

Chapter 1 : Modern Greek | Literatures, Cultures, and Languages

Modern Greek and Albanian are the only two modern Indo-European languages that retain a synthetic passive (the North Germanic passive is a recent innovation based on a grammaticalized reflexive pronoun).

It was the official language of modern Greece until Katharevousa is written in polytonic Greek script. Also, while Demotic Greek contains loanwords from Turkish, Italian, Latin, and other languages, these have for the most part been purged from Katharevousa. See also the Greek language question. Pontic Greek Anatolian Greek dialects until Cappadocian Greek in green, with green dots indicating individual Cappadocian Greek villages in Small numbers of Muslim speakers of Pontic Greek escaped these events and still reside in the Pontic villages of Turkey. It hails from Hellenistic and Medieval Koine and preserves characteristics of Ionic due to ancient colonizations of the region. Cappadocian Greek diverged from the other Byzantine Greek dialects earlier, beginning with the Turkish conquests of central Asia Minor in the 11th and 12th centuries, and so developed several radical features, such as the loss of the gender for nouns. Mariupolitan Greek is closely related to Pontic Greek and evolved from the dialect of Greek spoken in Crimea , which was a part of the Byzantine Empire and then the Pontic Empire of Trebizond , until that latter state fell to the Ottomans in The Greek-speaking inhabitants of Crimea were invited by Catherine the Great to resettle in the new city of Mariupol after the Russo-Turkish War 1774 to escape the then Muslim-dominated Crimea. Griko and Demotic are mutually intelligible to some extent, but the former shares some common characteristics with Tsakonian. Yevanic language Yevanic is a recently extinct language of Romaniote Jews. The language was already in decline for centuries until most of its speakers were killed in the Holocaust. Afterward, the language was mostly kept by remaining Romaniote emigrants to Israel , where it was displaced by modern Hebrew. Tsakonian evolved directly from Laconian ancient Spartan and therefore descends from Doric Greek. It has limited input from Hellenistic Koine and is significantly different from and not mutually intelligible with other Greek varieties such as Demotic Greek and Pontic Greek. Some linguists consider it a separate language because of this. Phonology and orthography[edit] Main articles: Modern Greek phonology , Greek orthography , and Greek alphabet Spoken Modern Greek A series of radical sound changes starting in Koine Greek has led to a phonological system in Modern Greek that is significantly different from that of Ancient Greek. Instead of the rich vowel system of Ancient Greek, with its four vowel-height levels, length distinction, and multiple diphthongs, Modern Greek has a simple system of five vowels. Modern Greek consonants are plain voiceless unaspirated stops , voiced stops , or voiced and unvoiced fricatives. Modern Greek has not preserved length in vowels or consonants.

Chapter 2 : Greek language, alphabets and pronunciation

Modern Greek n. Greek since the early s. Also called New Greek. Modern Greek n (Languages) the Greek language since about ad (the fall of Byzantium). Compare Demotic.

It offers intensive language courses for beginner, intermediate and advanced level. Each course is 40 hours, divided into 10 days, and includes grammar, reading, speaking, and writing. It also provides an insight into Greek culture and civilization. Our Greek teachers are qualified, specialized and experienced in teaching Greek as a foreign language. Moreover the courses are combined with lectures, outdoor activities and various tours helping students become more familiar with contemporary Greek culture. We learn Greek in Athens, the oldest city in Europe and also one of the most fascinating. During your studies in Athens you have the opportunity to visit some of the most important archaeological sites and museums of the world: At the same time Athens is a modern city full of activities, night life, things to do and places to discover. Students have the opportunity to walk with us and explore the historical and modern aspects of the cradle of Western civilization. Beginners At the end of the seminar, participants are expected to have acquired the skills to: Use everyday vocabulary as well as some basic phrases to communicate. Introduce themselves and be able to ask and answer questions about each others e. Interact in a basic way, provided that the co-speaker uses a clear and slow speech. Intermediate Modern Greek for those with a basic knowledge of the language. At the end of the seminar, participants are expected to have acquired the skills to: Understand the main points of a clear standard input on common matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc. Deal with a variety of situations which are likely to arise while travelling in Greek-speaking countries. Produce a simple, consistent text on everyday topics or on personal interest. Describe events, experiences, dreams, hopes, ambitions. Provide arguments and explain own opinion and plans. Advanced Modern Greek for students who have a solid knowledge of Greek. Understand the main ideas of a complex text on both practical and abstract topics. Interact fluently and spontaneously with native speakers. Produce a clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects. Explain own point of view on complex issues stating advantages and disadvantages on a variety of topics. In addition to the general courses, the following special courses are offered: Literature and Culture course The aim of this course is to give a thorough insight into Modern Greek literature, history, art, traditions and other aspects of Greek culture. Good knowledge of the language advanced level and extended vocabulary is required. Classes are taking place from Monday to Friday, from Here is a list of hotels in the centre of Athens. And here a list of apartments and rooms very close to our school in Nea Ionia.

