduction of several of its nominal inflexional markers has led to many instances of apparent syncretism. Although in some cases there arise genuine instances of neutralization, in most cases the apparent syncretisms are crucially resolved by means of an additional phononsyntactic strategy whereby, following an original sandhi assimilation, an erstwhile final inflexional consonant today surfaces in the consonantal lengthening of the initial consonant of the following word. For example, when preceded by the definite article (cf. Table 2), the nominative vs accusative distinction in masculine and feminine nouns in Griko may be marked by lengthening of their initial consonant (e.g. (t)on liko ‘the.MSG.ACC wolf.MSG.NOM-ACC’ > (t)o liko ‘the.MSG.ACC wolf.MSG.ACC’ vs o liko ‘the.MSG.NOM wolf.MSG.NOM’), a phenomenon for which we borrow the Romance label raddoppiamento fonosintattico ‘phononsyntactic doubling’ (henceforth RF).11

Table 2. Griko definite articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>i, e</td>
<td>i, e</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc</td>
<td>(t)on + V / some C</td>
<td>to+RF</td>
<td>i, e</td>
<td>(t)in + V / some C</td>
<td>i+RF,14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0+RF</td>
<td>tu+RF</td>
<td></td>
<td>(t)es + V / some C</td>
<td>e+RF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By way of illustration, consider the Griko examples in (6)-(7) where the nominative vs accusative case distinction is marked solely by the absence vs presence of RF, respectively.16

11 The alternation between t-forms and vowel forms in the accusative (e.g. to vs o) is optional. For a more detailed discussion, see Ledgeway, Schifano and Silvestri (in prep:ch.2). See also Morosi (1870:118ff) and Rohlfs (1977:66ff.).
12 The feminine singular and plural form e is limited to the Griko spoken in Calimera.
13 The consonants affected are velars and labials (Morosi 1870:118), although assimilation may also occur, e.g. tom Betro ‘the.MSG.ACC Petro.MSG.ACC’ (Rohlfs 1977:181).
14 RF may be absent in conjunction with the accusative feminine singular only in Calimera, where there is no ambiguity with the nominative (viz. e).
15 Despite appearances, in Calimera this e does not give rise to ambiguity with the feminine nominative singular since the nouns are inflexionally distinct, e.g. e kianta.FPL.ACC vs e kianta.MSG.NOM ‘the plant(s)’.
16 Examples taken from our fieldwork are transcribed according to the principles outlined in Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri (in prep:§1.2.1).
(6) a. **O Pietro ttseri na milisi**
   the.MSG.NOM Pietro.MSG.NOM know.PRS.3SG IRR.PRT speak.SBJV.3SG
   o Griko. (Calimera)
   the.NSG Griko.NSG
   ‘Pietro can speak Griko.’

b. **Ena attà filìa mu pu Luppiu teli na**
   one from.the friend.NPL =my from Lecce want.PRS.3SG IRR.PRT
   di o *ssindako.* (Calimera)
   see.SBJV.3SG the.MSG.ACC mayor.MSG.ACC
   ‘One of my friends from Lecce wants to meet the mayor.’

(7) a. **Motte èstasa essu mu, i Maria**
   when arrive.PFV.PST.1SG at.home =my the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM
   ikhe fanta.17 (Sternatia)
   have.PASS.IPFV.3SG eat.NON-FIN
   ‘When I arrived home, Maria had eaten.’

b. **Ida i Mmarìa defore attì**
   see.PFV.PST.1SG the.FSG.ACC Maria.FSG.ACC outside from.the
   porteddha keccia tis aglisìa.18 (Calimera)
   door.FSG.NOM-ACC small.FSG.NOM-ACC the.FSG.GEN church.FSG.NOM-ACC-GEN
   ‘I saw Maria outside the little door of the church.’

As we shall see, it is precisely the presence or otherwise of RF that will allow us in many cases to discriminate between nominative and accusative marking on many of the subjects discussed below.

5.2 **Accusative subjects in Griko**

On a par with Standard Modern Greek (cf. §3), Griko apparently presents a core nominative-accusative alignment, formally contrasting subjects and objects. Thus, we see in (8) that subjects of transitives (A; 8a), unergatives (S\A; 8b) and unaccusatives (S\O; 8c) are treated uniformly in that they are all marked nominative, in contrast to transitive O(bject)s which are systematically marked accusative (cf. *us piattu* in 8a):

(8) a. **E Maria pleni kalà us**
   the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM wash.PRS.3SG well the.MPL.ACC
   *piattu.* (Calimera)

---

17 Given their historical evolution (Manolessou 2005b), in the literature (Italo-)Greek verb forms in *-onta/-onda* such as *fantα* ‘eaten, eating’ have been variously referred to as participles (e.g. Rohlfs 1977:109f., 200f.; Mackridge 1985; Manolessou 2005a) and gerunds (e.g. Katsoyannou 1995; Holton et al. 2012). Without taking a firm position, for ease of exposition here we simply gloss them as NON-FIN. The same gloss is applied to non-finite forms in *-meno/-a*.

18 Non-proparoxytone feminine singular nouns ending in *-a* are always formally ambiguous between nominative, accusative and genitive (unless marked accusative through RF). In what follows we shall gloss them as NOM-ACC-GEN only when the context clarifies that the noun is genitive. In contexts where the noun may only be either nominative or accusative, the formal ambiguity with genitive will not be indicated.
dishes. MPL. ACC  

‘Maria washes the dishes well.’

b. O Pietro kantali fiakka. (Calimera)  

the. MSG. NOM Pietro. MSG. NOM sing. PRS. 3SG badly  

‘Pietro sings badly.’

c. Ekhi tossu khronu ka e  

have. PRS. 3SG many. MPL. ACC years. MPL. ACC that the. FSG. NOM  

aglisìa èpese. (Calimera)  

church. FSG. NOM-ACC fall. PFV. PST. 3SG  

‘It’s been many years since the church fell.’

However, alongside such prototypically marked arguments, viz. nominative subjects and accusative objects, our corpus also includes attestations of subjects marked with accusative case. ¹⁹ These were produced by both proficient (p.) and semi-speakers (s.-s.) from all eight villages and belong to the spoken informal register of the language. ²⁰ As for their syntactic distribution, they can occur in root (9), embedded (10) and adverbial (11) clauses, and both in pre- and postverbal positions (cf. 9a vs 9b): ²¹

(9)  

a. O ppatera ibbie vòtonta spiti  

the. MSG. ACC priest. MSG. ACC go. IPFV. PST. 3SG go.around. NON-FIN house. NSG  

spiti. ²² (Martano, p.)  

house. NSG  

‘The priest used to go around visiting all the houses.’

b. Ipao na piao ta treffia mu na  

go. PRS. 1SG IRR. PRT take. SBJV. 1SG the. NPL brothers. NPL =my IRR. PRT  

tos po possen apètane to  

them. DAT= say. SBJV. 1SG how die. PFV. PST. 3SG the. MSG. ACC  

sciddho. (Sternatia, p.)  

dog. MSG. NOM-ACC  

‘I’ll go and fetch my brothers to tell them how their dog died.’

¹⁹ Neuter subjects are not taken into account here as nominative and accusative are syncretic in the neuter gender; indeed in glossing neuter forms below we do not indicate case, unless genitive. Note, furthermore, that we do not distinguish in what follows between (abstract) Case and (morphological) case, but simply use the spelling ‘case’ throughout.

²⁰ By semi-speaker, we mean speakers belonging to one of the following three subcategories: (i) L1 speakers whose once full competence has been eroded as a consequence of a lack of use of the language for a more or less extended period of time; (ii) L1 speakers who have naturally acquired Griko from their families, but only partially; and (iii) local L2 speakers who have decided to learn Griko later in life, but who have never reached full native-like competence (Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri 2018a:13); see also Dorian (1980; 1981) and, for Italo-Greek, Stamuli (2007:65-67) and Guardiano & Stavrou (2019:5-6).

²¹ A different type of accusative subject is also found in a subset of embedded clauses, for which see Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri (2018c).

