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Karolina Gortych¹

THE FUNCTION OF ANCIENT GREEK IN MODERN GREEK – POLISH LEGAL TRANSLATION TEACHING

ABSTRACT: According to ideas which have been presented in main course books and methodological guides, a lack of Ancient Greek in the process of teaching Modern Greek Philology has occurred. It could be a problem if Modern Greek philologists decide to be translators and interpreters of legal texts because the Greek language of law has archaisms, rigid structures and elements. My project deals with the function and amount of Ancient Greek in the curriculum of Modern Greek Philology. I conclude that it is impossible to avoid Ancient Greek in the curriculum of Modern Greek Philology completely. I show the necessity of the Ancient Greek language because present Greek grammar and dictionaries cannot offer any insight in this field. Analysis of the curriculum affects the Modern Greek Language and Literature Department at Adam Mickiewicz University. The research material concludes with selected parts of Greek and Cypriot statutory acts which also affect the aforementioned issues.

KEY WORDS: legal translation, teaching, Modern Greek

1. Curriculum of Modern Greek Language and Literature studies

My observations and conclusions are based on my work with MA and BA students of Modern Greek Language and Literature which were conducted at the Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University. The course of Modern Greek Language and Literature started in 2003 and since that time I have conducted courses such as Descriptive Grammar of Modern Greek Language and Modern Greek Language at the beginner and intermediate

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level (level A and B according to CEFR² and description of levels in the Center of Modern Greek Language – main institution which provides Certificates in Modern Greek language³).

The research is new and interesting because currently I have students who do their courses simultaneously in two different systems: 1) the “old system”: second, third, and fourth year of M.A. in Modern Greek Language and Literature in unitary M.A. 5-years studies, 2) the “new system” according to the Bologna Process which is the first year of B.A. Modern Greek Language and Literature in one’s 3-year studies. These two systems are being conducted simultaneously because the Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań introduced the principles of the Bologna Process three years after introducing the Modern Greek Language and Literature studies.

These two programs differ in terms of time and quantity of the Ancient Greek Course (old system: 1st -2nd year, 180 hours together; new system 2nd year – 90 hours), and the Modern Greek Language Course and Descriptive Grammar of Modern Greek Language⁴ in the first three years of these studies which are essential for future graduates. The following three subjects are essential for absolute beginners who begin learning a foreign language.

Table 1. Comparison of subjects: Ancient Greek Course, Modern Greek Course, Descriptive Grammar course

Subject	Modern Greek Language and Literature Unitary M.A. 5-year studies		Modern Greek Language and Literature B.A. 3-year studies	
	Quantity of course	Year of of studies	Quantity of course	Year of of studies
Ancient Greek Course	180 hours	1 st -2 nd (120 hours at the 1 st year, 60 hours in the 1 st semester of the 2 nd year)	90 hours	2 nd

² CEFR – Common European Framework of Reference. http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Portfolio/?L=E&M=/main_pages/levels.html

³ <http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/files/document/certification/OdigosGr.pdf>, s. 26-28.

⁴ Exact programme available on site of Institute of Linguistics: <http://www.inling.amu.edu.pl/studia.php?link=plan>

Modern Greek Course	870 hours	1 st -3 rd (240, 300, 330 hours)	840 hours	1 st -3 rd (300, 300, 240)
Descriptive Grammar Course	120 hours	1 st -2 nd (120, 120)	120 hours	2 nd -3 rd (120, 120)

Having classes with both groups of students, I noticed that the function of Ancient Greek in preparing future philologists, especially translators and interpreters is essential in comparing the “old system” and “new system”. The main differences between students of the “old system” and “new system” were clearly seen in the second and third year of studies in which more advanced grammatical and lexical topics were discussed and compared among groups of students.

2. Contradictions in Modern Greek Language and Literature Studies and their contribution to the curriculum

In most cases people who study or learn foreign languages plan to work as interpreters or translators of that language. The same happens with students of Modern Greek Philological studies. Academic staff must prepare curriculum which fulfills expectations and provides the best background for future interpreters and translators.

The first main problem which is connected with the Modern Greek Language is the **range of academic courses offered**. The course “Modern Greek Language” according to some scholar monographs should concern philological subjects which have immediate connection with Modern Greek. From a linguistic point of view it is quite easy to determine a range of studied material – the period from ca. 1600 a.d.⁵ or even 4th century⁶, but from the historical and political point of view, the issue is more complicated because the formal Greece has existed since 1832. Legal translators and interpreters of Modern Greek Language must know not only this fact but also must know various types of Greek Language used before Greece was founded. There

⁵ OSU Department of Linguistics, <http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~bjoseph/articles/gancient.htm#origins> and <http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~bjoseph/articles/gmodern.htm>, Weinsberg A. 1986:10, Bednarczuk L., 1986: 399, 443–444, 451–452

⁶ Jurewicz O., 1999: 20.

were some historical legal texts such as last wills or agreements between Turkish authorities written in the contemporary Greek language⁷ which could have been sample for Greek lawyers. These texts are very often used as examples not only of legal language but historical language too because they include both legal information and historical-linguistics information which could have been in use at the beginning of the Greek State. Written in mixed language (ancient-popular-modern) sources need simultaneously knowledge of the Ancient Greek Language and the Common Modern Greek Language to be understood well.

