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Την περιγράφω προφορικά χρησιμοποιώντας συνεχή μέλλοντα. Στο μέλλον οι άνθρωποι θα μετακινούνται με...».

Η πολυπλοκότητα της κλιτικής μορφολογίας της ελληνικής είναι δύσκολο να αντιμετωπιστεί διδακτικά και η προσέγγιση που προτείνεται μπορεί να είναι εξαιρετικά αποτελεσματική. Εννοείται ότι, εφόσον πρόκειται κατεξοχήν για υλικό διδασκαλίας σε τάξη, η ικανότητα αξιοποίησης από την πλευρά των δασκάλων αποτελεί προϋπόθεση.

Και μια γενική παρατήρηση για τη μορφή του υλικού: δεδομένου ότι τα Ελληνικά Α', Β', Γ' είναι έντυπα (με online ακουστικά αρχεία), δεν μπορεί να γίνει σύγκριση με το διδακτικό υλικό για την ελληνική ως ξένη γλώσσα με αξιοποίηση ψηφιακών μέσων. Ενδεικτικά παραπέμπεται ο/η ενδιαφερόμενος/η στην εργασία της Σοφίας Χανιωτάκη (2023).<sup>2</sup>

**Pierre Chantraine. Ιστορική μορφολογία της Ελληνικής γλώσσας. Δεύτερη έκδοση αναθεωρημένη και επαυξημένη. Μετάφραση Νίκος Κ. Αγκαβανάκης. Αναθεώρηση μετάφρασης - Επιμέλεια Σπύρος Α. Μοσχονάς. Τρίτη ελληνική έκδοση αναθεωρημένη. Αθήνα: Ινστιτούτο του Βιβλίου - Καρδαμίτσα, 2023, 336 σελ. ISBN 978-960-354-574-3.**

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Certain books, though modest in extent and deliberately terse in their explanations, prove remarkably rich in content. Pierre Chantraine's *Morphologie historique du Grec*, first published by Klincksieck in Paris in 1945, is a prime example of such a work. It was intended as a companion to Alfred Ernout's *Morphologie historique du Latin* (1<sup>st</sup> ed. Paris, Klincksieck, 1914) – by then more than 30 years old – and was largely well received by contemporary critics as another important work of the renowned “French school”.<sup>1</sup> It soon became clear that this was a fundamental reference work whose main strengths were its numerous illustrative references to primary sources and its rich information on ancient Greek dialects. Covering the period from Homer to the New Testament, it was supplemented by

2 Χανιωτάκη, Σ. 2023. Παιδαγωγική αξιοποίηση των ψηφιακών μέσων στη διδασκαλία της ελληνικής ως δεύτερης/ξένης γλώσσας. Από τη θεωρία στην πράξη. Στο Ε. Γρίβα – Γ. Βλάχος – Α. Γιαννακοπούλου (επιμ.), *Σύγχρονες πρακτικές στη διδασκαλία της ελληνικής ως δεύτερης/ξένης γλώσσας*. Πανεπιστήμιο Δυτικής Μακεδονίας, 348–357. Διαθέσιμο από: <https://shorturl.at/ZcssH> [20 Νοεμβρίου 2024].

concise additional information on Indo-European and Proto-Greek, as well as useful references to Post-Classical, Medieval and Modern Greek, through which Chantraine illustrated the continuity of linguistic development. The main asset of this book was its simplicity in presenting complex problems of historical comparative grammar, often condensed into a single short paragraph, and, somewhat paradoxically, its omission of certain topics closely related to nominal morphology, such as the absence of a systematic overview of nominal word formation. Although this approach may seem simplistic or distorting from a certain point of view, it ensured the longevity of the book, especially as a textbook for university students, who found its clear and accessible style appealing.

