

**Name:** Georgakopoulos Thanasis

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In this presentation, I discuss specific aspects of the semantic extension of the Ancient Greek allative preposition *eis*. In particular, I describe the developmental paths from the allative to three semantic roles, i.e., the beneficiary, the recipient and the addressee. Since the directionality of these paths is controversial (cf. Haspelmath 2003, Heine *et al.* 1991, Luraghi 2010, Rice & Kabata 2007), I aim at contributing to the ongoing discussion on that issue. I present evidence from the Greek diachrony supporting the independent development of the three roles (all arise out of the allative without the mediation of an intermediate sense) and further corroborate these findings through cross-linguistic and typological data. The discussion reveals that typological and diachronic evidence when combined may prove very useful so as to avoid overgeneralizations regarding the pathways of semantic change.

## References

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