



METADATA

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Abstract

This book examines basic issues concerning the synchronic and diachronic dimension of languages, with emphasis on the Greek language. First, we briefly review linguistic and grammatical research from antiquity to the present day. Then we approach the different levels at which linguists usually analyse languages: phonological, morphological, morphophonological, syntax, vocabulary-signification. For each level the general concepts and elements of the Greek system are given. The levels are accompanied by examples (from Greek and other languages), pictures and diagrams. As far as longitudinal linguistics is concerned, a historical review of attempts to compare languages and interpret linguistic changes from antiquity to the present day is given. The main features of language evolution, namely variation

and differentiation, are highlighted. The principles and methods of historical/chronological and comparative linguistics are examined. The issue of degrees of affinity between languages and their classification into language families is discussed. It then considers issues of etymology and pareymology, which can be used in understanding the spelling and meaning of words. The phenomenon of borrowing words and other elements between languages (external borrowing) and from an earlier form of the language or a variety of it to another (internal borrowing) is also presented. Finally, phonological and morphological changes in the history of Greek and in particular the changes in the vowels of roots and suffixes are examined, with emphasis on examples from ancient and modern Greek (τρέχω-trochos).

