

# Foreword

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In the last decade, the field of Linguistics has been expanding at the Department of Philology of the University of Patras. It has witnessed a robust undergraduate program with 27 courses in Linguistics, a successful graduate program with a focus on *Comparative Linguistics and Language Variation*, ten Ph.D. students, three post-doctoral researchers, thirteen research projects, a *Centre of Modern Greek Dialects*, the organization of international conferences such as the *Mediterranean Morphology Meeting* (1997, 2007), the *International Meeting of Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory* (2000, 2004, 2009), the *Patras International Conference of Graduate Students of Linguistics* (PICGL, 2008, 2010), the *CONSOLE XII, International Conference of Students of Linguistics in Europe* (2003), the *GLOW Summer School of Linguistics* (1999), the publication of four Conference Proceedings (three in paper and two electronically), and the ERASMUS collaboration with twenty-five European Universities.

Most significantly perhaps, the Department has attracted the interest of highly capable students who are developing into serious young scholars, whose work has been reviewed and accepted by major mainstream conferences and journals.

Developments such as these led me to the conclusion that all this activity needed a journal, under the form of Working Papers, which would bring together the best papers by mainly graduate and post-graduate students, stimulate the production of new papers, and disseminate the research results. This is what I am attempting to do with the *Patras Working Papers in Linguistics*, which is planned to appear in one volume every two years.

The *Patras Working Papers in Linguistics* will publish work by young linguists who study/have studied, or conduct/have conducted a linguistic research at the Linguistics Division of the Department of Philology of the University of Patras. Papers in Greek or in English are welcome, dealing with any aspect of linguistics, synchronic or diachronic, theoretical or applied. They will be accepted after a peer review by the Patras faculty members, who represent various fields of linguistics. Thematic volumes may alternate with volumes of general interest, depending on the availability of papers and the type of topics, and editors will be chosen accordingly. The *Patras Working Papers in Linguistics* will appear in paper and electronically.

The first volume is dedicated to *Morphology*, and exhibits the results of research, which has been carried out within the framework of the graduate program of *Comparative Linguistics and Language Variation*, in the period 2006-2008. Most papers concentrate on Greek, but there is also a paper on Bulgarian. The description and analysis of data illuminate recent and older stages of the language, its computational treatment and aspects of its dialectal variation. To that end, written and oral corpora of the *Centre of Modern Greek Dialects* have been used. The topics of this volume are hot issues for morphological theory: the demarcation of compounding and prefixation, the role of constraints in compound formation, the development of coordinate compounds, neoclassical compounding, evaluative morphology, agentive suffixation, and borderline cases between morphology and syntax.

The works published in this volume are not all of the same weight, and of the same degree of maturity. Some of the papers have already been accepted for publication elsewhere, while some others may need further elaboration. All papers though satisfy the main objective of the volume, which is to shed some light on the way morphology works, and at the same time, promote morphological research at the University of Patras.

I hope that the contents of the first volume of the *Patras Working Papers in Linguistics* will become the incentive for further research in morphology, and that it will encourage dialogue between young and mature scientists. Comments and suggestions on any aspect of the journal are most welcome.

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Editor of the *Patras Working Papers in Linguistics*, vol. 1.