²² Note that in examples such as (9a) we gloss (and place in bold) the masculine singular article o as distinctively accusative, and not as ambiguously nominative-accusative (cf. nominative o vs accusative (t)o(n)), since it produces RF on the following nominal. Clearly, what is relevant in such examples is the determiner’s ability to license RF and not just its surface form.
Given the highly attrited status of the language now spoken in a rapidly-shrinking speech community which is today in constant contact with the dominant neighbouring Romance varieties that lack a formal case system (viz. Salentino and (regional) Italian),

it is tempting to disregard examples such as (9)-(11) as random replacements produced by speakers whose competence has been drastically eroded (Rohlfs 1977:69; cf. also Rossi Taibbi & Carcausi 1959:LIIf., LIX and Katsoyannou 1999 for Greko). However, a careful investigation of the syntactic distribution of accusative subjects in our corpus reveals a number of interesting affinities with historical attestations of the so-called extended accusative, suggesting that they should be interpreted as the authentic output of a changing grammar rather than performance errors of an increasingly less native grammar.

Indeed, overall instances of accusative subjects in our corpus of Griko are less controversial than many attestations from early Indo-European languages reviewed above, inasmuch as they have been systematically produced by native speakers who have also confirmed their grammaticality. Moreover,

---

23 In this and similar examples produced by semi-speakers it is not uncommon to find surface irregularities in all domains, such as epplinite instead of epplènato.

24 All Griko speakers are bilingual and the speech community, although recently reported by some to include as many as 20,000 speakers, is undoubtedly considerably smaller (Comi 1989; Sobrero & Miglietta 2005; Manolessou 2005:105; Marra 2008:52f.; Romano 2008).
they share a number of common features with the historical instances of extended accusative reviewed above. First, Griko accusative subjects are also optional: for all the examples including an accusative subject there are speakers who produced the same sentence with a regular nominative subject (12a-b). At the same time, speakers who produced accusative subjects also produced regular nominative subjects, both in the (near-)identical sentences (13)-(15) and in different ones (16)-(17).

(12) a. Avri o Giorgio enna pai to.morning the.MSG.NOM Giorgio.MSG.NOM must go.SBJV.3SG

ssi Ggina. (Sternatia, p.)
to.the.FSG.ACC Gina.FSG.ACC

b. Avri to Iorgi enna pai tomorrow the.MSG.ACC Iorgi.MSG.NOM-ACC must go.SBJV.3SG

ssi Ggina. (Soleto, p.)
to.the.FSG.ACC Gina.FSG.ACC

Tomorrow Giorgio has to go to Gina’s.’

(13) a. O ijo mbiche. (Sternatia, p.)
the.MSG.NOM sun.MSG.NOM-ACC set.PFV.PST.3SG

b. Ton ijo mbiche. (Sternatia, same speaker)
the.MSG.ACC sun.MSG.NOM-ACC set.PFV.PST.3SG

‘The sun set.’

(14) a. I antròpi ipane is kampagna,
the.MPL.NOM men.MPL.NOM go.PRS.3PL to.the field.FSG.NOM-ACC

i jineke istène essu. (Corigliano, p.)
the.FPL.NOM women.FPL.NOM-ACC stay.PRS.3PL at.home

‘The men go to the fields, the women stay home.’

b. Imi antròpu ipame is kampagna, esi
we.NOM men.MPL.ACC go.PRS.1PL to.the field.FSG.NOM-ACC you.2PL.NOM

jineke stete essu. (Corigliano, same speaker)
women.FPL.NOM-ACC stay.PRS.2PL at.home

‘We men, go to the fields, you women, stay home.’

(15) a. O kossubrino mu itàrattse. (Corigliano, s-s.)
the.MSG.NOM cousin.MSG.NOM =my leave.PFV.PST.3SG

‘My cousin left.’

b. Olu tus attsaderfò mmu
all.MPL.ACC the.MPL.ACC cousin.MSG.NOM-ACC =my

taràttse. (Corigliano, same speaker)
leave.PFV.PST.3PL

‘All my cousins left.’
(16) a. **O**

    ciuri

    mu en ittsere na

    the.MSG.NOM father.MSG.NOM =my NEG= know.PRS.3SG IRR.PRT

    vali
tus
kiodu
na
stiasì
ti

    use.SBJV.3SG

    the.MPL.NOM

    nails.MPL.NOM

    IRR.PRT

    fix.SBJV.3SG

    the.FSG.NOM

    pporta. (Sternatia, p.)

    ‘My father didn’t know how to use the nails to fix the door.’

b. **Ekhi**

    kappossus
khronu
ka
i

    have.PRS.3SG

    many

    years.MPL.NOM

    that

    the.FSG.NOM-ACC

    aglisìa
antika
èpese
motte

    church.FSG.NOM-ACC

    ancient.FSG.NOM-ACC

    fall.PFV.PST.3SG

    when

    kame
to
terremoto
poddhi.\textsuperscript{25} (Sternatia, same speaker)

    do.PFV.PST.3SG

    the.MSG.NOM

    earthquake.MSG.NOM

    much

    ‘It’s been many years since the church fell when there was a strong earthquake.’

(17) a. **O**

    patera

    ipai

    spiti

    spiti. (Corigliano, s-s.)

    the.MSG.NOM

    priest.MSG.NOM

    go.PRS.3SG

    house.NSG

    house NSG

    ‘The priest is going to every house.’

b. **Ti**

    inglisìa
èpese
ja
na

    church.FSG.NOM-ACC

    fall.PFV.PST.3SG

    for an.MSG.NOM-ACC

    terremoto
dinatò. (Corigliano, same speaker)

    earthquake.MSG.NOM-ACC

    powerful.MSG.NOM-ACC

    ‘The church fell because of a powerful earthquake.’

Second, although we are dealing with a predominantly spoken code, accusative subjects in Griko appear to belong predominantly to the spoken and most informal registers of the language. This is confirmed by a preliminary investigation of early and contemporary written sources which has brought to light some examples of accusative subjects, nearly all of which are restricted to early written records (cf. Morosi 1870) of originally orally-recounted tales and stories (18) and contemporary informal texts such as those exemplified in (19) taken from a selection of personal testimonies about life in the past published in the local magazine *I Spitta* ([http://www.rizegrike.com/spitta.php](http://www.rizegrike.com/spitta.php)).\textsuperscript{26}

(18) a. **Eguìch’**

    ènan
afse

    cinu.\textsuperscript{27} (Martano, Morosi 1870:5)

    go.out.PFV.PST.3SG

    one.MSG.ACC

    of

    them.MPL.NOM

    ‘One of them [= Roman soldiers] came forward.’

b. **Nifta**

    jürise

    ittin

    emèra.
night. FSG. NOM-ACC come.back. PFV. PST. 3SG that. FSG. ACC day. FSG. NOM-ACC

(Martano, Morosi 1870:5)
‘That day turned again into night.’

c. Pesti
ti e
diaimmèno
to
say. IMP. 2SG=her. GEN-DAT that
be. PRS. 3SG pass. NON-FIN. MSG the. MSG. ACC
cerò. (Corigliano, Morosi 1870:52)
time. MSG. NOM-ACC
‘Tell her that the time has passed.’

d. Pos
istèghi
to
cosmo
ce
t’
how
stay. PRS. 3SG
the. MSG. ACC
world. MSG. NOM-ACC
and
the. FSG. ACC
àjera? (Soleto, Morosi 1870:64)
sky. FSG. NOM-ACC
‘How are the world and the sky?’

