On the division of labor between roots and functional structure

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1 Introduction¹

Frameworks such as Distributed Morphology assume that the lexicon consists of roots and morphosyntactic features and that these roots are categorized by functional elements (Marantz 1997, Embick and Marantz 2008, Embick 2010).² An example is provided in (1) where the root is either categorized as a verb (1a) or as a noun (1b).

(1) a.
$$[v \lor \sqrt{ROOT}]$$
 b. $[n \lor \sqrt{ROOT}]$

The leading idea is that word formation is syntactic and that there are atomic, non-decomposable elements that are called roots. Importantly, in this theory, roots are category neutral. They enter the syntactic derivation without a category and are only categorized by combining with category-defining functional heads/labels.

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² This assumption is also shared by exoskeletal approaches in general, that is, approaches capitalizing on the importance of structure as opposed to the properties of lexical items (Åfarli 2007, Ramchand 2008, this volume, Lohndal 2014, Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou and Schäfer 2015). Roots are also adopted in Borer (2005a, b, 2013), although Borer explicitly rejects the assumption that roots are categorized. See also Pesetsky (1995).

In this paper, we will discuss whether roots have independent meaning of their own. That is, do roots have substantial meaning independently of their syntactic configuration? This will lead us to consider whether or not roots are similar across languages, and our conclusion, following Arad (2003), will be negative. Instead, building on Arad (2003) and Anagnostopoulou & Samioti (2014), we will propose a typology of languages based on the division of labor between little v and roots. In brief, some languages have highly general roots that can appear with a range of different meanings, whereas other languages have roots with severely restricted meanings.

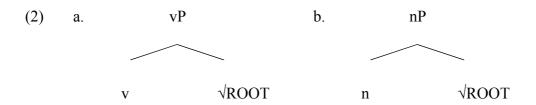
The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 is a background section that discusses roots and categorizers more generally. Section 3 discusses roots in Hebrew and English, two languages that are quite different in terms of how much information each root encodes. Data from the history of English are reviewed in section 4, demonstrating that English used to make more use of overt verbalizing morphology in previous stages. Section 5 is an extensive discussion of roots in Greek, arguing that Greek is somewhere in between English and Hebrew. Our proposed typology is introduced in section 6, and we present two different ways of capturing the typology. Concluding remarks are made in section 7.

2 Background: Roots and categorizers

Since Chomsky (1957), the interplay between syntax and morphology has been at the forefront of formal approaches to language. It has generated a lot of work and different hypotheses about the relationship between the two components (see e.g. Carstairs-McCarthy's 1992 overview, the contributions to Spencer & Zwicky 1998, Hippilsey and Stump 2014, and the discussion in Baker 1985, Ackema and Neeleman

2004, Borer 2005a, b, 2013, Di Sciullo 2005, Embick 2010, Julien 2002, and Caha 2009). There are many reasons why the syntax-morphology interface is an important issue in linguistic theory. First, there is the fundamental issue of whether syntactic operations are defined over 'words' or over smaller units (morphemes, morphs, roots, etc.). Second, and related to the first question, to what extent do functional syntactic structures encode morphological units? Importantly, exploring these two related issues will yield crucial insights into the architecture of the grammar, as can be seen from the widely different answers that have been provided in the literature (Aronoff 1976, Anderson 1992, Lieber 1992, Halle and Marantz 1993, Wunderlich 1996). Third, there is the question of possible differences between various kinds of morphological operations regarding whether they take place in the lexicon or in the syntax (e.g., famously derivational versus inflectional morphology, as in Chomsky 1970, Anderson 1982, Marantz 1997, Borer 2005a, b, 2013).

Distributed Morphology (henceforth, DM) argues in favor of what has become known as the 'single engine hypothesis' (Halle and Marantz 1993, Marantz 1997), which holds that all computation, be it small or big, is syntactic. Thus word formation is syntactic; operations within a lexicon are not permitted. On this view, the lexicon is assumed to consist of roots and functional heads such as categorizers. A root does not carry a category; it receives a category by being embedded in a structure which contains a categorizer. The three standard lexical categories are thus analyzed as in (2).



A given root can in theory appear in all environments, though in practice this does not happen all that often. Theorists thus often postulate constraints on roots in order to capture some of the restrictions that they appear to observe (see Harley 2014 for a review).

Languages differ in terms of whether the categorizer has an overt exponent. In English, this morphology is often not present. The following examples illustrate this for a few noun-verb pairs, though this is very common (Borer 2013 and references therein).

