

PREFACE

It is increasingly clear that progress in the theory of grammar greatly depends on progress in morphology. Under this perspective, a number of crucial issues like allomorphy, compounding and inflection fall equally well in more than one grammatical components, namely, morphology, syntax and phonology, and have assumed the status of "hot topics" in the field of grammatical theory.

The aim of the First Mediterranean Conference of Morphology, held in Mytilene (island of Lesbos, Greece) in September 19-21, 1997, was to address these issues and bring together experts working on morphology in a variety of theoretical approaches. The conference was received very enthusiastically by morphologists all over the world and was attended by 84 linguists from 20 different countries. 15 papers were selected for presentation in three sessions referring to "Allomorphy", "Compounding" and "Inflection". 9 more papers were chosen as alternates to these 15, and 3 talks were given by invited speakers.

This volume brings together the majority of contributions at the conference. The papers are organized thematically into four sections. Section I contains the papers of the three invited speakers, M. Aronoff, A. Spencer and A. Anastasiadis-Symeonidis. Section II covers allomorphy; Section III consists of papers on compounding and Section IV presents contributions on inflection.

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The Editors,

Geert Booij, *University of Amsterdam*

Angela Ralli, *University of Patras*

Sergio Scalise, *University of Bologna*

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