

COMPARISON OF GREEK ADJECTIVES

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Adjectives (and adverbs) have degree

- Positive = the normal form
 - *Fast, high, hostile, friendly*
- Comparative = “more” or “-er”
 - *Faster, higher, more hostile, more friendly/friendlier*
- Superlative = “most” or “-est” or “very”
 - *Fastest, highest, most hostile, most friendly/friendliest, very friendly*

Most regular adjectives

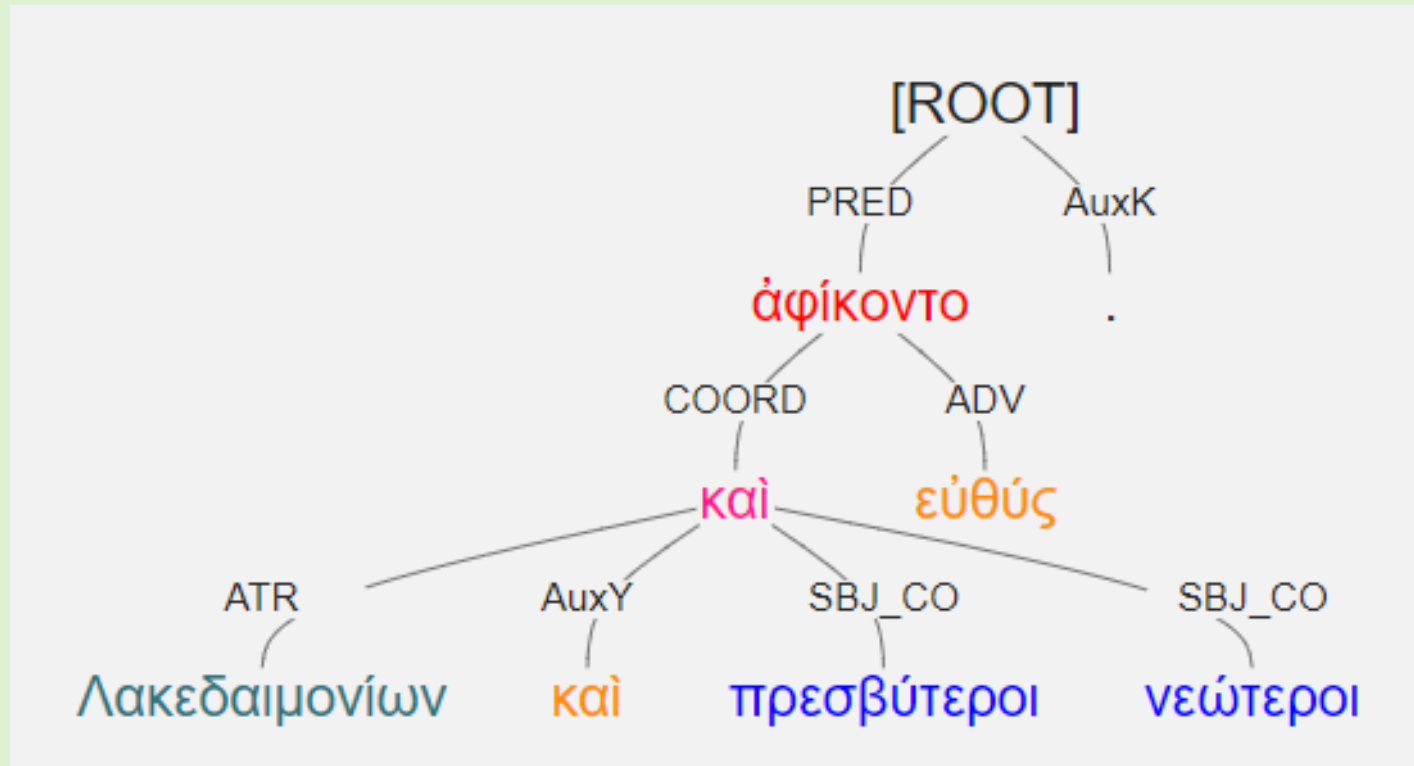
- Form comparative by adding –τέρος, -τέρα, -τέρον to the stem
 - φιλώτερος, φιλωτέρα, φιλώτερον (*more friendlier, friendlier*)
 - πολεμιώτερος, πολεμιωτέρη, πολεμιώτερον (*more hostile*)
 - πρότερος and ὕστερος (*earlier and later*)
 - πρότερον and ὕστερον = adverbial accusatives (*earlier and later*)
- Form superlative by adding –τατος, -τάτη, -τατον to the stem
 - φιλώτατος, φιλωτάτη, φιλώτατον (*most friendly/friendliest*)
 - πολεμιώτατος, πολεμιωτάτη, πολεμιώτατον (*most hostile*)

