

Expressions and structures of the delexical verb ΚΑΝΩ [“MAKE” / “DO”] in Modern Greek language: A corpus-based approach to newspaper articles¹.

Marianna N. Christou
Postgraduate research student in Greek language and lexicography
at the University of Birmingham (UK)

1. Introduction

*This is perhaps the first lesson to be learned from corpus study.
Language cannot be invented; it can only be captured.*
(Sinclair 1997: 31)

In this study I intend to explore the usage of the Modern Greek verb ΚΑΝΩ² by means of a sub-corpus extracted from the 30-million-word written Hellenic National Corpus (HNC) developed by the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP) in Greece. In the belief that there is a cline of semantic differentiation between fixed expressions with figurative meaning on the one hand, and ‘simple’ collocations of ΚΑΝΩ with nouns on the other, I stress the need for applying this cline to language research. In addition, I present arguments for the explanation of the syntactic distribution of such phrases, which would contribute to the understanding of delexical structures.

For the purposes of this study, I start with some methodological issues. Next, I adopt the term *cline of idiomaticity* for the development of a theoretical framework that supports the generalised structure of ΚΑΝΩ + noun, and divides all the instances of my sub-corpus into five categories. Subsequently, I refer to the distribution of the verb and its complement within either the same or different clauses. Finally, I discuss the significance of adopting the proposed cline of idiomaticity in dictionary-making, since this proposes a shift of the lexical load that a lexicographer needs to clarify and describe.

2. Methodology

This study, as has already been mentioned, is corpus-based, since it was built on a sample (see Appendix I) extracted from the HNC (on-line access: <http://hnc.ilsp.gr>).

2.1. The data extracted from the corpus and their processing

The whole corpus of my study was compiled by means of a lemma query. As the question posed initially was the examination of the role that the (delexical) verb ΚΑΝΩ plays in Modern Greek language, I expected that real data – even limited in number – would yield some fruitful results to this end. Thus, I restricted the lemma query of the verb ΚΑΝΩ to a particular *medium* (two of the most popular Greek newspapers, *Ελευθεροτυπία* and *Το Βήμα*, see Hatzigeorgiu *et al.* 2000: 1737), *genre* (informative texts) and *topic* (related to society). It has to be noted, though, that I made no further selection (e.g. according to more specific genre or topic), with the intention of achieving at least a representativeness “for certain high frequency linguistic features” (McEneaney and Wilson 2001: 78). Therefore, my sub-corpus was at the same time small – compared with the whole 30-million-word HNC – and sufficient for the needs of the present research.

To be more precise about the identity of the corpus used, this consisted of selected articles written between 1993 and 1997. The results showed 6,200 texts (4,851 from *Ελευθεροτυπία* and 1,349 from *Το Βήμα*), within which 4,236 instances (tokens) of the lemma ΚΑΝΩ were automatically extracted. Then, all examples were processed by use of WordSmith Tools (henceforth WordSmith).

¹ I would like to thank Mrs. Maria Gavriilidou, Head of the Electronic Lexicography Department of the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP) in Athens, and Mr. Nikos Hatzigeorgiu, Head of the ILSP branch in Xanthi, for the invaluable information they provided me with concerning the Hellenic National Corpus (HNC). I am also grateful to Professor Emeritus Geoffrey N. Leech, Dr. Andrew Wilson, and Mr. Philip King for their help and useful comments on this study.

² Greek verbs are capitalised, when they are used as lemmas.

WordSmith, developed by Mike Scott³, proved to be an invaluable tool for the processing even of a language with an alphabet other than the roman. It provided the concordance for the instances extracted from the sub-corpus (see Appendix II), since the equivalent Greek tool can only be applied to the whole HNC for the moment. Nevertheless, WordSmith was by no means the most perfect and accurate solution to my problem. This became more obvious when I saved the HNC concordance output (4,236 instances) to file, and then ran WordSmith on it. By virtue of some partial incompatibility between the two programmes, I had to remove some incomplete, misread or unrecognisable sentences manually. After that, 4,059 tokens of the lemma ΚΑΝΩ underwent a closer examination on an advanced stage of research. Subsequently, I sorted out the instances that I would later use by adding extra information in the *set* column of the concordance (Categories A, B, C and D, see section 3.2. ff.). Next, I both re-sorted the whole sub-corpus and weeded out the sentences that would be of no interest to me (Category E, see section 3.2.5.). Thus, I ended up with 2,139 instances.

Since the annotation of the corpus used was considered an essential prerequisite for this research, I added simple tags⁴ manually. It is important to acknowledge here that this (non-machine-aided) procedure may not be one hundred percent accurate and reliable; however, the aims of the present study were accomplished, since all problems encountered were solved to a great extent.

2.2. Problems encountered and their solutions

The table below illustrates some of the problems encountered, although not always anticipated throughout the manipulation of the data. Moreover, it is also hereby shown how I temporarily (i.e. for the purposes of the present study) solved them, along with how I perceive their potential amelioration.