(19) a. Tutta
travùdia
mas
avisùne
na
noisume
these. NPL
songs. NPL
us. ACC
help. PRS. 3PL
IRR. PRT
know. SBJV. 1PL

ti
isane
ce
ti
ene
tin
what
be. IPFV. PST. 3SG
and
what
be. PRS. 3SG
the. FSG. ACC
emigraziùna
ja
to
gheno
atto
choma
emigration. FSG. NOM-ACC
for
the. NSG
people. NSG
from. the
land. NSG
dikòmma. (I Spitta 11)
ours
‘These songs help us understand what emigration is and what it was for the people from our land.’

b. Motte
glinnàne
tes
scole,
i
when
close. IPFV. PST. 3PL
the. FPL. ACC
schools. FPL. NOM-ACC
the. FSG. NOM
mànamu
mas
èbbianne
ole
ce
tri
cè
mother. FSG. NOM=my us=ACC
take. IPFV. PST. 3SG
all
and
three
and
mas
èperne,
manichitti,
me
to
papùni,
si
us. ACC=
take. IPFV. PST. 3SG
alone
with
the
train
to. the
Switzerland
so
ciùrimu,
us=
to. the
father. MSG. NOM-ACC=my
and
stay. IPFV. PST. 1PL
finca
en
aniane
matapàle
tes
scole. (I Spitta 11)
until
NEG=
open. IPFV. PST. 3PL
again
the. FPL. ACC
schools. FPL. NOM-ACC
‘When the schools closed, my mother would take all three of us and would take us alone by train to Switzerland to my father’s, and we would stay there until the schools opened again.’
Note that optionality extends to written sources too, insomuch as nominative subjects are also regularly attested, witness the following examples, where all the subjects are marked as nominative despite their occurrence with an unaccusative verb (20a-c) and the copula BE (20d):

(20) a. Motti epèsane o Cristò. (Martano, Morosi 1870:5) when die.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.NOM Christ.MSG.NOM ‘When Christ died.’

b. Dè e mane dè e ciuri NER the.FPL.NOM mothers.FPL.NOM-ACC NER the.MPL.NOM fathers.MPL.NOM-ACC jurìsane. (Martano, Morosi 1870:12) come.back.PFV.PST.3PL ‘Neither the mothers nor the fathers came back.’

c. Ìrte o ànemo. (Martano, Morosi 1870:15) come.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.NOM wind.MSG.NOM-ACC ‘The wind came.’

d. Motti e emèra en afsili. when the.FSG.NOM day.FSG.NOM-ACC be.PRS.3SG high.FSG.NOM-ACC (Martano, Morosi 1870:10) ‘When the day is high.’

Finally, Griko accusative subjects crucially present the same syntactico-semantic restrictions outlined above for the extended accusative in early Indo-European. In particular, the extended accusative targets intransitive subjects which are relatively inactive and inert, in short UNDERGOERS. As a consequence, in our corpus accusative subjects in Griko are principally attested with middle syntax, including deponents with reflexive interpretation (21a; cf. also 10), unaccusatives (21b; cf. also 9a-d, 11, 12b,13b,14b, 15b, 16b, 17b, 18a-b), anticausatives (cf. 19b), and the copula BE (21c; cf. also 18c-d).

(21) a. Mu fènato ka ‘tto pornò me.DAT= seem.NON-ACT.IPV.PST.3SG that at.the.NSG morning.NSG i Maria epplìnite the.FSG.ACC Maria.FSG.ACC NEG=clean.NON-ACT.IPV.PST.3SG well (Corigliano, s-s.) ‘It seemed to me that Maria didn’t used wash properly in the morning.’

b. O ppatera ibbie vòntonta spiti the.MSG.ACC priest.MSG.ACC go.IPV.PST.3SG go.around.NON-FIN house.NSG spiti. (Martano, p.) house.NSG ‘The priest used to go around visiting all the houses.’

c. Diu mèdeku i kkali, o addhu two doctors.MPL.ACC be.PRS.3PL good.MPL.NOM the.MSG.NOM other.MSG.NOM-ACC
CHANGING ALIGNMENTS IN THE GREEK OF SOUTHERN ITALY

Two doctors are good, as for the other I don’t like him very much.

To this we can also add low transitivity domains such as example (22) involving a stative predicate with a surface subject characterized by minimal control. Indeed, in accordance with Hopper and Thompson’s (1980:252) interpretation of ‘low transitivity’, we note that example (22) involves just one participant, an A low in potency, and denotes a non-action (viz. state) which is atelic, non-punctual and negated.

(22) I Mmarìa en ittsere a ssottsi erti
the.FSG.ACC Maria.FSG.ACC NEG= know.PRS.3SG if can.PRS.3SG come.INF

na fai ma mà. (Calimera, s-s.)
IRR.PRT eat.SBJV.3SG with= us.ACC

‘Maria doesn’t know if she can come and eat with us.’

Conversely, the vast majority of animate and/or active subjects with transitive verbs included in our corpus bear the expected nominative marking. The very few instances of accusative marking in these contexts such as (23a) were only produced by semi-speakers (cf. fn. 20). This suggests that such rare examples should be interpreted either as genuine performance errors or as a separate case of reanalysis within a drastically more attrited grammar not shared by proficient native speakers (23b).

(23) a. Ton aderfò mmu ikhe plinonta
the.MSG.ACC brother.MSG.NOM-ACC =my have.IPV.PST.3SG clean.NON-FIN

oli to spiti.29 (Corigliano, s-s.)
all the.NSG house.NSG

b. O aderfò mmu ikhe plinonta
the.MSG.NOM brother.MSG.NOM-ACC =my have.IPV.PST.3SG clean.NON-FIN

olo to spiti. (Calimera, p.)
all.NSG the.NSG house.NSG

‘My brother had cleaned the whole house.’

By way of summary, we list below in Table 3 all the classes of verb which are attested in our spoken and written corpus of Griko with an accusative subject:

---

28 Interestingly, in this example the referential predicative adjectival complement kkali of the accusative subject (Diu) mèdecu is inflected nominative (cf. accusative (c)calìù), showing a mixed pattern of case-marking. We also find the opposite pattern where the subject surfaces in the nominative and its predicative complement in the accusative, witness the following Greko example from the now defunct variety spoken in Roccaforte:

(i) Egò aḍḍiventégwo mian gali mula. (Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:131)
I.NOM become.PRS.1SG a.FSG.ACC beautiful.FSG.NOM-ACC mule.FSG.NOM-ACC

‘I’ll transform into a beautiful mule.’

29 Note the incorrect inflexion on the quantifier, which should be olo as in (23b).
Table 3. All attestations of accusative subject in Griko

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attested verb</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>break (itself)</td>
<td>Deponents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burn (itself)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look at oneself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wash oneself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close (itself)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open (itself)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrive</td>
<td>Unaccusatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>die</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>return</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go down, set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>Copular BE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lexical HAVE$^{30}$</td>
<td>Low transitivity contexts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not be able</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not want</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not let</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy</td>
<td>Transitives (only s-s.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>want</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the overview in Table 3 it is clear that the extension of the accusative to subjects in Griko follows a regular structural distribution targeting unaccusative syntax according to a pattern analogous in all relevant respects to that observed for early Indo-European (cf. §4). In particular, the extension of the accusative serves to draw a formal distinction on the one hand between \(S_O\) (together with O) marked accusative and \(A\) and \(S_A\) marked nominative on the other. We thus see the emergence of a competing active-stative alignment in the nominal domain which, although now well advanced in Griko, has not (yet) replaced the erstwhile nominative-accusative alignment with \(S_O\) subjects still optionally occurring in the nominative. Indeed, in some cases nominative marking is still obligatory today. More specifically, while the extension of the accusative can target nominals which are high in the animacy scale (Silverstein 1976; cf. also Lazzeroni 2002:309; Rovai 2005:64) such as proper nouns and kinship terms, it is never found with pronouns. This undoubtedly reflects the fact that case distinctions are typically most robustly retained with pronouns (Spencer 2009:195), as evidenced by all modern Romance varieties (with the exception of Romanian) where case distinctions have been lost on full DPs but retained to differing degrees in pronouns (Blake 2004:178f.; Sornicola 2011; Dragomirescu & Nicolae 2016:913-916). Revealing in this respect is the example in (14b), repeated here as (24), where we see that the first-person plural subject \(imi\) occurs in the nominative (cf. accusative \((e)mà(s)\)), but its accompanying (appositional) nominal modifier \(antròpu\) (cf. nominative \(àntropo\)) occurs in the distinctive accusative form.

$^{30}$ We include lexical ‘have’ here as it is stative, non-telic and takes a non-Agentive subject (viz. locative).
5.3 Accusative subjects in Greko

Having ascertained above the presence of accusative subjects in the Italo-Greek variety of Griko spoken in Salento, it is instructive as a point of comparison to consider now Greko spoken in southern Calabria. The results of our fieldwork in southern Calabria show a situation very similar to that reviewed above for Griko. Indeed, already in an article from (1999), Katsoyannou had noted a small number of instances of accusative subjects in her data from Gallicianò collected in 1984 (cf. also Rossi Taibbi & Carcausi 1959:LIIF., LIX; Rohlfis 1977:69), some examples of which are reported in (25).  