Most regular adjectives

- The neuter singular accusative comparative adjective may be used as the comparative adverb.
 - πολειμιώτερον can mean *more hostilely*.
 - ὕστερος, -η, -ον is a comparative form [no positive]
 - ὕστερον is often used adverbially
 - Sometimes they use the form πολειμιωτέρως
- The neuter plural superlative adjective may be used as the superlative adverb.
 - πολειμιώτατα can mean *most hostilely*.

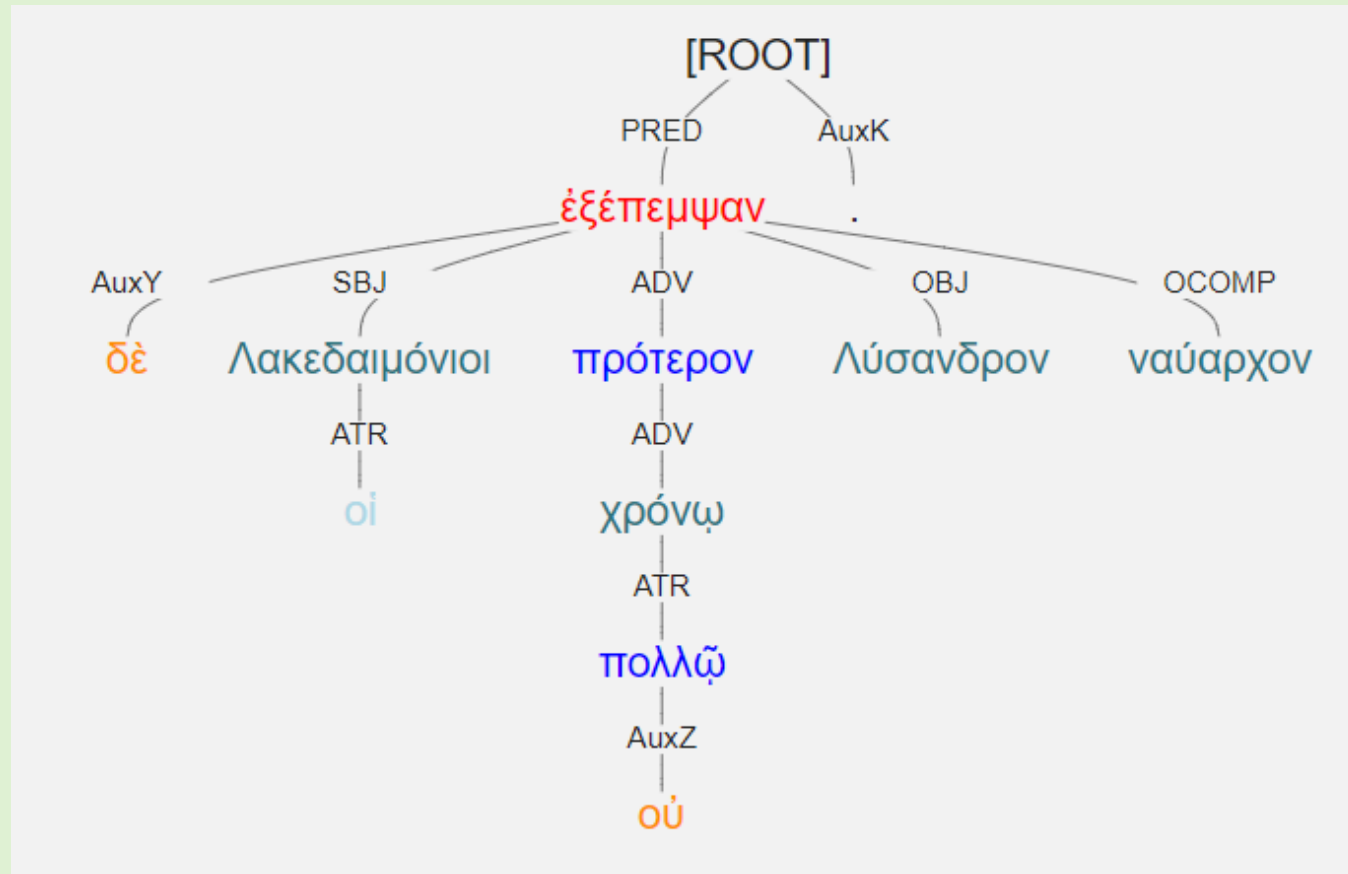
Λακεδαιμονίων καὶ πρεσβύτεροι καὶ νεώτεροι εὐθύς ἀφίκοντο. [3.3.8]

