

Preface

This book is designed as a first companion to prosodic reconstruction, reflecting on relevant linguistic theory, methods, and data. For reasons that will be outlined in the General Introduction, the monograph has a strong focus on Ancient Greek. It thus continues the line of tradition of Allen 1973 and Devine/Stephens 1994 (henceforth DS 1994). Its main contribution to the discussion of Ancient Greek prosody is the development of a fully-fledged discourse-pragmatic method to approach the matter, the necessity of which became apparent already with DS 1994, looming ever larger in Goldstein 2010, Bertrand 2010, and ultimately Scheppers 2011.

The structure of the book is thus twofold: For one, there is a clear argumentative thread running through all the chapters, introducing the discourse-pragmatic take. For another, many individual subchapters and paragraphs are designed so as to summarize and review the state of research or the most important facts about the respective subtopics. The book starts with an overview of the role of prosody within language structure (chs. 1, 2), then incidentally introduces a new model of prosodic structure (ch. 3), and finally turns to the prosody of Ancient Greek (ch. 4). An overview of methods and sources for approaching prosody in Greek and other ancient languages (ch. 5) prepares for the theoretical outline and practical application of the discourse-pragmatic method to a well-defined subcorpus of Herodotus' *Histories* (chs. 6, 7). Subchapter 6.2 follows on directly from Scheppers 2011, especially his ch. 13. I am thus grateful to the author for his generous permission to "take as much as [I] want" from his work (Frank Scheppers, p.c.). – In short, the structure of the book now follows from the practical necessities of the previous *status quaestionis*; however, it could be turned into a true handbook at a later date.

The main target audience of the companion consists of historical/–comparative linguists interested in the study of the prosody of their working language(s). Still, I hope that general linguists and modern phonologists will find something of interest in it, too; not least because the ancient data challenge some of the most fundamental views held especially in generative phonology, which still remains the prevalent framework in general phonology. Hence, in order to render the Greek material more accessible, the e-book version of the present book will be accompanied by a separately useable and printable PDF document containing transliterations and translations (see Imprint).

Another measure to facilitate understanding is the introduction of illustrations wherever possible. Here it is especially Andrew M. Devine and Laurence D. Stephens's *Prosody of Greek Speech* (Oxford University Press) to which I am indebted. Tracking down original sources and copyright holders of one figure or another became a research adventure in itself; I thank all those authors as well as their publishing platforms who permitted me to re-use material from their publications by November 17, 2023.

The state of the art that the text of the book represents is essentially that of September 2022. Revisions have been kept to a minimum in order to ensure swift publication. Most of them spring from the examiners' reports that Wolfgang Hock, Martin Joachim Kümmel, and Daniel Kölligan provided in the course of my *Promotionsverfahren* at Humboldt University (Berlin). Daniel Kölligan in particular – as *Drittgutachter* – recognized the courage that it takes

to write a book such as the present one. I am all the more thankful to my supervisors Wolfgang Hock and Martin Joachim Kümmel for enabling me to realize this project as a PhD thesis in the first place, and for providing me with both the intellectual freedom and the material security to carry out my research. Moreover, I thank Wolfgang Hock for the attention to detail of form and content alike that he displayed in our discussions of prior drafts and which resulted, for example, in the introduction of paragraph numbering. I gratefully acknowledge the practical and/or indirect support that I received from my colleagues Birgit Schenk, Anna Helene Feulner, Christiane Schiller, and Theresa Roth at Humboldt University; from our student assistants Henrik Hornecker, Angelo Papenhoff, Olga Olina, Johannes Schütz, Lisa Littmann, and Leon Heblík; and from our IT specialists Kierán Meinhardt and Manuel Selling while writing and revising the book.

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The production of this book profited from the keen eye of Lukas Kahl, who carefully corrected my English style, and friendly support by the team of Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden, most notably Marie-Christine Schimpf, who did the lion's share of typesetting and layout.

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