- (3) a. a file to file
 - b. $a \operatorname{shop} \operatorname{to} \operatorname{shop}$
 - c. a fish to fish
 - d. a run to run

However, the morphology can also be overt, as in the following examples.

- (4) a. employ employment
 - b. advertise advertise**ment**
- (5) a. character characterize
 - b. alphabet alphabetize

Other languages are different. In Hebrew, word-creating morphology is mostly overt and can easily be distinguished from the root.³ Roots in Hebrew mostly consist of segmental consonants, such as \sqrt{CCC} . As we will return to in section 3, these roots do not have a fixed meaning. Pattern morphology is required in order to make the roots pronounceable. Considering verbs, there are seven possible patterns, and they are illustrated in (6) (Arad 2003: 742; see also Berman 1978, Doron 1999).

(6)	Root:	Pattern (Binyan)	Verb:	
	ςmd	1 CaCaC	Samad	'be standing'
	ςmd	2 niCCaC	nesemad	'stand up'
	qpl	3 CiCCeC	qipel	'fold' – transitive
	qpl	4 CuCCaC	qupal	'passive of 3'
	md	5 hiCCiC	hesemid	'make stand up'
	ςmd	6 huCCaC	husamad	'passive of 5'
	qpl	7 hitCaCCeC	hitqapel	'fold' – intransitive

As these examples illustrate, the categorizers in Hebrew are crucially overt.

A core question concerns the content of a root. Are roots simply proxies that can appear in a given syntactic configuration or do they actually contribute some semantic content on their own? If they contribute meaning, can roots be catalogued into different baskets depending on their meaning?

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³ What follows about Hebrew is based on Arad (2003).

In an influential paper, Harley (2005) suggests precisely this latter alternative. Her proposal is that roots can be divided into three categories: Things, Events, and States. We will briefly consider each of these three categories.⁴

Roots that denote Things are roots such as $\sqrt{\text{FOAL}}$ and $\sqrt{\text{DROOL}}$ (Harley 2005: 47). These roots are underlying direct objects, incorporating into the transitive verb and measuring out the event of the root

(7)	a.	The mare foaled	#for two hours/in two hours.
	b.	The mare bore a foal	#for two hours/in two hours.
(8)	a.	The baby drooled	for two hours/#in two hours.
	b.	The baby made drool	for two hours/#in two hours.

A root such as $\sqrt{\text{FOAL}}$ yields a bounded telic predicate, measured out by the root. Roots such as $\sqrt{\text{DROOL}}$ on the other hand yield an unbounded atelic predicate.

Roots denoting Things behave differently from roots that denote Events, such as $\sqrt{\text{HOP}}$ and $\sqrt{\text{DANCE}}$ (Harley 2005: 49-50), called activities and semelfactives by Harley respectively.

(9) Sue hopped	#for five minutes/#in five minutes.
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(10) Sue danced for five minutes/#in five minutes.

Harley argues that the crucial difference between Things and Events is that bounded Event Roots do not result in an accomplishment interpretation of the vP that they occur in. Rather, these roots name an event that occurs at a point in time, which

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⁴ See also Levinson (2007, 2010) on the ontology of roots, and Acquaviva (2009).

makes them point-like as opposed to bounded Things that take up a certain amount of space or evolves in time (see also Pustejovsky 1991, Jackendoff 1991).

Lastly, Stative roots are roots like √FLAT and √ROUGH, exemplified in (11)-(12) (Harley 2005: 55), which have a semantic structure that can be characterized as 'CAUSE+STATE'.

- (11) Jill flattened the metal (#of bumps).
- (12) Jill roughened the surface (#of scratches).

These change of state predicates are not happy to take a complement, but there are other predicates which allow them, as illustrated in (13)-(14) (Harley 2005: 54).

- (13) Jill cleared the table (of dishes).
- (14) Jill emptied the box (of marbles).

Change of states are different from Things and Events since for the latter two it is largely the root itself that determines the Aktionsart properties. For change of state predicates, the verb's Aktionsart is largely determined by the extent to which some state is true of a given verb's Theme.

Another proposal can be found in Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou and Schäfer (2006), and Harley & Noyer (2000), building on Levin and Rappaport Hovav (1995), where they argue that roots fall into the following four classes.