(25) a. mu po'ni tin tʃi'lia.  
me.GEN= hurt.IPV.N-PST.3SG the.FSG.ACC stomach.FSG.NOM-ACC  
(Gallicianò, Katsoyannou 1999)  
‘I’ve got stomach ache.’

b. 'pasesse ton ke'ro. (Gallicianò, ibid.)  
pass.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.ACC time.MSG.NOM-ACC  
‘the time passed by.’

c. san 'erketo ton 'mina tu  
when come.IPV.PST.3SG the.MSG.ACC month.MSG.ACC the.GEN  
'dʒuniu. (Gallicianò, ibid.)  
June.GEN  
‘when the month of June would come around.’

On a par with our previous observations about early Indo-European and Griko, the extension of accusative proves once again optional in Greko, as the following minimal pair produced by the same speaker highlights.

(26) a. o po'stino pu eyi'ae s to Vu'ni  
the.MSG.NOM postman.NOM who go.PFV.PST.3SG to the Bova  
(Gallicianò, Katsoyannou 1999)  
‘the postman who went to Bova’

b. ton po'stino pu 'epie γ sto Vu'ni  
the.MSG.ACC postman.NOM-ACC who go.PFV.PST.3SG to Bova  
(Gallicianò, ibid.)

31 For the sake of the present discussion, it is sufficient to observe that the morpho-phonological shape of definite articles in Greko largely coincides with that of articles in Griko, as outlined in Table 2. The reader is referred to Ledgeway, Schifano and Silvestri (in prep:ch.2) for further details.
Ultimately, Katsoyannou fails to see any regularity in such examples, writing them off as examples of ‘morphological confusion between the nominative and accusative’ (p. 243) brought about by the apparent weakening of the Greko case system. However, even a cursory examination of the examples in (25) and (26b) reveals an inescapable structural regularity to the extension of the accusative in that it invariably targets unaccusative syntax (namely, $S_O$ subjects).

Further substantial confirmation of this emergent active-stative pattern also comes from a consideration of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century written texts. Once again the instances of accusative subjects are quite numerous in collections of originally orally-recounted tales and stories, witness the following examples taken from Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi (1959):

(27) a. Će irte passéonda éna χριστιανò. (Roccaforte 31)
   ‘And a man passed by.’

b. Arrivegwe to kafè. (Roccaforte 67)
   ‘The coffee used to arrive.’

c. Epasséspai ennéa minu. (Roccaforte 36)
   ‘Nine months passed by.’

d. Ti efáni ambróndu énan aθropúni. (Bova 480)
   ‘A large man appeared before him.’

e. Anévenne ándom milo énan aθropo.
   ‘A man was coming up from the mill.’

f. Ecóssu ekáðenne ‘nam véččo. (Bova 481)
   ‘There inside was sitting an old man.’

g. San etéloe ton ġéró. (Roghudi 303)
   ‘When the time finished.’

As these illustrative examples reveal, accusative subjects consistently occur with core unaccusatives, including verbs of motion and position. However, we also find once again, and indeed more frequently in these late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century texts, nominative subjects in the same contexts, as the following representative unaccusative examples demonstrate.

---

32 Significantly, Greko is also reported by Katsoyannou (1999:243f.) to employ the accusative form of nominals in syntactic uses (e.g. lists, citation forms), a feature also reported for the extended accusative in late Latin (see Ledgeway 2012:304f.).
33 Observe the RF effect produced by the masculine singular indefinite article ena (< enan) in this example.
CHANGING ALIGNMENTS IN THE GREEK OF SOUTHERN ITALY

(28) a. Irte mia máňi miććěđđa. (Roccaforte 49)
   ‘A beautiful girl came by.’

b. Ektevi i kammaréra. (Roccaforte 53)
   ‘The maid came down.’

c. Arrívespe mia pálla. (Roccaforte 76)
   ‘A ball came over.’

d. Poi exoristi o liko. (Roccaforte, 31)
   ‘Then the wolf left.’

e. Efórese i yinéka. (Roccaforte 62)
   ‘The lady got dressed.’

f. San ekondófere o arćîôyávolo (Bova, 483)
   ‘When the devil came back’

Consistent with our conclusions so far, we have not found in the corpus of texts in Rossi Taibbi and Caracausi (1959) any examples of accusative subjects outside of core unaccusative syntax. Rather, transitives (29a) and unergatives (29b) exclusively license nominative subjects.34

(29) a. I lukandéra tos ěkame
   the.FSG.NOM landlady.FSG.NOM them GEN= make.PFV.PST.3SG
   to kúnto. (Roccaforte 245)
   the.MSG.ACC bill.MSG.NOM-ACC
   ‘The landlady prepared their bill.’

b. Arrispúndespe o peniténti. (Roccaforte 41)
   reply.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.NOM penitent.MSG.NOM
   ‘The penitent replied.’

Unsurprisingly, these same results are confirmed entirely by our own recent fieldwork among Greko speakers who also spontaneously produced accusative subjects exclusively with unaccusative syntax (30a-b), albeit alongside nominative subjects in the same contexts, as the (near) minimal pairs in (31)-(32) produced by the same speakers illustrate:

(30) a. San eghíriespa sto Rikhudi, in
   when come.back.PFV.PST.3SG to.the Roghudi the.FSG.ACC

34 For one exception in Greko arguably determined by surface word order, see the discussion of example (ii) in footnote 39 below.
anglìsìa ito ppèssonda.35 (Chorio di Roghudi, p.)
churc.h.FSG.NOM-ACC be.IPV.PST.3SG fall.GER
‘When I went back to Roghudi, the church had fallen down.’

b. Ekhi tossu khronu ti tin
have.PRS.3SG many.MPL.ACC years.MPL.ACC that the.FSG.ACC
anglìsìa èppe. (Roghudi, s-s.)
churc.h.FSG.NOM-ACC fall.PFV.PST.3SG
‘It’s been many years since the church has fallen down.’

(31) a. Tuto ene o sciddho
dikommu. (Gallicianò, p.)
mine
‘This is my dog.’

b. Tuto ene to ssciddho ddikommu,
NEG= the.FSG.ACC yours
‘This is my dog, not yours.’

(32) a. Egò ce o Pietro
gràttsome poddhè grafete. (Bova, p.)
write.SBJV.1PL many.FPL.NOM-ACC letters.FPL.NOM-ACC
I.NOM and the.MSG.NOM Pietro.MSG.NOM NEG= can.PFV.PST.1PL IRR.PRT

b. Egò ce to Ppetro
gràttsome poddhè grafete. (Bova, same speaker)
write.SBJV.1PL many.FPL.NOM-ACC letters.FPL.NOM-ACC
I.NOM and the.MSG.ACC Pietro.MSG.ACC NEG= can.PFV.PST.1PL IRR.PRT
‘Pietro and I couldn’t write many letters.’

Particularly interesting are the examples in (32a-b) with coordinated subjects in a context of low transitivity (negated modal): as with the Griko example in (14b, 24), example (32b) shows that accusative-marking of subjects extends to nouns, but not to pronouns which must obligatorily occur in the nominative. Similar evidence can also be found in another corpus of contemporary data (cf. Stamuli 2007), where again accusative subjects are attested with unaccusative verbs (33), the copula BE (34), and with an involuntary subject (cf. ‘the scabies in 35) exerting no control over the event:

(33) a. 'irtɛ mianŋ yi’neka. (Gallicianò, Stamuli 2007:126)

35 For final -n on the feminine articles in (28a) and (28b), see fn. 27.
36 In Greko there are two distinct forms for ‘dog’, namely o sciddho (m.) and to sciddhi (n.) (M.O. Squillaci, p.c.). Although some speakers mix these two forms, this particular informant in (31) consistently uses the masculine form throughout all the interviews, hence the selection of to in this example can only be interpreted as accusative marking, as also confirmed by the fact that it licenses RF here.
come.PFV.PST.3SG a.FSG.ACC woman.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘a woman turned up.’

b. e ekatrē tin tia. (Gallicianò, Stamuli 2007:136)
and fall.PFV.PST.3SG the.FSG.ACC mountain.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘and the mountain collapsed.’

c. m:u 'irte tɔ 'sinaxɔ.
me.GEN-DAT come.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.ACC cold.MSG.NOM-ACC
(Chorio di Roghudi, Stamuli 2007:348)
‘I caught a cold.’

(34) tɔ kjērɔ d:ɛn itɔ
the.MSG.ACC weather.MSG.NOM-ACC NEG is.IPFV.PST.3SG
ka'lɔ. (Gallicianò, Stamuli 2007:136)
good.MSG.NOM-ACC
‘the weather wasn’t good.’

