The aorist in - η ν in Homeric greek: at the Morphosyntax/Semantics Interface. a Thorough Analysis of Iliad and Odyssey

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper we report the results of a study of all the occurences of the aorist in $-\eta v$ in Homeric poems. It is shown that the Greek aorist in $-\eta v$ constitutes a strategy to encode the anticausative member of the causative/anticausative alternation represented in change of state verbs, and the few instances of non-anticausative values (i.e., passive, reflexive and bare temporal) are epiphenomena of either the presence of specific components or the absence of an affected argument in the semantic structure of verb lexemes. Moreover, the relationship between the aorist in $-\eta v$, the perfect system and the middle voice is discussed.