- (15) a. $\sqrt{\text{agentive}}$ (murder, assassinate)
 - b. $\sqrt{\text{internally caused }(blossom, wilt)}$

- c. $\sqrt{\text{externally caused }(destroy, kill)}$
- d. $\sqrt{\text{cause unspecified }(break, open)}$

From a different perspective, Rappaport, Hovav and Levin (2010) argue that roots belong to two ontological classes, namely manner and result, which influence among other things the range of argument alternations verbs built on the basis of each root can appear in. We will not discuss the arguments in favor of this decomposition of root meaning, suffice it to point out that there are various suggestions in the literature emphasizing that roots have substantial meaning independent of their configuration.⁵

The next question to be addressed is whether or not all languages behave like English; that is, whether there is variation among languages in terms of how much meaning a given root does or does not have. In the remainder of this article, we will address this question, proposing a typology of languages illustrated mainly by comparing English, Greek and Hebrew. We will start with a general discussion of Hebrew and English.

3 Hebrew and English

Arad (2003, 2005) was the first to highlight the differences between languages when it comes to roots. She makes the claim that there is a distinction between two types of languages: A Hebrew-type, where a single root may form multiple nouns and verbs, and an English-type, where each root is normally assigned one interpretation in a nominal or verbal environment (Arad 2003: 740). Arad claims that Hebrew instantiates a phenomenon labeled multiple contextualized meaning, which involves a

⁵ There is also other work denying that roots have an ontological classification, viz. Borer (2005a, b, 2013), Acquaviva (2014), and Acedo-Matellán and Mateu (2014).

root acquiring multiple meanings depending on its environment. Considering the verbal system, about fifteen percent of the Hebrew roots display multiple contextualized meanings. About twenty-seven percent of the roots do not alternate (Arad and Shlonsky 2003). In the following examples taken from Arad (2003: 743-744), roots displaying multiple meanings are illustrated.

(16)	√šmn				
	a.	CeCeC (n)	semen	'oil, grease'	
	b.	CaCCeCet (n)	šamenet	'cream'	
	c.	CuCaC (n)	šuman	'fat'	
	d.	CaCeC (adj.)	šamen	'fat'	
	e.	hiCCiC (v)	hišmin	'grow fat/fatten'	
	f.	CiCCeC (n)	šimen	'grease'	
(17)	√bxn				
	a.	CaCaC (v)	baxan	'test, examine'	
	b.	hiCCiC (v)	hivxin	'discern'	
	c.	miCCaC (n)	mivxan	'an exam'	
	d.	CoCaC (n)	boxan	'a quiz'	
	e.	maCCeCa (n)	mavxena	'a test-tube'	
	f.	aCCaCa (n)	avxana	'a diagnosis'	
(18)	√xšb				
	a.	CaCaC (v)	xašav	'think'	
	b.	CiCCeC (v)	xišev	'calculate'	

	c.	hiCCiC (v)	hexšiv	'consider'
	d.	hitCaCCeC (v)	hitxašev	'be considerate'
	e.	maCCeC (n)	maxšev	'a computer/calculator'
	f.	maCCaCa (n)	maxšava	'a thought'
	g.	CCiCut (n)	xašivut	'importance'
	h.	CiCCon (n)	xešbon	'arithmetic/bill'
	i.	taCCiC (n)	taxšiv	'calculus'
(19)	\sqrt{qlt}			
	a.	CaCaC (v)	qalat	'absorb, receive'
	b.	hiCCiC (v)	hiqlit	'record'
	c.	miCCac (n)	miqlat	'a shelter'
	d.	maCCeC (n)	maqlet	'a receiver'
	e.	taCCiC (n)	taqlit	'a record'
	f.	CaCCeCet (n)	qaletet	'a cassette'
	g.	CeCeC (n)	qelet	'input'

Arad emphasizes that despite the apparent differences within each group, they all share the core root. The phonological core is evident whereas the semantic core is underspecified. She argues that it is possible to extract a highly general meaning for most of the above groups. These are provided in (20).

Despite this general meaning that can be attributed to the root, the individual meanings of the words are rather different. Which meaning is assigned to which word is, as expected, arbitrary: There is nothing that forces a specific root in a given environment to receive the interpretation it does.

English is different from Hebrew. In this language, roots seem to have some substantial meaning which is rather independent of the syntactic configuration in which they occur (Harley 2005, Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou and Schäfer 2006, and Levin and Rappaport Hovav 2008).⁶ One simple illustration of that is the contrast between (21) and (22).

- (21) a. $\sqrt{\text{CREAM}}$
 - b. \sqrt{FAT}
- (22) a. CaCCeCet (n) *šamenet* 'cream'
 - b. CuCaC (n) *šuman* 'fat'

English employs two morphologically unrelated roots whereas Hebrew utilizes the same root √smn. Put differently: children acquiring English need to acquire two roots, children acquiring Hebrew need to acquire two different interpretations associated with the same root (Arad 2003: 743).