Table 2.2.: Problems encountered and their (temporary and future) solutions

<i>Problems encountered</i>	<i>Temporary solutions</i>	<i>Future solutions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ no reliable parsers / taggers for the Modern Greek language available for the moment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ manual annotation of the verb and the noun only across all 2,139 instances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ improvement of the existing tools (of the ILSP) and / or development of new ones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consequence of the previous problem: Greek text untagged – no possibility of identifying the systematic co-occurrences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ related to the preceding problem: practice on a combination of WordSmith, Excel and Notepad to find collocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ part of the above problem: amelioration of the concordance tool, so that it can carry out more complex commands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ partial incompatibility between the number of results of the HNC (4,236) and their insertion to the WordSmith programme (4,059) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ manual elimination of the (few) incomplete, misread or unrecognisable examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ improvement of both the WordSmith programme and the Greek tool for concordance (the latter does not accept a query on a particular sub-corpus)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ large amount of instances (4,236) needed for a representative (insofar as possible) sample of newspaper articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reduced number of instances (2,139) taken into account – a theory based on their closer reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ incorporation of all instances found could have a further impact on this theory, i.e. either consolidate it or modify it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ significant imperfections of the HNC (e.g. words not disambiguated yet) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reliance placed on the trustworthiness of the results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ enhancement of the morphological lexicon and machine-aided disambiguation

³ For more information on WSmith see McEnery and Wilson (ibid. 211).

⁴ Leech and Smith (1999: 24) have demonstrated that annotation is useful for 'inputting' information, whereas a concordance programme helps in 'outputting' information from a corpus.

<i>Problems encountered (cont.)</i>	<i>Temporary solutions (cont.)</i>	<i>Future solutions (cont.)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ only one sentence of the corpus available, the one containing the node word (need for tracing back for more context, which was impossible using the WordSmith concordance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ work simultaneously at three levels: results and context (HNC), concordance (WordSmith) and manual annotation (Notepad) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ expansion of the number of sentences that the HNC allows on its web interface (e.g. by allowing users to define by themselves the amount of context needed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ certain limits of space and time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ a general theory introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ evaluation and review of the work done

3. Data analysis

3.1. Different approaches to the notion of ‘delexical structures’

Until recently, there has been no attempt to standardise the terminology through which verbonominal structures (Stein 1991: 4, Nakas 2000: 125 ff.)⁵ are defined. That is, several of the terms suggested refer either to the verb itself or to the noun. More precisely, the idea of [semantically] ‘empty’ or ‘light verbs’ (Jespersen 1942: 117 ff.), on the one hand, has led modern theory to extremes, i.e. this has been both rejected (by Stein 1991: 15) and adopted (by Biber *et al.* 1999: 428). On the other hand, the labels of ‘eventive object’ and ‘deverbal noun’ (ibid. 128 and 428, Quirk *et al.* 1985: 750 ff.)⁶ are, among other labels, attributed to the noun that collocates with verbs of this kind.

In this study, I shall use the term ‘delexical verbs’ as defined by Sinclair *et al.* (1998: 147):

[t]here are a number of very common verbs which are used with nouns as their object to indicate simply that someone performs an action, not that someone affects or creates something. These verbs have very little meaning when they are used in this way.

for two reasons: first, in order to benefit from corpus evidence to support the cline of semantic shift for the delexical structures, and second, in order to complement the definition in Babiniotis’ dictionary (2002: 246), in which it is stated that the meaning of a verb sometimes takes the form of a periphrasis instead of being represented by a cognate simple verb/lexeme⁷. As we shall see later, even though there is not always such a possibility of substituting the periphrasis for a simple verb deriving from the noun’s stem, we still define the verb as delexical. In this sense, we accept that the ‘lexical load’ is carried by the second part of the phrase (Live 1973: 31).

As regards the present study, the results of the concordance of the verb ΚΑΝΩ revealed a variety of word-classes (e.g. noun, adjective, article, adverb, pronoun, preposition, conjunction etc.) that are commonly combined with it. However, the major issue of my concern will be the collocations of this verb with its nominal complements (nouns / noun phrases).

3.2. Collocations of the delexical verb ΚΑΝΩ + (noun / noun phrase): the cline of idiomaticity

Adopting Sinclair’s terminology (1991: 115), ΚΑΝΩ could be regarded as a ‘node’, and its complement – any noun / noun phrase, in this case – could be considered its ‘collocate’ in that

[c]ollocation is the occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text ... Collocations can be dramatic and interesting because unexpected, or they can be important in the lexical structure of the language because of being frequently repeated (ibid. 170).

⁵ In his article (1968), Nickel introduces the equivalent concept of “complex verbal structures”, while Live (1973: 32) preferably accepts a ‘phrasal form’ of the ‘light verbs’.

⁶ Stein (1991: 2) and Allan (1998: 2-3) provide a more general overview of the terminology used in the past.

⁷ Using the term *simple (= single-word) verb* I have translated the Greek *μονολεκτικό ρήμα* (e.g. *δηλώνω* [“state”]) instead of ΚΑΝΩ *δήλωση* [“make a statement”]) which a) constitutes one word, b) has an equivalent meaning with the periphrasis and c) should be contrasted to (English) *phrasal verbs* (two or more words).

