

Introduction

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.159.01int>

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Themes in Greek Linguistics: Volume II

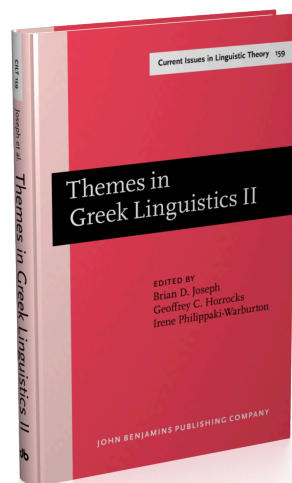
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[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 159] 1998. x, 335 pp.

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INTRODUCTION

This volume represents the second volume of papers emerging from the highly successful International Conference on Greek Linguistics, held biennially since 1993. The first such conference, hosted by the University of Reading in September of 1993 and organized by Irene Philippaki-Warbuton and Katerina Nicolaidis, was followed by the equally successful second conference hosted by the University of Salzburg in September of 1995 and organized by Gaberell Drachman, Angeliki Malikouti-Drachman, Chrysoula Klidi, and Ioannis Fykias. The first conference led to the publication of relatively brief (approximately ten-page) versions of all papers presented in a volume published in 1994 by John Benjamins Publishing Co. (*Themes in Greek Linguistics (Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 117), edited by Irene Philippaki-Warbuton, Katerina Nicolaidis & Maria Sifianou). At the second conference, it was decided to have similar short versions of all papers included in a two-volume conference proceedings publication (*Greek Linguistics '95. Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Greek Linguistics*, edited by G. Drachman, A. Malikouti-Drachman, J. Fykias, & C. Klidi 1997 (W. Neubauer Verlag, Graz)), but also to publish a select set of longer, more developed papers on Greek linguistics, either from the conference or submitted independently. The present volume, with its eleven papers, is the result of that decision.

A call for papers went out in March 1996, seeking contributions that presented the results of the application of recent advances in our understanding of any aspect of linguistic theory to issues in the synchronic or diachronic grammar of Modern Greek. Twenty-one papers were submitted. After careful review by the editors, with the solicitation of the opinions of outside experts as needed, the eleven papers in this volume were selected, and then subjected to a strenuous revision process to ensure the highest quality output.

These papers cover the major areas of linguistics, (phonology, morphology, and syntax, with some attention as well to semantics), and though synchronic concerns predominate, the diachronic viewpoint is also represented. Many of the papers have a formal orientation, but functional concerns are not neglected. The overall distribution of topics and approaches is a fair reflection of the level of interest in each currently manifested by those working in the field of Modern Greek linguistics, and the selection here is fully justified by the distribution of papers at each of the International Conferences to date.

What emerges is a clear sense that Modern Greek is a vital contributor to issues of current controversy in linguistics. We expect that future biennial volumes of papers on Modern Greek, whether tied in some way to the conferences or, more likely, as independent volumes that draw on the stimulation that major conferences can have to research, will continue to further the role that Modern Greek can play in the field of linguistics at large, as part of the wider dialectic between theory construction and language description.

In preparing the papers for this volume, we have applied a light editorial hand overall. Our primary intention was to achieve consistency in expression, in the representation of Greek, and in formatting. We adopted a transcription system that is essentially phonemic in nature, and uses familiar symbols (though admittedly not, strictly speaking, drawn from any single system): thus we use <j> for a palatal glide, <ð> for an interdental voiced fricative, <č> for the palatal affricate found in some dialects, etc.

We owe a debt of gratitude to many individuals for their help in bringing this volume to fruition. We would thus like to acknowledge the cooperation of the members of the organizing committee of the Second International Conference, the patience and hard work of the many authors whose papers make this volume a valuable offering to the field, the guidance that series editor Konrad Koerner and Benjamins associate Anke de Looper furnished in all phases of this undertaking, the attention to detail that Craig Hilts showed in tracking down answers to the the myriad of last-minute questions that needed checking and in helping with the proof-reading, and finally the invaluable technical assistance, unfailingly sharp aesthetic sense, and meticulous care that Robert Poletto provided in preparing the camera-ready copy for the volume.

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January 1, 1998