

# Preface

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**Themes in Greek Linguistics: Papers from the First  
International Conference on Greek Linguistics, Reading,  
September 1993**

**Edited by Irene Philippaki-Warbuton, Katerina Nicolaidis  
and Maria Sifianou**

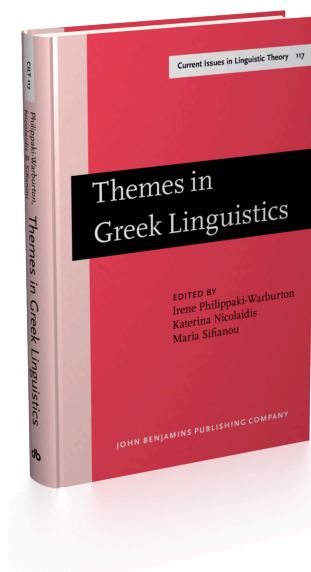
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## *Preface*

The First International Conference on Greek Linguistics was held at the University of Reading, UK from September 16 to 18, 1993. It was hosted by the Department of Linguistic Science and organised by Irene Philippaki-Warbuton and Katerina Nicolaidis.

The conference was attended by 154 linguists from 16 countries including USA, Japan, Australia, Russia, etc. In total, 77 papers were presented in three parallel sessions. These included four plenary sessions by invited speakers. The papers covered a wide range of topics in Greek Linguistics from the purely theoretical to the more applied and descriptive.

The aim of the conference was to establish the first truly international Greek linguistic forum outside Greece that brings together experts working on the Greek language in a variety of disciplines and orientations. A major outcome of the conference was the creation of a Greek Linguistic Society one of the tasks of which will be to organise an International Conference on Greek Linguistics every two years.

To represent the multidisciplinary diversity of topics presented at the conference this volume contains the majority of contributions. It thus serves to introduce and encompass the wide spectrum of current research in a comprehensive publication presenting the state of the art in Greek linguistics.

The papers are organised thematically into six sections. Section I contains the papers of the four invited speakers. George Babinotis discusses the contribution of linguistic theory to the teaching of Modern Greek, Dimitra Theophanopoulou-Kontou and A. Malikouti-Drachman present overviews of the application of syntactic and phonological theories to Greek, and Brian D. Joseph explores a specific theoretical issue, the pro-drop parameter, in Greek. Section II brings together papers on syntax, semantics and pragmatics which examine theoretical and descriptive issues within current models such as Principles and Parameters, HPSG, Relevance Theory. Section III covers Phonology and Phonetics and presents research on theoretical issues such as Government Phonology, the phonology-morphology interface, as well as descriptive issues including the instrumental investigation of selected phonetic phenomena. Section IV covers discourse and style dealing with both spoken and written aspects and including miscommunication, metaphor and issues on politeness. Section V, on variations and extensions, consists of papers on

Ancient and Modern Greek dialects such as Macedonian, Cypriot and Pontic, as well as issues on social and geographical varieties, diglossia and language acquisition. The final Section VI presents papers relating to the use of computers for the analysis, translation and teaching of Greek.

The conference was received very enthusiastically by all delegates to an extent that exceeded all our initial expectations. To a large extent this success was due to the support of numerous colleagues and associates. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all colleagues who so promptly responded to our call and came to the conference. Our thanks are also due to the Department of Linguistic Science of the University of Reading for hosting the event. We would also like to record our thanks to Richard Ingham for his constructive help, Angeliki Tzanne for technical and editorial assistance, and the departmental secretary Leslie Owen for her continuous support. We are also grateful to our students, Petros Avlonitis, Venetia Moschovou and Jenny Papaioannou, for assisting us with the organisation. Numerous other colleagues, friends and family members have also generously helped during the conference and the editing of the proceedings. We acknowledge their contribution with thanks.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to our sponsors, *The Leventis Foundation*, *The London Hellenic Society* and *The Hellenic Foundation* in the United Kingdom, whose generous financial support made both the conference and the publication of this volume possible. Thanks are also due to the Greek Embassy and the Greek Tourist Board in London for their material support.

We are also grateful to the series editor E. F. Konrad Koerner and to Benjamins Publishing Company, especially to Yola de Lusenet, for their useful editorial guidelines, their support and encouragement. Finally, we would like to thank the contributors to this volume for their understanding of the editorial requirements and their willingness to assist financially with this publication.

While working on the proceedings, we were informed of the passing away of Professor Fred W. Householder. Since he is widely recognised as one of the first American modern linguists to promote and conduct research in Modern Greek, we dedicate this volume to his memory.

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