However, roots in English appear in different guises, and there are roots that can appear in different syntactic contexts. Consider the root $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$. This root can encode a wide range of meanings, illustrated in (23).

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⁶ Latinate bound roots such as √FER, √CEIVE are exceptional, cf. Arad (2003: 743).

⁷ We are grateful to an anonymous reviewer for highlighting this issue.

- (23) a. run (n) 'a turn/try', as in Take another run at it
 - b. run (n) 'a path for animals to use', as in dog run
 - c. run (n) as in He has the run of the whole house
 - d. runaway (n) 'someone who escaped'
 - e. the runs (n) 'diarrhea'
 - f. rundown (n) 'synposis of information', as in Give me the rundown on Smith
 - g. running (v) 'working', as in My refrigerator is not running
 - h. run (v) 'try to get elected', as in I'll run for president/sentator ...
 - i. run (v) 'control, lead', as in She runs the psychology lab
 - j. overrun (v) 'dominate, take over'
 - k. run into/across (v) 'encounter'
 - 1. run me into the store (v) as in drive me to the store
 - m. run (along) (v) 'leave', as in I have to run
 - n. run down (v) 'strike with a car'
 - o. run out 'come to have no more', as in I have to run
 - p. run up 'make something bigger', as in Run up the bill
 - q. runny, as in a runny nose

These examples could be taken to show that the manner root $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$ has some underspecification, which is fixed by its local context, be it a preposition, a complement, or a prefix; crucially assuming that it is the same root $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$ in all the instances in (23). However, many of these instances are arguably idiomatic/fixed expressions, which means that they are not examples of productive uses of $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$. Rather, the root is stored as part of a larger expression and acquires its meaning based

on that expression. If so, then the examples in (23) do not demonstrate that roots in English are very flexible, contrary to Hebrew.

There is a range of other imaginable meanings that the root $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$ cannot encode. The examples in (24) show some of the meanings that the root cannot encode all by itself.

(24) $\sqrt{\text{RUN}}$

- a. *to run very fast (v)
- b. *a walk (n)
- c. *a runny nose (a)
- d. *a run happening in intervals

Although a lot of English roots can appear both as nouns and verbs, they usually have pretty similar meanings as either nouns or verbs. Furthermore, unlike Hebrew, English does not have a rich functional vocabulary that is responsible for fixing the interpretation of roots. Arad takes the functional morphology to be crucial, and even for someone insisting that data such as (23) demonstrate an incredible flexibility of English roots; this flexibility is not determined or fixed by functional morphology.

To summarize, we have two languages on each side of the scale: Hebrew with little root independent meaning and several functional morphemes, and English with root independent meaning and few functional morphemes. One question that we have not yet answered is whether we are dealing with a binary opposition or a scale along which languages can be placed? We turn to that question in the next section.

4 Causativization in English

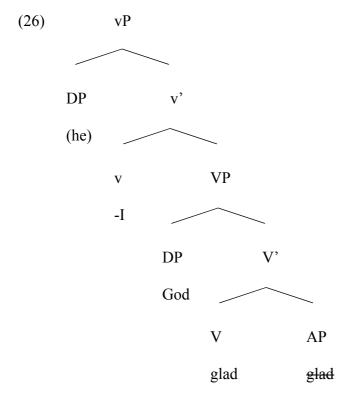
In this section, we will consider data from the history of English that will demonstrate that English used to be different in terms of functional vocabulary that contribute to fixing the meaning of a given root.

Van Gelderen (2011) documents a series of verbal valency changes in the history of the English language. She notes that there is a causativizing affix -j in early Germanic, which becomes -i in Old English. Lass (1994: 166) argues that by Old English, only a small group of verbs shows the presence of this -i causativizer. Thus it does not appear to be very productive. The example in (25) is analyzed as in (26) in van Gelderen (2011: 124).

(25) Ac utan glad-i-an georne God ælmihtigne.

but let.we glad-caus-inf eargerly God almighty

But let us make God the almighty glad eagerly.' (Wulfstan Homilies)



In the Middle English period, a new causativizer is introduced, namely –*en*. This causativizer is very productive. Examples are provided in (27) from van Gelderen (2011: 125).

deafen, deepen, fasten, fatten, flatten, freshen, frighten, gladden, harden, hasten, hearten, heighten, lengthen, lessen, lighten, loosen, madden, moisten, neaten, quicken, quieten, redden, ripen, roughen, sadden, sharpen, shorten, sicken, slacken, smarten, soften, stiffen, straighten, strengthen, sweeten, tauten, tighten, toughen, waken, weaken, whiten, widen, worsen.

