The problem

- The existing analyses there is no consensus on how to define the verbs licensing Obligatory Object Control constructions (OOC) in Greek na subordinate clauses.
- In Greek OOC there is no featural identity between the controller and the controller.
- This makes the implementation of OOC in an LFG/XLE Grammar problematic.

OOC in the LFG Framework

- a. In English the subject of the infinitive is functionally controlled by the object of the matrix verb (Bresnan 1982). This analysis predicts featural identity between the controller (Mary=ACC) and the controller (Mary=ACC) (4) Frank persuaded Mary to leave.
- b. Examples like (4) can also be treated using anaphoric control (Dalrymple 2001, Falk 2001). In these cases, the object of the matrix verb and the non overt subject of the embedded clause (PRO) are both considered to be thematic arguments of their respective verbs, and so they must be two distinct D-structure (Falk 2001:141)

Our proposal

- The above analyses do not apply in Greek OOC since there is no featural identity between the controller and the controller (1-3).
- We propose treating OOC using anaphoric control which requires the presence of PRO.
- This PRO:
  a. Is a syntactic form and thus should be introduced in the lexicon (Bresnan 1982).
  b. Is anaphorically controlled by the object of the matrix verb. This anaphoric relation must be overtly expressed in the f-structure. For this reason, we introduce a new feature “ANAPH_C_BV” with the value OBJ or OBL-TO.
  c. Requires nominative case:
     i. The covert subject of the na subordinate clause (the controller) always bears nominative case:
     In non-control cases the subject of the na subordinate clause is overtly expressed and bears nominative case.
     O Giorgos-SUBJ/NOM eipe na kleisei o Dimitris-SUBJ/NOM to parathurho
     the-DEF George-SUBJ/NOM eipe-3SG na-completes kleisei-3SG die-the-DEF Dimitris-SUBJ/NOM die-the-DEF
     parathurho-ACC George said Dimitris to close the window.
     The embedded subject modifier of the covert subject appears in nominative case and not in accusative
     H Maria epeise to Giannis-na fuge teletai-ONOM / teletai-o_ACC
     the-DEF Maria-NOM persuaded 3SG- the-DEF Giannis-ACC/2SG to leave-3SG last-MOD-NOM
     “Maria persuaded John to leave last.”
     iii. Although there is a controller, an overt pronoun in nominative case can be licensed in na subordinate clause for emphasis. This pronoun is coreferential with the object of the matrix verb.
     Epeisa to Gianni-OBJ me eteai kai autos-PNP/NOM to parathurho
     Epeisa-3SG the-DEF Gianni-ACC/OBJ na-completes etheai-3SG kai-CONJ autos-PNP/NOM the-DEF
     “I persuaded John to (he) come to the party”

Exhaustive Object Control Verbs

- In the literature there is no consensus on how to define the verb class licensing control constructions in Greek (Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou 1999, Spyropoulos 2007, Kotzoglou and Papangeli 2007, Beys 2007).
- Drawing on the literature we studied 18 verbs that are considered to take part in control constructions in the Hellenic National Corpus (HNC: http://hnc.ilsp.gr/).
- In non-control cases the subject of the na subordinate clause is overtly expressed and bears nominative case.
- O Giorgos-SUBJ/NOM eipe na kleisei o Dimitris-SUBJ/NOM to parathurho
- the-DEF George-SUBJ/NOM eipe-3SG na-completes kleisei-3SG die-the-DEF Dimitris-SUBJ/NOM die-the-DEF
- parathurho-ACC George said Dimitris to close the window.
- The embedded subject modifier of the covert subject appears in nominative case and not in accusative
- H Maria epeise to Gianni-na fuge teletai-ONOM / teletai-o_ACC
- the-DEF Maria-NOM persuaded 3SG- the-DEF Giannis-ACC/2SG to leave-3SG last-MOD-NOM
- “Maria persuaded John to leave last.”
- Although there is a controller, an overt pronoun in nominative case can be licensed in na subordinate clause for emphasis. This pronoun is coreferential with the object of the matrix verb.
- Epeisa to Gianni-OBJ me eteai kai autos-PNP/NOM to parathurho
- Epeisa-3SG the-DEF Gianni-ACC/OBJ na-completes etheai-3SG kai-CONJ autos-PNP/NOM the-DEF
- “I persuaded John to (he) come to the party”

The corpus study

We annotated the 4705 sentences deriving from the HNC using the following annotation scheme:
- The labels NON-PAST, PAST, FUTURE, -PAST and PNP are used for both the verbs of the matrix and the na subordinate clause. These labels correspond to the temporal properties of the verbs based on the value of the feature TENSE. Future tenses needed to be distinguished (labels FUTURE and FUTURE+PAST) since the
- In the existing analyses there is no consensus on how to define the verbs licensing Obligatory Object Control constructions (OOC) in Greek na subordinate clauses.
- In Greek OOC there is no featural identity between the controller and the controller.
- This makes the implementation of OOC in an LFG/XLE Grammar problematic.

Grammar testing

The test suite is derived from the annotated corpus and contains 50 sentences per verb.
Out of 350 sentences 236 parsed
Non parsed sentences:
- sentences with more than two embedded clauses
- sentences with embedded punctuation marks

Future work

Study and model:
- PNP structures in main clauses
- Partial control constructions in Greek

Grammar improvements:
- Coordination in na subordinate clauses

References