(35) raspe a ssu trɔgi ti rruppa.
scratch.IMP.2SG if you.GEN-DAT eat.PRS.3SG the.FSG.ACC scabies.FSG.ACC
(Gallicianò, Stamuli 2007:552)
‘scratch yourself if the scabies itches you.’

5.4 Interim conclusions
In summary, we have observed how within the nominal system the Italo-Greek varieties Griko and Greko present increasing evidence for a progressive shift from a traditional nominative-accusative alignment, in which an extended nominative marks all surface subjects (A, S\textsubscript{A}, S\textsubscript{O}) in contrast to the accusative restricted to marking O(bjects), towards an active-stative alignment in which the accusative is extended beyond O(bject) nominals to now include S\textsubscript{O} subjects thereby restricting nominative-marking to just A and S\textsubscript{A} subjects. However, the emergence of the so-called extended accusative in Italo-Greek represents just one of several surface reflexes of an original Romance active-stative syntactic alignment which, in a process of partial replication, has progressively been extended and adapted in the native grammars of Italo-Greek speakers. In the following sections we shall consider some further evidence for this hypothesis from the verbal and sentential domains where other reflexes of a Romance active-stative syntactic alignment have transparently been replicated in the local Greek varieties, confirming that Italo-Greek is undergoing a partial alignment shift.

6 Other reflexes of an active-stative alignment

6.1 Auxiliary selection
Beyond accusative subjects, the effects of an active-stative alignment are also clearly observable in the patterns of perfective auxiliary selection. Historically, all Romance varieties, and still many today (cf. Bentley 2016:824), exhibit an alternation in the selection of the auxiliaries HAVE and BE in conjunction with the past participle in the formation of various compound verb forms.\(^{37}\) In Italian,
for example, auxiliary HAVE (= avere) is selected in conjunction with transitives/unergatives (36a), whereas unaccusatives (36b), including the passive (36c), select auxiliary BE (= essere).

(36) a. Maria ha cucinato (la pasta). (Italian)
   Maria have.PRS.IND.3SG cook.PFV.PTCP.MSG the.FSG pasta.FSG
   ‘Maria has been cooking (the pasta).’

   b. È arrivata Maria. (Italian)
      be.PRS.IND.3SG arrive.PFV.PTCP.FSG Maria
      ‘Maria has arrived.’

   c. È stata cucinata la pasta. (Italian)
      be.PRS.IND.3SG be.PFV.PTCP.FSG cook.PFV.PTCP.FSG the.FSG pasta.FSG
      ‘The pasta has been cooked.’

Griko traditional sources (cf. Rohlfs 1977:198; Gemma Italia & Lambroyorgu 2001:109f.; Tommasi 2001:188; Baldissera 2013:42) report the sole use of auxiliary HAVE in conjunction with the invariable non-finite form in -onta (cf. footnote 17 above) for the formation of the pluperfect, regardless of the thematic structure of the lexical verb. Thus, in (37) we witness the systematic use of íxa ‘had’ with both the transitive/unergative gráfsonta ‘written’ and the unaccusative értonta ‘come’.

(37) a. íxa gráfsonta. (Griko, Rohlfs 1977:198)
   have.IPVF.PST.1SG write.NON-FIN
   ‘I had written.’

   b. íxa értonta. (Griko, Rohlfs 1977:198)
   have.IPVF.PST.1SG come.NON-FIN
   ‘I had come.’

Although most of the data in our oral corpus of Griko comply with this picture (cf. 38a-b), some speakers occasionally show signs of an active-stative split of the type exemplified in (36), selecting HAVE with unergative/transitive verbs (39a) and BE with deponent verbs with an UNDERGOER subject (39b) in accordance with an A/S vs S_O alignment.38

(38) a. Persi o ánemo ikhe
    last.year the.MSG.NOM-ACC wind.MSG.NOM-ACC have.IPVF.PST.3SG
    klásonta i pporta. (Calimera, p.)
    break.NON-FIN the.FSG.ACC door.FSG.ACC
    ‘Last year the wind had broken the window.’

   b. E Maria ikhe skappèttsonta.
      the.FSG.NOM Maria.FGS.NOM have.IPVF.PST.3SG run.away.NON-FIN
      (Calimera, p.)
      ‘Maria had run away.’

(39) a. Mu ’khe kàmonta poddhi piaciri an

---

38 Observe that examples like (39) were produced not only by semi-speakers but also by fluent speakers and as such cannot be disregarded.
CHANGING ALIGNMENTS IN THE GREEK OF SOUTHERN ITALY

Unsurprisingly, many local Romance dialects of Salento also display a robust active-stative split in auxiliary selection, at least in the present perfect where once again \textsc{have} surfaces with transitives/unergative (40a) and \textsc{be} with unaccusatives (40b), though not in the pluperfect where most Salentino dialects generalize \textsc{be} across all verb classes (41).

(40) a. \textsc{Ave} capitu. (Scorrano)
\textsc{have.PRS.IND.3SG} understand.PFV.PTCP.MSG
‘He’s understood.’

b. \textsc{È} sciuta puru quista. (Scorrano)
\textsc{be.PRS.IND.3SG} go.PFV.PTCP.FSG also this.one.FSG
‘She’s also gone out.’

(41) a. \textsc{Me n’ \textsc{era} ditta quarche}
\textsc{me= of.it= be.IPVF.PST.3SG say.PFV.PTCP.FSG some}
tuna. (Scorrano)
one.FSG
‘He had told me one or two of them.’

b. \textsc{Forsi \textsc{era} statu meju.} (Scorrano)
\textsc{perhaps be.IPVF.PST.3SG be.PFV.PTCP.MSG better}
‘Perhaps it would have been better.’

Given these facts, it is highly plausible to interpret the novel differential selection of the auxiliaries observed in (39a-b) as part of a larger Romance active-stative alignment which is influencing the morphosyntax of Griko. While it might be objected that in the relevant pluperfect paradigm the local Romance dialects show the generalization of a single auxiliary (cf. 41a-b), and furthermore the opposite auxiliary to that traditionally selected in Griko (cf. 38a-b), the relevance of the more frequent present perfect paradigm (cf. 40a-b) must not be forgotten, nor the influence of (regional) Italian on these Greek speakers, a genuine part of their linguistic repertoire, which, following the pattern in (36a-c), consistently marks the active-stative auxiliary split also in the pluperfect (42).

(42) a. \textsc{Maria \textsc{aveva} cucinato \textsc{(la pasta)}.} (Italian)
\textsc{Maria have.IPVF.PST.3SG cook.PFV.PTCP.MSG the.FSG pasta.FSG}
‘Maria had been cooking (the pasta).’

b. **Era** arrivata Maria. (Italian)

   be.IPV.PST.3SG arrive.PFV.PTCP.FSG Maria

   ‘Maria had arrived.’

c. **Era** stata cucinata la pasta. (Italian)

   be.IPV.PST.3SG be.PFV.PTCP.FSG cook.PFV.PTCP.FSG the.FSG pasta.FSG

   ‘The pasta had been cooked.’

We note finally that in the Greek of southern Calabria, by contrast, the sole auxiliary consistently employed in the pluperfect is *be* (43a), a pattern which is extended to the local Romance dialects of the area (43b) which do not show an active-stative split in the perfective auxiliary (Schifano, Silvestri & Squillaci 2016; Squillaci 2017:§2.7; Remberger 2018). In this domain of the grammar, the overt reflexes of an active-stative alignment are therefore more advanced in Griko than in Greko.

(43) a. I Maria ito tragudionda /

   the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM-ACC be.IPV.PST.3SG sing.PTCP

   erthonda. (Bova)

   arrive.PTCP

   ‘Maria had sung/arrived.’

b. Maria **era** parratu / cadutu. (Calabrian, Bova)

   Maria be.IPV.PST.3SG talk.PFV.PTCP.MSG fall.PFV.PTCP.MSG

   ‘Maria had spoken/fallen.’

6.2 Adverb agreement

Similar conclusions to those seen for auxiliary selection in the verbal domain can be drawn from the sentential domain in relation to the phenomenon of adverb agreement. As demonstrated in detail in Ledgeway (2011b; 2012:ch. 7; 2017) and Ledgeway and Silvestri (2016), dialects of southern Italy show a formal syncretism in the categories of adjective and adverb, with adverbial functions systematically expressed by the category of adjective. Yet, in contrast to most languages that conflate the functions of adjective and adverb into a single formal class (cf. Romanian, German) in which the adverb assumes an invariable (e.g., default masculine singular nominative) form, in the dialects of southern Italy the adjective in adverbial function may show overt agreement for gender and/or number. Such agreement is not, however, unconstrained but, rather, follows regular and structurally predictable principles which in most dialects can be formalized in terms of an active-stative split. By way of example, consider the following Romance examples from Salento.

