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Ancient Greek

Introduction – Part 3: Dialects in the Archaic and Classical Periods



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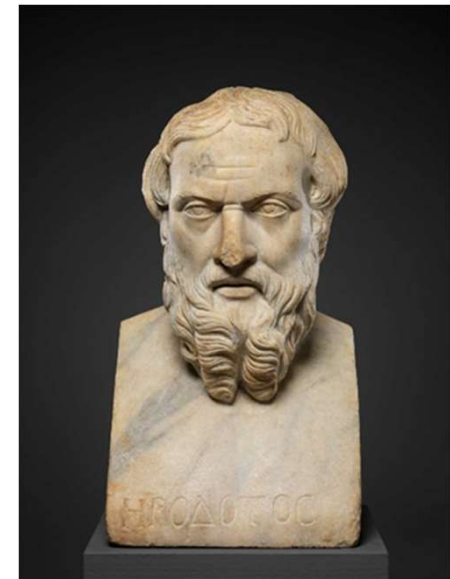


Roadmap

- Greek and its dialects
- Classification
- Two examples

‘Greek’

- Herodotus, *Histories* 8.144.2: The Athenians give the reasons why they would never betray Greece: first, the images and temples of the gods, whose destruction by the Persians require vengeance; αὐτίς δὲ τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν ἐὼν ὁμαιμόν τε καὶ ὁμόγλωσσον καὶ θεῶν ἰδρύματά τε κοινὰ καὶ θυσίαι ἤθεά τε ὁμότροπα.
- Xenophon, *Anabasis* 7.3.25: Xenophon says something in the presence of Seuthes, King of the Odrysians in Thrace: ‘When Seuthes heard the sound of his voice, he asked the cupbearer what he was saying. And the cupbearer told him: ἑλληνίζειν γὰρ ἠπίστατο.’

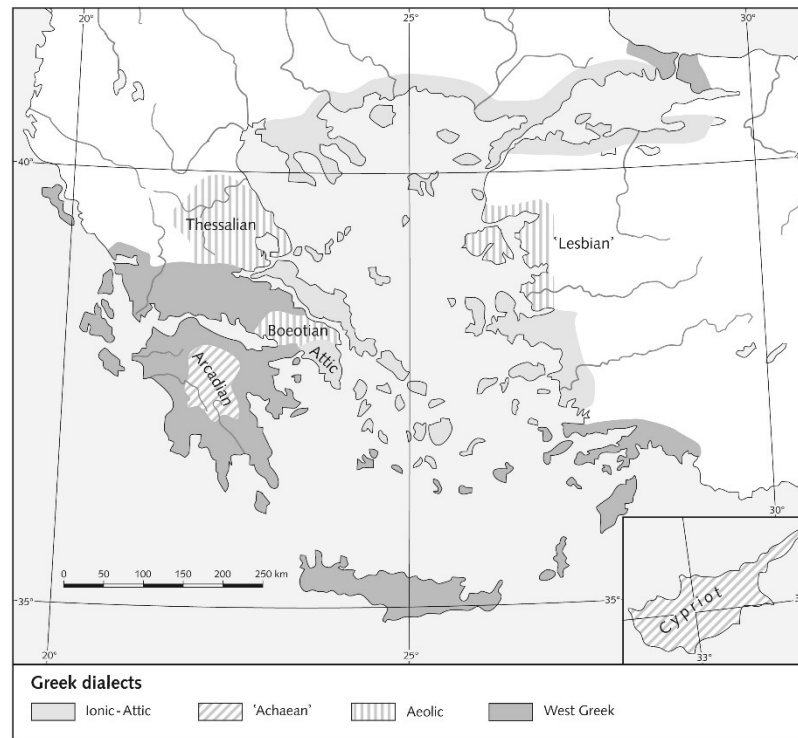


Dialects of the Archaic and Classical Periods

Hesiod (Fr. 9 M-W): “And from Hellen, the war-loving king, were born Dorus and Xuthus, and Aeolus who delighted in the battle-chariot”