Van Gelderen also points out that there are three other causative suffixes: -ize, -(i)fy, - ate (e.g., advertize, abdicate, beautify). These are not fully productive and were borrowed from Greek and Latin. She argues that in Modern English, -en and zero derivations derive a causative from an unaccusative. She analyzes -en as an instance (a 'flavor', cf. Folli and Harley 2005, 2007, Embick 2009) of little v, though with a clear causative semantics (Harley 2009).

We argue that this causative semantics is not encoded in the head per se, but rather emerges as a property of the entire syntactic configuration (Hale and Keyser 1993, Higginbotham 2000, Marantz 2006, Ramchand 2008, this volume, Schäfer 2012). The other 'causative' suffixes are pure verbalizers, realizing little v. The main argument for the differentiation among the suffixes is that the non-*en* suffixes are not productive and do not provide real causative semantics.

The history of causativization in English demonstrates that little v can be morphologically realized even in English, and that English at earlier stages looked a

bit more like Hebrew since it had more visible morphological realizations of syntactic heads. The major change, according to van Gelderen (2011: 138), is related to "a discontinuation of marking causatives and transitives morphologically". This increased morphological opacity can be viewed as a key ingredient in understanding the development of English and also the difference between English and Hebrew, cf. section 3.

5 Roots in Greek

In this section, we will look at a language that seems to be placed somewhere in the middle between English and Hebrew, namely Greek. Before we can turn to the main point, which is that Greek has a set of underspecified roots which makes it look more like Hebrew, some background on the relevant data are in order.

In Greek, there are two participles that attach to verbs: *–tos* and *–menos*. Consider the following examples from Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou (2008).

(28)	a.	vraz-o	vras-men-os	vras-t-os	'boiled'
	b.	psin-o	psi-men-os	psi-t-os	'grilled'
	c.	zograf-	zografis-men-os	zografis-t-os	'painted'
	d.	anig-o	anig-men-os	anix-t-os	'opened', 'open'

These two participles function on a par with adjectives, which is to say that they appear in attributive and predicative positions. The following examples illustrate this.

(29) a. to anih-t-o parathiro the-neut.sg.nom open-t-neut.sg.nom window

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'the open window'

b. to anig-men-o parathiro the-neut.sg.nom open-men-neut.sg.nom window 'the opened window'

(30) a. to parathiro ine anih-t-o
the window is open-t-neut.sg.nom
'the window is open'

b. to parathiro ine anig-men-othe window is open-men-neut.sg.nom'the window is opened'

Anagnostopoulou (2003) and Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou (2008) argue that *–tos* participles lack event implications, whereas *–menos* participles are different: these denote states resulting from prior events. In the example in (31), (31a) means that the potatoes are fried as a result of a frying event, whereas (31b) means that the potatoes had been cooked in a particular way ("characteristic state" interpretation) (Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2014: 88).

(31) a. I patates ine tiganis-men-es

The potatoes are fry-men-fem.pl.nom

'The potatoes are fried'

b. I patates ine tigani-t-es

The potatoes are fry-t-fem.pl.nom

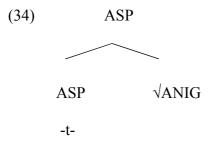
'The potatoes are fried'

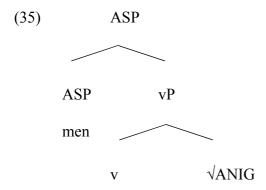
Anagnostopoulou and Samioti furthermore show that this difference in event implication is related to a number of syntactic differences. *—menos* participles can be modified by manner adverbs (32a), can license *by*-phrases and instrument PPs (33a), while *—tos* adjectives cannot (32b, 33b).

- Afto to vivlio (32)a. ine kala gra-men-o This the book is well written 'This book is well-written' *Afto to kimeno b. ine kala grap-t-o This the text is well written
- O tixos (33)ine xtis-men-os me mistri/ apo ton ergati a. The wall built with trowel/ by the worker is 'The wall is built with a trowel/ by the worker' *O tixos b. xtis-t-os ine me mistri/ apo ton ergati The wall is built with trowel/ by the worker

See Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014) for a more complete discussion of further syntactic differences.

In terms of the syntactic analysis, Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou (2008) suggest that *-tos* participles attach to the root below the category-defining head. *- menos* (target state) participles are different: these denote states resulting from prior events. They attach above the category-defining head v, which is taken to be the eventivizing head. This can be illustrated in (34) and (35).





