

## Reflexive and reflexive-like verbalizers

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### Basic observations...

- Across languages reflexive elements (pronouns, clitics) crop up in various constructions (e.g. passive, reflexive, anticausative) yielding well-known syncretisms crucial to the understanding of how syntax relates to morphology and semantics:

- (1) Italian:
- a. *Martina \*(si) guarda allo specchio.* → reflexive  
Martina REFL watches in-the mirror  
'Martina watches herself in the mirror.'
  - b. *Le fragole \*(si)mangiano.* → passive  
the strawberries REFL,3 eat  
(i) 'Strawberries are being eaten.'  
(ii) 'Strawberries are edible.'
  - c. *Lo specchio \*(si) rompe.* → anticausative  
the mirror REFL,3 breaks  
'The mirror breaks.'
- (2) German:
- a. *Ralf rasiert \*(sich).* → reflexive  
Ralf shaves REFL,3  
'Ralf is shaving.'
  - b. *Dieser Roman liest \*(sich) gut.* → middle  
this novel reads REFL,3 well  
'This novel reads well.'
  - c. *Die Tür öffnet \*(sich).* → anticausative  
the door opens REFL,3  
'The door opens.'

- A relatively little scrutinized phenomenon concerns "fake" or "pseudo" reflexives:

- (3)
- a. Anna behaved (herself) / (\*her) / (\*her thoughts) / (\*her kids).
  - b. Anna absented \*(herself) / (\*her) / (\*her thoughts) / (\*her kids) from class.

## *Reflexive and reflexive-like verbalizers*

Compare to true/inherent reflexives (TRs):

- (4) a. Anna combed / washed (herself).  
b. Anna combed / washed her kids / her hair.

• Fake reflexives (FRs) in other languages (Italian, German, Dutch, English):

- (5) a. *Martina si arrabbia spesso.*  
Martina REFL angers often  
'Martina often gets angry.'  
b. \**Martina arrabia spesso Piero.*  
Martina angers often Piero  
(Intended) 'Martina often angers Piero.'

- (6) a. *Martina si lava.*  
Martina REFL washes  
b. *Martina lava la camicia.*  
Martina washes the shirt

- (7) a. *Ich schäme mich.*  
I shame myself  
'I am ashamed of myself'  
b. \**Ich schäme Dich / (die) Martina.*  
I schame you / (the) Martina  
(Intended) 'I put you/Martina to shame.'

- (8) a. *Martina wäscht sich.*  
Martina washes herself  
b. *Martina wäscht das Hemd.*  
Martina washes the shirt

- (9) a. *Jan schaamt zich / \*zichzelf.*  
Jan shames se se.self  
'John is ashamed (of himself).'  
b. *Jan haat \*zich/ zichzelf.*  
John hates se se.self  
'John hates himself.'

### **... and the basic proposal**

• Building on Kallulli (2013): FRs (as in (3), (5a), (7a) and (9a)) are in all relevant respects (i.e. syntactically and semantically) the counterparts of so-called “deponent” verbs in Latin, and other languages with two distinct voice conjugational paradigms (e.g. Albanian, Greek, ...)

• Crucially, just like non-active morphology in Latin, Albanian, Greek, ..., reflexive morphology in FRs is the exponence of a v-head (or Voice, for so-called “bundling” languages; Harley 2017, Elly’s ‘conflation’ in yesterday’s talk), which is moreover a verbalizer; i.e., the reflexive is a clitic that attaches to the verbal complex

### **Structure of the talk**

- Some background on non-active morphology and deponent verbs
- The syntax (and semantics) of deponents: from Embick (1997) to Grestenberger (2014, 2018)
- Back to FRs

- Passive form doesn't necessarily mean 'passive' syntax:

(10) a. *Auctor opus laudat.* (Ov. Pont. 3, 9, 9)

author<sub>NOM</sub> work<sub>ACC</sub> praise<sub>3S,PR,NACT</sub>

'The author praises (his) work.'

b. *Laudatur Apronius a Trimarchide.* (Cic. Verr. 2, 3, 155)

praise<sub>3S,PR,NACT</sub> Apronius<sub>NOM</sub> from Trimarchides<sub>ABL</sub>

'Apronius is praised by Trimarchides.'