- *The older men and the younger men of the Lakedaimonians arrived immediately.*



οἱ δὲ Λακεδαιμόνιοι πρότερον οὐ πολλῷ χρόνῳ Λύσανδρον
ἐξέπεμψαν ναύαρχον. [1.5.1]

- *Not long before, the Lakedaimonians sent Lysander as naurarch. [Literally, before by not much time. Dative of degree of difference.]*



Irregular comparatives/superlatives

○ πολύς

- πλείων
- πλεῖστος, -α, -ον

○ μέγας

- μείζων
- μέγιστος, -α, -ον

○ κακός

- κακίων οἱ χείρων οἱ ἥττων
- κάκιστος οἱ χείριστος οἱ ἥκιστος

○ ἀγαθός

- ἀμείνων οἱ βελτίων
- ἄριστος, -α, -ον οἱ βέλτιστος, -α, -ον

○ καλός

- καλλίων
- κάλλιστος, -α, -ον

○ ἐχθρός

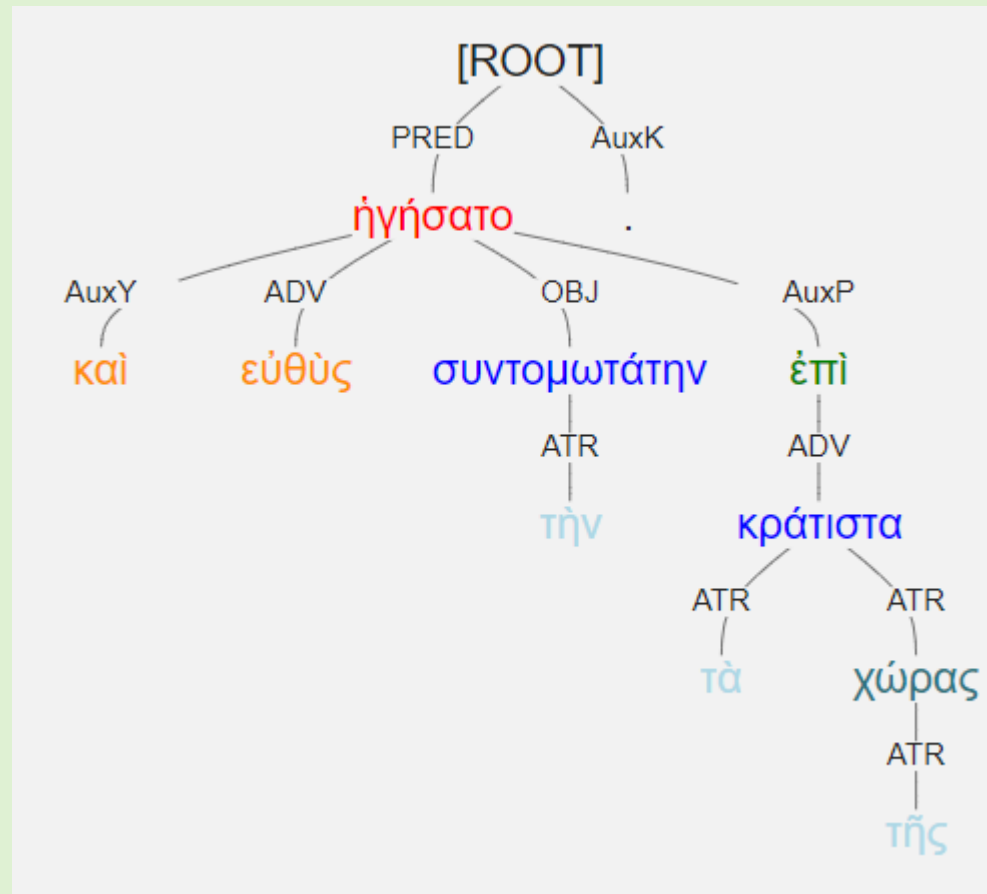
- ἐχθίων
- ἐχθιστος, -α, -ον

Superlatives are declined like regular three-ending adjectives

- κράτιστος, -α, -ον
= *strongest, best*
- Superlative of κρατύς = *strong, mighty*