On the one hand, before looking into the corpus, I surmised that the core meaning of the verb would be expanded as well as restricted to some extent, since ΚΑΝΩ is among the most common verbs in Modern Greek (cf. “make” / “do”⁸ (English), “faire” (French), “machen” / “tun” (German), “hacer” (Spanish), etc.). A closer examination of the corpus, on the other hand, allowed me to provide concrete examples in support of the theory that I will develop next. Having named this *cline of idiomaticity*, on the basis of a proposal by Biber *et al.* (1999: 1026), I shall further suggest five distinct Categories.

3.2.1. Category A: ΚΑΝΩ + noun = fixed expression with figurative meaning (ΚΑΝΩ φτερά)

The first Category comprises instances of fixed (idiomatic) expressions with the verb ΚΑΝΩ, which have figurative meaning. The term ‘fixed expressions’ denotes that, whereas the verb conjugates regularly, the collocate remains uninflected, e.g. ΚΑΝΩ φτερά [“vanish”], ΚΑΝΩ θραύση [“be popular”], ΚΑΝΩ <κάτι> φύλλο και φτερό [“search sth. thoroughly”]. Furthermore, it has to be made clear that adjectives modifying the nominal complement of the verb ΚΑΝΩ do not frequently intervene, except in cases where they form part of the expression, e.g. ΚΑΝΩ τα στραβά μάτια [“turn a blind eye to sth.”] (but not *ΚΑΝΩ (τα) μάτια), ΚΑΝΩ χρυσές δουλειές [“earn a lot of money”] (but, ΚΑΝΩ δουλειές has a totally different (literal) meaning). Similarly, an indirect object of the verb is sometimes essential for the syntactic structure to be considered as grammatical, as in ΚΑΝΩ <σε κάποιον> το τραπέζι [“prepare and invite sb. for a meal”] and ΚΑΝΩ <σε κάποιον> τον βίο αφύτο [“make life unbearable for sb.”].

Finally, examples of rather informal or colloquial set phrases mentioned in the newspaper articles have been incorporated in the same Category, given that they constitute collocations: ΚΑΝΩ κέφι [“feel like doing sth.”], (different from ΚΑΝΩ <κάποιον> κέφι [“like one’s company”]), ΚΑΝΩ παιχνίδι [“take the initiative”], ΚΑΝΩ κουμάντο [“be in control” / “be the boss”].

3.2.2. Category B: ΚΑΝΩ + noun = semi-fixed expression with figurative meaning (ΚΑΝΩ (+ adj.) βήμα)

Category B includes set phrases that have *figurative meaning*, since they do not originate directly from the literal content of the words in question, which is similar to the previous case. The difference, though, lies in that in the second Category the (idiomatic) expressions are *semi-fixed*, i.e. allow adjectives, pronouns, articles, etc. to intervene and modify the noun, e.g. ΚΑΝΩ ένα αποφασιστικό βήμα [“take a decisive step”], ΚΑΝΩ εντυπωσιακή στροφή [“take an impressive change in direction”]. Moreover, it should be clarified that some of the adjacent groups of this kind can be used both in the singular and plural. Here are some examples: ΚΑΝΩ μια αριστοτεχνική κίνηση [“do a masterstroke”] and ΚΑΝΩ τις απαραίτητες κινήσεις [“act as is necessary”], ΚΑΝΩ προσεκτικό άνοιγμα <προς κάποιον> [“try carefully to approach sb. / sth.”] and ΚΑΝΩ κάποια ανοίγματα [“try to approach sb. / sth. somehow”]. Similarly, ΚΑΝΩ παρατήρηση and ΚΑΝΩ παρατηρήσεις [“reprimand sb. for doing / saying sth.”] appear in both numbers. However, the findings of the corpus analysis underpinned the fact that there are also some set phrases, which are commonly applicable to either number, e.g. ΚΑΝΩ έρωτα [“make love”] (but not *ΚΑΝΩ έρωτες), ΚΑΝΩ θυσίες [“make sacrifices”] (occurring only in plural in my corpus, although it has a (less frequent) singular, as well).

In this Category, account is taken of standardised Greek expressions in the singular only, such as ΚΑΝΩ χρήση [only in the sense of “take drugs” / “drink alcohol” etc.], ΚΑΝΩ το γύρο (του κόσμου) [for “disseminating information around the world”] and ΚΑΝΩ απεργία πείνας [“go on a hunger strike”], as well.

3.2.3. Category C: ΚΑΝΩ + noun = main delexical structure with literal meaning (ΚΑΝΩ δήλωση)

While figurative meaning was reflected in the previous two Categories, where the verb ΚΑΝΩ had an idiomatic and not a delexical function, Category C provides instances of what I have called *main delexical structures with literal meaning*. These are: *main*, in contrast with the subordinate ones (as explained below), because they can easily be substituted for a simple verb which shares the same meaning and stem with the collocate (noun, in most cases); *delexical structures*, as their most meaningful item is the noun; and *literal*, since they are meant in the noun’s original sense.

⁸ Altenberg and Granger (2001: 173-175) place the English verbs ‘make’ and ‘do’ among *high frequency verbs*, which are interesting from a cross-linguistic perspective.

