

Functional (Discourse) Grammar¹

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Introduction

Functional Grammar (FG; S.Dik 1978) is a grammatical theory based on functional principles originally developed by Simon C. Dik, himself trained as a classicist, at the University of Amsterdam. The theory is functional in nature in the sense that language is first and foremost treated as an instrument for communication, and that the formal properties of languages are derived from that functionality. A number of distinguishing aspects of FG that have been taken up in the study of Ancient and Biblical Greek are the following:

- (i) A central concept in FG is that of the predicate frame, which specifies the quantitative and qualitative valency of a lexical item. Closely related to this notion is that of the typology of States-of-Affairs, also known as *Aktionsart*.
- (ii) Functions play an important role in the architecture of FG. Three types of functions are distinguished: pragmatic functions such as Topic and Focus take care of linguistic phenomena triggered by information-structural distinctions; semantic functions such as Agent and Patient account for linguistic phenomena triggered by thematic relations; and syntactic functions such as Subject and Object cover linguistic phenomena triggered by grammatical relations.
- (iii) FG was significantly expanded in Hengeveld (1989), which adds a hierarchical organization to FG that allows the model to be used in the systematic study of systems of Tense, Mood and Aspect and systems of subordination.

FG was succeeded by Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG, Hengeveld & Mackenzie 2008), which adds another feature to the model:

- (iv) FDG adds a separate Interpersonal Level to the model, thus amplifying the hierarchical organization of FG, and opening it up for a proper description of discourse organization. Additionally, this provides the model with much more predictive power as to possible pathways of grammaticalization.

F(D)G has inspired quite a lot of work on Ancient Greek, and to a lesser extent on Biblical Greek, predominantly in The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and at the Summer Institute of Linguistics. This work will be discussed in the next two sections.

Major issues

FG has inspired a number of general works on Ancient Greek. The general reference grammars by Fernández Garrido *et al.* (1999), Crespo *et al.* (2004) and Emde Boas *et al.* (2019) find their inspiration in FG, without imposing the technicalities on the reader. More specialized work has been carried out in the four areas identified above, of which the first three will be discussed in this section.

- (i) Predicate frames and semantic functions in Ancient Greek have been systematically studied, mainly by Spanish classicists. An example of work in this area is work by de la Villa (2006), who after a critical discussion based on Ancient Greek data, proposes to include lower layer satellites within the predicate frame in FG. As regards the aforementioned typology of States-of-Affairs, Rijksbaron (1989) presents an alternative to the *Aktionsart* classification proposed by S. Dik (1978), basing

¹ I am indebted to Rutger Allan for comments on an earlier version of this entry.

himself on the Aristotelian notions of *kinéseis* and *enérgeiai*, which he combines with the parameter of Control to arrive at a classification of four types of States-of-Affairs.

(ii) The distinction between different types of function, and especially the presence of pragmatic functions within FG, has inspired quite a lot of work on the marking of pragmatic functions in Ancient Greek. Their role in determining word order is studied in H. Dik (1995), and, within the FDG framework, in Allan (2014). Specifically for Biblical Greek the studies by Stephen Levinsohn (e.g. Levinsohn 2006), and Runge (2010) should be mentioned. They incorporate notions from FG in a wider approach to Biblical Greek discourse. More specifically, they use pragmatic functions such as FG's Theme, Tail, Topic and Focus to understand patterns in constituent ordering, applying FG-style constituent ordering templates.

(iii) The layered structure of FG introduced in Hengeveld (1989) allows for a detailed account of Tense, Mood, and Aspect distinctions. Previous to this expansion of the model, Rijksbaron (1984) had already provided a description of the Ancient Greek verbal system in terms of FG. Later authors explicitly use the new possibilities of the model, an example being Ruiz Yamuza's (2000) work on different types of modality, showing that FG's distinction between objective and subjective modality is relevant for the Ancient Greek facts as well. Another way in which the layered structure is used, is in studying differences between types of subordinate clauses. Wakker (1994) discusses in detail how different types of conditional clauses, defined in terms of their underlying hierarchical structure, show different behaviour, for instance in terms of the position they can occupy with respect to the main clause.

Current work

(iv) Apart from the topics addressed above, more recently the last topic mentioned above has received attention from scholars working on Ancient Greek in the context of FDG, the successor of FG. This concerns the interrelated study of discourse markers and the process of grammaticalization. Allan (2017) studies how the particles *τοι* and *υυυ* developed over time, and shows how this development can be described in terms of the hypothesis raised in FDG that grammaticalization always involves a process of scope increase.

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