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Structural case in agrammatic aphasia: Evidence from Greek

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(Structural) Case (in agrammatic aphasia)

1. *The student is photographing grandpa*
 2. *# Grandpa is photographing the student*
 - English: **Word order** determines sentence interpretation
 3. *O_{Nom} maθitis_{Nom} fotoγrafizi_{3Sg} ton_{Acc} papu_{Acc}*
 4. *Ton_{Acc} papu_{Acc} fotoγrafizi_{3Sg} o_{Nom} maθitis_{Nom}*
 - Greek: **Case** determines sentence interpretation
- Case in agrammatic aphasia: Contradictory evidence
 - **Production**: difficulties with case in non-canonical structures (Bastiaanse et al., 2003; De Bleser et al., 2005) **vs.** case not impaired, correct production depends on the presence of a case-assigner (Ruigendijk, 2002; Ruigendijk & Friedmann, 2008) .
 - **Comprehension**: sensitivity to case morphology (De Bleser et al., 1988; Lukatela et al., 1988) **vs.** impairment in the use of case morphology (Burchert et al., 2003; De Bleser et al., 2005).



Methodology-1

Participants

- 5 Greek-speaking individuals with non-fluent agrammatic aphasia, aged 43 to 68, at least 10 months post-onset.
- 13 unimpaired age-matched individuals.

Materials

- **Grammaticality Judgment Task:** assesses the ability of participants to recognize different case inflections.
 - 48 grammatical (24 V **NP**_{-Nom} **NP**_{-Acc} 24 V **NP**_{-Acc} **NP**_{-Nom})
*Fotoyrafizi*_{-3Sg} *o*_{-Nom} *maθitis*_{-Nom} *ton*_{-Acc} *papu*_{-Acc}
photographs the student the grandpa
 - 48 ungrammatical (24 V **NP**_{-Nom} **NP**_{-Nom} 24 V **NP**_{-Acc} **NP**_{-Acc})
**Fotoyrafizi*_{-3Sg} *o*_{-Nom} *maθitis*_{-Nom} *o*_{-Nom} *papus*_{-Nom}
photographs the student the grandpa

Methodology-2

Materials (cont.)

- **Truth Value Judgment Task:** assesss the ability of participants to comprehend senetnces on the basis of overt case-marking (VO order).

*Fotoyrafizi*_{3Sg} *ton*_{Acc} *papu*_{Acc} *o*_{Nom} *maθitis*_{Nom} [TRUE]
photographs the grandpa the student

*Fotoyrafizi*_{3Sg} *ton*_{Acc} *mathiti*_{Acc} *o*_{Nom} *papus*_{Nom} [FALSE]
photographs the student the grandpa

- **Sentence Completion Task:** assesses the ability of agrammatic speakers to produce arguments/DPs inflected for the correct case in S and O position.

- 20 **V** *S*_{Nom} ___ (*O*_{Acc} expected)

*Fotoyrafizi*_{3Sg} *o*_{Nom} *maθitis*_{Nom} _____
photographs the student

- 20 **V** *O*_{Acc} ___ (*S*_{Nom} expected)

*Fotoyrafizi*_{3Sg} *ton*_{Acc} *papu*_{Acc} _____
photographs the grandpa

Please, come and see our results!!!