Chapter 3 : Learn to write & pronounce the Modern Greek alphabet - online lessons with writing & pronunciation

Modern Greek (demotic) has a simplified grammar and accents and the vocabulary has naturally changed over time, but the basic core of the language is the same, so a speaker of modern Greek can usually get the gist of an ancient text, although trying to translate may often lead to tragic misinterpretations.

All other writing outside poetry also came to use katharevousa, while poets were divided: The result is that this loanword was dressed up to look like an ancient word, while each letter was given its modern pronunciation, irrespective of the fact that this gave rise to a sequence of sounds which had been excluded, by natural processes, from the language. The fact is, however, that spoken Greek is so close to Ancient Greek that the temptation to bridge the small gap which separated them was widespread. But, as Mirambel Classical Attic, the modern purists tended to accept any elements of post-Homeric Greek that did not smack of demotic. During this period the language question was more or less dormant. The reaction against the increasing archaism of katharevousa came first from the poets, who saw the impossibility of writing true INTRODUCTION 9 poetry in such an artificial language, and then from the literary prosewriters and dramatists in the 1820s and 30s, who in their turn realized that they could not write stories and plays about everyday Greek life when most of the vocabulary associated with that life was excluded from writing. The conversion of Greek prose fiction and drama from katharevousa to demotic occurred with great rapidity. Having won literature over to their side, the demoticists went on, especially from the first decade of the twentieth century onwards, to demand that katharevousa be abolished altogether. Riots broke out in Athens in 1916, when A. Pallis published his demotic translation of the New Testament, and again in 1917, when the National Theatre put on a performance of Aeschylus in a semi-demotic translation. Despite this, demotic texts were introduced for the first time into primary-school readers in 1918, chiefly as a result of pressure from a demoticist lobby known as the Educational Society, founded in 1914, and demotic became the chief language of primary education between 1918 and 1924. But for some years thereafter, the situation was fluid, with successive governments increasing or decreasing the use of demotic in primary schools. For the most part, secondary schools and the University of Athens remained unaffected by demoticism: By this time, the language question had become an overtly political issue. Already, in the first decade of the century, demoticists were accused of involvement in a Russian plot to take over Greece, and the Russian Revolution only served to make such accusations all the more emotive. Also in 1917, however, the cause of demotic made an historic step forward with the publication of the Modern Greek Grammar by Triandaphyllidis and others. Triandaphyllidis was one of the founder members of the Educational Society. The authors had been commissioned to write the grammar by the dictator Metaxas, who foresaw its use as an official grammar of demotic. Although the Axis Occupation meant that the grammar had considerably less impact than it should have done, it is nevertheless looked to as a more or less authoritative guide to morphology it does not deal with syntax. In the ruling Centre Union Party put demotic on an equal footing with katharevousa as the language of education. But this reform was short-lived, since the military dictatorship of 1936 confined the teaching of demotic to the first four grades of primary school. One of the beneficial consequences of the military regime was the anti-katharevousa reaction that followed it. The determination of the government of the time that Greece should join the EEC perhaps helped to expedite the process of demoticization. Efforts were made to train civil servants in the use of demotic, but naturally the process has been a gradual one, many bureaucrats being slow to come to terms with the change. The situation in 1974 was that SMG was used throughout the education system and the administration, in almost all newspapers and all weekly magazines, and throughout the broadcasting system. Katharevousa was still used to some extent in the law, in the army, and in the Church. The official text of the Constitution was still in katharevousa although there is also a "privately published" translation in demotic, while almost all laws were formulated in katharevousa and there was still much resistance among lawyers against demotic. The Church still used the Byzantine liturgy; the only authoritative text of the New Testament which could be used in church services was the original Greek one; and most documents issued by the Church of Greece were still in katharevousa. Nevertheless, the Archbishop of Athens delivered his Christmas message in demotic for the first

