

Foreword

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**Pronouns, Clitics and Empty Nouns: 'Pronominality' and
licensing in syntax**

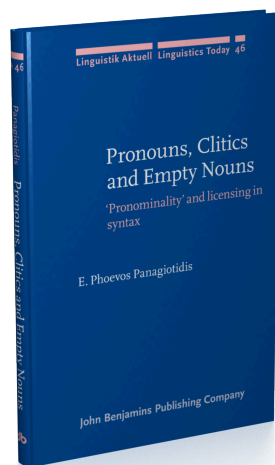
Phoevos Panagiotidis

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Foreword

Embarking upon doctoral research is both more difficult and more pleasant than one would think, at least than what I thought back in October 1997, feverish, exhausted and late for registration. It takes unexpectedly much money, acute detective skills in order to track that obscure working paper, initiative and cautiousness simultaneously, perseverance almost proverbially so – all those things. It is also an extremely lonely enterprise: the inherent paranoia of campus life – ghettos dedicated to knowledge, scholarship, research and a score of subtly related but unpleasant activities and attitudes – does not make things any easier.

Nevertheless, my doctoral research turned out to be smoother than I would think, too. First of all, up to March 2000 it was generously and usually punctually funded by IKY (State Scholarships Foundation of Greece). I would not have been able to have pursued my studies without the Foundation's support and I can hardly be too grateful to them.

This book is a revised and partly reworked version of my PhD thesis, submitted at the University of Essex in September 2000. A sincere thank you goes to the series editor Prof. Werner Abraham for accepting this study to be published in the *Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today* series.

The real joy of conducting doctoral research, apart from growing up, understanding and learning, is largely the result of *the people you meet*, in person or over the Internet, people who can share ideas with you, be friends or just help. It is to these people I want to express gratitude or, at least, thanks.

Roger Hawkins, my supervisor, is the person I owe the most during my PhD years. He has been subtly encouraging and deterring in carefully administered (i.e. not equal) doses. His comments would always be lean, sharp and to the point. He has been a source of knowledge, inspiration and encouragement without ever becoming overwhelming. He has been extremely patient in dealing with panic attacks, illusions of grandeur and cryptically composed drafts, papers and memos: hundreds of pages of them.

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Ellen-Petra Kester sent me her book and comments just in time to spark off the problematics that led to Chapters 2 and 3 (for better or worse), *Artemis Alexiadou* kindly trafficked large amounts of her unpublished work over the post and the Internet helping me immensely and *Cecilia Poletto* sent me the drafts of her recent book back in 1998 and discussed with me strange and wonderful facts about North Italian dialects.

The School of Psychology in Birkbeck College, University of London, offered me employment when nobody else would and when I needed it most by summoning me to author and teach their Psychology of Language course. All the people in the School, staff and (amazing) students, were friendly and extremely supportive (especially the Head *Simon Green*), but special thanks have to go to *Heather K. J. van der Lely*, a supportive 'boss' and wonderful colleague. Back in Essex, *Louisa Sadler*, the Head of the Department, saw that I would get travel expenses to conferences where I presented papers and *Marion Doran*, the Department's executive officer, would always make the onus of blue tape lighter while broadening my sci-fi horizons.

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Before finishing, a special and big thank you goes out to *Joe Emonds* and *Bob Borsley*, my PhD examiners and tireless purveyors of reference letters, for their comments, discussion and support.

It would all still be as complete and creative as the question addressing the ‘possible relationships between CPs and DPs’ (my initial, sketchily rendered research area) hadn’t it been for *Ioanna*.

This book, like my thesis, is dedicated to my parents

Mary (Μαίρη) and *Apostolis (Αποστόλης)*, for being my first teachers and also to

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