

Introduction to the Study of Language

-Ling 1-
Fall 2020

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Week 8 - November 25, 2020

Announcements

- HW 6 (the last HW assignment)
 - opens on Sunday 11/29
 - closes on Sunday 12/6
- Analysis Paper 2 is due on Friday December 11 (11:59 PM)
 - start working on it now

Roadmap for today's class

- 60 minutes
 - last 10/15 minutes: *your* time to ask me questions
 - orally by using the raise-hand button
 - by sending me a **private** message in the Zoom chat
 - questions can be on any topic of any live lecture
- ❖ What are the effects of language contact?

Language contact in the extreme south of Italy: Italo-Greek and Italo-Romance



Carta dei Dialetti d'Italia
(Pellegrini, 1977)

The **varieties of the extreme south of Italy** are different from the rest of the dialects spoken in the Peninsula.

WHY?

Greek in Magna Graecia



VIII century B.C. : beginning of Greek colonization

III century B.C. : beginning of Roman conquest

Italo-Greek in a nutshell

- Greek spoken as an indigenous language in southern Italy since ancient times

Two opposing views on its origin

- i. Italo-Greek as a direct descendant of the ancient Greek varieties imported as early as the VIII century BC
- ii. Italo-Greek as a more recent import dating from the Byzantine period of domination (VI and XI centuries AD)

Conciliatory approach

Greek and Latin/Romance spoken alongside, in a *diglossic relation* (Fanciullo 2007)

Italo-Greek today

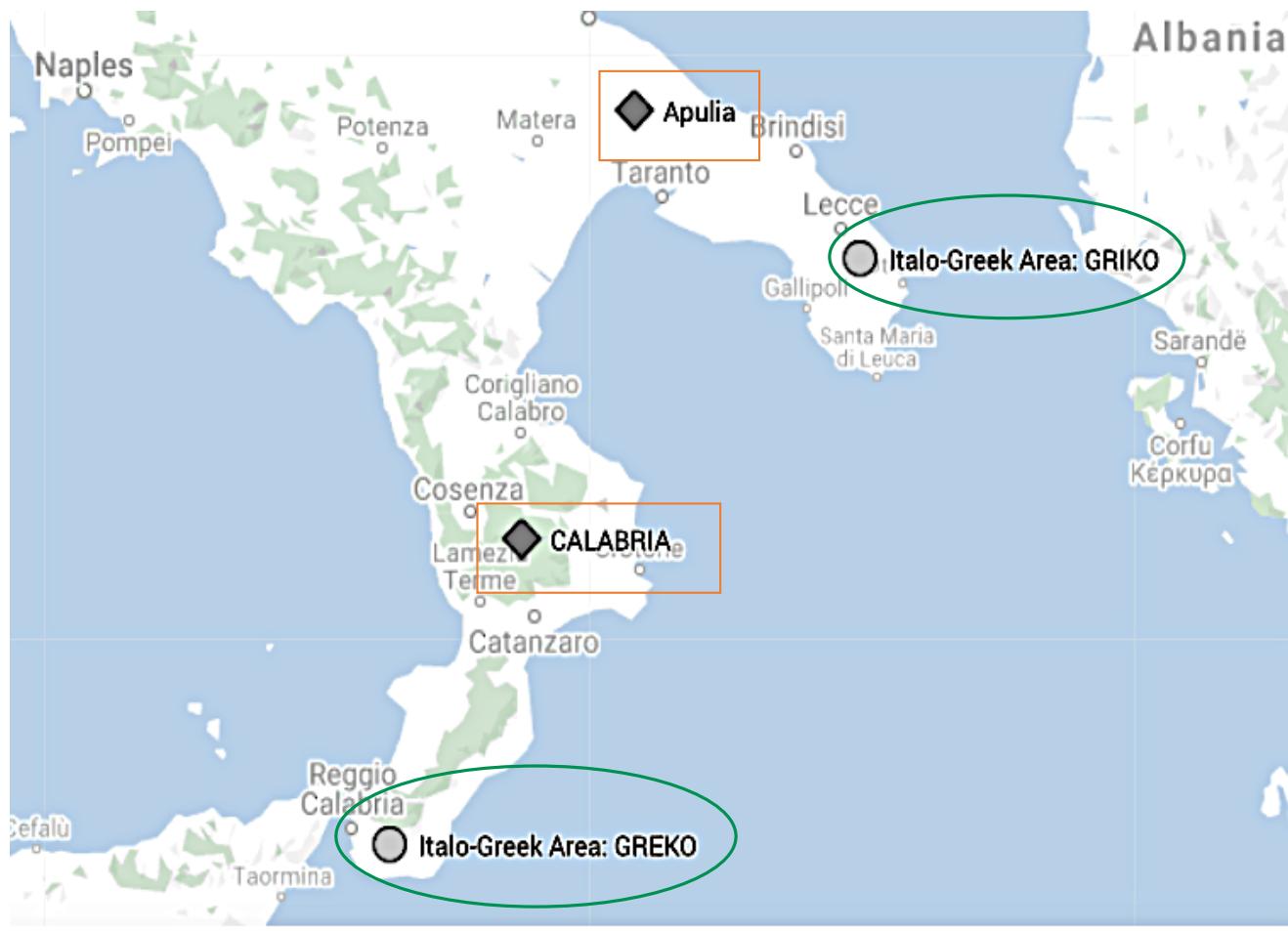
- Italo-Greek only spoken in a handful of villages of southern Calabria (*Greko*) and southern Apulia (*Griko*)
- southern Calabria, 5 villages: Bova M., Chorío di Rochudi, Condofuri M., Gallicianò, Roghudi N.
 - 500 speakers, very generous estimate!
- southern Apulia, 7 villages: Calimera, Castrignano dei Greci, Corigliano d'Otranto, Martano, Martignano, Sternatia, Zollino
 - 20,000 speakers: very optimistic estimates!