time in Apart from this, much scholarly writing on the law, medicine and theology was still being done in katharevousa,. For schoolchildren this was generally felt to result in a great saving of time: Outside the daily and weekly press, however, most printing was still being done in according to the simplified historical system. In he was faced with new textbooks in true demotic; but in he had to revert to textbooks in katharevousa. At University, even if he had studied literature, he would have found that, although many of the texts he studied were in demotic, all lectures and all written work were presented in katharevousa. He would have emerged with a clear and thorough knowledge of neither demotic nor katharevousa nor Ancient Greek, for that matter , but would perhaps have been most at home writing in a variety of Greek which contained features of all three. Worst of all, though, the inherent verbosity of katharevousa would probably have seriously affected his thought processes. In Standard Modern Greek the Greek language has come closer to developing a set of universally accepted norms than at any other stage in its history. We must however examine a what relation SMG bears to demotic and katharevousa, and b to what extent it is actually standardized. This demotic was characterized by a remarkable phonological and morphological coherence and homogeneity, and the demoticists of the s and s led by Psycharis attempted to enrich the language by means of new coinages, based on Ancient Greek roots, which were made to conform with the demotic rules. This attempt, however, met with widespread resistance, and educated speakers whose spoken usage had traditionally diverged from the purity of demotic appear to have preferred to use internal borrowings from AG with the minimum of adaptation to demotic rules. In its written form, SMG has evolved out of the use of D in progressively wider fields. There has developed a common linguistic sense which has processed the various linguistic features suggested to it by the proponents of the different varieties of Greek, and has accepted some and rejected others. In so far as it is descriptive, the Grammar is based not on the spoken language but on the MG folk songs and on literature p. The syntax and usage of D have been further codified in hortative books and articles produced over a period of years e. Nea Ikonomia , Mesevrinos , and Kriaras They thus show that they value conformity to type above precision in expression, and hence they are reminiscent of the advocates of K: It has been said that SMG is not a correct term, since MG presents a diversity of both free and conditioned variants. There seem in fact to be two chief criteria which a standard language has to fulfil; codification minimal variation in form and elaboration maximal variation in function Haugen There is already evidence that certain alternative forms are rapidly predominating over certain others. Since the introduction of SMG into all levels of education and the administration, people who were inhibited by social pressures from using certain D forms now feel free to use them; and it has become fashionable, especially for young people, to eschew forms which are perceived as smacking of K. Fashion, therefore, as an integral part of social mores, may accelerate the process of standardization. Unlike K, many of whose advocates actually saw it as an extension of AG, the official language of Greece today is not a parasite depending on AG for its existence: This is not to say, however, that all Greeks are satisfied with the linguistic situation that prevails today. There is in some Greeks who claim to want to protect the language from various assaults including the invasion of new loanwords a hankering after diglossia: It seems to me, however, that the official introduction of SMG into all walks of life has made it at last possible for Greeks to make stylistic choices from the wealth of alternative words and forms: These twenty-three phonemes, and their various phonetic realizations, correspond quite closely to the sounds of Spanish, which possesses twentyseven phonemes. For different treatments see Warburton b:

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Greek (Modern Greek: Ἑλληνικά, elliniká, "Greek", Ἑλληνική [eliniˈci ɛˈɛɫlosa] (listen), elliniká-glṓssa, "Greek language") is an independent branch of the Indo-European family of languages, native to Greece and other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Thus, long marks and the like are not indicated, and so cited forms should be used with caution. Modern Greek note that Greek by itself, without reference to time period, usually refers to Ancient Greek ; autonym: This distribution continued throughout the Hellenistic period and on through the Byzantine and Medieval periods, and is valid even into the Modern era, though Greece and Cyprus are the main venues for the Greek language today. New diasporic communities have arisen in the 20th century, quite robustly in Australia especially Melbourne and in North America especially in major cities in the USA and Canada , and to a lesser extent in parts of Europe and Central Asia, the latter in part due to emigration brought on by the Greek civil war after World War II. As a descendant of Ancient Greek, Modern Greek has the same family affiliation as that given in the chapter on Ancient Greek, namely part of the Greek or Hellenic branch of Indo-European. The linguistic affinities noted in the chapter on Ancient Greek are relevant for Modern Greek, though perhaps not as obvious as for the ancient language. Depending on how one judges the difference between dialects of a language as opposed to separate languages, the highly divergent modern form of Greek known as Tsakonian, spoken still in the eastern Peloponnesos in Greece , could well be considered now a separate language from the rest of Modern Greek, and the Pontic dialects once spoken in Asia Minor along the Black Sea coast and now spoken in many parts of Greece due to the population exchanges are divergent enough to warrant consideration as a separate language from the rest of Greek now see also the next section. The dialect complexity of Ancient Greek was to a large extent levelled out during the Hellenistic period with the emergence of the relatively unified variety of Greek known as the Koine see chapter on Ancient Greek. While somewhat oversimplified, since there are differences in the realizations of Koine Greek in different parts of the Hellenistic world, this view is essentially accurate. The dominant basis for the Koine was the ancient Attic-Ionic dialect though there was some limited input from the other dialects. For the most part, the Hellenistic Koine, or actually the version of it that took hold in the Byzantine period, was the starting point for the modern dialects, and it is conventional to date the emergence of Modern Greek dialects to about the 10th to 12th centuries AD. The main exception to this characterization is Tsakonian see above , which derives more or less directly from the ancient Doric dialect, though with an admixture of standard Modern Greek in recent years; in addition, the Greek of Southern Italy, still spoken for instance in some villages in Apulia and Calabria, seems to have Doric roots. The Pontic dialects see above may derive more directly from the Hellenistic Koine. The main modern dialects that derive from the later Byzantine form of the Koine are following Newton The major features distinguishing these dialects include deletion of original high vowels and raising of original mid-vowels when unstressed in the Northern varieties, loss of final -n in all but the Southeastern varieties, palatalizations of velars in all but Peloponnesian-Ionian, use of the accusative for indirect objects in the Northern dialects instead of the genitive, among others. Peloponnesian-Ionian forms the historical basis for what has emerged in the 20th century as Standard Modern Greek, and is thus the basis for the language of modern Athens, now the main center of population Old Athenian being the dialect of Athens before the War of Independence, still found in other parts of Greece due to various relocations. As noted in the earlier chapter , the spread of Greek during the Hellenistic period led to significant growth in the number of speakers of Greek, and this growth continued in the Byzantine and Medieval periods. At present, there are approximately 13,, Greek speakers, some 10,, in Greece, with about , in Cyprus, and the remainder in the modern Hellenic diaspora over 1,, in Australia. Some 5,, speakers live in the greater Athens area alone, most of them speakers - and shapers - of the current standard language. Temporally, Modern Greek has its origins in the Hellenistic Koine see the chapter on Ancient Greek , since many of the changes that constitute the key differences between Ancient and Modern Greek are evident in nascent form in the Koine though some ran to completion only later. A key feature in the development of the modern language is the fact that throughout the

history of post-Classical Greek, the language and its speakers could never really escape the influence of the Classical Greek language and Classical Greece itself. The important position that Classical Greece held culturally throughout the Mediterranean, the Balkans, parts of the Middle East, and even parts of Western and Central Europe, in the post-Classical period and on into the Middle Ages, meant that Greek speakers bore a constant reminder of the language and linguistic "monuments" of their ancestors. Classical Greek thus formed the prescriptive norm against which speakers of later stages of Greek generally measured themselves. This situation led to a "two-track system" for the language, in which a high-style consciously archaizing variety that speakers and writers modelled on Classical Greek was set against a vernacular innovative variety. While in the Medieval period this distinction was more a matter of a learned variety reserved for official usually Church-related and many literary uses opposed to a colloquial variety that only rarely found its way into literary expression, after the War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830, Greeks, confronted with the creation of a new nation-state of Greece, sought to codify and establish a national language as part of the nation-building process. At this point, the distinction became politicized, and the distinction arose between what came to be known as *katharevousa* "Puristic", literally "the purifying language" as the high-style variety associated with official functions, and *dimotiki* as the vernacular variety. This socio-linguistic state of affairs was one of the paradigm cases that Ferguson used in developing the notion of diglossia, and the struggle between proponents of each variety, representing as well various concomitant social attitudes and political positions, continued into the latter half of the 20th century. Currently, by various acts and actions of the government in 1976, *dimotiki* is now the official language, and the diglossic situation is resolved, at least officially. Throughout the periods of diglossia, official and unofficial, usage was actually somewhat mixed, with speakers often borrowing from one variety and, for instance, incorporating Puristic forms into Demotic usage, and the present state of Demotic, what has emerged as "Standard Modern Greek" the Greek of everyday life in the largest city and capital of Greece, Athens reflects a number of such borrowings from *katharevousa*, involving both grammar morphology and syntax and pronunciation, as well as the lexicon. As noted in the previous chapter, the Classical Attic phonological system began to undergo several changes in the post-Classical period which ultimately characterize the differences between Ancient and Modern Greek. New instances of the voiced stops *b d g* were provided by loan words and possibly also as variants of voiceless *p t k*. Not all of these changes were completed within the Hellenistic Koine period; the conservative pronunciation [ph th kh] for the Classical Greek voiceless aspirated stops, for instance, was maintained as a sociolinguistically conservative high-prestige pronunciation in the Byzantine scholastic tradition into the 10th century. Moreover, even though all members of whole classes of consonants eventually were affected by these changes, each sound in a class seems to have undergone the change at a different time. The consonantal inventory of the late Koine is given in Table 1:

Chapter 5 : Modern Greek | Department of Linguistics

*The Modern Greek Language: A Descriptive Analysis of Standard Modern Greek [Peter Mackridghe] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The first comprehensive survey of Standard Modern Greek, this book offers a descriptive analysis of the structure of the language and of present-day usage.*

History of Greek Greek has been spoken in the Balkan peninsula since around the 3rd millennium BC, [7] or possibly earlier. Among the Indo-European languages, its date of earliest written attestation is matched only by the now-extinct Anatolian languages. Proto-Greek -speaking area according to linguist Vladimir I. Georgiev The Greek language is conventionally divided into the following periods: The unity of Proto-Greek would have ended as Hellenic migrants entered the Greek peninsula sometime in the Neolithic era or the Bronze Age. It is recorded in the Linear B script on tablets dating from the 15th century BC onwards. It was widely known throughout the Roman Empire. Ancient Greek fell into disuse in western Europe in the Middle Ages , but remained officially in use in the Byzantine world and was reintroduced to the rest of Europe with the Fall of Constantinople and Greek migration to western Europe. The fusion of Ionian with Attic , the dialect of Athens , began the process that resulted in the creation of the first common Greek dialect, which became a lingua franca across the Eastern Mediterranean and Near East. Koine Greek can be initially traced within the armies and conquered territories of Alexander the Great and after the Hellenistic colonisation of the known world, it was spoken from Egypt to the fringes of India. After the Roman conquest of Greece, an unofficial bilingualism of Greek and Latin was established in the city of Rome and Koine Greek became a first or second language in the Roman Empire. The origin of Christianity can also be traced through Koine Greek, because the Apostles used this form of the language to spread Christianity. It is also known as Hellenistic Greek, New Testament Greek, and sometimes Biblical Greek because it was the original language of the New Testament and the Old Testament was translated into the same language via the Septuagint. Distribution of varieties of Greek in Anatolia , Cappadocian Greek in green, with green dots indicating individual Cappadocian Greek villages. Medieval Greek is a cover phrase for a whole continuum of different speech and writing styles, ranging from vernacular continuations of spoken Koine that were already approaching Modern Greek in many respects, to highly learned forms imitating classical Attic. Much of the written Greek that was used as the official language of the Byzantine Empire was an eclectic middle-ground variety based on the tradition of written Koine. It is the language used by the modern Greeks, and, apart from Standard Modern Greek, there are several dialects of it. Greek language question In the modern era, the Greek language entered a state of diglossia: What came to be known as the Greek language question was a polarization between two competing varieties of Modern Greek: In , Dimotiki was declared the official language of Greece, having incorporated features of Katharevousa and giving birth to Standard Modern Greek , which is used today for all official purposes and in education. Although Greek has undergone morphological and phonological changes comparable to those seen in other languages, never since classical antiquity has its cultural, literary, and orthographic tradition been interrupted to the extent that one can speak of a new language emerging. Greek speakers today still tend to regard literary works of ancient Greek as part of their own rather than a foreign language. According to one estimation, " Homeric Greek is probably closer to demotic than century Middle English is to modern spoken English ," [15] Greek has seen fewer changes in years, than English has in years. There are traditional Greek-speaking settlements and regions in the neighbouring countries of Albania , Bulgaria , and Turkey , as well as in several countries in the Black Sea area, such as Ukraine , Russia , Romania , Georgia , Armenia , and Azerbaijan , and around the Mediterranean Sea , Southern Italy , Syria , Israel , Egypt , Lebanon , Libya and ancient coastal towns along the Levant. Particularly in Albania due to the immigration wave towards Greece today a significant percentage of the population can speak the Greek language, or at least has some basic knowledge of it. Official status[edit] Greek is the official language of Greece, where it is spoken by almost the entire population. Ancient Greek grammar , Koine Greek grammar , and Modern Greek grammar The phonology , morphology , syntax and vocabulary of the language show both conservative and innovative tendencies across the entire attestation of the language from the ancient to the

modern period. The division into conventional periods is, as with all such periodisations, relatively arbitrary, especially because at all periods, Ancient Greek has enjoyed high prestige, and the literate borrowed heavily from it.

Chapter 6 : The Modern Greek Language: A Descriptive Analysis of Standard Modern Greek - PDF Free D

(Modern Greek for students who have a solid knowledge of Greek.) At the end of the seminar, participants are expected to have acquired the skills to: Understand the main ideas of a complex text on both practical and abstract topics.