Thus, the attachment of the two participles is different, yielding different interpretations. There is also a third type of participle in Greek: —*menos* resultant state participles that include both implication of an event and agentivity.⁸ For this type, the participle attaches to Voice.

Now we will return to looking at how the above data serve as a background to understanding the relevance of Greek for the typology of root categorization that we are seeking to develop in this paper. Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014: 81) identify the Marantz/Arad Hypothesis (Marantz 2001, 2007, Arad 2003, 2005) (36) as a condition on the emergence of idiosyncratic meanings.

(36) The Marantz/Arad Hypothesis

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⁸ See Parsons (1990: 234-235), Kratzer (2001) and Anagnostopoulou (2003) on the difference between target state participles and resultant state participles.

Roots are assigned an interpretation in the context of the first category assigning head/phase head merged with them, which is then fixed throughout the derivation.

In the present context, this means that *-menos* participles are expected to have a predictable meaning whereas *-tos* participles will be highly idiosyncratic (cf. Anagnostopoulou 2003, Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou 2008).

Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014) show that this picture is simplified in the sense that –tos participles often behave as if they were attached outside the category-defining head. This is relevant, because their analysis shows dissociation among roots: Some roots have substantial meaning; others have a meaning that depends on the syntactic environment.

Greek has suffixes that serve to verbalize a root (Giannakidou and Merchant 1999, Alexiadou 2001, 2009, Ralli 2001, Panagiotidis et al this volume).

(38)	a.	aspr-iz-o,	kathar- iz -o	b.	pag-on-o	ler-on-o
		whiten	cleaned		freeze	dirty
	c.	diaplat-en-o,	arost-en-o	d.	sten-ev-o	berd-ev-o
		widen,	become sick		tighten	confuse
	e.	diav-az-o,	mir-az-o	f.	pul- a -o	xal- a -o
		read	split, share		sell	destroy

(Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2014: 96)

The *-menos* participle can attach outside of the verbalizing suffix.

(39)	a.	aspr-iz-menos	kathar-iz-menos
		whitened	cleaned
	b.	pag-o-menos	ler-o-menos
		frozen	dirtied
	c.	diaplat-i-menos	arost-i-menos
		widened	sickened

Typically, root verbalizers cannot occur together with *–tos* participles (Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou 2008), which Alexiadou and Anagnostopolou (2008) take to mean that *–tos* attaches to the root without the presence of a verbalizing head.

(40)	a.	*aspr-is-tos	*kathar-is-tos
		whitened	cleaned
	b.	*pag-o-tos	*ler-o-tos
		frozen	dirtied
	c.	*diaplat-i-tos	*arost-i-tos
		widened	sickened

However, Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014: 97) show that there is a range of cases where *-tos* participles can occur.

(41) a. axn-is-tos 'steaming hot' axn-iz-o 'steam'b. koudoun-is-tos 'ringing' koudoun-iz-o 'ring (a bell)'

c. vathoul-o-tos 'hollow' vathoul-on-o 'hollow out'

Importantly, these *–tos* participles do not have event implications (they denote characteristic states), and they do not license manner modification, agent PPs or instruments (Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2014: 97).

(42)a. *To fagito ine kala/ prosektika magir-**ef**-*t*-o The food is well/carefully cooked b. *To fagito ine magir-**ef**-*t*-o apo tin Maria The food cooked by the Mary is *Ta fita fit-**ef**-*t*-a me diaforetika ergalia c. ine The plants planted with different instruments are

Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014) take these facts to show that little v, which typically introduces event interpretations (e.g., Embick 2004, Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou and Schäfer 2006, Marantz 2001, 2007, Harley 2012) has to be dissociated from verbalizers that are realized morphologically. See also Alexiadou (2009) for result nominals in Greek. We endorse this position.

Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014) show that roots fall into different ontological categories, impacting their syntactic realization. They follow Harley (2005) in assuming that the basic ontological types are as listed in (43).

(43) a. events b. things c. states

They provide a set of generalizations (pp. 99-104):

- (44) a. —tos directly attaches to roots which can be characterized as Root_{event}.
 - b. —*tos* does not combine with Root_{thing}. It combines with Root_{thing} + verbalizer.
 - c. —tos does not combine with Root_{state} + verbalizer because an adjective blocks the —tos form. ⁹
 - d. verbalizers turn undefined roots into an event and then *-tos* attaches to the Root_{undefined} + verbalizer. (Cf. Arad 2003, 2005)

Let us consider the last generalization more carefully. The roots to which —tos attaches are roots with no clear meaning, hence the name: Root_{undefined}. There are two ways in which the meaning is undefined: i) it is impossible to assign an exact meaning to the root, and ii) no corresponding noun or verb of the form Root_{undefined} + inflection exists. Anagnostopoulou and Samioti distinguish between two subclasses.