It is not surprising that the most frequent main delexical structure found in articles from the Greek press is by far the phrase ΚΑΝΩ δήλωση [“make a statement”]. A similarly high rate of the cognate verb ΔΗΛΩΝΩ was also anticipated and eventually found (see Appendix III). These significant occurrences can be explained by the actual fact that eminent persons of public life, such as Prime Ministers, Ministers, VIPs, etc., make official statements, which the reporters note down. This also alludes to the question of why half of the most popular structures in this Category are closely related to speech acts (cf. ΚΑΝΩ αναφορά [“make reference to sb. / sth.”], ΚΑΝΩ πρόταση [“make a suggestion”], ΚΑΝΩ παρέμβαση [“intervene verbally”], ΚΑΝΩ ανακοίνωση [“make an announcement”]).

It could be further argued here that the combination of verb and noun makes the foregrounding of information much easier in a language such as Greek, where the order of the sentence constituents could be characterised as either loose or rather variable in terms of focalisation. Following this argument, we can shed light on cases, such as προσπάθεια έκανε [“he made an attempt”], έλεγχο έκαναν [“they checked”] and έρευνα έκαναν [“they searched”], where emphasis is placed on the noun (for the syntactic distribution of the verb ΚΑΝΩ, see also section 3.3. below).

A special emphasis is also placed on collocates that not only precede the node, but are modified as well, e.g. αρχηγική / επιθετική εμφάνιση έκανε <ο Χ> [“X. appeared as leader / having an aggressive attitude”]. Lastly, as regards the delexical ΚΑΝΩ χρήση [“make use of sth.”] (in its literal sense, instead of “use”), the concordance of the corpus showed that this is most commonly combined with another noun in the genitive, nothing intervening between ΚΑΝΩ and χρήση in most cases.

3.2.4. Category D: ΚΑΝΩ + noun = subordinate delexical structure with literal meaning (ΚΑΝΩ λόγο)

The fundamental difference between this and the previously discussed group of expressions lies in that the structures which are brought together in Category D are still *delexical* (so as to complement Babinotis’ definition (2002: 246), see 3.1.), but *subordinate*, in this case. I shall call subordinate those patterns that cannot be substituted for a simple verb, purely because no such verb derives from the noun’s stem in Greek, for instance ΚΑΝΩ κακό [“do harm”] and its opposite, ΚΑΝΩ καλό [“do good to sb.”], ΚΑΝΩ παρέα [“keep sb. company”], ΚΑΝΩ φασαρία [“make noise”].

In some similar cases, even though the cognate simple verb may exist, it can derive from an older tradition of Greek, such as Ancient Greek or even καθαρεύουσα (*katharevousa*), and therefore may nowadays have neither the same meaning nor the same use. For example, ΚΑΝΩ λάθος = σφάλλω [“make a mistake”] is rather distinct from λανθάνω [“be concealed”], even though they share the same stem; ΚΑΝΩ διάλογο [“converse with sb.”] is currently much more preferable than the ‘antiquated’ διαλέγομαι having the same meaning; and ΚΑΝΩ έκκληση [“make a plea”] cannot be replaced by εκκαλώ [“make an appeal”], since the latter is restricted to juridical terminology.

The following three collocations are subordinate delexical structures, as well, for their basic meaning is close to the literal one proposed by the noun: ΚΑΝΩ λόγο [“refer to sth.”] (cf. λέγω [“say”]), ΚΑΝΩ μνεία [“make reference to sb. / sth.”] (cf. μνημονεύω [“mention”]), ΚΑΝΩ την έκπληξη [“make a strong impression”] (cf. εκπλήττω [“surprise”]). The first structure is considerably the most common of this Category (cf. also ΚΑΝΩ δήλωση in Category C), whereas the collocate of the second is usually modified by the adjective ιδιαίτερη [“special”] (ΚΑΝΩ ιδιαίτερη μνεία). In the third phrase the article την is essential and adds sense to the meaning of εντυπωσιάζω; it can be thus dissociated from the main delexical structure ΚΑΝΩ έκπληξη = εκπλήττω [“surprise”].

3.2.5. Category E: ΚΑΝΩ + noun = lexical structure – both items carry a literal lexical load (ΚΑΝΩ ένα πάρτι)

The last Category of this *cline of idiomaticity* is composed of combinations of ΚΑΝΩ with any noun, so that both the verb and its complement carry a literal lexical load. In fact, these are neither idiomatic nor delexical, but still constitute an extreme of the cline, since they “retain the core meaning” of the verb (Biber *et al.* 1999: 1027). In this way, the core meaning of ΚΑΝΩ is expanded to multiple semantic fields, thus revealing the polysemy of this word (e.g. ΚΑΝΩ bearing the meaning of “arrange an event” (ΚΑΝΩ ένα πάρτι), “broadcast” (ΚΑΝΩ μια εκπομπή), “construct”, “produce”, “create”, “accomplish”, “commit”, etc.). However, due to the fact that these *lexical structures* are too many to be identified even in such a small corpus and, additionally, require a lot of space and time for their analysis, they are not discussed here.

