

Coordinated compound prepositions in Maltese

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Maltese shows variation in coordinating constructions involving identical prepositions. A preposition can either be used in front of each complement or just in front of the first one (EQUI-P-deletion, cf. [Stolz and Ahrens 2017](#); [Borg and Azzopardi-Alexander 1997](#): 87). In this talk, I take a closer look at compound prepositions (cf. [Stolz 2020](#)) in these constructions.

Compound prepositions show even more variation in coordinations. Examples (1) to (3) illustrate possible patterns for the compound preposition *permezz ta'* 'by means of'.

- (1) *permezz ta' taxxi u permezz ta' hlasijiet*
by_means_of of TAX:PL and **by_means_of of** payment:PL
'through taxes and through payments' [Korpus Malti 3.0, parl3313]
- (2) *permezz ta-t-televizjoni u tar-radju*
by_means_of of-DEF-television and **of-DEF-radio**
'on television and radio' [Korpus Malti 3.0, news110592]
- (3) *permezz ta' messaggġ u telefonata*
by_means_of of text_message and phone_call
'through a text message and a phone call' [Korpus Malti 3.0, news5553]

Prepositions that only call for a second preposition when their complement is pronominal are also looked at more closely as they show an interesting pattern under coordination as in (4). Only the second part of the compound preposition *ta'* is used in front of the second complement here.

- (4) *li kienu viċin tiegħ-i u ta-l-familja tiegħ-i*
SUB be:3PL.PFV near of-1SG and **of-DEF-family of-1SG**
'who were close to me and my family' [Korpus Malti 3.0, news118684]

This talk is a first step in describing Maltese compound prepositions in coordinating constructions systematically relying on corpus data from the *Korpus Malti 3.0* ([Gatt and Čéplö 2013](#)). The prepositions do not all show the same behaviour in these constructions which can provide a more thorough understanding of different types of compound prepositions and their internal structure in Maltese.

Abbreviations

1	first person	PFV	perfective
3	third person	PL	plural
DEF	definite	SG	singular
		SUB	subordinator

References

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