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Reviews ducted within it. Instead, the author devotes his attention almost exclusively to high intensity action, from a sheep theft or a story about it to a bon mot in the coffeehouse. Not only do we know very little about the women of Glendiot but neither do we know about its agriculturalists and anyone else who is not a shepherd. This work may be ethnography, but it is not an ethnography. This emphasis on text to the neglect of context seems to be a natural consequence of the semiotic approach utilized by the author. The book is well produced, with only a few typographical errors. The many photos serve to add some interest, although many are of subjects more or less irrelevant to the text of the book and thus have not been utilized to their best advantage. Rather, they resemble a rather random selection of snapshots, most without specific reference to the analysis into which they have been inserted. This practice is particularly surprising coming from someone as conscious of meaning and message as is Herzfeld. Nevertheless, *The Poetics of Manhood* is an important book, and not only for those with a specific interest in Greece and the Mediterranean culture area. His aim is to provide "an analysis, not without certain generalizations , of a large amount of material. No other such compilation exists in English and students of modern Greek will be grateful to Mackridge for providing a veritable trea- Reviews sure-trove of illustrative material covering all the major components of the linguistic description of the language. Most of his citations are from the speech of people who were unaware that their speech was being studied and who were Athenian-born high-school graduates, although literary sources are sometimes employed. After a concise but lucid introduction dealing with the contributions of demotic and katharevusa to the "Standard Modern Greek" Mackridge aims to describe, there is an excellent chapter on the phonetics and phonology of the language, including its main intonational features. Subsequent chapters deal with 1 gender, case, number and person, 2 voice, aspect, and tense, 3 noun morphology , 4 verb morphology, 5 the noun phrase, prepositions and pronouns, 6 the clause, word order, coordination and negation, 7 subordinating conjunctions, 8 the subjunctive, 9 vocabulary and 10 style and idiom. My only quibble with this most useful work is that some of the generalizations Mackridge does venture to make are sweeping enough to require more support than his data provide. Partly no doubt because of the innaccuracy and inadequete coverage of lexicography in Greece, and because of the low level of linguistic education , borderlines between concepts in modern Greek often appear relatively blurred to the foreign observer. There is a tendency for Greeks not to feel a necessity to be specific or even accurate when naming concepts p. His evidence is anecdotal: His comment that when pressed Greeks can be more specific suggests that while we may be faced with an interesting quirk of behavior , there is no reason to suppose that the You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 7 : Modern Greek | Modern Greek Language Program

This is the first comprehensive survey of standard modern Greek, as it has emerged from the two coexistent varieties of the language - katharevousa and demotic.

This linguistic circumstance in the first half of the 1st millennium bce caused literature to develop on a dialect basis. The Homeric epic displays an artificial dialect based on Asiatic Ionic but interspersed with Aeolic and even Mycenaean elements inherited from a long oral tradition. Choral lyric also uses an artificial dialect, which is based on Doric but interspersed with many elements from Ionic epic and some from Lesbian poetry. The dialect of dialogue in Attic tragedy is Attic mixed with some elements from choral lyric poetry. Attic comedy is pure Attic, whereas a Doric comedy developed in Syracuse. It was only in the Hellenistic and Roman periods that Attic became clearly dominant, though in poetry of the later periods artificial imitations of the early genres were common. Within the alphabetical period of pre-Koine Ancient Greek 8thâ€”4th centuries bce there is no break between what is termed Archaic Greek 8thâ€”6th centuries and what is termed Classical Greek 5thâ€”4th centuries. In the linguistic subdivision of Ancient Greek, the effects of substratum languages played only a minor part. In their penetration into Greece toward the beginning of the 2nd millennium bce, the Proto-Greeks found earlier populations established there, about whom Greek tradition gives only vague hints and whose language or languages are unknown. On the other hand, there is a connection between the facts of civilization in the political and cultural fields and the evolution of the language. In the Mycenaean period an evident unity of civilization and the organization in the palaces of record offices and scribal training allowed the use of a stable and uniform chancellery language. In the first half of the 1st millennium, political subdivision and rivalry between cities allowed dialectal peculiarities to strike deep roots. As a result of a long oral formulaic tradition of epic poetry in dactylic hexameters, the language of the Homeric epics is an artificial mixture of dialects. This Homeric dialect became the standard for dactylic poetry all over the Greek world. In the 6th century bce Ionic became the dialect of prose as a consequence of the political and cultural prestige of Ionia. In the course of the 5th century bce, as the prestige of Athens rose, Ionic was gradually replaced by Attic. The predominance of Attic was continued under the Macedonian rulers.