Highly endangered languages!

Italo-Greek today

**Why are
these languages
endangered?**

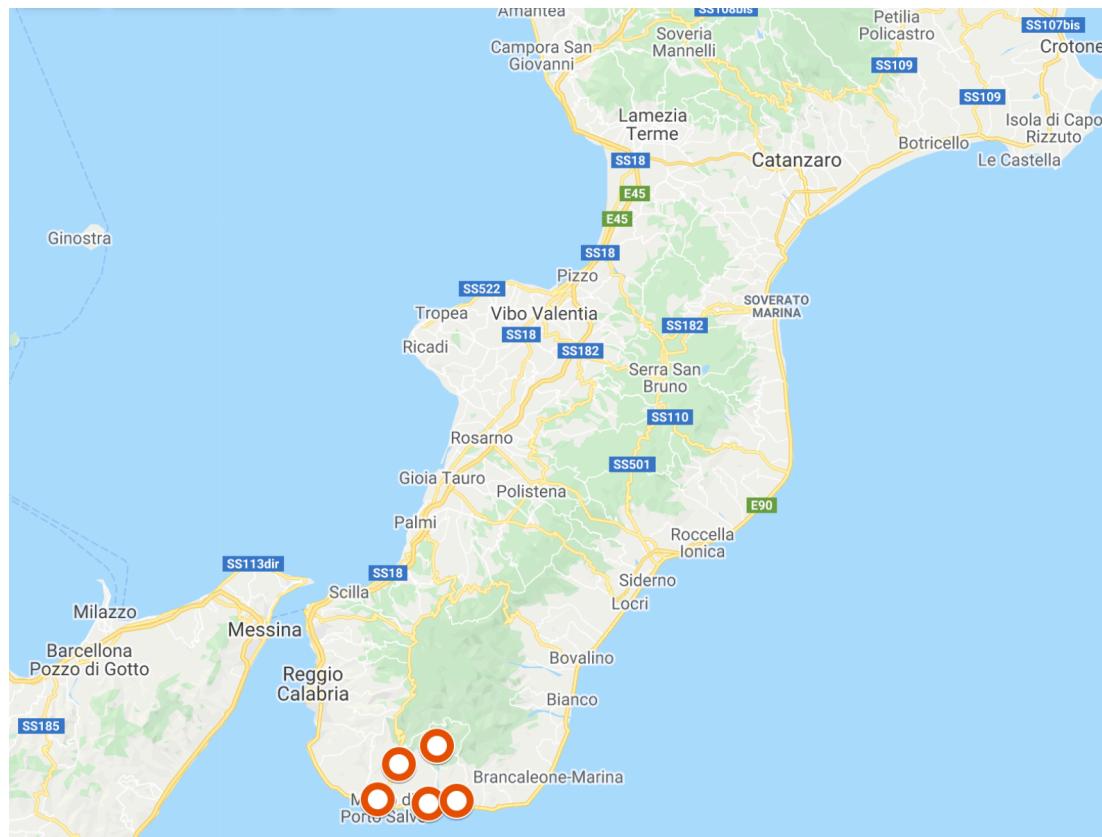
Italo-Greek today



Italo-Greek today

- southern Calabria, 5 villages

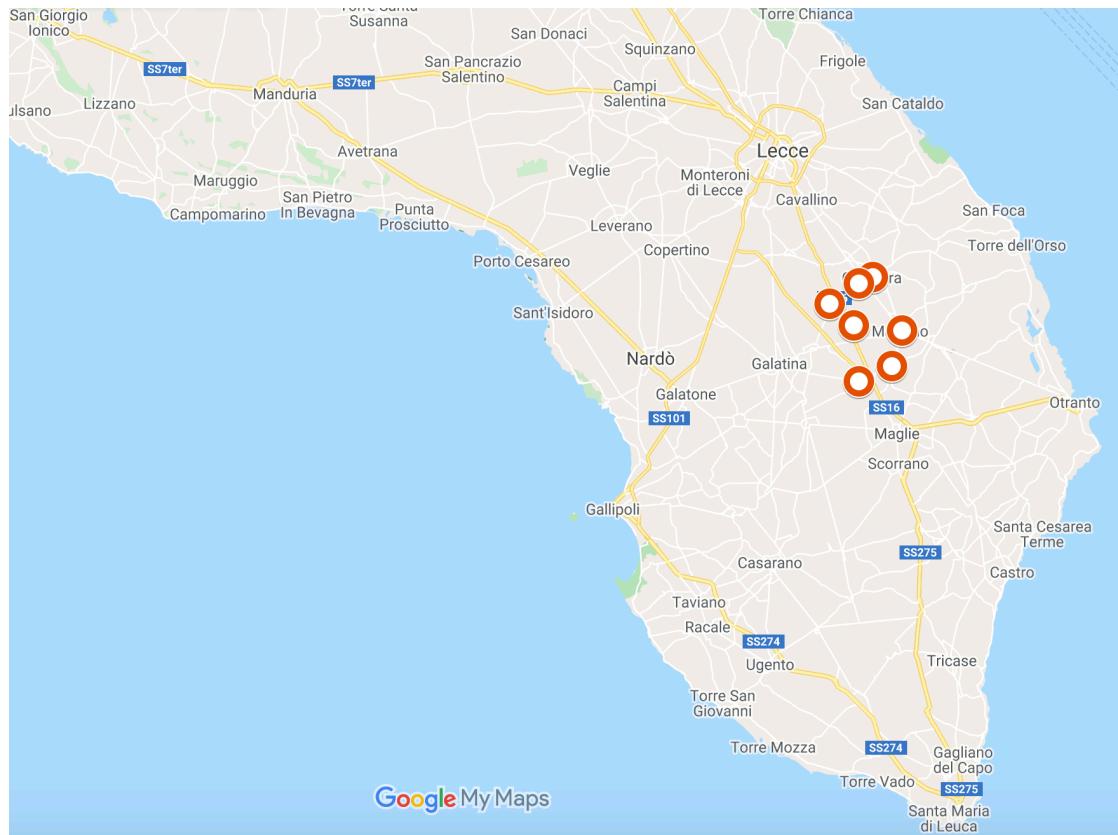
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Italo-Greek today

- southern Apulia (Salento), 7 villages

Calimera, Castrignano dei Greci, Corigliano d'Otranto, Martano, Martignano, Sternatia, Zollino

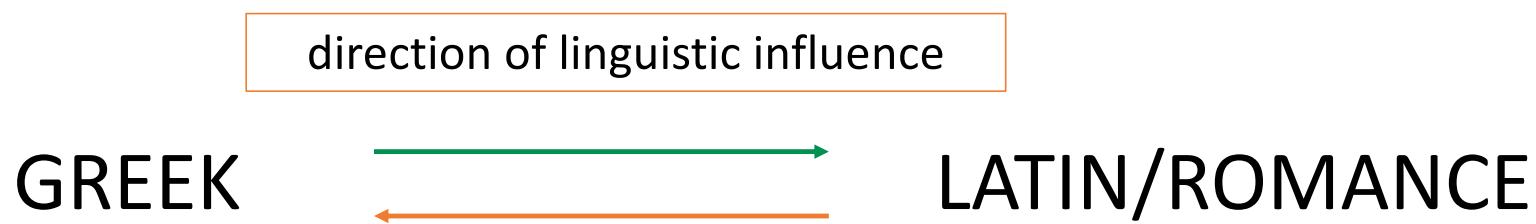


Greek and Romance bilingualism

- Greek and Latin/Romance alongside of each other for centuries

Resulting in:

1. Romance dialects of these two areas being influenced by Italo-Greek
2. Italo-Greek in more recent times being influenced by local
Italo-Romance dialects and from regional Italian



2 case studies showing Greek-Romance language contact

- data collected through fieldwork (6 months, 2016)
- one-on-one interviews with native speakers

GREEK —————→ LATIN/ROMANCE

1. definite articles with proper names

- Some Italo-Romance varieties of Salento and Calabria require the definite article before proper names.