(44) a. Comu sai asare **bellu**! (Salento)

   how know.PRS.IND.2SG kiss.INF beautiful.MSG

   ‘What a wonderful kisser you are!’ (female addressee)

b. **Segretu** parlàamu. (Salento)

   secret.MSG speak.IPV.PST.1PL

   ‘We were talking secretly.’
(45) a. Quannu faci e cose bone le
when do.PRS.IND.2SG the.FPL things.FPL good.FPL them.FPL=

feci a metà.39 (Salento)
do. PRS.IND.2SG at half
‘When you do things well, you don’t finish them off.’

b. Li cunti me li sacciu fare
the.MPL accounts.MPL me= them.MPL= know.PRS.IND.1SG do.INF

bueni. (Salento)
good.MPL
‘I can add up well.’

(46) a. Quiddu spiccia fiaccu. (Salento)
that.one.MSG finish.PRS.IND.3SG bad.MSG
‘He’ll finish badly (= it doesn’t bode well for him).’

b. Nu te senti bbona? (Salento)
NEG= you.2SG= feel.PRS.IND.2SG good.FSG
‘Don’t you feel well?’ (female addressee)

In the unergative examples in (44), the adjectival adverb invariably occurs in its default masculine singular form irrespective of the number and gender features of the (implied) subject, allowing us to conclude that the SA subject is unable to control the agreement features of the adverb. In the respective transitive and unaccusative examples in (45) and (46), by contrast, the adjectival adverb now shows full agreement with the O(object) in the former case and with the SO subject in the latter case. The relevant agreement patterns can thus be readily framed in terms of a canonical active-stative alignment, inasmuch as there obtains a split between those participants (A, SA) which do not license adjectival adverb agreement and those (O, SO) which do.

As already noted in the literature (Rohlfs 1977:135f.), Italo-Greek exhibits both non-infl ecting deadjectival adverbs in -a, as in (47), and adjectival adverbs showing agreement as in (48):

(47) E Maria kantali kalà. (Calimera, p.)
the.FSG.NOM Maria.FGS.NOM sing.PRS.3SG well
‘Maria sings well.’

(48) Kalós/Kalí irte! (Griko, Rohlfs 1977:136)
good.MSG/FSG come.PFV.PST.2SG
‘Welcome!’ (male/female addressee)

The data from written sources and our corpus reveal a similar picture for Griko. In particular, many of our speakers produced, alongside non-agreeing forms of the adjectival adverb, agreeing forms in conjunction with full DP objects (49a), including obligatory agreeing forms with clitic O(bjects) (49b) according to a pattern also found in southern Italo-Romance (cf. Ledgeway 2011a; 2017), as well as with unaccusative SO subjects (50a-b) (cf. also 50c from Palumbo 1971). Crucially, though, none of our speakers accepted agreeing forms in conjunction with unergative SA subjects (51a-b), which do not show agreement in written sources either (51c).

39 In this and subsequent examples we indicate the agreement controller with underlining.
(49) a. E Maria èpline us us
the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM clean.PFV.PST.3SG the.MPL.ACC

piattu kalù / es finestre
dishes.MPL.ACC good.MPL.ACC the.FPL.ACC windows.FPL.NOM-ACC

kalì. (Calimera, p.)
good.FPL.NOM-ACC
‘Maria cleaned the dishes/windows well.’

b. Isì Mmarìa, ti peleghìsane kali /
to.the Maria.FSG.ACC her.FSG.ACC= beat.PST.PFV.3PL good.FSG.ACC-NOM

*kalà. (Corigliano, s-s.)
well
‘As for Maria, they gave her a good hiding.’

(50) a. E mana palea i Mmarìa
the.FSG.NOM mother.FSG.NOM old.FSG.NOM-ACC the.FSG. GEN Maria.FSG.GEN

en estè kali. (Calimera, p.)
NEG= stay.PRS.3SG good.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘Maria’s grandmother is not feeling well.’

b. O pappo i Mmarìa en
the.MSG.NOM grandfather.MSG.NOM the.FSG. GEN Maria.FSG. GEN NEG=

estei kalò. (Calimera, p.)
stay.PRS.3SG good.MSG.NOM-ACC
‘Maria’s grandfather is not feeling well.’

c. puru nàrti kali e
so.that IRR.PRT=come.SBJV.3SG good.FSG.NOM-ACC the.FSG.NOM

fera. (Palumbo 1971:146)
fair.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘so that the fair goes well.’

(51) a. O Pietro e kkantali kalà /
the.MSG.NOM Pietro.MSG.NOM NEG= sing.PRS.3SG well

*kalò. (Calimera, p.)
good.MSG.NOM-ACC
‘Pietro doesn’t sing well.’

b. E Maria kantali kalà /
the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM sing.PRS.3SG well

*kali. (Calimera, p.)
good.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘Maria sings well.’
This same active-stative distribution of adjectival adverb agreement is also in evidence in Greko, witness the following representative examples taken from both our fieldwork and written sources.

(52) a. Ekho na katharizzo kalò
to spiti. (Gallicianò, s-s.)
the.NSG.NOM-ACC house.NSG.NOM-ACC
'I have to clean the house properly.'

b. Dòppu pu ton efórese máño =
after that him.ACC= dress.PFV.PST.3SG pretty.MSG.NOM-ACC and
pulito. (Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:25)
appropriate.MSG.NOM-ACC
‘After she had dressed him well and appropriately.’

c. An den do stiréspo kaló (Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi &
if NEG= it.NSG= iron.PRS.1SG good.NSG
Caracausi 1959:49)
‘If I don’t iron it [the item of clothing] well’

d. Sa ddonno = tûndo leunáći =
you.GEN= give.PRS.1SG and this.NSG lion.NSG and keep=it.NSG
kalá! (Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:102)
well
‘I’ll also give you this little lion, and take good care of it!’

e. Ma esù ðiplòe kalá!
but you wrap.IMP=him.MSG.ACC well

(Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:105)
‘But wrap him [= your son] up well!’

(53) a. I Maria ðen epplèneto
the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM NEG= wash.NON-ACT.IPVF.PST.3SG
mai kalì. (Chorio di Roghudi, p.)
never good.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘Maria never washed herself properly.’

b. Pietro en epplèneto mai
Pietro.MSG.NOM-ACC NEG= wash.NON-ACT.IPVF.PST.3SG never
kalò. (Chorio di Roghudi, same speaker)
good.MSG.NOM-ACC
‘Pietro never washed himself properly.’

c. Íto kalì jatremméni. (Bova, Rohlfs 1977:136)
come.PFV.PST.3SG good.FSG.NOM-ACC cure.NON-FIN
‘She arrived greatly cured.’

(54) a. O Petro tragudassi kalà. (Chorio di Roghudi, p.)
the.MSG.NOM Pietro.MSG.NOM sing.PRS.3SG well
‘Pietro sings well.’

b. Ciola e Maria tragudassi kalà /
also the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM sing.PRS.3SG well

*kalì. (Chorio di Roghudi, same speaker)
good.FSG.NOM-ACC
‘Maria too sings well.’

c. Ma e fforéggo kalá. (Bova, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:409f.)
but NEG= dance.PRS.1SG well
‘But I don’t dance well.’ (subject = feminine singular)

The examples in (52)-(53) show agreement of the adjectival adverb which is variously controlled either by an O(bject) (cf. 52a-c) or by an S O unaccusative subject (cf. 53). However, once again we observe that such agreement is optional, witness the use of the non-agreeing adverbial form kalà in (52d-e), and indeed impossible with unergative S A subjects (54).

In summary, the evidence reviewed in this section reveals an additional reflex of an emerging, though not yet fully stabilized, active-stative alignment in the distribution of adjectival adverb agreement which proves sensitive to the A/S A vs O/S O split.

