

The syntax and semantics of *-to*-adjectives in Greek

to-adjectives are commonly viewed as not integrated into the Greek verb system, and to have idiosyncratic semantics, in terms of time and transitivity. However, I propose that there is in fact an underlying rationale, according to the semantic type of the root to which the *-to*-suffix is formed. The *-to*-formation in Greek describes a 'characteristic state' for the root. Transitive / passive ambivalence is only manifested in roots describing homogeneous situations, while eventive roots always yield passive readings. The key exception to this is apparently *-to*-formations with alpha privative negation. Possible explanations for this from the structure of the root phrase are sought for this phenomenon.