The first class consists of undefined roots which represent movements, sounds or shapes, and they are often formed by reduplication. They require a verbalizer in order to become verbs, and then they become adjectives, as in (45), or nouns (Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2014: 102).

(45) a. kakar-is-tos 'cackling'
b. tsitsir-is-tos 'sizzling / frizzling'
c. trekl-is-tos 'staggering'

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⁹ A relevant example is the following: *aspr-os/i/o* 'white' and *aspr-iz-o* 'whiten'. It is possible to say *aspr-iz-men-os*, but not *aspr-*is-tos* (cf. 40a). See also Alexiadou and Anagnostopoulou (2008).

¹⁰ See Anagnostopoulou and Samioti for elaborate discussion of the other generalizations.

d. tourtour is tos sinvering / sinuadering	d.	tourtour-is-tos	'shivering	shuddering'
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e. **gourl-**o-tos 'goggling'

f. **koxl-**as-tos 'bubbling'

g. **xarxal**-ef-tos 'rummaging'

h. **paspat-**ef-tos 'fiddling'

The second class is made up of roots "which seem completely and totally undefined before a verbalizer attaches to them", making them eventive (Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2014: 102).

b. **sk-**is-tos 'slit'

c. **str-**o-tos 'smooth, regular'

d. **lig-**is-tos 'bent'

e. **sik-**o-tos 'raised'

These roots are like Hebrew roots in that they cannot occur without the functional morphology. They also fall together with words based on Proto-Indoeuropean roots where the prefixes are drawn from the Ancient Greek prepositional inventory. These prefixes fix the meaning of these unspecified roots. See Alexiadou and

Anagnostopoulou (2011, 2013) for further discussion.

¹¹ Anagnostopoulou and Samioti also raise the question of why categorizers serve as contexts for meaning assignment to unspecified roots. They argue that roots *have* to be classified in terms of Harley's (2005) basic ontology. If not, as in the Greek examples just discussed, a categorizer is needed in order to classify the roots. Whatever meaning the root then acquires, it remains throughout the derivation.

24

Anagnostopoulou and Samioti conclude that Greek is what Arad (2003) calls an English-type language. However, we are inclined to draw a somewhat different conclusion: Greek seems to be somewhere in between Hebrew and English. There are more contexts in Greek in which unspecified roots have their meanings productively determined by prefixes than in English. Again this is an important point about the role of functional morphology in differentiating languages when it comes to determining meaning.

6 Roots across languages: a typology

We argue that it is possible to devise a typology of roots and functional morphemes where languages are sorted on a scale. Based on the case studies reported in this paper, we can devise the typology in (47).

In Hebrew, functional morphemes and especially verbalizers are crucial in determining the interpretation of a root. In contemporary English, this is not the case, and the interpretation of the root is to a greater extent determined by the meaning of the root itself: he functional morphemes play a minor, if any, role in determining the meaning of English roots. Roots in Hebrew are 'empty' in the sense that they have highly general and underspecified meanings, whereas although some roots in English are underspecified, their meanings are to a greater extent determined by the semantic content of the root itself.

It is important that the typology is scalar. We do not think that it is possible to neatly define the typology into discrete steps or categories in which all languages can be sorted. For that reason, the typology does not tell the researcher how to position languages with respect to each other on the scale. In order to do that, more quantitative measures of the number of underspecified roots vs. the number of specified roots would have to be developed, which could easily result in rather arbitrary distinctions. Rather, we are dealing with gradient transitions between languages. A language like Hebrew seems to mark one end of the scale, whereas English seems to mark the other. There may also be yet more 'extreme' languages that we have not come across. As it stands, such languages would just move the endpoints of the scale and therefore not threaten our proposal.

An alternative and quite different perspective is the following three-way typology of root meanings. 12

This typology is more restricted in that it predicts three classes of languages: i) languages where the root is rather contentless and the word serves as the basic unit, ii) languages where the root strongly influences the meaning of a word, iii) languages in between where the stem is the basic unit of meaning. Here we take a stem to be the node directly dominating the categorizing head and the root, so a stem is the minimal unit comprising a root and its categorizer. The typology in (48) has the advantage of

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 $^{^{\}rm 12}$ We are grateful to Elena Anagnostopoulou (p.c.) for this idea.

connecting meaning and morphology, although it also predicts three discrete classes of languages.