To sum up, the following diagram illustrates the cline of idiomaticity, as described in section 3.2:

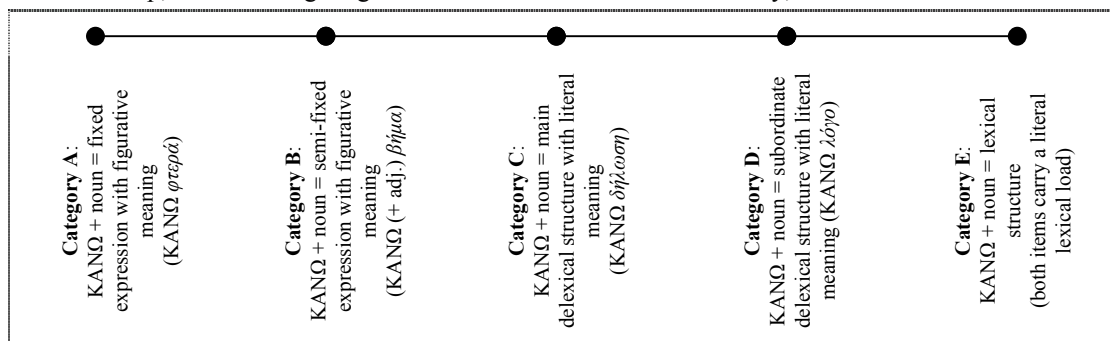


Diagram 3.2.: The cline of idiomaticity of the verb ΚΑΝΩ

3.3. Syntactic distribution of the node ΚΑΝΩ and its (noun) collocates

It has already been mentioned (in 3.2.3.) that the (noun) collocates can either precede or follow the node (verb). To demonstrate this, the table below charts the frequency of occurrence of nouns before and after the verb, as well as before the subordinate clause (there were no findings in relation to nouns following the subordinate clause) in numbers. (NB: *freq.* indicates absolute frequency, i.e. frequency of occurrences out of 2,139 instances):

Table 3.3.: The frequency of syntactic distribution of the node ΚΑΝΩ and its (noun) collocates (Categories A-D)

Category	noun following verb (same clause)		noun preceding verb (same clause)		noun: main clause verb: subordinate clause		Total
	hits	freq. (%)	hits	freq. (%)	hits	freq. (%)	
<i>A.</i>	44	2.06	3	0.14	2	0.09	49
<i>B.</i>	173	8.09	11	0.51	17	0.79	201
<i>C.</i>	928	43.38	199	9.30	243	11.36	1,370
<i>D.</i>	491	22.95	17	0.79	11	0.51	519
Total	1,636		230		273		2,139

3.3.1. Distribution within the same clause

According to the above results, the noun is most likely to follow the verb, when they are both found in the same clause (main or subordinate). This is not surprising, since it is commonplace for the complement (object) to come after the predicate in Modern Greek, in a ‘natural’ order of sentence constituents (Subject-Verb-Object / Verb-Subject-Object, see also Clairis and Babiniotis 1999: 298 ff.).

3.3.2. Distribution within different clauses: noun first

More interesting, however, is the case of collocate preceding the node, since this offers flexibility to the syntax of the sentence and causes the foregrounding of information. By placing the noun – i.e. the item that carries the lexical load chiefly in Categories C and D – first, emphasis is given to the complement, while the reader’s attention is drawn to the ‘unexpected’ order of the constituents. As Table 2 indicates, in approximately one third of the cases the noun comes before the verb, which is highly significant for the focalisation of the main information provided. As a final point, I should clarify that the subordinate clauses were almost exclusively relative clauses that facilitated the structure ‘Object-Verb-Subject,’ thus highlighting simultaneously the first and the last position of the constituents’ occurrence, again because of the disturbed ‘natural’ order, as described earlier.

4. Implementing the cline of idiomaticity in relation to dictionary-making

Having analysed the theoretical framework of the cline of idiomaticity, it would be of supreme importance to show a way of utilising it during the compilation of a dictionary. The contribution of each separate Category could be summarised as follows:

- ❑ *Category A* provides all fixed expressions that have figurative meaning and usually constitute an obstacle for the foreign language learner. Furthermore, phrases of this Category are commonly used by native speakers.
- ❑ *Category B* provides the semi-fixed expressions with figurative meaning, which are quite helpful for the understanding of metaphor in language. In addition, the Category in question designates frequent collocations of nouns being modified by adjectives and other word-classes.
- ❑ *Category C* offers the analysis of a simple verb into its main delexical structure, which has literal meaning and can be used alternatively, in accordance with the speaker's / writer's intentions. The delexical structure has the advantage of the noun being both broadly modified and extensively preferred in a focussed (i.e. preceding the verb) position.
- ❑ *Category D* supports the subordinate delexical structure that cannot be substituted for a verb deriving from the noun's stem (the substitution is possible in the previous case). Nevertheless, structures of this Category are potentially replaced by a synonymous, simple verb with literal meaning, and synonyms belong to the lexicographer's field of research.
- ❑ *Category E* is equally essential for the dictionary's needs, since it reveals a thesaurus of multiple lexical meanings of a word. Moreover, polysemy can be examined to a significant extent through real examples extracted from a corpus.