6.3 Sentential word order

One final piece of evidence in favour of an ongoing shift towards an active-stative alignment comes from sentential word order. With the exception of some modern Gallo-Romance varieties, Romance languages have broadly converged towards an unmarked SVO word order. However, this SVO order masks in most modern varieties an active-stative alignment where S and O are to be understood more broadly as A/S A and O/S O, respectively (cf. Bentley 2006:364-368; Ledgeway 2012:334f.). This explains why in the unmarked case (answering the question: What happened?) transitive (55a) and unergative (55b) subjects occur preverbally, whereas unaccusative subjects (55c) occur in a postverbal position corresponding to that occupied by the complement in transitive constructions (cf. la finestra in 55a):

(55) a. Marco ha rotto (#Marco) la
Marco have.PRS.IND.3SG break.PFV.PTCP the
finestra (#Marco). (Italian)
window
‘Marco has broken the window.’

b. Maria ha cantato (#Maria). (Italian)
Maria have.PRS.IND.3SG sing.PFV.PTCP
‘Maria has been singing.’

(56) a. E Maria mas fônase na the.FSG.NOM Maria.FSG.NOM us.ACC= call.PFV.PST.3SG IRR.PRT

fame nomeni. (Calimera, p.)
eat.SBJV.1PL together
‘Maria called us to go and eat together.’

b. O Pietro e kkantalì kalà. (Calimera, p.)
the.MSG.NOM Pietro.MSG.NOM NEG= sing.PRS.3SG well
‘Pietro doesn’t sing well.’

(57) a. Pèsane o sciddho mu. (Calimera, p.)
die.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.NOM dog.MSG.NOM =my
‘My dog died.’

b. Ida diu sciddhu mavru. (Calimera, p.)
see.PFV.1SG two dogs.MPL.ACC black.MPL.ACC
‘I saw two black dogs.’

An identical active-stative distribution is found in Greko (M.-O. Squillaci p.c.), as the following examples of rhematic clauses clearly demonstrate: both transitive (58a) and unergative (58b) subjects (A/SA) occur preverbally, whereas unaccusative subjects (So) occur in the immediate postverbal position (59a) on par with transitive O(bjects) (59b).

(58) a. Mian iméra o čúristi éspase one.ACC day the.MSG.NOM father.MSG.NOM=her kill.PFV.PST.3SG

ènam buddí. (Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:36)
a.NSG bird.NSG
‘One day her father killed a bird.’

b. Tút’i đio ediskurréai. the.MPL.NOM two.M-F.NOM chat.IPFV.PST.3PL

(Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:78)
‘These two were chatting.’

Now, in contrast to Standard Modern Greek where sentential word order is notoriously very liberal (Philippaki-Warburton 1985; Mackridge 1987:234-239; Tsimpli 1990; Horrocks 1994; Holton, Mackridge & Philippaki-Warburton 2004:229-232; Roussou & Tsimpli 2004; Anagnostopoulou 2013:13, 20-22), the word order of Italo-Greek is considerably more constrained, excluding, for example, VSO orders in root clauses. Rather, on a par with what has just been seen for Italian in (55), the neutral word order of Griko follows an unmistakable active-stative split. Consequently, transitive (56a) and unergative (56b) subjects occur in preverbal position in the unmarked case, whereas unaccusatives subjects (57a) occur in postverbal position on a par with transitive objects (57b).
(59) a. Će eyāōi i alapūōa.
and disappear.PFV.PST.3SG the.FSG.NOM fox.FSG.NOM-ACC

(Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:27)
‘And the fox disappeared.’

b. O Franćēskoe ěkame to the.MSG.NOM Francesco.MSG.NOM-ACC make.PFV.PST.3SG the.NSG
sīno tu ayu stavrū.
sign.NSG the.NSG.GEN holy.NSG.GEN cross.NSG.GEN

(Roccaforte, Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:44)
‘Francesco made the sign of the holy cross.’

Once again, evidence from word order points to an active-stative orientation at the level of the sentence to parallel the identical alignment pattern examined above for adjectival adverbs, as well as those in the verbal domain (auxiliary selection) and nominal domain (restricted nominative for A/S and extended accusative for O/S).

7 Conclusion

Above we have reviewed considerable evidence from the nominal, verbal and sentential domains of Griko and Greko which highlight an ongoing shift from an original nominative-accusative alignment towards an active-stative alignment. In the nominal domain we have seen how this alignment shift results in a redistribution of nominative and accusative case marking according to underlying semantic roles, rather than surface syntactic relations. Accordingly, active subjects (A/S) of transitives and unergatives are case-marked nominative, whereas stative subjects (S) of unaccusatives are increasingly marked accusative on a par with canonical O(subjects).

40 It is also striking that, in contrast to Griko, all examples of accusative subjects in Greko noted in Rossi Taibbi and Caracausi (1959), as well as those in Katsyoyannou (1999) and in our corpus (with the exceptions of the relative example in (26b), the coordination example in (32b), and the example with copula BE in 34), occur in the typical postverbal O(subject) position; whenever inactive subjects (S) occur in preverbal position, the unmarked position of active subjects (A/S), they invariably surface in the nominative. Particularly revealing in this respect is the minimal pair reported by Katsyoyannou (1999:242) in (i.a-b) produced by the same speaker, where the pre- and postverbal positions correlate with nominative and accusative case-marking, respectively (we assume, despite appearances, that the meteorological predicate ’ekamen (tin) kia’ria is not a true transitive verb, but a compound unaccusative with cognate surface object and a stative (viz. S) subject xri’sto):

(i) a. o xri’sto ’ekamen kia’ria. (Gallicianò)
the.MSG.NOM christ.MSG.NOM-ACC do.PFV.PST.3SG fine.weather.FSG.NOM-ACC

b. ’ekamen to xri’sto tin kia’ria. (Gallicianò)
do.PFV.PST.3SG the.MSG.ACC christ.MSG.NOM-ACC the.FSG.ACC fine.weather.FSG.NOM-ACC

‘The weather was fine.’

We leave it to future work to establish to what extent accusative-marking of inactive subjects, at least in Greko, is also structurally tied to their surface position. If our interpretation of the facts is correct, then this would suggest that Greko represents a more conservative variety than Griko, inasmuch as accusative-marking has not yet been (fully) extended to the preverbal position as in Griko. Presumably, this tendency also explains the sole example in our Greko written corpus of the otherwise exceptional accusative-marking of a transitive subject (cf. ii) ostensibly determined by its postverbal
the Italo-Greek nominal system comes to mirror the formal split already visible in the verb system where, on a par with Standard Modern Greek (cf. §3), the morphological paradigms of the active and non-active (viz. medio-passive) largely correlate with the distribution of A/Sₐ and S₀ subjects, respectively, as schematized in Table 4 for the present and past imperfective of plen- ‘wash’ (cf. Rohlfs 1977:110-113, 199f.):

Table 4. Correlations between active and non-active morphology and case-marking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A/Sₐ [+Nom]</th>
<th>Present Imperfective</th>
<th>Non-active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Griko</td>
<td>Griko</td>
<td>Greko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plen-o</td>
<td>plen-o</td>
<td>plén-ome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plen-i(s)</td>
<td>plen-i(s)</td>
<td>plén-ese(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plen-i</td>
<td>plen-i</td>
<td>plén-ete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plén-ome</td>
<td>plén-ome</td>
<td>plén-ômesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plén-ete</td>
<td>plén-ite</td>
<td>plén-èsesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plénuné</td>
<td>plén-usi</td>
<td>plén-ute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past Imperfective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>éplen-a</th>
<th>plén-amé</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>éplen-(e)s</td>
<td>éplen-(e)s</td>
<td>plén-aso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>éplen-e</td>
<td>éplen-e</td>
<td>plén-ato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plén-amé</td>
<td>plén-amé</td>
<td>plén-ômesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plén-ato</td>
<td>plén-eto</td>
<td>plén-ômesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plén-ane</td>
<td>plén-asi</td>
<td>plén-âmesto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is thus legitimate to ask why in other varieties of Greek such as Standard Modern Greek a similar active-stative alignment has not arisen in the nominal case system. One possible answer would be to invoke endogenous factors present in Italo-Greek, but not in other varieties of Greek. This is essentially the line taken by Katsoyannou (1999:239f.) in her analysis of accusative subjects in Greko, which she interprets as the surface effect of a case system in an irreparable state of collapse in a highly endangered language which is rapidly being abandoned by a bilingual community with greater native competence in a Romance variety without a case system. Yet, Katsoyannou’s view represents a misconception of the Italo-Greek case system which, despite some apparent superficial neutralizations (cf. Table 2), still constitutes a robust system with a high functional load, consistently with Dimmendal’s (1998:87) claim based on Dorian’s (1978:608) original observation that ‘an obsolescent language often dies “with its morphological boots on”’ (on the reduction of the morphological structure of the case system in Italo-Greek, see also Guardiano & Stavrou 2019). This is clearly demonstrated by the representative Italo-Greek nominal paradigms with accompanying definite article in Table 5 (based on Rohlfs 1977:66f.).

