

# New Perspectives in Greek Linguistics



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Edited by

Nikolaos Lavidas, Elissavet Nouchoutidou  
and Marietta Sionti



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## INTRODUCTION

The present volume has its origin in the 4<sup>th</sup> biannual Athens Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics, which was hosted at the University of Athens on 1 and 2 June 2007. The papers belong directly or indirectly to the area of Theoretical Linguistics and they form a good sample of contemporary linguistic research and of contemporary linguistic perspectives. Specifically, the papers included deal with themes from the areas of syntax, morphology, phonology and language acquisition, mainly of the Greek language but also of other languages. The first part of the volume contains invited papers, namely Gaberell Drachman's and Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman's papers. In the second part of the volume, sixteen selected papers by postgraduate students are included.

It is a great honour for us to include in the present volume G. Drachman's and A. Malikouti-Drachman's most recent papers. G. Drachman's paper discusses why and how a meaning-variation arises between words like *sin-erxome*, *sin-grafo* and *sin-taksideo*: *sin-erxome* has both an idiosyncratic meaning 'recover' and a compositional meaning 'come with', *sin-grafo* has only the idiosyncratic 'author' reading and *sin-taksideo* has only the compositional 'co-travel' reading. According to G. Drachman's analysis, the existence of interpretational idiosyncrasy does not lead to the dichotomy between lexical and syntactic creativity; G. Drachman explains these interpretational idiosyncracies through the distinction between various levels of 'derivation', as between the levels of root- vs. post-cat(egory) mergers. Tree-boundedness is central to his approach to re-evaluating 'derivational and compounding morphology' and the meaning differences and their changes. A. Malikouti-Drachman discusses the need for a co-grammar approach, as seen in the interdialect variation of the dialects of Cyprus and Kos provoked by the phenomena of spontaneous gemination (gemination of consonants which can be attributed neither to earlier stages of the language nor to loans). A. Malikouti-Drachman shows that stress position is not relevant to spontaneous gemination, and brings up cases suggesting that forms of gemination-inherited, by loans or assimilated may be adapted to the prosodic constituency of the co-grammar of these dialects. The differences in gemination between two dialects and in the directionality forming the

prosodic constituent for gemination are reduced to the ranking of constraints in the same co-grammar.

The following sections are comprised of selected papers submitted by postgraduate students. Needless to say, the style is specific to each individual writer, and each author is responsible for the choice and the presentation of the data and the analysis contained in her/his paper. The papers of the first section focus on Greek phonology. Giakoumelou and Koufou analyse how children and adults perceive two-, three- and four-member consonant sequences in Greek. Their paper shows that language factors, such as articulation and stress, as well as social factors, such as education and age, seem to influence perception. Koutsoukos discusses the hiatus (V + V phonological sequence) problems in Greek neuter nouns. His paper aims to explain the repair strategies for hiatus resolution and the results of the consonantalization within the framework of Optimality Theory. Nikolou examines the Greek derivational affixes with respect to their phonological structure and the phonological processes that apply across the morphological boundaries. Her analysis proposes that suffixes are incorporated into the base prosodic word, whereas productive prefixes are prosodized as adjuncts to the prosodic word. Pavlaku examines the phonological status of affricates on the basis of Greek child speech data. She argues that affricates are not clusters, but monopositional segments with a complex manner of articulation. Children also seem to acquire affricates before obstruent + obstruent clusters.

Jovanov examines whether different performances in the presence of agreement and case cues in contrast to word-order cues can be observed in the case of two Greek-speaking agrammatics. She observes higher sensitivity to agreement and case errors in SVO than in the non-canonical VOS word-order. Finally, she argues that the word-order problems of the Greek-speaking agrammatic patients are serious enough to conceal good performance on case and agreement marking. Kakarikos' paper focuses on the synchronic analysis of the Attic Greek noun inflection. He examines the formal description of the noun declension, focusing on the definition of the nominal bases and the endings attached to them, and on the presentation of the operations involved in the derivation of the various declensional forms. Sinopoulou discusses the focus constructions in Greek. She divides focus constructions into two categories: focus *ex situ* and focus *in situ* constructions. Her analysis proposes that, in Greek, syntactic marking of focus is achieved via focus movement, which targets either the CP-peripheral or the vP-peripheral focus position. Tomaszewicz examines the relation between the conditional and subjunctive moods in Polish. She argues that the distinction between the subjunctive and the

conditional in Polish, Czech, Slovak and Old Polish does not provide a counterexample to the observation that morphology expressing an underspecified Excl(usion)F(eature) (x) has crosslinguistically a systematic contribution to the expression of counterfactuality. Finally, the role of past morphology in counterfactual moods is not as straightforward in Polish and other West Slavic languages as it is in Greek.