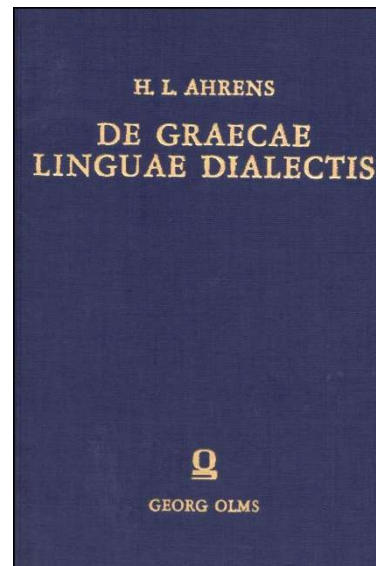
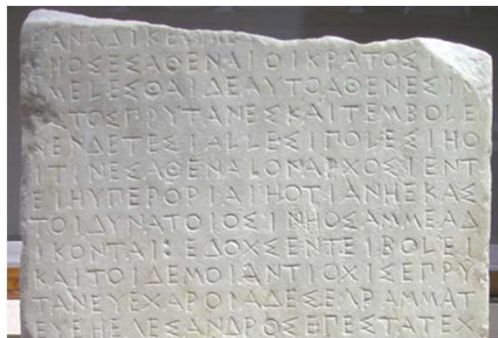
- **West Greek:** Doric (Saronic, Argolis, Laconian/Messenian, Insular, Cretan), Northwest Greek (Phocis, Locris, Achaea, Elis)
- **Attic-Ionic:** Attic, Ionic (Euboean, Central Ionic, Eastern Ionic)
- **Aeolic:** Thessalian, Boeotian, Lesbian
- **Arcado-Cypriot:** Arcadian, Cypriot
- **[Pamphylian:** Southern Asia Minor]

Dialects of the Archaic and Classical Periods



Brill's New Pauly, s.v. 'Greek dialects' © Brill

Modern Research



Types of Difference

■ Phonology, e.g.:

- Generally Greek long $\bar{\alpha}$ (μάτηρ), but Ion.-Att. η (μήτηρ), except in Att. after ϵ, ι, ρ (Att. χώρα; Ion. χώρα)
- -τι/-σι: West Gr. ἔχοντι 'they have'; Myc. *e-ko-si* (ἔχονσι), Arc. ἔχονσι, Att.-Ion. ἔχουσι, Lesb. ἔχοισι
- Generally Greek -σσ- (θάλασσα), but some dialects (Att., Boeotian, Euboean) -ττ- (θάλαττα)

■ Morphology, e.g.:

- 1st p. act. plur. ending: West Greek -μες; other dialects -μεν

Types of Difference

- **Lexicon**, e.g.:

- Ion.-Att. γίγνεσθαι 'be/become', Lac. Dor. τελέθειν; Ion.-Att. ἔρχεσθαι 'go', Lac. Dor. ἔρπειν

- **Syntax**, e.g.:

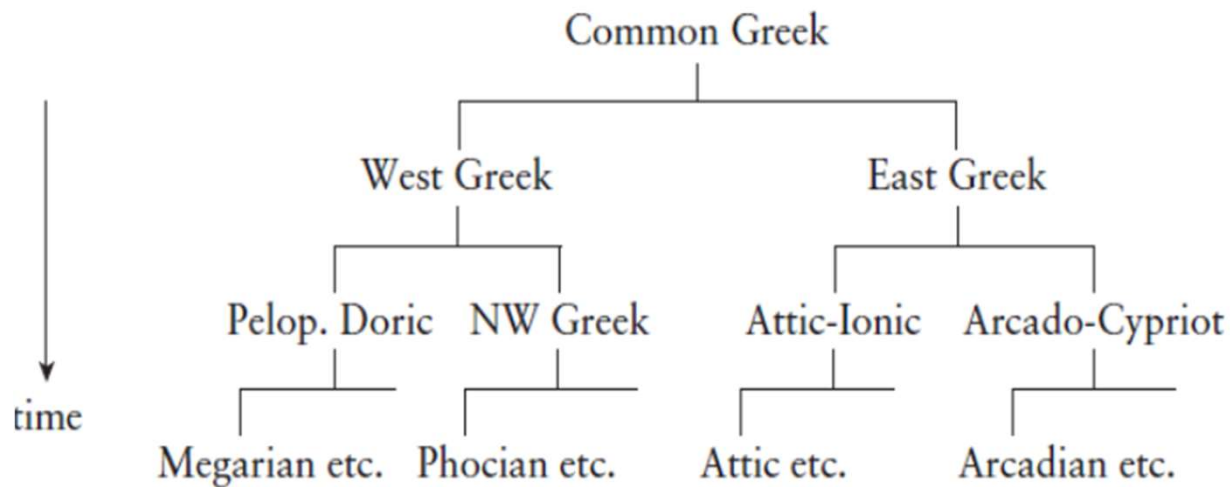
- Attic: λέγειν ὅτι (Att.) / ὥς (Ion.) 'say that ...'
- Genitive of 'time within which': δέκα ἡμερῶν 'within ten days', but more usually in Cretan Doric inscriptions with a preposition, ἐν ταῖς τρισὶ ἀμέραις (*Gortyn Law Code* I.6)

West Greek and East Greek

- Generally Greek long $\bar{\alpha}$ (μάτηρ), but Ion.-Att. η (μήτηρ), except in Att. after ϵ, ι, ρ (Att. χώρα; Ion. χώρα)
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West Greek and East Greek

- Partial tree from G. Horrocks, *Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers* (Oxford, 2nd ed. 2010), 16:



