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978-0-521-29062-3 - The Generative Interpretation of Dialect: A Study of Modern Greek
Phonology

Brian Newton

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The Generative Interpretation of Dialect

A Study of Modern Greek Phonology

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A STUDY OF MODERN
GREEK PHONOLOGY

BRIAN NEWTON

*Professor of Linguistics,
Simon Fraser University*

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Greek dialects

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Preface

Most of the ideas presented in this book will be found somewhere or the other in the works listed in the bibliography; I also rely heavily on them for data although my numerous wanderings in Greece have taken me to all major dialect areas.

My main thanks must go to the hundreds of ‘informants’ in the villages of mainland Greece and the islands who have never failed to answer with patience and care the strange questions of a strange *turistas*, and also to my colleagues in Athens and Saloniki who have put their intimate knowledge of modern Greek linguistics at my disposal, especially N. Andriotis, N. Conomis, S. Karatzas, V. Phoris and A. I. Thavoris. I am grateful to the University of Cape Town for allowing me a sabbatical leave in 1963 for field work in Greece and to the Canada Council, who made possible by their award of a Leave Fellowship a second year of data-collection in 1968–9. The President’s Research Fund, Simon Fraser University, assisted me with typing costs. Certain sections of chapters 3, 6 and 7 contain material previously published in *Lingua*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* and *Language* and I am grateful to the publishers of these journals for allowing me to use it.

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Special symbols used

- θ A voiceless dental fricative as in English *thigh*.
- ð A voiced dental fricative as in English *thy*.
- x A voiceless velar fricative as in Scottish *loch*, German *Buch*.
- ɣ A voiced velar fricative as in Spanish *fuego*.
- č A voiceless palatal¹ affricate as in English *chin*.
- ǰ A voiced palatal affricate as in English *gin*.
- tʰ A voiceless dental affricate as in English *bits*.
- dʒ A voiced dental affricate as in English *bids*.
- š A voiceless palatal sibilant as in English *ship*.
- ž A voiced palatal sibilant as in English *pleasure*.
- ŋ A velar nasal as in English *sing*.
- ɾ A voiceless trill as in a whispered Scottish pronunciation of *row*.
- n' A palatal nasal as in French *montagne*.
- l' A palatal lateral as in Italian *gli*.
- s' A voiceless slightly palatal sibilant between [s] and [š].
- z' A voiced slightly palatal sibilant between [z] and [ž].
- k' A voiceless palatal stop as in English *cute*.
- g' A voiced palatal stop as in English *regular*.
- x' A voiceless palatal fricative as in German *Ich*.
- ɣ' A voiced palatal fricative, somewhat as the second segment of English *view* or the final one of French *travail*.
- A prime may also be used after other symbols to indicate the palatalized (y-coloured) consonants found in some Thessalian and Macedonian dialects.
- N A cover symbol for any nasal.

¹ 'Palatal' is used throughout to include [č, ǰ, š, ž], which are phonetically palato-alveolar; similarly 'dental' is used of the alveolar sounds [tʰ, dʒ, s, z].

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Special symbols used

xi

P A cover symbol for [p] or [b].

T A cover symbol for [t] or [d].

K A cover symbol for [k] or [g].

ä A low front vowel as in English *cat* (ordinary Greek [a] being more central as in French *la*).

ü A high front round vowel as in French *tu*.

ö A mid front round vowel as in French *œuf*.

Diagonals are used to enclose the ‘underlying forms’ normally common to all dialects, square brackets the phonetic forms specific to individual dialects. Thus ‘underlying’ /xéri/ ‘hand’ is pronounced [x’éri] in Athens, [x’ér] in the north, [šéri] in Crete and Cyprus.