Chatzopoulos analyses the distribution of the lexical item *smurf* (in English) and *strumpf* (in Greek). She argues that their distribution results from the interaction of various constraints relating to the semantic and phonological properties of the item targeted for substitution, and the basic markedness constraint that requires the appearance of the smurf-morpheme as often as possible. Foufi's paper deals with the compound nouns in the form of Adjective + Noun and Noun + Adjective. Her discussion focuses on the criteria which distinguish compound structures from the free ones in the same form. Her study aims at the recognition of compound nouns in corpora via automatic analysers, so as to improve the morphological, syntactic and semantic analysis, and the automatic translation results. Koliopoulou's paper examines Greek loose multi-word compounds. She proposes that these structures should be analysed within the framework of the Construction Grammar (Booij 2005). Her paper also aims to analyse the special noun phrases (consisting of two nouns, both in the nominative case) as cases of morphologization. Michail compares deverbal Greek *-tis* and English *-er* nominalization. She argues that an analysis couched in terms of lexical semantic representation can describe accurately the semantic properties of the specific affixes and the process in which they are involved in both Greek and English. Her paper proposes that the affix *-tis* has a meaning of its own; it poses a semantic contribution on the linked 'R argument' (the external argument of nouns that bear the referential value of the nominal). Sionti discusses various types of treebanks and proposes a Greek Treebank Schema. She examines the syntactic and structural-functional annotation levels, and presents the variables of these levels and three algorithms, so that the problems of the link between these levels can be resolved.

Matejka's paper presents a first approach to grammatical interference in the Greek idiom of Greek Americans in Chicago, USA. Her paper discusses some of the studies which compare Greek and English morpho-syntax, and how interference in morpho-syntax has been treated in the literature. Finally, she examines some of the most striking differences between Greek and English morpho-syntax and makes predictions about possible interference. Nouchoutidou's paper discusses the acquisition of complementizers in L2 Greek, and mainly the choice of the appropriate

complementizer in relation to the matrix verb. She argues that advanced L2ers seem not to have problems when the matrix verb is compatible with only one complementizer. Difficulties emerge when the matrix verb can be combined with more than one complementizer, and the choice involves the grammatical type of the verb in the complement clause or a propositional operator, such as negation or question. Peristeri examines the influence of writing strategies on writing achievement. She argues that there is a correlation between writing task achievement and frequency of writing strategy use. Her study also provides pedagogical implications for the use of writing strategies in classrooms.

We would like to thank all the contributors to this volume for their papers, and we would also like to thank the following linguists for their help and support during the preparation of the volume: Despina Chila-Markopoulou, Amalia Moser, Despina Papadopoulou, Giorgos Markopoulos, Marina Tzakosta, Dimitra Papangeli and Christina Manouilidou. As is obvious, all the papers presented here belong to the linguistic areas to which Gaberell Drachman and Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman have contributed so much. We would like to dedicate this volume to them as a small token of our gratitude for their ceaseless presence and their contribution to Theoretical Linguistics, to Greek Linguistics and to postgraduate studies in Linguistics in Greece.

## **Honour to Gaberell Drachman and Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman for their contribution to the postgraduate studies in Linguistics in Greece**

This volume is dedicated to Gaberell Drachman and to Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman for their contribution to postgraduate studies in Linguistics in Greece.

Nobody can deny the invaluable contributions of G. Drachman and A. Malikouti-Drachman to the area of Theoretical and Greek Linguistics, and especially to the areas of Morphology and Phonology: as can be attested to by those who have been their students or their collaborators at the University of Athens and at the University of Salzburg; as is evident from the citations referring to their research in other linguistic publications.

The most prominent contribution of G. Drachman and A. Malikouti-Drachman is that, in parallel with their steady international presence – always pioneering and inestimable – they have never forgotten Greece and Greek Linguistics. They belong to the people who first introduced the conclusions and the methodology of modern linguistic analysis to Greece and, most importantly, they never ceased to bring modern questioning to the focal point of the theoretical discussions in Greece (such as, for example, Optimality Theory or Distributed Morphology). Their lives, personal as well as teaching–researching, are divided between Central Europe (Austria) and Southern Europe (Greece): even though they could ignore the linguistic life of Greece, they were and are always in Greece and at conferences on Greek Linguistics held wherever and whenever we need them; they are present with their teaching, their critique (strict but fair) and always with new ideas.