Linguistic characteristics

Phonology The phonological systems of Ancient Greek differ noticeably from one period to another and from one dialect to another. The system that has been chosen to serve as an example here is that which may be attributed to Old Attic of about 500 bce. In Old Attic there are seven vowel qualities: The consonantal structure is characterized by relative richness in stops sounds produced by momentary complete closure at some point in the vocal tract â€”unvoiced p, t, k, aspirated ph, th, ch, voiced b, d, gâ€”and by few spirants, only s and h h restricted to initial position before a vowel. There are two liquid sounds, l and r, and two nasals, m and n. The velar nasal as in ink is not distinctive but is only a variant of the n in front of a velar stop or a variant of g in front of a nasal. Neither y nor w occurs as a distinctive sound. Most consonants can be doubled between vowels. The only consonant sounds normally allowed at the end of the word are s, n, and r. Apart from some unaccented monosyllabic or disyllabic terms of minor importance, each word is marked by an accent the highest tone within the word on one of the vowels one of the last three vowels, if the word has more than three syllables. Short vowels, if they carry the accent, have only a rising tone noted from the Alexandrian grammarians onward by the sign of the acute accent ; long vowels or diphthongs may have either a rising tone noted by the acute accent or a rising tone followed by a falling tone noted by the circumflex. When a word carrying an acute accent on the vowel of the final syllable is followed by another word within the same phrase, its accent is noted by the sign of the grave accent, in order to indicate that its tone is lower than that of the vowel of the initial syllable of the next word. Sometimes two otherwise identical words are differentiated by the nature or the position of the accent: The rhythm of both prose and poetry is based upon the distribution of short and long syllables. For a syllable to be short, it must end in a short vowel; syllables ending in a long vowel and closed syllables i. The rhythm of Ancient Greek is therefore said to be quantitative.

Morphology Every nominal noun or adjective or verbal form combines a stem that carries the lexical sense of the word and a certain number of grammatical markers that serve to specify the

meaning of the whole word e. The category of gender, which differentiates masculine, feminine, and neuter, concerns only the substantive noun, adjective, and pronoun. The category of person first, second, and third person is restricted to the personal pronoun and the verb. There are three numbers – singular, dual, and plural – that are distinguished in both the noun and the verb. The survival of the dual is an archaism; although a living form in the Mycenaean period, it tends to be replaced by the plural in the 1st millennium. Attic is one of the dialects in which the dual number is best preserved down to the threshold of the Hellenistic period. Not counting the vocative case, the Greek declension in the Mycenaean period still contained five cases: Between the Mycenaean period and the 8th century the instrumental ceased to exist as a distinct case, its role having been taken over by the dative. The verb system is organized around four principal tense stems, which are built on the verb stem: The first three are often called aspects, a term taken over from Slavic grammar. In principle, each tense stem provides five moods for the finite verb with personal endings, a participle, and an infinitive. There are two assertive moods nonpast and past indicative and three nonassertive moods subjunctive, optative, imperative. The Greek verb has two voices, active and mediopassive reflexive and passive, which are expressed leaving aside the aorist passive by the opposition of two series of personal endings, for each mood with participle and infinitive of each tense stem. Syntax Since syntactical relations are expressed by means of case endings and so on, Greek word order is relatively free. The creation of the definite article post-Mycenaean and post-Homeric is an important innovation. The availability of infinitive and participle clauses, with or without the article, as alternatives for all kinds of subordinate clauses permits the construction of very long and complex sentences that are nevertheless entirely transparent as to their syntactic structure. This accomplishment of Attic prose known as periodic style is unmatched in other languages. Vocabulary If one considers the roots of words, it seems that, although the essential basis of the vocabulary is of Indo-European origin, a fairly large number of terms are borrowings. Most of these loans were taken from the idioms of the populations living in Greece prior to the arrival of the Proto-Greeks. At all periods the lexical creativity of Greek has been very productive, thus giving it a vocabulary of extraordinary richness.

Greek Alphabet & Writing: An Introduction. The Greek language has been written in some form of the Greek alphabet for over years, beginning with Homer's poetry and continuing to the present Demotic Greek, the language of modern Greece.