5. Synopsis of the results and conclusion

For the needs of the present study, I used a sub-corpus of the more extensive HNC developed by the ILSP in Greece. This sub-corpus consisted of articles from two popular Greek newspapers (medium) and was representative of informative texts (genre) with social content (topic). My main concern was to look into the usage of the common verb ΚΑΝΩ [“make” / “do”] and for this reason I adopted and put forward a theory on a cline of idiomaticity.

With the help of the WordSmith software and by adding tags to the nodes and collocates that I would later use, I worked out the concordance of the corpus and focussed on the colligation of ΚΑΝΩ + noun. I then divided the latter into five main Categories, according to the semantic load that the verb carried within the phrase. Thus, I suggested that there is a cline for ΚΑΝΩ + noun, which ranges from fixed (idiomatic) expressions with figurative meaning (Category A) to lexical structures, where both items carry a literal meaning (Category E). In the middle, there exists what I called ‘semi-fixed expressions with figurative meaning’ (Category B), as well as the two Categories of (main and subordinate) delexical structures (Categories C and D, respectively).

Having looked through the grammatical, lexical and semantic structure, I brought up the issue of the syntactic distribution of the phrases in question. My results attempted to make clear that the collocate commonly follows the node in these cases, while the noun often precedes the verb, when there is a relative clause following.

Finally, I tried to highlight the usefulness of the cline of idiomaticity for lexicographic purposes. Given that most expressions and set phrases constitute a problematic field for learners, they should be adequately and appropriately described in the dictionary. Moreover, the delexical structures offer a wide range of possibilities for noun modification, foregrounding or focus, whereas a variety of collocations can be explained through the polysemy of the verb. However, these are matters that remain to be further analysed, since they go beyond the scope of the present research.

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Appendices

5.1. Appendix I: A sample of the results from the HNC

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ILSP Greek Corpus search results. The page title is "Αποτελέσματα" (Results). There are navigation buttons for "Αρχική σελίδα", "Στοιχεία Χρήστη", "Επιλογή κειμένων", "Προτάσεις", and "Πληροφορίες". Below the navigation, there is a search bar and a list of results. The results are presented in a table with two columns: "Πρόταση" (Proposition) and "Κείμενο Πρότασης" (Text of Proposition). The table contains 13 rows of results, each with a proposition number and a corresponding text snippet where the word "κάνει" is highlighted.

Πρόταση	Κείμενο Πρότασης
106196	Ειδική αναφορά έκανε στην ικανότητα των Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων να αποτρέψουν οποιαδήποτε ενέργεια εκ μέρους της Άγκυρας και τόνισε ότι προσπάθεια της κυβέρνησης είναι να βελτιώνει διαρκώς το αζόμαχό τους.
106275	Η εφημερίδα έγραφε, ότι η Άγκυρα έκανε στροφή 180 μοιρών στο θέμα της Γαύδου προπαθώντας να χαμηλώσει τους τόνους.
106292	Αυτά τα πράγματα κάνουν κακό στον τόπο μας.
106366	Παυλόπουλος, που ρωτήθηκε για το θέμα, είπε πως δεν έχει να κάνει καμία δήλωση και πως θα υπάρξει απάντηση από την πλευρά του προέδρου του κόμματος.
106274	Ο Τούρκος υπουργός έκανε δηλώσεις αναφερόμενος σε χθεσινό δημοσίευμα της εφημερίδας Χουριέτ.
106316	Και η πολιτεία, αντί να κάβεται και να ακούει τους κινδυνολογούντες, θα έπρεπε να κάνει ό,τι μπορεί για να λύσει τα προβλήματα που υπάρχουν στα νησιά και να προσελκύσουμε επισκέπτες.
105279	Σύμφωνα με την εφημερίδα, ο Γκιονενσάι, ερωτηθείς σχετικά, επανέλαβε τα περί έρευνας που κάνει η Άγκυρα για το αν τίθεται θέμα ναμικού καθεστώτος για τη Γαύδο.
105906	Αν βρισκόταν κάποιος να σας κάνει γυναίκα του, θα δεχόσασταν;
106211	Σήμερα όμως έχει αλλάξει η πολιτική της Τουρκίας, με τον επεκτατισμό της να θέλει να τον κάνει σαφή.
105916	Μόνο που σε κανένα μάθημα στο ναυπηγείο δεν υπάρχουν οδηγίες για το τι πρέπει να κάνει ένας πατέρας που λάτρευε τα παιδιά του όταν ο γιος του έκοβε ακάλυπτες επιταγές...
106268	Δηλώσεις έκανε και ο αρχηγός του τουρκικού επιτελείου ναυτικού, ο οποίος τόνισε ότι η Γαύδος είναι αμφισβητούμενη περιοχή από πλευράς ιδιοκτησιακού καθεστώτος.
106270	Ο αρχηγός του τουρκικού ναυτικού και διοικητής της υπό εξέλιξη τουρκικής άσκησης Θαλασσόλυκος 2, ναύαρχος Σαλίμ Ντερβισιόγλου, έκανε δηλώσεις χθες και αναφέρθηκε στις αμφισβητούμενες περιοχές στο Αιγαίο.