καὶ εὐθὺς ἡγήσατο τὴν συντομωτάτην ἐπὶ τὰ κράτιστα
τῆς χώρας. [3.4.20]

- *And immediately he led them along the shortest routes to the best parts of the land.*



Irregular comparatives use the third declension forms, with M/F the same

- ἐλάσσων, ἕλασσον = ἐλάττων, ἕλαττον (Attic)
- *Less, fewer*
- Serves as comparative form of μικρός (*small*)

	M/F	NT
Nom	ἐλάσσων/ἐλάττων	ἕλασσον/ἕλαττον
Gen	ἐλάττωνος	
Dat	ἐλάττωνι	
Acc	ἐλάττονα	ἕλαττον
Nom	ἐλάττονες	ἐλάττονα
Gen	ἐλαττόνων	
Dat	ἐλάττοσι(ν)	
Acc	ἐλάττους; ἐλάττονας	ἐλάττονα; ἐλάττω

Adverbs of note

- μάλα = *very*
- μᾶλλον = *more*
- μάλιστα = *especially*

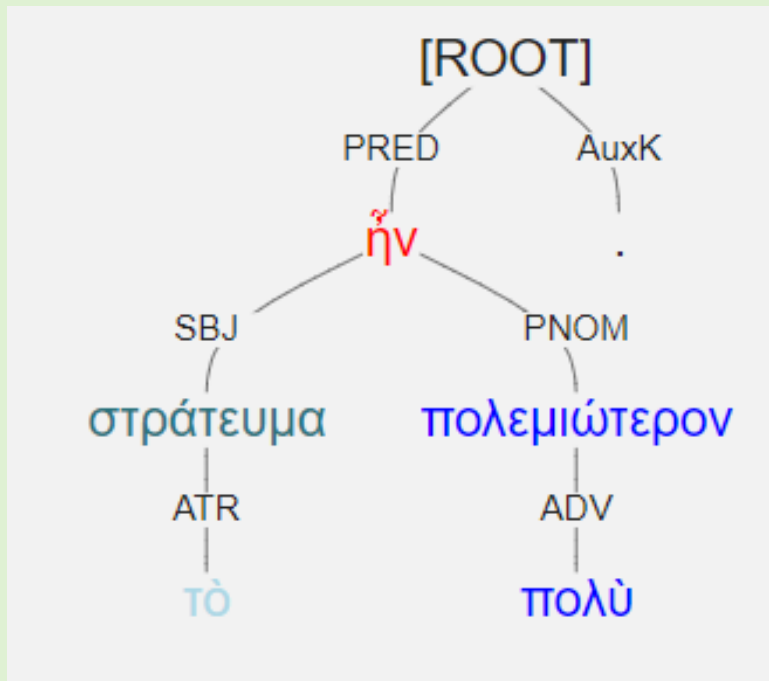
Comparison

- Dative of degree difference (*taller by a foot*)
- Genitive of comparison (*taller than him*)
- ἤ = *than* [note: the same word as “or”]
 - the thing being compared in the same case as the thing to which it is being compared
- μᾶλλον (ἤ) = *more than, rather than*
- Comparisons can be strengthened using πολύ (*much*)

