Kicking the metaphorical bucket? Verbal multi-word expressions in verse

Workshop at: The 17th International Conference on Greek Linguistics, University of Cambridge, 23–26 September 2025 (https://icgl17.mmll.cam.ac.uk/en_programme/)

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Verbal multi-word expressions are far more multifaceted than prose phrases and idioms, e.g. Plato, *Republic*, 364a ἐξ ἑνὸς στόματος ὑμνοῦσιν 'to sing from the same hymn sheet / to agree'. For the PARSEME Ancient Greek corpus (www.ancientgreekmwe.com/), we are annotating a corpus of literary classical Attic historiography, oratory, and philosophical prose using the Natural-Language-Processing-inspired PARSEME 1.3 guidelines (https://parsemefr.lis-lab.fr/parseme-st-guidelines/1.3/index.php?page=home). However, verbal multi-word expressions are highly susceptible to diachronic, diatopic, and diastratic developments (e.g. Tronci 2017, Fendel 2023, Squeri 2024). Therefore, this workshop looks beyond the current corpus and specifically at multi-word expressions in verse, thus adding stylistic variation to the complications, e.g. when variation of an established idiom is creatively done for comic effect (cf. German *jemandem demokratischen Sand in die Augen streuen*).

1. **Liana Tronci**, University for Foreigners of Siena, When 'to have' goes beyond possession. Metaphorical multi-word expressions with *ékhein* in Homer and Classical Drama.

2. **Victoria Beatrix Fendel**, University of Oxford, The Verbal Idiom (VID) frame διά X[GEN] εἶμι *dia* X[GEN] *eimi* in the tragedians and beyond

3. **Elena Squeri**, Sapienza University of Rome, The stylistic markedness of Ancient Greek Cognate objects in Aeschylus' *Oresteia*

4. **Lucía Madrigal Acero**, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, What goes out of style: Verbal multi-word expressions in the *Batrachomyomachia* and its rewriting

5. **Alfonso Vives Cuesta**, Universidad de Valladolid / Instituto Bíblico y Oriental, León, Verbal multi-word expressions in the rewriting process of the Greek Psalter and socio-linguistic characterisation: from interlingual to intralingual translation

References

Fendel, Victoria. 2023. Support-verb constructions with objects: Greek-Coptic interference in the documentary papyri? Transactions of the Philological Society 121(3). 382–403.

Squeri, Elena. 2024. χράομαι as a support verb in the medical jargon of the Hippocratic Corpus. In Victoria Fendel (ed.), Support-verb constructions in the corpora of Greek: between lexicon and syntax?. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Tronci, Liana. 2016. Sur le syntagme prépositionnel en N du grec ancien: syntaxe et lexique de ses combinaisons avec le verbe ékhein "avoir." In Christina Marque-Pucheu, Fryni Kakoyanni-Doa, Peter Machonis & Harald Ulland (eds.), À la recherche de la prédication: autour des syntagmes prépositionnels, 141–158. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.