5.2. Appendix II: A sample from the WordSmith Tools concordance

The screenshot shows a WordSmith Tools concordance window for the word "κάνει". The window title is "Concord - [kano.cnc]". The concordance table lists line numbers and the corresponding text snippets where the word "κάνει" is used. The text is in Greek and discusses various topics related to the word's usage in a corpus.

N	Concordance
1677	Υπάρχουν μόνον αποδείξεις ότι ο Βέλγος είχε κάνει πολλά ταξίδια στη χώρα τους τελευταίους μήνες, έχοντας μαζί του νεαρά κορ
1678	Βεβαίως, αναγκάστηκε, ως πρόεδρος, να κάνει πολλούς συμβιβασμούς σε σχέση με τα όσα πρόβλεψε όταν ήταν εκπρόσωπ
1679	"Πολύ ωραία τα λέει ο κ. Θ. Πάγκαλος - κι έχει κι ένα προσόν σπάνιο: δεν κάνει ποτέ δημόσια αυτοκριτική..." σχολιάζουν "Τα Νέα".
1680	Δεν θα κάνει ποτέ χρήση ηρωϊκής ή αποσιωδών ή άλλων ναρκωτικών Δεν θα κάνει ποτέ χρήση ηρωϊκής ή αποσιωδών ή άλλων ναρκωτικών ουσιών και θα καλύπ
1681	ς τους δημοσιογράφους, υποστήριξε ότι δεν υπάρχει στρατός που θα μπορούσε να κάνει πράξη μια τέτοιου είδους επιχείρηση εναντίον ενός εχθρού που κινείται με άνε
1682	1682 ότι "η τουρκική κοινή γνώμη δεν πρέπει να βγάλει το συμπέρασμα ότι η Άγκυρα θα κάνει πράξη τις στρατιωτικές εναλλακτικές λύσεις, μ' άλλα λόγια ότι θα πραγμα
1683	1683 Τη διπλή σημασία της λέξης, την έχει κάνει πράξη το ελληνικό κράτος-κόμμα - προκαλώντας δέος στους υπηκόους του,
1684	1684 Γί' αυτό είναι άδικο που φεύγει, πριν προλάβει να κάνει πράξη το όραμά του.
1685	1685 Το θέμα όμως είναι το τι τελικά έχει κάνει πράξη. Το θέμα όμως είναι το τι τελικά έχει κάνει πράξη.
1686	1686 Τη σκέψη της παραίτησης σε περίπτωση αποτυχίας την είχε κάνει πριν από εβδομάδες σε περίπτωση αποτυχίας την είχε κάνει πριν από εβδο
1687	1687 Συγκεκριμένα, ο πρωθυπουργός Μέτς επανέλαβε τη δήλωση που είχε κάνει πριν από μία εβδομάδα σε Έλληνες δημοσιογράφους, ότι δηλαδή θα παραι
1688	1688 Ο πρόεδρος του ΔΗΚΚΙ απέφυγε να κάνει προβλέψεις για το αποτέλεσμα των εκλογών και απαντώντας σε σχετική ερώ
1689	1689 "Όσο για το ενδεχόμενο πρόωγων εκλογών η κυρία Παπαρηγήα αποφύγει να κάνει προβλέψεις λέγοντας: γι' αυτήν κυρία Παπαρηγήα αποφύγει να κάνει προβλέ
1690	1690 ις δεν μπορεί να κάνει προβλέψεις ούτε και να υποθέσει τις συκάνειες δεν μπορεί να κάνει προβλέψεις ούτε και να υποθέσει τις συνθήκες υπό τις οποίες έχουν δράσει
1691	1691 in συναντηθεί με τον πρωθυπουργό Ρομάνο Πρόνι, δήλωσε ότι δεν είναι σε θέση να κάνει προβλέψεις, γιατί η θέση τους δεν αλλάξε
1692	1692 μίμη μετά το Σύνταγμα, έχει προηγηθεί και έχει ήδη εγκατασταθεί εργαλάβος που κάνει προκαταρκτικές εργασίες (εκτροπή δικτύων κοινής ωφέλειας, αρχαιολογικές
1693	1693 Το Ιράν κάνει προπαγάνδα απάντησε ο Αιγύπτιος πρόεδρος χθες και Το Ιράν κάνει προπαγάνδα απάντησε ο Αιγύπτιος πρόεδρος χθες και έκλεισε το θέμα.
1694	1694 Αν έχετε κάνει προσθήκες ή μεταβολές στην εσωτερική εγκατάσταση Αν έχετε κάνει προσθήκες ή μεταβολές στην εσωτερική εγκατάσταση που την καθιστούν ε
1695	1695 Το υπουργείο που επιθυμεί να κάνει προσλήψεις πρέπει να υποβάλει λεπτομερές και αιτιολογημένο αίτημα στη γ
1696	1696 δεν εφαρμόζεται, αλλά "το ελληνικό δαιμόνιο" κατάφερε να βρει έναν τρόπο για να κάνει προσλήψεις χωρίς να φαίνεται ότι είναι του Δημοσίου.
1697	1697 Με την κοινή δήλωση ακόμα ο ΟΗΕ κάνει προσπάθειες να δεσμεύσει τις δύο πλευρές σε "αποφυγή ενεργειών" που θα
1698	1698 τανίνος είχε κάνει προσπάθειες να ξεφύγει από τα ναρκωτικά. Ο Κωνσταντίνος είχε κάνει προσπάθειες να ξεφύγει από τα ναρκωτικά.
1699	1699 n < μικροεπιτηδές > ιδιοκτήτης του μικρού ναυπηγείου ΝΑΥΣΙ είχε χρεωκοπήσει κάνει προσφορά για την αγορά των ναυπηγείων Σκαρμαμαγκά!
1700	1700 καθάριση την εταιρεία με τη σύμφωνη γνώμη της κυβέρνησης, ενώ από τη μία μεριά κάνει προσφυγή κατά της κ. Βελλίδη και του κ. Κουρή, από την άλλη δίνει διαφημί
1701	1701 μήνες έχουν αρχίσει διαπραγματεύσεις με τον δεύτερο μειοδότη, ενώ ο πρώτος έχει κάνει προσφυγή στην ελληνική δικαιοσύνη και τα αρμόδια όργανα της Ευρωπαϊκής
1702	1702 απόφαση του για να βληθεί ο Γιαννιόπουλος από ένα δημοσιογράφο, ο οποίος μου κάνει προσωπικό πόλεμο, δουλεύει στην « Ε » και ρώτησε το δικαστή και είπε εμέ
1703	1703 Για τον δε Γ. Λιάπη ότι "του κάνει προσωπικό πόλεμο" ότι "ισίγκλισε το δικαστή να κάνει μια δήλωση για να π
1704	1704 ς, το ΚΚΕ πρότεινε τη σύσταση διακομματικής επιτροπής που θα μελετήσει και θα κάνει προτάσεις για τη βελτίωση της κατάστασης.
1705	1705 πρώτη του επαφή ως νέος πρόεδρος και είναι ένας πολύ έμπειρος πολιτικός για να κάνει προτάσεις πριν ακόμα συζητήσουμε.
1706	1706 εί από Ξμελή επιτροπή, η οποία, αφού συγκεντρώσει τα απαραίτητα στοιχεία, θα κάνει προτάσεις στο υπουργείο. τα απαραίτητα στοιχεία, θα κάνει προτάσεις στο
1707	1707 και τους μελετητές στους οποίους απευθυνθήκαμε δεν βέλησε να διακινδυνεύσει να κάνει πρόγνωση. <ΤΟ
1708	1708 τρομοκρατίας (σ.σ. κουλφορής τον Απρίλιο), στην οποία αναφέρεται ότι δεν έχει κάνει πρόοδο η ελληνική κυβέρνηση στην καταπολέμηση της τρομοκρατίας, γεγονός
1709	1709 του αμερικανικού υπουργείου Εξωτερικών Νικόλας Μπερς, στη δήλωση που έχει κάνει πρόσφατα, είχε τόνισι ότι "το θέμα συζητήθηκε και κατά τη συνάντηση του Τ
1710	1710 Ο κ. Σημίτης δεν πρόκειται να κάνει πρόταση για τα πρόσωπα που θα αναλάβουν επικεφαλής των τομέων του κό
1711	1711 Βενιζέλο την πρόθεσή του να μην κάνει πρόταση για το Ε.Γ. κι έτσι ο υπουργός Δικαιοσύνης πιθανότατα δεν θα θέσ