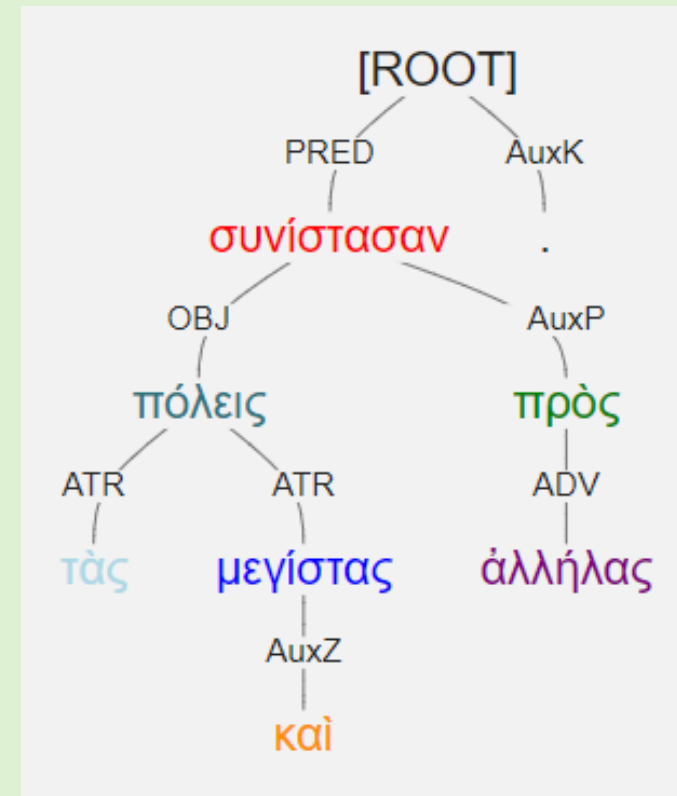
Superlatives

- Often used with the partitive genitive
 - τῶν δὲ ἀνδρῶν οἱ μὲν πλεῖστοι ἐξέφυγον. [1.5.14]
- ὥς + superlative = *as ... as possible*
 - Κῦρος ὥς προθυμότατος πρὸς τὸν πόλεμον ἐγίγνετο.

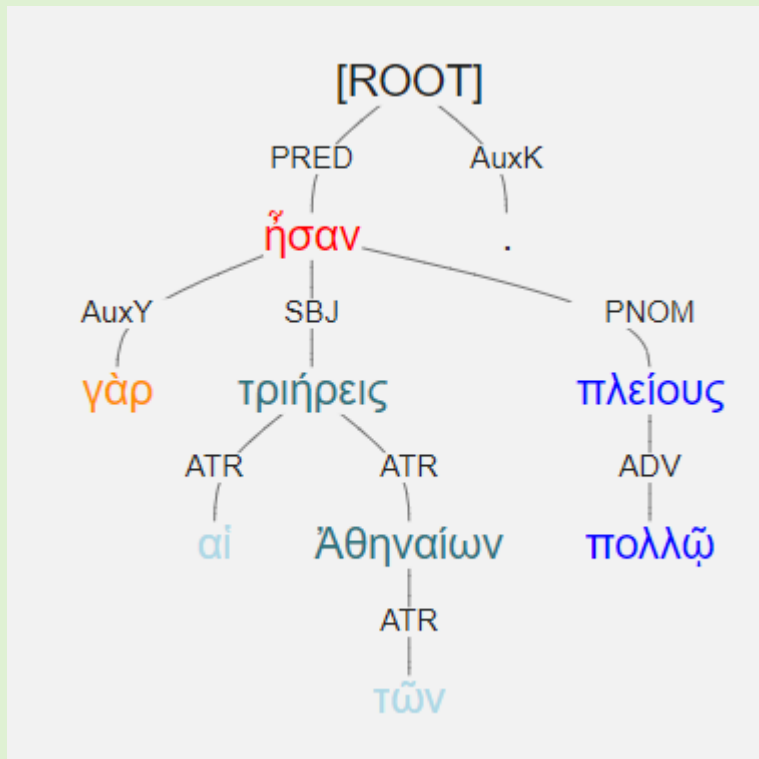
- τὸ στράτευμα πολὺ πολεμιώτερον ἦν.
 - *The expedition was much more warlike.*