Local dialects Of the local dialects, Tsakonian, spoken in certain mountain villages in eastern Peloponnese, is quite aberrant and shows evidence of descent from the ancient Doric dialect e. The Asia Minor dialects also display archaic features e. It is not certain whether southern Italian Greek represents a survival from ancient times or was reimported there during the Byzantine period. Apart from these peripheral varieties, the modern dialects may be grouped for practical purposes as follows: Peloponnesian, differing but slightly from the dialects of the Ionian isles, forms the basis of standard Demotic. It shows very few specifically local innovations in its phonology, although its verb morphology is less conservative than that of the island dialects. Standard Modern Greek With the establishment of the new Greek state in , the Peloponnesian dialect was adopted as the oral language, and this developed into the Demotic variety. The diglossia problem was finally resolved in , when Demotic was declared the official language of Greece. Meanwhile, the two varieties had naturally converged, and the emerging Standard Modern Greek language can be well characterized as resulting from the merger of the Demotic variety with Katharevusa features. Thus, in the phonology, some clearly Demotic changes see below statements [3] and [5] , under Katharevusa influence, either were suppressed or developed alternations or even contrasts. Further, the historical tendency to differentiate gender by declension class e. This manner of interaction causes the Greek speaker to experience these differences not as belonging to two different varieties of the language but rather as stylistic variations of one and the same system. The consonant sounds are: Other important consonant cluster changes linking Ancient and Modern Greek include: Except for the simplification of double consonants, these historical changes do not hold for words of Katharevusa origin. With the changes produced in the vocalic system in Koine, the ancient pitch distinction was lost and stress became dynamic as in English , its place being indicated orthographically by a uniform stress mark; but it remained confined to the three last syllables of a word the trisyllabic, or window, constraint. Stress placement is largely predictable, depending for nominals on their declensional class marker e. Morphology and syntax Much of the inflectional apparatus of the ancient language is retained in Modern Greek. Nouns may be singular or pluralâ€”the dual is lostâ€”and all dialects distinguish a nominative subject case and accusative object case. A noun modifying a second noun is expressed by the genitive case except in the north, where a prepositional phrase is usually preferred. In general, pronouns exhibit the same categories as nouns, but the relative pronoun pu is invariant, its relation to its own clause being expressed when necessary by a personal pronoun in the appropriate case: The verb is inflected for mood indicative, subjunctive, imperative , aspect perfective, imperfective , voice active, passive , tense present, past , and person first, second, and third, singular and plural. Aspectual differences play a crucial role. Roughly, the perfective marker indicates completed, momentary action; its absence signifies an action viewed as incomplete, continuous, or repeated. The most common form of derivation is by suffixation; derivation by prefixation is limited mainly to verbs. On the other hand, compound formation is rich. Unlike English, Greek because of its inflectional system shows flexible word order even in the simplest sentences. Further, as in Italian, the subject of a sentence may be omitted. Vocabulary The vast majority of Demotic words are inherited from Ancient Greek, although quite often with changed meaningâ€”e. Many others represent unattested combinations of ancient roots and affixes; others enter Demotic via Katharevusa:

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Greek belongs to the Hellenic branch of the Indo-European language family, and is spoken by about 13 million people mainly in Greece and Cyprus, where it is an official language. Greek is also recognised as a minority language in parts of Italy, and in Albania, Armenia, Romania and Ukraine.

Greece, Albania, Cyprus, and a number of other countries
First written: Linear B, Cypriot syllabary, Greek alphabet
Status: At first, there were a number of different versions of the alphabet used in various different Greek cities. These local alphabets, known as epichoric, can be divided into three groups: The blue group developed into the modern Greek alphabet, while the red group developed into the Etruscan alphabet, other alphabets of ancient Italy and eventually the Latin alphabet. By the early 4th century BC, the epichoric alphabets were replaced by the eastern Ionic alphabet. The capital letters of the modern Greek alphabet are almost identical to those of the Ionic alphabet. The minuscule or lower case letters first appeared sometime after AD and developed from the Byzantine minuscule script, which developed from cursive writing. Notable features
Type of writing system: Around BC the direction of writing changed to horizontal lines running from left to right. Diacritics to represent stress and breathings were added to the alphabet in around BC. In the diacritics representing breathings, which were not widely used after , were officially abolished by presidential decree. The letter sigma has a special form which is used when it appears at the end of a word. Greek was written mainly from right to left in horizontal lines at this time. It is uncertain what names were given to the letters, and some letters had more than one form. These letters were used as they represented the first letters of the number names, with the exception of iota: This system was used until the first century BC. The Acrophonic system was replaced by an alphabetic system that assigned numerical values to all the letters of the alphabet. Three obsolete letters, digamma, koppa and sampi, were used in addition to the standard Greek letters, and a apostrophe-like numeral sign was used to indicate that letters were being used as numerals.
Greek alphabet
Modern pronunciation.