(11) *Africano illi superiori coronam sibi in convivio ad caput adcommodanti, cum ea saepius **rumperetur**,*

while it<sub>NOM,F,SG</sub> many.times break<sub>3S,SUBJ,IPFV,NACT</sub>

P. Licinius Varus: "noli mirari" inquit "si non convenit; caput enim magnum est!". (Cic. de orat. 2, 250)

'While Africanus, during the dinner, was putting back again on his own head the crown, since it (the crown) kept on breaking, P. Licinius Varus said: "You shouldn't wonder that it doesn't fit. In fact, you have a big head!"'

(12) a. *Po kreh fëmijën.* (Albanian)

prog comb<sub>1PR,S,ACT</sub> child.the

'I am combing the child.'

b. *Po krihem.*

PROG comb<sub>1PR,S,NACT</sub>

(i) 'I am combing myself.'

→ reflexive

(ii) 'I am being combed (by someone else).'

→ passive

b'. *To agori plithike (mono tu)/(apo ti mitera tu).* (Gr: Foutiadou&Tsimpli2009:5)

the boy washed-NACT.3s (alone his)/(by the mother his)

(i) 'The boy washed himself'

→ reflexive

(ii) 'The boy was washed (by someone)'

→ passive

(13) a. *Vazoja \*(u) thye / theu.*<sup>1</sup> (Albanian)

vase<sub>NOM</sub> NACT broke.AOR.3S broke.ACT,AOR.3S

(i) 'The vase broke.'

→ anticausative

(ii) 'The vase was broken.'

→ passive

b. *To grama kaike / \*ekapse.* (Greek)

the sheet burned.NACT / burned.ACT

(i) 'The sheet burned.'

→ anticausative

(ii) 'The sheet was burned.'

→ passive

<sup>1</sup> The distribution of non-active realization in Albanian (Kallulli & Trommer 2011):

- (i) **If** the clause contains Perfect:  
express non-active by choice of the auxiliary  
**Else: If** the clause contains Tense but not Aspect or Admirative:  
express non-active by an inflectional affix  
**Else:** express non-active by a clitic

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- Moreover, the *by*-phrase diagnostic cannot be applied to distinguish between passives and anticausatives because, like in Latin, it also means *from*

- (14) a. *Dalina u dogj nga dielli mbi Bruklin Brixh.* (Albanian)  
 Dalina **NACT** burnt.AOR.3S by/from sun.the<sub>NOM</sub> on Brooklyn Bridge  
 (i) 'Dalina burned from the sun on Brooklyn Bridge.'  
 (ii) 'Dalina was burned by the sun on Brooklyn Bridge.'
- b. *To grama kaike apo ti fotia.* (Greek)  
 the sheet burned.NACT by/from the fire  
 (i) 'The sheet burned from the fire.'  
 (ii) 'The sheet was burned by the fire.'

- Deponent verbs:

- (15) Verb in passive form: (Latin)
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>amor</i> 'I am loved'<br><i>ama:ris</i> 'you are loved'<br><i>ama:tur</i> 'he is loved' | <i>ama:mur</i> 'we are loved'<br><i>ama:mini</i> 'you are loved'<br><i>amantur</i> 'they are loved' |
|--|---|

- (16) Deponent verb:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>mi:ror</i> 'I admire'<br><i>mi:ra:ris</i> 'you admire'<br><i>mi:ra:tur</i> 'he admires' | <i>mi:ra:mur</i> 'we admire'<br><i>mi:ra:mini</i> 'you admire'<br><i>mi:rantur</i> 'they admire' |
|--|--|

- (17) Non-active Active (Albanian)
- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| a. <i>dergj-em</i><br>'I linger'          | a'. * <i>dergj</i>      |
| b. <i>përgjigj-em</i><br>'I answer'       | b'. * <i>përgjigj</i>   |
| c. <i>kreno-h-em</i><br>'I take pride in' | c'. * <i>kreno-j</i>    |
| d. <i>mrekullo-h-em</i><br>'I wonder'     | d'. * <i>mrekullo-j</i> |
| e. <i>pendo-h-em</i><br>'I regret'        | e'. * <i>pendo-j</i>    |
| ...                                       |                         |