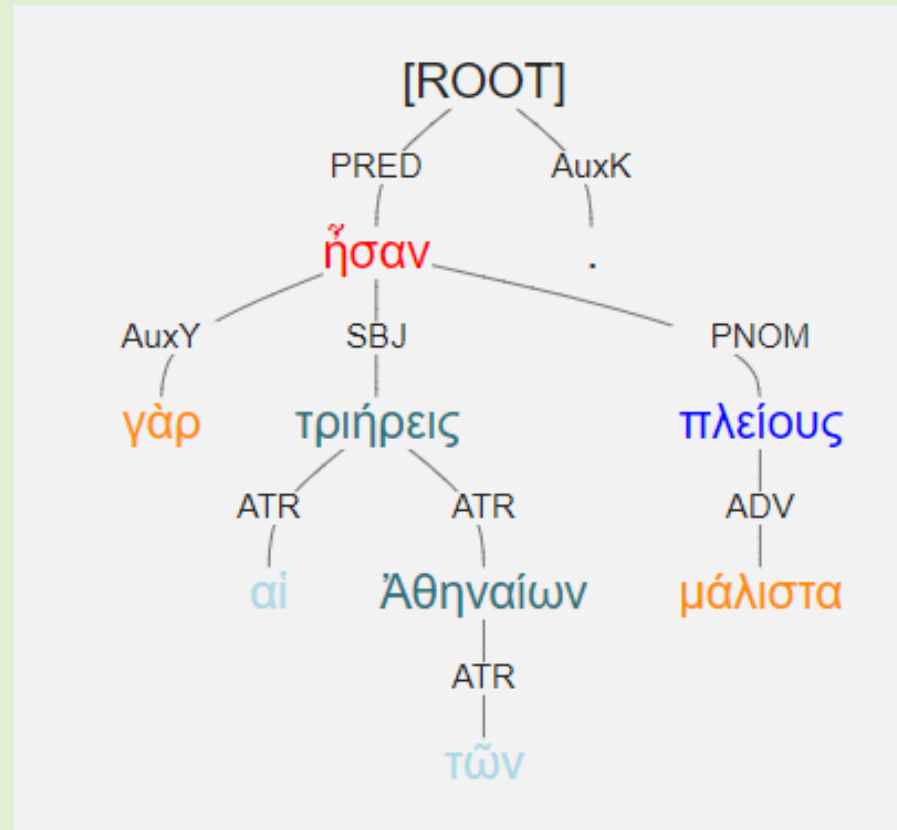
- συνίστασαν καὶ τὰς μεγίστας πόλεις πρὸς ἀλλήλας. [3.5.2]
 - *They combined even the greatest cities together with each other.*



- αἱ γὰρ τριήρεις τῶν Ἀθηναίων πολλῶ πλείους ἦσαν.
 - *The Athenians had many more triremes.*
 - *Literally: The triremes of the Athenians were more by many.*