- (1) a. Parlai cu **la** Maria (Italo-Romance, Salento)
spoke.1SG with the.FSG Maria
'I spoke with Maria.' lit.: 'I spoke with **the** Maria.'
- b. Vinni **u** Petru. (Italo-Romance, San Luca, Calabria)
came.3SG the.MSG Pietro
'Pietro came/arrived.' lit.: '**The** Pietro came/arrived.'

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1. definite articles with proper names

- This syntactic feature has a Greek origin.

- (2) a. Ida **tin** Pina. (Greko, Calabria)
saw.1SG the.FSG.ACC Pina
'I saw Pina.' lit.: I saw *the* Pina
- b. Efònase **ton** Petro. (Griko, Salento)
called.3SG the.MSG.ACC Pietro
'S/He called Pietro.'
- c. Pame s-**tin** Roma.
go.1PL to.the Rome
'We're going to Rome'. Lit: we are going to *the* Rome

1. definite articles with proper names

- This syntactic feature has a Greek origin.

(3) a. Miláo me **tin** Iríni. (Standard Modern Greek)

talk.1SG with the.FSG.ACC Irini

‘I am talking with Irini.’ lit.: I am talking with **the** Irini.

b. **I** Rómi íne ghemáti endiaféronta prógmata.

the Rome is full.of interesting things

‘Rome is full of interesting things.’ Lit: ‘**The** Rome...’

2. Unpopularity of infinitive

The general Romance situation:

Some verbs, that we can call functional verbs (like *want*, *can*, *must*, *should*), require an infinitive.

- (4) a. Quiero **ser** medico. (Spanish)
want.1SG be.INF doctor
'I want to be a medical doctor.'
- b. Demain elle pourrait **aller** chez le dentist. (French)
tomorrow she could go.INF to the dentist
'She could go to the dentist tomorrow.'
- c. Dovresti **mangiare** più frutta e verdura. (standard Italian)
should.2SG eat.INF more fruit and vegetable
'You should eat more fruits and vegetables.'

2. Unpopularity of infinitive

- In Italo-Romance varieties of southern Calabria and in Salento the infinitive is replaced by an analytic verb complex, formed by a complementizer and a finite form

(5) a. Voli mi vai fora? (Italo-Romance, Calabria)

want.2SG that go.2SG outside

'Do you want to go to the countryside?'

lit.: you want *that you go* to the countryside?

b. No sacciu mi cantu.

not know.1SG that sing.1SG

'I cannot sing.' lit.: I cannot *that I sing*

2. Unpopularity of infinitive

- In Italo-Romance varieties of southern Calabria and in Salento the infinitive is replaced by an analytic verb complex, formed by a complementizer and a finite form

- (6) a. Teli **na** acapisi. (Griko, Salento)
want.2SG that love.2SG
'You want to love.' lit.: you want *that you love*
- b. En sozo **na** pao. (Greko, Calabria)
not can.1SG that go.1SG
'I cannot go.' lit.: I cannot *that I go*

2. Unpopularity of the infinitive

- In Italo-Romance varieties of southern Calabria and in Salento the infinitive is replaced by an **analytic verb complex** formed by a complementizer (like *that*) and a finite form.
- It is clearly a syntactic features of **Greek origin**, as other varieties of Greek show the same syntax.
- Actually, it is a Balkan feature, as other varieties spoken in the Balkans have the exhibit requirement, even though they are not Greek varieties (i.e. Romanian)

2. Unpopularity of the infinitive

- In standard Modern Greek (roughly) the same functional verbs reject the infinitive and require a verb complex formed by a complementizer and a finite form.

- (6) a. Thelo **na ghíno** ghiatrós. (standard Modern Greek)
want.1SG that become.1SG doctor
'I want to become a medical doctor.'
lit.: I want *that I become* a doctor.
- b. Boró **na danistó** to aftokínító su?
can.1SG that borrow.1SG the car your
'Can I borrow your car?' lit.: I can *that I borrow* your car?

Conclusions

- In contact situation languages influence each other, not only by transferring words or sounds, but also by affecting the structures (grammar)
- The direction of the interferences can change over time
- In long-standing contact situations the grammar can be deeply affected and hybrid grammars can arise

I will see you **next week** -
what can we do in the meanwhile?

- Enjoy holiday weekend!

STAY SAFE !

- Tips on how to proceed **successfully** every week?

I suggest you take the following **6 steps** in this order:

1. Go through the **readings**.
2. Watch the recorded **lectures** and take detailed notes.
3. Take a look at the **quizzes** to see if you understand all the questions, before completing them.
4. Attend the **live** lecture.
5. Attend the live **discussion** sections.
6. Complete and submit your **assignments**.