

Foreword & Acknowledgements

This book is a (slightly) revised version of the doctoral thesis I defended in 2011 at the University of Salzburg in Austria. The publication of this work by Reichert Verlag was made possible thanks to an award from the “Society for Indo-European studies” (Indogermanische Gesellschaft) which I received in 2013. Since I was planning to thoroughly revise several parts of the original text, I decided not to publish my thesis directly at that time. Nevertheless, such a revision would essentially mean rewriting the whole work and although an in-depth reshaping would have been the optimal scenario, it would demand more time than I could spend.

So, the work in hand reflects a younger version of my thought with all the pros and cons that an early work brings along. A radically revised version of the text would demand a new strain of argumentation which, as already said, would in turn mean a rewriting of the whole work. Despite the glitches of the current analysis, I still insist on the main findings of the earlier research and I do believe that some of the thoughts presented herein will interest those dealing with similar phenomena.

That said, I can assure that my treatise provides solid arguments towards my stance that synchronically the Modern Greek language does possess a category that can be designated as a ‘subjunctive mood’. My work also entails both systematic diachronic and comparative investigation and a plethora of examples which, I hope, will be useful to researchers who may not be competent in Modern Greek. Crucially, I believe that most of the descriptive analyses found here will not be rendered obsolete due to a paradigm shift in syntactic theory in the future. My dictum is that if a theory is proposed in a specialized linguistic book, this theory, in a simplified way, should also find its way into a grammar handbook sooner or later. My impression is that certain theoretical models in modern linguistics are way too perplexing to serve as the basis of a sound grammatical analysis: for example, they are ad hoc theories that lack typological validity. So, if we agree that it is for the sake of understanding the linguistic phenomenon, not for the sake of justifying theories that we cultivate the linguistic science, we should also keep in mind that clarity and simplicity should be our research principles.

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