The case of Greek adjectival complements

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The aim of this talk is to explore the case properties of Greek transitive adjectives and to show that structural properties determine the cases available to the complement of the adjective. In Greek, an adjectival complement may be marked by accusative case, genitive case or functional adpositions. Concerning the two morphological cases, it will be argued that the existence of specific functional structure on top of the adjective is responsible for the assignment of these cases; specifically, verbal functional structure for accusative and nominal functional structure for genitive. Functional adpositions, on the other hand, will be argued to be the default marking for the category Adjective; especially the adposition ‘se’, which seems to play a role similar to that of the dative in other languages (van Riemsdijk 1981; 1983). The overall conclusion is that the category Adjective per se in Greek can only mark its complements with functional adpositions; morphological cases are available only when underlyingly the adjective is derived from other categories that can assign morphological case.

References