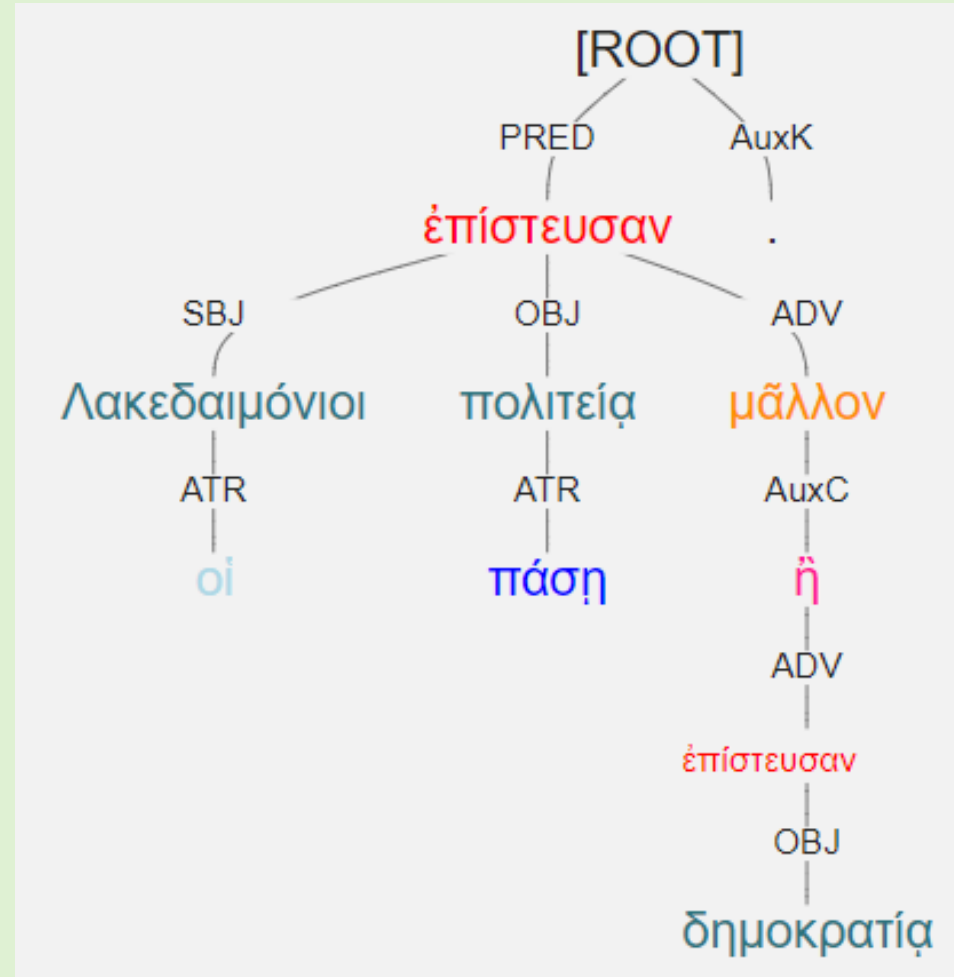


- αἱ γὰρ τριήρεις τῶν Ἀθηναίων μάλιστα πλείους ἦσαν.
 - *The triremes of the Athenians were especially numerous.*

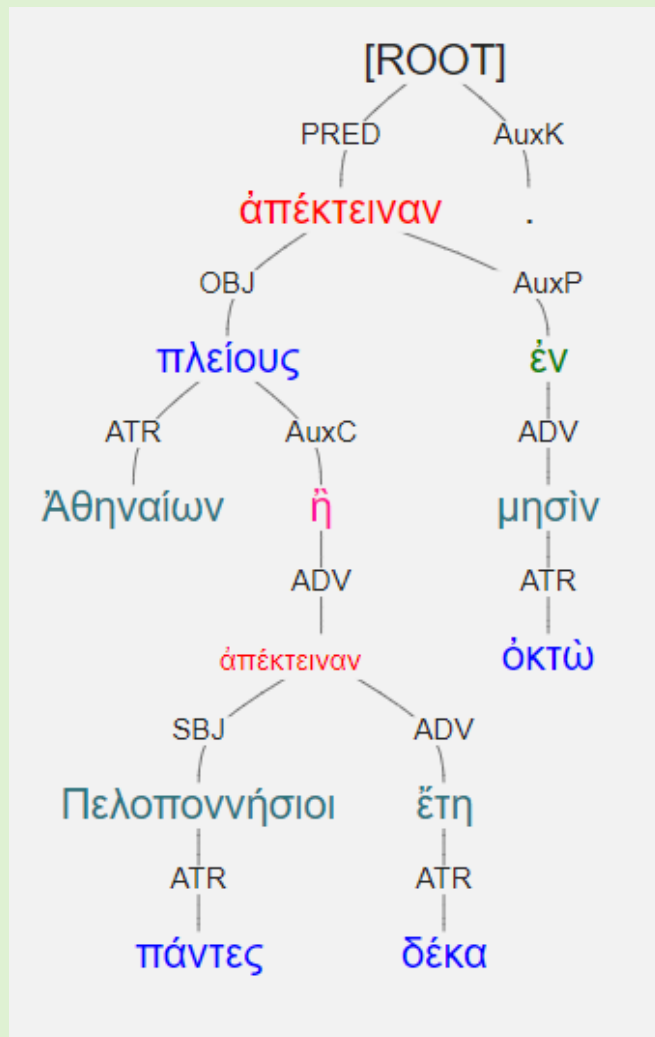


οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι πάση πολιτεία μᾶλλον ἢ δημοκρατία
ἐπίστευσαν. [2.3.45]

*The Lakedaimonians
trusted every government
system more than [they trusted]
democracy.*



ἀπέκτειναν πλείους Ἀθηναίων ἐν ὀκτῶ μηνσὶν ἢ πάντες
Πελοποννήσιοι δέκα ἔτη. [2.4.21]



*They killed more Athenians in
eight months than all the
Peloponnesians killed in ten years.*