5.3. Appendix III: The frequency of main delexical verbs (Category C) and their cognate simple ones

<i>Delexical verb</i>	<i>Hits</i>	<i>Hits</i>	<i>Lexical verb</i>
ΚΑΝΩ δήλωση [“make a statement”]	243	5,000+	ΔΗΛΩΝΩ
ΚΑΝΩ αναφορά [“make reference <to sb. / sth.>”]	78	3,428	ΑΝΑΦΕΡΩ
ΚΑΝΩ πρόταση [“make a suggestion”]	72	935	ΠΡΟΤΕΙΝΩ
ΚΑΝΩ χρήση [“make use <of sth.>”]	54	972	ΧΡΗΣΙΜΟΠΟΙΩ
ΚΑΝΩ προσπάθεια [“make an attempt”]	50	1,006	ΠΡΟΣΠΑΘΩ
ΚΑΝΩ (την) εμφάνιση (μου) [“appear”]	34	897	ΕΜΦΑΝΙΖΩ
ΚΑΝΩ έλεγχο [“control” / “check”]	33	451	ΕΛΕΓΧΩ
ΚΑΝΩ παρέμβαση [“interfere”]	28	153	ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΙΝΩ
ΚΑΝΩ έρευνα [“search” / “carry out research”]	24	181	ΕΡΕΥΝΩ
ΚΑΝΩ ανακοίνωση [“make an announcement”]	19	1,655	ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΝΩ