
Identifying basic discourse units in ancient Greek

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Donnerstag
 09.03.2017
 10:00 – 10:30
 B3 1, 0.14

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The aim of this paper is to discuss whether the *Intonation Unit (IU)* is a valid basic discourse unit for the corpus language Ancient Greek. To this end the linguistic cues heretofore adduced in favour of IU-segmentation will be critically reviewed. These most prominently include particles and other clitic elements which are held to have an inherent P2-tendency within the IU. This view, however, has recently been challenged by Goldstein 2015, who proposes to integrate the clitic elements into a clause-based syntactico-semantic framework with the internal order *phrasal (PH) > sentential (S) > clausal (C) clitic*, cf. (1), thus potentially reducing the IU to a mere epiphenomenal and only descriptively adequate rather than basic element of Ancient Greek discourse structure.

- (1) [tēn **men**_{PH} **gar**_S proterēn hēmerēn] panta **sphi**_C kaka ekhein. [tēn
 [the **while for** previous day] all **them** bad to have [the
de_{PH} tote pareousan] panta agatha.
whereas then being present] all good
 ‘[For on the previous day], everything was bad for them.
 [During the present (day)], however, everything (has been) good.’

(Hdt. 1.126.4; analysis and translation by Goldstein 2015: 88 (4.1))

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