Diglossy in Greek language makes up next main obstacle which may occur in legal translation. It is caused by diversity of the language types used in Greek state after 1832. Diglossy in Greek language lies in two different language systems used at the same time. The official language of Greece was called “katharevousa”, which written in the Constitution of Greece⁸ until 1976 when another Constitution was written in the Modern Greek Language. The last constitution started to be a sample for following statutory and legal texts. It is important to note that “katharevousa” was an artificial language based on the Ancient Greek Language and taught in schools as a foreign language to the Greeks because another language was used in every-day life, called “dimotiki”. Even today legal translators and interpreters come across texts written and published in “katharevousa” which cannot be understood without sufficient knowledge of Ancient Greek.

The polytonic system is another issue connected with the Modern Greek language. Since 1982, the Modern Greek language has had only a monotonic system⁹ and all published texts had to be written and prepared in polytonic system when writing was the same like in the Ancient Greek Polytonic System. Different accents did not influence phonetic system but made orthography even more difficult. Currently Greek legal texts are published and written in the monotonic system but there are some older (before 1982) original statutory and legal texts saved still in the polytonic system. Also there is still a possibility to keep the polytonic system in some publications. The issue how to treat the polytonic transcript in relation with

⁷ Horrocks G. 2006: 584, 594.

⁸ Βαβαρέτος Γ. Αχιλ. 1968: 12.

⁹ Φραγκουδάκη Α., 2001:97.

the monotonic system can be explained more effectively with the Ancient Greek Language as it was its integral element.

2.1. Contribution of the Ancient Greek Course to teaching language, translationing and interpreting

The most important part of the curriculum of philological studies is learning a specialized language. In my case, this language is NEK – Νεοελληνική Κοινή Γλώσσα (Common Modern Greek Language) which is the official language spoken in: the Republic of Greece and the Republic of Cyprus. Obviously learning Modern Greek is a time-consuming process like learning any foreign language. The methodology of teaching Greek extends over few years at least¹⁰. The first step is to understand the differences between Greek and other alphabets and to learn how to read and write in Greek. Although this step is long it is necessary as the Greek alphabet is in force in Greece and in Cyprus. The second step is to understand Greek orthography which is quite complicated, for instance, there are six possibilities in how to write the sound [i]. Then, students learn Greek grammar and vocabulary. After about four years of studies, which consist of about 1200 hours of Greek exercises, students reach the advanced, fourth level which is called the *Delta Level*¹¹. At this point they are able to develop their knowledge of Greek and to work with professional and specialized texts.

According to my observations, students who start the Ancient Greek course have less problems with writing in the Greek alphabet and with orthography in the beginning, but sometimes they have problems with pronunciation because they hear and use Erasmus' way of pronouncing in Ancient Greek so they may not recognize Modern Greek diphthongs very quickly when talking or reading aloud. This situation took place during the first two years of studies when I compared students of these two systems. Here I present the most relevant reasons which affirm the existence of the Ancient Greek course in the curriculum of Modern Greek Language and Literature studies:

1. In addition to the course of Modern Greek, which is approximately 300 hours a year, students learn the Greek alphabet to a greater extent in the

¹⁰ Series of books: *Επικοινωνήστε Ελληνικά, Νέα Ελληνικά για Μετανάστες, Παλλινოსτούντες, Πρόσφυγες και Ξένους «...και καλή επιτυχία»*

¹¹ <http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/files/document/certification/OdigosGr.pdf>; s. 26-28.

course of Ancient Greek language which is 120-180 hours at 1st – 2nd year of studies.

2. There is a different pronunciation of Ancient Greek (compared to Modern Greek) which is taught using Erasmus' methodology (lack of Modern Greek diphthongs). This means that students read consequently what is written without changing articulation in different phonetic situations – apart of diphthong *ov* – they may preserve complicated Greek orthography. For instance endings of conjugated verbs of 1st conjugation in indicative of the present tense, *-εις* (2 sg.), *-ει* (3 sg.) are read “eis”, “ei” which is like spelling.

As seen above Ancient Greek might be useful in the beginning of learning Modern Greek, but the most important issue of my presentation is the role and value of Ancient Greek for future translators and interpreters. Especially if they are sworn translators and work with legal texts, the Ancient Greek is very needed. (see following examples).