G. Drachman and A. Malikouti-Drachman belong to the very first group of people who introduced modern Linguistics to Greece; they did not passively bring contemporary linguistic ideas to Greece, they engrafted their proposals and data from the Greek language onto these ideas, and more especially they diffused these perspectives to their students, who – as teachers in Greece afterwards – provided (in their turn) the continuation of that “peculiar relay race”, so that the scytale of the new linguistic perspectives can reach the young Greek linguists of today. We would need many pages if we were to refer to the names of all their students (something that is indicative of their diachronic contribution): most of these belong to the most brilliant names in Theoretical Linguistics in Europe.

G. Drachman and A. Malikouti-Drachman provide Greek linguists with a communication channel constantly open to the modern theoretical

linguistic approaches which appear in Europe. Both G. Drachman and A. Malikouti-Drachman are always the epitome of tireless stable activity with Linguistics: they have never ceased to accept proposals for teaching and giving lectures. Furthermore, their teaching was never connected exclusively with one place in Greece, as they both always hasten to talk about their research in many cities in Greece and Cyprus, wherever there is a linguistic meeting or conference.

G. Drachman's tireless research is always combined with his undiminished willingness to listen to problems and to give honest and strict advice to young linguists. The narrations by Greek linguists of instances of taking help from him in cases of difficulty are innumerable. Similarly, the number of times that he has aided linguists who wanted to spend a long or a short period in Salzburg are countless.

A. Malikouti-Drachman's tireless research is always combined with an unbelievable warmth and an unlimited capacity for hospitality. Their home in Athens and in Salzburg is always open to whoever wants to discuss his/her linguistic interests. A. Malikouti-Drachman is always ready to listen carefully and understand the problems of others. She has never stopped asking and being interested in the goals – today's and future goals – and the difficulties of her students – old and new. She has never stopped sharing both her students' sorrows and joys.

We would like to thank Gaberell Drachman and Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman for their interest and support and we wish them much happiness in all aspects of their lives.

## Selected Publications of Gaberell Drachman

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- 1973 with A. Malikouti-Drachman, M. L. Edwards, J. E. Geis & L. C. Schourup.  
*The Ohio State University Working Papers in Linguistics 15: Generative Phonology and Child Language Acquisition.* Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University.
- 1975 *Akten der 1. Salzburger Frühlingstagung für Linguistik.* Tübingen: Gunter Narr (Salzburger Beiträge zur Linguistik 1).
- 1976 *Akten des 1. Salzburger Kolloquiums über Kindersprache.* Tübingen: Gunter Narr (Salzburger Beiträge zur Linguistik 2).
- 1977 *Akten der 2. Salzburger Frühlingstagung für Linguistik.* Tübingen: Gunter Narr (Salzburger Beiträge zur Linguistik 3).
- 1977 *Akten der 3. Salzburger Jahrestagung für Linguistik (Psycholinguistik).* Salzburg: Neugebauer.
- 1997 with A. Malikouti-Drachman, J. Fykias & S. Klidi.  
*Greek Linguistics '95: Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Greek Linguistics.* Graz: Neugebauer.
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*The Linguistic Review* 15.
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*International Journal of American Linguistics* 31(1), 96-99.
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In *The Ohio State University Working Papers in Linguistics 15: Generative Phonology and Child Language Acquisition*. Edited by A. Malikouti-Drachman, G. Drachman, M. L. Edwards., J. E. Geis & L. C. Schourup. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University, 146-160.
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- 1977    with A. Malikouti-Drachman.  
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- 2007     with A. Malikouti-Drachman.  
          Concrete vs. abstract explanations in phonology.  
          *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 27 (In Memoriam A.-F. Christidis),  
          115-126.

## Selected Publications of Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman

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- 1973 with G. Drachman, M. L. Edwards, J. E. Geis & L. C. Schourup.  
*The Ohio State University Working Papers in Linguistics 15: Generative Phonology and Child Language Acquisition.* Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University.
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*Greek Linguistics '95: Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Greek Linguistics.* Graz: Neugebauer.

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