We have put forth two different alternative analyses: Languages can either be placed on a continuous scale in terms of how much semantics is encoded in the root, or all languages can be divided into one of three discrete classes according to whether the basic unit is a root, a stem, or a word. Larger typological investigations would be required in order to choose between these two alternatives.

Anagnostopoulou and Samioti (2014) provide a series of examples that suggest that in Greek categorizing affixes take stems as their input. In their discussion of examples such as [(49)], they point out that "First, the absence of -n— in the verbal adjectives as in [(49a)] could be viewed as evidence that -tos directly attaches to the root and not to the verb, if it can be ensured that the reason for the absence of -n— is not morpho-phonological. Second, in [(49c, e, g)] -tos attaches to the perfective stem (marked by stem allomorphy in [49c, e] and by the presence of -s—in [49g]), a fact that could, in principle, receive either a semantic or a phonological explanation" (p. 99).

(49)	a.	ftiax-n-o	'make'	ftiax-tos	'made'
	b.	lin-o	'loosen'	li-tos	'loose'
	c.	per- n-o	'take'	par-tos	'taken'
	d.	klev-o	'steal'	klef-tos	'stolen'
	e.	din-o	'give'	do-tos	'given'
	f.	plek-o	'knit'	plek-tos	'knitten'
	g.	klin-o	'close'	klis-tos	'closed'

Our proposal suggests that little v plays different roles in different languages: in Hebrew it is crucial for determining the interpretation of roots and thereby words, whereas in English it categorizes roots and also determines aspects of meaning (see e.g., Marantz 2013 and the discussion in section 5). In English, and partly in Greek, it is Voice that is the most important head for determining (idiomatic) interpretation (see Anagnostopoulou and Samioti 2013, 2014 and references therein for much discussion). Therefore, we argue that little v is always a verbalizer in all languages, though it can also take on additional roles, such as in Hebrew where it is strongly linked to determining the interpretation of roots by way of functional morphology.

We mentioned above that there is evidence from the literature that v can be of two types even in languages such as English and Greek, and discussed the distinction between a v head in the context of causative semantics, and pure verbalizers. Clearly, this departs from the view of v as being the head introducing the external argument, in e.g., Chomsky (1995), Embick (2004), Collins (2005), Folli and Harley (2008), Harley (2013), Merchant (2013). External arguments are introduced by Voice, cf. Kratzer (1996), Alexiadou, Anagnostopoulou and Schäfer (2006). See also Harley (this volume), Schäfer (this volume), and Sundaresan and McFadden (this volume) for discussion.

One remaining question is whether we need to encode semantics on little v heads. Ramchand (2008, this volume) and Schäfer (2012), among others, have shown that the grammar does not make reference to annotated v heads, or flavors of v. In line with their proposals, we maintain that all v heads are verbalizers. The semantics of the constructions result from the combination of v heads and different types of roots (unlike, e.g., Pylkkänen 2008; see also Harley this volume for discussion). In particular, the combination of v with a particular type of root (result) or a small clause

gives rise to causative semantics. For instance, as we saw above, most *-en* verbs in English are built on the basis of roots that bring about a state/result.

7 Conclusions

In this paper, we have discussed the question of what the division of labor is between the root and the functional morphemes categorizing the root across a small set of languages. We argue that it is possible to devise a typology of roots and functional morphemes where languages are sorted on a scale. Given the languages we have looked at here, the scale ranges from Hebrew on the one hand to English on the other hand. In Hebrew, functional morphemes and especially verbalizers are crucial in determining the interpretation of a given root and thus a given word. In contemporary English, this is not the case, and the interpretation of the root and thereby the word is to a greater extent determined by the meaning of the root itself. Greek is argued to fall in between English and Hebrew on the scale.

For English, Greek, and Hebrew, the root is a crucial building block.

Languages are partitioned on a scale depending on exactly what the semantic properties of the roots are. The fact that roots play this important role offers indirect support in favor of the existence of roots, since if they did not exist, it would be much harder to understand the ways in which the three languages discussed differ.

We have also argued that little v works differently in English, Greek, and Hebrew. In Greek, it introduces functional morphology that plays a crucial role when it comes to determining the meaning of a root in the context of a word. In English, it is a verbalizer, although it may also be linked to fixing the domain for allosemy (Marantz 2013). Given that little v plays these roles, it cannot introduce an external

argument; a separate functional projection above little v is needed to do that, viz. Voice.

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