

Foreword

As opposed to the varieties of other languages, Modern Greek dialects are less known among linguists. Nonetheless, they exhibit a number of interesting phenomena due to the fact that many of them have developed -relatively- isolated or in close contact with other dialects and/or languages. Modern Greek dialects offer a plethora of intriguing data which can be used to test working hypotheses about language structure and language use, and can be analyzed in different ways, by appealing to various methods and theories.

The *International Conference on Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory* (MGDLT) was firstly organized in 2000 in Patras (Greece) in order to respond to the emerging need for the study of Modern Greek Dialects in the light of modern linguistic theories. Its basic aim is to highlight the importance of dialects for linguists working in various fields of linguistics (phonetics & phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, psycho- or socio-linguistics, historical and contact linguistics). A selection of papers presented in this meeting has been published either online (see mgdlt.lis.upatras.gr) or in hard copy (or in both ways).

The present volume is a collection of works presented at MGDLT8, which was held at the University of Gjirokaštër (October 4-6, 2018). The organization of the conference was part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the University of Gjirokaštër, which is gratefully acknowledged for its generous support.

The papers in this volume reflect various interests of experts working on both linguistics and the dialects of Modern Greek. They cover a wide variety of topics, and a considerable part of the volume is dedicated to Greek spoken in Albania. The papers are arranged alphabetically and contain a far ranging amount of Greek dialectal data, presented during the conference.

On behalf of the scientific and the organizing committees, I am much indebted to the sponsors of the MGDLT8 Conference, the Greek Embassy in Tirana, the Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and the University of Gjirokaštër. I also thank the speakers and presenters for their participation, particularly the invited speakers of MGDLT8 who so promptly responded to our call, namely, Brian D. Joseph (Ohio-State University), Doris Kyriazis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and Dr. Aristotelis Spirou.

Last but not least, I am particularly grateful to the members of the Local Organizing Committee, and Stavros Bompolas for his valuable assistance with the editing of some papers of this volume.

December, 2018
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