

From the editors

With a new journal, questions inevitably arise. First and foremost, why? Does the field need yet another journal? Is the subject matter sufficiently well-defined and circumscribed but not overly specialized, on balance? Is there sufficient interest among both potential readers and potential contributors? And so on. We, as the founding editors of this venture, the *Journal of Greek Linguistics*, feel that the answer to all these questions is a definite Ναι/[ne] ‘Yes’! We address these and related issues in this editorial preface to this first issue of our new journal.

1. On the need for a journal of Greek linguistics

In the last decade, the field of Greek linguistics has been expanding. There are now biennial international conferences, starting in 1993 (held in Reading, England, with subsequent ones in Salzburg (1995), Athens (1997), and Nicosia, Cyprus (1999)), and these have all been well-attended and filled with papers representing all linguistic approaches to the study of the Greek language at all chronological periods. The annual conference held by the Department of Linguistics of the Faculty of Philosophy at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which is ostensibly on general linguistics but has always been a forum for papers on the Greek language and by Greek linguists, is now in its 21st year, with annual publication of its proceedings (the Μελέτες για την Ελληνική Γλώσσα [melétes ja tin elinikí glóssa]/*Studies in Greek Linguistics* series). The past decade has witnessed as well several specialized workshops on Greek linguistics (e.g., at the Linguistic Institute in 1993 in Columbus (Ohio), at the Georgetown University Round Table in 1994 in Washington, D.C., in Berlin in 1994, and at the GLOW 19 Conference in Athens in 1996) and the publication of various anthologies and conference proceedings (e.g., Philippaki-Warbuton, Nicolaidou, & Sifianou 1994; Alexiadou, Horrocks, & Stavrou 1999; Drachman, Malikouti-Drachman, Fykias, & Klidi 1997; Drachman & Theophanopoulou-

Kontou 1998; and Joseph, Horrocks, & Philippaki-Warburton 1998). Most significantly, perhaps, this period has been witness to a veritable explosion, particularly in England and Austria, in the number of dissertations on Greek, signaling that the field is attracting the serious interest of highly capable younger scholars.

Moreover, there has been relevant institutional expansion, with newly constituted and reconstituted Linguistics departments within Greece (e.g. at the University of Patras and the University of the Aegean) and growth in existing departments (e.g. at the University of Crete and the University of Ioannina). Such developments have led to numerous academic employment opportunities for Greek linguists and linguists working on Greek more generally, whether they were trained in Greece or not, and several have further secured positions outside of Greece, thus expanding the geographic reach of Greek linguistics. Noteworthy also is the creation of the Centre for the Greek Language, with headquarters outside of Thessaloniki, funded by the Greek government, in a clear recognition of the national importance to Greece of research on the description and analysis of Greek. And the encouragement, partly from the European Union and partly from the Greek government itself, for the teaching of Greek within the Greek diaspora, as well as the European Union's SOCRATES programme sponsorship of graduate students abroad, especially at the University of Reading and the University of Salzburg, can be cited too as evidence of a growing interest in matters pertaining to the Greek language.

It is fair to say also that scholarship on Greek has matured, with the publication of a number of basic reference works — most notably grammatical descriptions (an English version (Burke 1997) of Manolis Triandaphyllides' classic 1941 grammar makes that work more widely accessible to linguists of the world; Holton, Mackridge, & Philippaki-Warburton 1997; Babiniotis & Clairis 1996–1999, two major dictionaries (Babiniotis 1998 and Instituto Neolinikon Spudon 1999); and a thorough survey on the history of Greek (Horrocks 1997) — that complement and build on earlier works. What is more, several articles dealing largely with Greek data are to be found in recent issues of major mainstream journals (e.g. *Language*, *Folia Linguistica*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Lingua*, *Linguistics*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, to name but a few).

Thus, by a variety of measures, the study of the Greek language and Greek linguistics more specifically have come of age, so to speak, with encouragement and evidence coming from all directions.¹ This process has perhaps taken longer for Greek than for other language traditions but that does not make the field any less interesting, once it has established itself.