Cretan Doric: Gortyn Law Code (II, 46-51)

... αἱ κ' ἀνὲρ [κ]αὶ γυνὴ διακρ[ί]νῳν[τ]αι, τὰ ἑαυτῶν ἔκεν,
ὅτι ἔκονσ' εἶε παρ τὸν ἄνδρα, καὶ τὸ καρπὸ τῶν ἐμίνων,
αἱ κ' εἰ ἐς τὸν χρόνον αὐτῶν κρεμάτων, κῶτι | κ' ἐνυπάνει
τὰν [ἐμίνων] ὅτι | κ' εἰ, καὶ πέντε στατῆρας,

‘... if a man and wife are divorced, she is to keep her own property, whatever she had when she came to her husband, and half of the produce if there be any, from her own property, and half of whatever she may have woven inside, whatever there may be, and five staters’



Cretan Doric: Gortyn Law Code (II, 46-51)

... αἰ κ' ἀνῆρ [κ]αὶ γυνᾶ διακρ[ί]νῶν[τ]αι, τὰ φὰ αὐτᾶς ἔκεν,
ἄτι ἔκονσ' εἰε π|ὰρ τὸν ἄνδρα, καὶ τῷ καρπῷ τ|ἀννεμίνᾱν,
αἶ κ' εἰ ἐς τὸν φῶ|ν αὐτᾶς κρεμάτῶν, κῶτι | κ' ἐνυπάνει
τᾶν [ἐμίνᾱ]ν ἄτι | κ'εἰ, καὶ πέντε στατῆρανς,

- Not all letters from the standard alphabet are used: ἀνῆρ (ἀνήρ), τῷ καρπῷ (cf. Ion.-Att. -ου), κρεμάτῶν (χρημάτων)
- Psilotic: ἄτι (Ion.-Att. ἄτινα)
- Preservation of ā: γυνᾶ, αὐτᾶς, ἐνυπάνει (aor. subj. ἐνυφαίνω: Ion.-Att. ἐνυφῆνῃ)
- Preservation of /w/: φὰ, φῶν (< *swa/swōn (cf. Latin *suus*))
- Secondary intervocalic and final νσ preserved: ἔκονσα (= Ion.-Att. ἔχουσα < *-ont-γα), στατῆρανς

Cretan Doric: Gortyn Law Code (II, 46-51)

... αἰ κ' ἄνερ [κ]αὶ γυνᾶ διακρ[ί]νῶν[τ]αι, τὰ γὰρ αὐτᾶς ἔκεν,
ἅτι ἔκονσ' εἰε παρ τὸν ἄνδρα, καὶ τῷ καρπῷ τᾶννᾶμίνᾶν,
αἷ κ' εἰ ἐς τὸν φῶν αὐτᾶς κρεμάτων, κῶτι | κ' ἐνυπάνει
τᾶν [ἐμίνᾶ]ν ἅτι | κ'εἰ, καὶ πέντε στατῆρανς,

- ἔχεν (cf. Attic ἔχειν)
- ἅτι with only first part inflected (= ἅτινα)
- παρ (= παρά)
- ἐς τῶν = ἐξ before consonants
- κ(α) for ἄν

Lesbian Aeolic: Sappho, fr. 16

οἱ μὲν ἱππῶν στροφήν οἱ δὲ πέσδων
οἱ δὲ νάων φαῖς ἐπὶ γᾶν μέλαιναν
ἔμμεναι κάλλιστον, ἔγω δὲ κῆν' ὅτ-
τω τις ἔραται·

Some say an army of horsemen, others
Say foot soldiers, still others say a fleet
Is the finest thing on the dark earth.
I say it is whatever one loves.

- Psilosis: οἱ, ἱππῶν
- Recessive accentuation: νάων 'ships' (Attic νεῶν)
- Word-internal ζ spelled as σδ (?)

Lesbian Aeolic: Sappho, fr. 16

οἱ μὲν ἱππῆων στρότον οἱ δὲ πέσδων
οἱ δὲ νάων φαῖς' ἐπὶ γᾶν μέλαιναν
ἔμμεναι κάλλιστον, ἔγω δὲ κῆν' ὅτ-
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- Preservation of \bar{a} : νάων, γᾶν
- Lack of contraction after loss of ϕ : ἱππῆων (<*ἱππηφων), Att. ἱππέων (from ἱππεύς 'horseman')
- Treatment of r : στρότον (cf. στράτον)
- Treatment of ns : φαῖσι < **phansi* < **pha-nti*

Lesbian Aeolic: Sappho, fr. 16

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- Athematic infinitive ἔμμεναι (=εἶναι) (elsewhere in Aeol. –μεν)
- κῆνο 'that' (Ion. κεῖνο) < **ke-y-h₁eno-*