It was republished with minor additions in 1947<sup>2</sup> and translated for the first time soon after. In 1953 the first, and for a long time the only, translation of this grammar was published in Russian, based on the 1947 Paris edition. It can be assumed that this was a subsequence of Stalin's rehabilitation of historical-comparative linguistics, along with his rejection of Marrism in 1950. The translator, Yakov Markovich Borovsky (1896–1994), a prominent Soviet and later Russian classical philologist and neo-Latin poet,<sup>3</sup> provided his translation with a critical introduction and added his own chapter on Greek phonetics (Borovskij 1953: 277–318), an index of Greek words and a map of ancient Greek dialects. His aim was to make the book somewhat suitable as a first introduction to Greek dialectology and to make it easier for students to find their way around the rich but, in his opinion, unsystematically presented information on ancient Greek dialects (Borovskij 1953: 6–7).

The absence of translations into German, English, or Slavic languages other than Russian is not surprising: German philologists had Hirt's *Handbuch der griechischen Laut- und Formenlehre* (Heidelberg 1912) or Schwyzer's *Griechische Grammatik* (Munich 1934–1939), while English-speaking readers had Buck's *Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin* (Chicago 1934). For Eastern Bloc countries, the French publication was officially unavailable, and they could (at best) use its Russian translation.

After 1947, Chantraine's grammar was reprinted many times, with the second revised and expanded edition appearing in 1961. This second revised edition reflected the state of the art, including new insights resulting from the decipherment of Linear B in the 1950s (Chantraine 1947: VII–VIII). It became

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1 See, for example, Leroy (1946), Whatmough (1947), Forbes (1947), Poultney (1948).

2 The introductory chapter on phonetics was expanded and a list of printing errors was added. Cf. Risch (1949: 261).

3 For more on the life and career of this scholar during the turbulent Soviet and post-Soviet era, see Gavrilov (2013).

the basis not only for numerous reprints (the latest of which was published by Klincksieck in 2025), but also for further translations into foreign languages. The first was a Spanish translation in 1974 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1983) by Andrés Espinosa Alarcón. This translation, too, was not without additions, and was supplemented by a bibliographical list of Spanish scholarly literature on the subject (Espinosa Alarcón 1974: XI–XII). Sixteen years later, a translation into Modern Greek followed (Agkabanakis 1990 [2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1998]). The most recent translation into Slovenian appeared in 1998 (Babič 1998), which was intended as an internal edition of the Department of Classics at the University of Ljubljana for student use and is not available on the market (Kavčič 2006: 167).

In 2023, a revised third edition of the 1990 Greek translation by Nikos Agkabanakis appeared, prepared by Spyros Moschonas, Professor of Linguistics and the Philosophy of Language at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Moschonas revised the original translation, which had to be corrected in many places, including oversights by Chantraine himself that had found their way into the original Greek translation. Moschonas also updated the linguistic terminology and prepared from the outset the indexes of Mycenaean and ancient Greek words and morphemes, which are more detailed in the new edition (Introduction, pp. 11–12). Last but not least, the typesetting has been completely reworked, a task which, given the number of special characters, is extremely demanding, making it all the more remarkable that it has been carried out flawlessly.

Moschonas has made the Greek translation contemporary and suitable for students of the third millennium. At Greek universities (and not only there) the Chantraine's grammar remains part of the required reading (here mostly alongside Babiniotis' *Ιστορική Γραμματική της Αρχαίας Ελληνικής Γλώσσας*, Athens 1985) for courses on Greek historical grammar, diachronic development of Greek or comparative linguistics. It is also on the list of book titles approved by the Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports for school library collections (see, for example, *Efimeris tis Kyverniseos* 2005: 17.870; *Efimeris tis Kyverniseos* 2006: 10.547).

Although the original is now 80 years old, the book still benefits from the strengths it had when it was written. It is obviously still a useful teaching tool, as the French original and foreign language translations continue to be published. One cannot help but be tempted by the attractive idea that market demand suggests that a number of students of Greek or Classics will not only buy this book but also read it, even if they are perhaps considerably fewer than in Pierre Chantraine's time. All the more important is the role of such books, whose genius lies in their simplicity, while there is no doubt that every page has been carefully

thought out. And the new Greek translation has been equally conscientious. In this day and age, Chantraine's enduring handbook stands as a reminder that clarity, precision and thoughtful synthesis remain the cornerstones of exceptional scholarship – qualities that testify both to Chantraine's original brilliance and to the dedication of those who continue to make his insights accessible.

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