Developments such as these led us a few years ago to the conclusion that all this activity and recognition of Greek in the linguistics world needed a regular professional outlet for the dissemination of research results. It was clear that the production of papers and research reports was there (in terms of quantity, critical mass, etc.), but there is a need for a “filter” as it were not only to bring together the best papers but also to stimulate the production of papers of ever higher quality, and thereby create a centralized forum for the discussion of issues in the analysis of Greek. This is what we are attempting to do with the *Journal of Greek Linguistics*, which will appear in one good-sized issue (c. 250 pages) per year.

We are pleased that John Benjamins Publishing Company, who published two of the above-mentioned collections of papers on Greek, agreed with us that the time was right for such a venture as a journal. We welcomed their interest and support and look forward to an enduring collaboration with them.

2. Greek linguistics is not just for Greeks!

Clearly, Greeks have figured prominently in the development of Greek linguistics in recent years, as suggested above, but interest in the study of Greek and the benefits that can flow from that interest are not just for Greeks. Rather, the issues that come up in the analysis of Greek are ones that are of interest to all linguists, especially given the rich data base and long tradition to draw on.

In particular, with so much focus on Germanic and Romance in much of generative linguistics, we felt that Greek, with its richer inflection (in nouns, verbs, adjectives; for case, gender, number, person, mood, tense, aspect, and voice), has much to offer linguists interested in structural matters, language universals, formal models of grammar, interaction among components of grammar, etc. We note, somewhat as an aside but with an eye to linguists interested in comparative grammar in its current sense among generativists,² that there is probably as much typological diversity within all of the Greek-speaking world as there is in the Romance- or Germanic-speaking world, but on a smaller scale, due to different sizes of populations involved.

With Greek also there is the ubiquitous diachronic perspective, given the long recorded history of the language, the large numbers of texts, and the dialect distribution both within the modern nations of Greece and Cyprus but also within the Hellenic diaspora around the Mediterranean, the Balkans, the Middle East, parts of the former Soviet Union (Ukraine and Uzbekistan in particular), Europe, North America, and Australia.

Moreover, there is the sociolinguistic dimension, with Greek as a one-time paradigm case of diglossia (Ferguson 1959), which, while not the only relevant aspect of the interplay between language and society as far as Greek is concerned — and in any case, there is since 1976 no longer any official diglossia — nonetheless has been a significant force in shaping the language and in shaping studies in the sociology of language. A related aspect is the way in which Greek has been involved in interesting language contact developments, not just in diaspora communities through interactions with co-territorial majority languages (e.g. in the United States, England, and Australia) but also in the Balkans, leading to a *Sprachbund* (a “linguistic area”) taking in many neighboring languages of Southeastern Europe; Greek has not only had an influence in shaping some aspects of the structures of these languages but at the same time has been affected by them, leading to the convergence phenomena that have intrigued students of the Balkans and of language contact for well over 150 years.³

Finally, grammatical studies in the west have long roots into the Greek world,⁴ and the study of the Classical languages in some ways represents the underpinnings of western scholarship in the humanities in general. In a sense, then, a journal with the focus we intend this one to have is a way for Greek to continue to be part of process of contributing to western scholarship.

3. The scope of the journal

With all the above as background, we turn to a description of the scope of the *Journal of Greek Linguistics*.

We intend for the *Journal of Greek Linguistics* to publish papers on any aspect of Greek Linguistics, whether from a synchronic or diachronic perspective, with a preference for papers presenting a theoretically-informed description and/or analysis of data from any stage of the language that illuminates the more recent stages of the language, especially contemporary (Modern) Greek. Our rationale for focusing on the more recent stages of the language is that several venues already exist for linguistic studies of Classical and Hellenistic Greek (e.g. various journals in the Classics, such as *Glotta* or *American Journal of Philology*, and those in Indo-European studies, such as *Historische Sprachforschung*, *Indogermanische Forschungen*, *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, etc.) but there really are none for the linguistics of later stages of Greek. We see this journal as filling that current gap in coverage.⁵

We see no reason in principle to restrict the journal in terms of fields within linguistics and in fact invite as wide a representation as possible. The main criterion, other than quality, will be the extent to which a given paper provides some understanding of the workings of the Greek language, period. We of course hope that the papers will further our understanding of human language in general, so that the ideal paper would illuminate Greek while also shedding some light on the way natural language works. For that reason too, we do not completely restrict the focal time periods, but a paper that deals only with a point of Ancient Greek grammar will not achieve the desired illumination on the more neglected later stages of Greek.

