Identifying basic discourse units in ancient Greek

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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) [tên men<sub>PH</sub> gar<sub>S</sub> proton hêmerën] panta sphi<sub>C</sub> kaka ekhein. [tên [the while for previous day] all them bad to have [the depth toto 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.’