Table 5. Italo-Greek definite nominal paradigms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greko</th>
<th>Griko</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>lik- ‘wolf’, min- ‘month’</td>
<td>lik- ‘wolf’, min- ‘month’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

position (but note also the reduced transitivity of the clause given the non-dynamic, habitual interpretation of the predicate):

(ii) ti yîtšia kannusi te yîneke? (Gallicianò, Katsoyannou 1999:242)
what cakes.NPL make.PRS.3PL the.FPL.ACC women.FPL.NOM-ACC
‘What type of cakes do the women make?’

For further detailed description of the morphological case system of Italo-Greek nouns, see Rohlfs (1977:69-82) and Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri (in prep.:ch. 2).
### Table 6. Italo-Greek indefinite nominal paradigms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Greko</th>
<th>Grikos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nom</strong></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to krea</td>
<td>(è)na(s) liko</td>
<td>m(i)α mana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu kreatu</td>
<td>tu krèata</td>
<td>to peòi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen</td>
<td>enù liku</td>
<td>(mias manò)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Greko</th>
<th>Grikos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acc</strong></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to liko</td>
<td>tu liku</td>
<td>to mmana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu liku</td>
<td>tu liku</td>
<td>to mmana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen</td>
<td>tu liku</td>
<td>tu liku</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, it is true that nominals introduced by the indefinite article do introduce some limited ambiguity into the system, as Table 6 illustrates (cf. Rohlfs 1977:68f.).

In particular, we see that in masculine and neuter nouns the core distinction between nominative and accusative is neutralized. With neuter forms this is unsurprising in that nominative and accusative are syncretic in the neuter in other Greek varieties too (and in Indo-European more generally; cf. also Table 5), but this has never led to a generalization of accusative-marking of subjects in these varieties. However, the neutralization witnessed in masculine indefinites in Grikos where, for example, underlying nominative and accusative forms such as èna(n) liko and ènan liko can both surface indiscriminately as èna lliko, could a priori be argued to provide the original impetus for a progressive, but still optional, extension of accusative-marking to the subject relation.42 Tempting though this superficial morphophonological explanation might appear (cf. also footnote 27), it must be immediately dismissed since it incorrectly predicts an indiscriminate extension of accusative-marking to all surface subjects. Yet, we have seen that accusative-marking of subjects is specifically

---

42 Prevocalic contexts where, for apparently euphonic reasons, non-etymological -n surfaces most robustly on the nominative indefinite article (i.a), including in Greko (i.b; cf. Rossi Taibbi & Caracausi 1959:LVIII), also give rise to (apparent) cases of surface neutralization of nominative and accusative in masculine (and of course neuter) noun phrases (cf. Rohlfs 1977:69).

(i) a Irte an antrpo. (Grikos)
    b Irte nan ánthropo. (Greko)
    come.PFV.PST.3SG a.(NOM-)ACC man.NOM-ACC

'A man came.'

Observe, however, that Rohlfs’ examples in (i.a-b) crucially involve postverbal subjects of unaccusative predicates.
limited to stative subjects \( (S_0) \), incontrovertibly showing that what lays behind the extension of the accusative is of a structural nature replicating a distribution independently observed in early Indo-European.

Instead, we argue that the emergence of accusative subjects in Italo-Greek is due to exogenous factors and, in particular, to language contact with Romance. This immediately explains why the extended accusative is only found in those Greek varieties that have been in contact with Romance, but not, for example, in Standard Modern Greek. Moreover, although Griko and Greko are not, and never have been, in contact with one another (Profilli 1983; Katsoyannou 1995; Manolessou 2005; Squillaci 2017:2), they have both independently developed the extended accusative precisely because they have both individually been in intense contact for centuries with Romance varieties where the evidence for an active-stative alignment is robustly attested in various areas of the grammar (for an overview, see Ledgeway 2012:ch. 7). As a consequence, the speakers of Italo-Greek are also native speakers of local Romance varieties, and in most cases more natively competent in Romance than Greek, such that after many centuries of Greek influencing local Romance varieties, a case of so-called spirito greco, materia romanza ‘Greek spirit, Romance material’ (cf. Ledgeway 2006; Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri in press), their local Greek varieties today often display many Romance features, a case of spirito romanza, materia greca ‘Romance spirit, Greek material’ (cf. Ledgeway 2013; Ledgeway, Schifano & Silvestri 2018b). It is therefore our contention that the emergence of the so-called extended accusative in Italo-Greek represents just one of several surface reflexes of an original Romance active-stative alignment which, in a process of partial replication, has progressively been extended and adapted in the native grammars of Italo-Greek speakers. It is for this reason that we have been at pains to show above that the extension of the accusative should not be considered an isolated phenomenon within the grammars of Italo-Greek, but must, rather, be interpreted as part of a larger gradual and ongoing shift towards an active-stative alignment which surfaces in various areas of the nominal, verbal and sentential domains.

Within this context, it is significant to note that, while the surface reflexes of this active-stative alignment observed in the verbal (auxiliary selection) and sentential (adjectival adverb agreement, subject placement) domains of Italo-Greek find an immediate structural parallel in Romance, ultimately the result of a process of PATtern replication (Matras & Sakel 2007; cf. also Heine & Kuteva 2006), accusative-marking of stative subjects represents a Greek innovation since the relevant Romance contact varieties do not have a (nominal) case system. What we therefore see is an expansion of a Romance alignment PATtern which, once embedded in the replicating Greek varieties through the increasing establishment of active-stative-driven auxiliary splits, adjectival adverb agreement and differential subject placement, is further reinforced by the extension of the alignment to new areas of the grammar using Greek MATerial amenable to this same split. At the same time, we must not underestimate the complementary role of the Italo-Greek verb system where the inherited formal opposition between active and non-active verb forms (cf. Table 4) readily maps onto the semantico-syntactic distribution of nominative and accusative subjects, respectively, whilst further strengthening the emerging active-stative patterns in the auxiliary system, adjectival adverb agreement and subject placement.\(^{43}\) We are therefore led to conclude that the role of contact-induced change in the emergence of accusative-marking of subjects is only indirect (cf. Willis 2017§26.3): the motivation for the change clearly requires a language-internal, endogenous account in terms of spontaneous innovation (namely, expansion of active-stative syntax to the nominal domain), but the original catalyst for the introduction of the syntactic alignment PATern that it extends is the result of language-external, exogenous factors, namely contact with Romance.

In conclusion, our discussion of Italo-Greek and Romance alignments has shown how, at least on the surface, the grammars of these two linguistic groups are in many key respects converging, to the extent that the observed structural parallels are far too striking for them to be dismissed as accidental.

\(^{43}\) Relevant here is Guardiano et al.’s (2016) Resistance Principle according to which syntactic change under horizontal pressure only takes place if surface evidence that makes such a change structurally possible is already independently available in the language.
or the output of heavily attrited grammars. Rather, they must be considered the result of centuries-old intense structural contact between Greek and Romance, ultimately to be placed towards the upper end of the five-point scale of contact intensity proposed by Thomason & Kaufman (1988). Indeed, while it is well known that traditionally the direction of such contact has consistently involved the transfer and extension of original Greek structural features into the surrounding Romance varieties (cf. Ledgeway 2013), large-scale linguistic shifts among recent generations of the southern Italian Greek-speaking communities towards Romance have resulted in a reversal of the direction of contact. Consequently, today we see many examples of transfer of Romance structural features into Italo-Greek. In this respect, the ongoing emergence of an active-stative alignment in the syntax of the nominal, verbal and sentential domains of Italo-Greek represents a prime example of Romance-Greek contact and, in particular, highlights how the role of language contact may genuinely prove pervasive insofar as it is even able to trigger a shift in alignment, arguably involving a change of a macroparametric order (cf. Sheehan 2014).

References


CHANGING ALIGNMENTS IN THE GREEK OF SOUTHERN ITALY


