

ICGL 17

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Discourse motivated semantics and argument omission: The case of *ime ektos* (I am out of)

Given that “εκτός/ektos” typically requires an argument in the genitive as its complement, and following a qualitative methodology based on language corpora, the internet, and everyday interactions, I submit that argument omission in this case is licensed by speakers’ pragmatic knowledge of specific discourses, often appropriately sign-posted, while the discourse-motivated semantics of the construction contributes to synchronic variability and, ultimately, to language change, through a path of inheritance relations, functional spread, and semantic bleaching. Variation in form and discourse type contributes to the frequent use of the construction and leads to the development of evaluative, and hence subjective, generalized meanings, answering speakers’ expressive needs. This study is in line with current developments in CxG at supra-clause level (e.g., Östman 2005, Ruppenhofer & Michaelis 2010, Nikiforidou 2021, Marmaridou 2023) and seeks to respond to the desideratum for research on the discursal origin of language change (Fried 2013).