

78. SUBJECTIVE GENITIVE

A noun or pronoun in the genitive case can indicate the *subject* of a verbal action or state of being denoted by a noun. This usage is called the **subjective genitive**. The genitive stands in the attributive position.

ὁ Ὅμηρου φόβος
Homer's fear
(i.e., the fear **which Homer feels**)

αἱ τῶν Ἑλλήνων θυσίαι
the sacrifices of the Greeks
(i.e., the sacrifices **which the Greeks perform**)

79. OBJECTIVE GENITIVE

A noun or pronoun in the genitive case can also indicate the *object* of a verbal action denoted by a noun. This usage is called the **objective genitive**. The genitive stands in the attributive position.

ὁ τῶν θεῶν φόβος
fear of the gods
(i.e., fear **directed toward the gods**)

ἡ τῶν αἰγῶν θυσία
the sacrifice of the goats
(i.e., someone **sacrificed the goats**)

Contrast the phrases in Section 78, where the subjective genitives Ὅμηρου and τῶν Ἑλλήνων indicate the performer of an action. The objective genitives τῶν θεῶν and τῶν αἰγῶν indicate the receiver of an action. Context usually allows one to determine whether such a genitive is subjective or objective.