In terms of our plans for the journal, we intend to run various types of articles: regular (full-length) articles, squibs (i.e., short articles focused on a single point), book reviews, and from time to time, commissioned “State-of-the-Art” review papers. This last type will consist of invited papers that we decided to include as a resource; we invite a leading researcher to provide an overview, with bibliography, of some aspect of Greek linguistics, thereby creating a piece that will both inform readers and define the work that has been done and the challenges that remain to be addressed in various subareas within linguistics as they pertain to Greek. In this first issue, we have one such paper on syntax and another on semantics, and we have plans for one on phonology for the second issue with others to come on phonetics, first- and second-language acquisition, dialectology, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, applied linguistics, and so on.

We want to encourage dialogue in the pages of our journal, and so we will occasionally publish replies as appropriate, but also will entertain letters from readers that address points raised in articles or pose questions that further discussion can resolve.

4. Some mechanics

Our editorial process begins with the premise that only the highest quality research will be published in the *Journal of Greek Linguistics*. To that end, we firmly believe that careful review by the editors and peer evaluation must form the basis for our decisions. All the editors — and we feel that collectively we represent varied perspectives on Greek (theoretical, historical, Balkanistic, etc.) and wide-ranging expertise and experience (in phonology, morphology, syntax, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, language change, etc.) — participate actively

in the review of submitted and invited papers, and all papers are also submitted for outside review. We discuss readers' reports and factor in our own reactions to papers as we work to forge a consensus about a given paper. Our decision will fall into one of four possibilities: we can accept papers outright, accept them conditionally upon the successful completion of revisions based on readers' and editors' comments on the first submitted version, return them to the author(s) for revision with an invitation to resubmit after appropriate rewriting, or simply reject them outright with no resubmission possible.

We thus share the editorial duties fairly equally, though on an annually rotating basis, one of us will be designated as "lead editor" for the purposes of collating the final manuscripts to be sent to the publisher for the annual issue. Irene Philippaki-Warburton has that honor for this first issue, and Gaberell Drachman will hold that position for the second issue.⁶

In addition to the four of us, we have an Editorial Board. Here we have assembled a world-class group of scholars; young and old, who are experts in a broad spectrum of approaches to the study of Greek and to the study of linguistics more generally. We did not restrict ourselves in this selection just to Greek, just to Greek linguists, etc., but rather turned as well to scholars who, while not focusing on Greek nonetheless have exhibited interest in matters Greek throughout their careers; we included younger scholars as well, for the added variety of perspectives they bring. These Editorial Board members are the first scholars we turn to for reviews of submitted papers, and serve as well as our consultants on matters of editorial policy and future directions for the journal.

5. An invitation

We invite all linguists to become readers (and subscribers!) of the journal, and to enter into the dialogues created by the claims and analyses published herein, and to become contributors. We welcome comments, praise as well as complaints and suggestions for improvement, from you, our readers, on any aspect of the journal — its content, its layout, our plans for it, plans you might have for submissions, whatever! We give our electronic mail addresses below to facilitate such communication. We look forward to hearing from you!

Με συναδελφικές ευχές [me sinaðelfikés efxés]/With Collegial Best Wishes,

The Editors,

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July 15, 2000

Notes

1. It can be speculated that this expansion of interest may owe itself in some part at least to a growing realization by Greeks that their language has value in its own right, not just as the modern outcome of the language associated with the “glory of Ancient Greece”.
2. As opposed to its more traditional sense associated with historical linguistics and the study of language change.
3. See, for instance, Sandfeld (1930) and Schaller (1975) for an overview of Balkan linguistics.
4. See Robins (1990) and the several relevant articles in Koerner & Asher (1995), for instance, concerning this aspect of the history of linguistics.
5. Journals such as *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* or *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* of course publish occasional linguistics papers, but these journals are more general in scope, aiming at the field of Modern Greek studies overall. The only other comparable journal is the newly orientated journal *Glossologica*, published out of the University of Athens.
6. Manuscripts for submission for Vol II should be sent to Prof. G. Drachman.

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