Before analyzing the main issue, which is legal Modern Greek Language, I will examine the issue of NEK¹² [Νεοελληνική Κοινή (Γλώσσα)] – Common Modern Greek Language. To avoid vague definitions and explanations I would like to suggest a short description of the presented here term NEK based on widely recognized authorities on Common Modern Greek Language.

One of the Modern Greek scholars, Liakos, states that the Common Greek Language makes up the “dimotiki” language filtered through “katharevousa” language¹³ what means that popular natural language was modified with “katharevousa's” elements based on Ancient Greek language.

British scholars, Holton, Mackridge and Φιλίππáκη-Warburton, write that the NEK is a language based on the spoken popular language “dimotiki” and simultaneously incorporates elements of the written traditional language “katharevousa”¹⁴.

One of the aforementioned British scholars, Mackridge thinks NEK is a “mixture” of “katharevousa” and “dimotiki” elements¹⁵.

The mentioned above statements contain the same information which is dual character of Common Modern Greek Language and its content of Ancient Greek and Modern Greek structures and elements. This statement

¹² Used after Mackridge P. 2004: 36.

¹³ Χριστίδης Α.-Φ.2002: 970 – 971.

¹⁴ Holton D., Mackridge P., Φιλίππáκη-Warburton E. 2006: XV – XVI.

¹⁵ Mackridge P., 2004: 54 – 55.

is essential when, discussing about legal Modern Greek language which is even much more formal and closer to archaic principals and sources¹⁶. In these circumstances I am sure that knowledge of Ancient Greek Language is necessary in the process of teaching legal translating and interpreting of the Modern Greek Language.

3. Use of Ancient Greek elements in legal Modern Greek language in Greece and in Cyprus (research samples)

I will describe linguistic problems that translators and interpreters may come across in their work which cannot be solved with knowledge acquired during the course of Modern Greek only, with the methodology presented through standard materials for foreign Greek speakers¹⁷. I will then explain their connection with Ancient Greek. In conclusion, I want to clarify the problems which cannot be solved with the help of standard bibliography (listed in “Suggested and used bibliography at the Course of Modern Greek Language” at the end of the paper) used in the process of teaching and learning Greek. To address the problem, I will analyze the Constitutions of two Greek-speaking countries. They are both written in the Modern Greek language but in a fact they are written in two different language systems. Next, I will examine the language of statutory texts which are in force in Cyprus and are prepared in the traditional language which seems to be the “katahrevousa” without the polytonic system.

The base for issues are parts of Greek and Cypriot statutory texts which exactly are Constitutions of these countries¹⁸. The most important aspects of legal Greek language are divided into three main groups, which are connected with semantics and grammar. My method is to show each specific problem and then to explain the type of problem which stems from the Ancient Greek language.

¹⁶ Compare research samples in 3rd part of the article (aut.)

¹⁷ See Bibliography of the problem – Suggested and used bibliography at the Course of Modern Greek language.

¹⁸ *Σύνταγμα της Ελλάδας*: 2007, *Το σύνταγμα της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας* 2007

1. Lexis

Table 2. Use of Ancient Greek language in legal Greek language – samples of lexis

Constitution of Greece	Constitution of Cyprus
<i>Η νομοθετική λειτουργία ασκείται από τη Βουλή (Art. 26, point 1)</i>	<i>Η νομοθετική εξουσία ασκείται υπό της Βουλής (...) (Art. 61)</i>
<p>Problem (vocabulary and meaning):</p> <p>Noun <u>λειτουργία</u> which is present in the Greek Constitution used to have legal meaning in Ancient Greek, especially in the Classical Period in Athens.</p> <p>In NEK, this noun is replaced by another noun <u>εξουσία</u> which is given in the Cypriot Constitution.</p>	
<i>Οι βουλευτές εκλέγονται για τέσσερα συνεχή έτη (...) (Art. 53, point 1)</i>	<i>Η Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων εκλέγεται διά περίοδον πέντε ετών. (Art. 65)</i>
<p>Problem (vocabulary):</p> <p>Preposition <u>για</u> exists in NEK and it is one of the most common in used prepositions. Archaic preposition <u>διά</u> has not survived in NEK since ancient times. It is said not to be used currently in NEK apart of special phrases and scholars (Mackridge, Holton, Mackridge and Φιλιππάκη-Warburton) say it is in the group of less used generally¹⁹ but even currently it is not used preposition in Greek statutory texts.</p>	
<i>Τίτλοι ευγένειας ή διάκρισης ούτε απονέμονται ούτε αναγνωρίζονται σε Έλληνες πολίτες. (Art.4, p.7)</i>	<i>Ούδεις τίτλος ευγενείας ή άλλης κοινωνικής διακρίσεως απονέμεται ή αναγνωρίζεται εν τη Δημοκρατία.(Art. 28, p. 4)</i>
<p>Problem:</p> <p>Greek noun <u>διάκριση</u> has the modern meaning which is <i>discrimination</i>.</p> <p>Cypriot noun <u>διάκριση</u> has the ancient meaning of <i>to separate</i> which needs the adjective <u>κοινωνικός</u>, meaning <i>social</i>.</p>	

¹⁹ Mackridge P. 2004: 319-320, Holton D., Mackridge P., Φιλιππάκη-Warburton E. 2006: 387.

2. Morphology

Table 3. Use of Ancient Greek language in legal Greek language – samples of morphology

Constitution of Greece	Constitution of Cyprus
<i>Βασικές διατάξεις (Part I. Title)</i>	<i>Γενικάί διατάξεις (Part I. Title)</i>
<p>Both titles are given in nominative case what is typical for Modern Greek, but morphology of Cypriot text is Ancient Greek: adjective is inflected according to principles of nominal feminine declension which is the so called 1st declension in ancient Greek²⁰.</p> <p>Problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently, no system of declension of adjectives in NEK, this issue is discussed further under “types of declension”. 2. Secondly the ending -αί which is used in Cypriot texts does not exist in NEK. 	
<i>Άρθρο (in the title of every article of the Constitution)</i>	<i>Άρθρον (in the title of every article of the Constitution)</i>
<p>The noun <i>Άρθρο</i> (article) exists in NEK in the form which is given in the text of the Greek Constitution.</p> <p>Type of the noun <i>Άρθρον</i> given in the Cypriot Constitution is the archaic type which has not survived in NEK.</p> <p>In Ancient Greek grammar there was a group of nouns of neutral gender which had the ending -ν, but in NEK this “ending n” -ν is not used.</p>	
<i>Το πολίτευμα της Ελλάδας είναι Προεδρευόμενη Κοινοβουλευτική Δημοκρατία. (Art.1, p.1)</i>	<i>Η Κυπριακή Πολιτεία είναι ανεξάρτητος και κυριαρχός Δημοκρατία, προεδρικού σήματος (...) (Art.1, p.1)</i>
<p>Problem:</p> <p>Declension of composed adjectives in NEK is the same as the declension of simple adjectives, because they are both regulated by grammar rules which dictate the ending or accent determine type of declension. According to this principle Greek texts include that kind of inflected adjectives <i>Προεδρευόμενη Κοινοβουλευτική</i> which describe the feminine noun <i>Δημοκρατία</i>. The mentioned adjectives have typical ending for feminine adjectives and Nouns – η</p> <p>According to ancient Greek grammar principles, composed nouns inflect according to the masculine types even if they describe the feminine noun like it is in Cypriot texts. That is why the ending of adjectives describing feminine nouns in Cypriot text have masculine endings -ος in the place of Modern Greek feminine ending -η or -α.</p>	

²⁰ Auerbach M., Golias M. 1954: 27 – 30.

3. Syntax

Table 4. Use of Ancient Greek language in legal Greek language – samples of syntax

Constitution of Greece	Constitution of Cyprus
<u>Ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα</u> (Part II)	<u>Περί των θεμελίδων δικαιωμάτων και ελευθεριών</u> (Part II)
<p>In the Greek Constitution, the title is given in Nominative case which is typical for Modern Greek.</p> <p>In Cypriot Constitution the title has different, ancient – structure: Preposition <u>Περί</u> + genitive case <u>των θεμελίδων δικαιωμάτων / ελευθεριών</u> Problem: According to the normative dictionary of Modern Greek (NEK)³ the preposition <u>Περί</u> exists mostly in special phrases in NEK. According to Modern Greek grammar⁴ this preposition not to be used currently in NEK apart from special phrases and scholars say this preposition belongs to the group of less used. Consequently Cypriot texts seem more archaic in the aspect of syntax.</p>	
<u>Τέτοιου περιεχομένου περιοριστικά μέτρα</u> <u>είναι δυνατόν να επιβληθούν (...)</u> (Art. 5, p. 5)	<u>(...) ουδεμία διάταξις τοιούτου νόμου (...)</u> θα <u>εξακολουθήση να ισχύση (...)</u> (Art. 188, p.2)
<p>Problem: Place of the attribute – noun in genitive case (genetivus qualitatis): <u>Τέτοιου περιεχομένου</u> in Greek text is before the described noun <u>μέτρα</u> which is like in ancient Greek attributive order. Currently in NEK, the most common place of that kind of attribute (genetivus qualitatis) <u>τοιούτου νόμου</u> is after the described noun <u>διάταξις</u> like in Cypriot text.</p>	
<u>Κάθε γνωστή θρησκεία (...)</u> και τα σχετικά με <u>τη λατρεία της τελούνται ανεμπόδια υπό</u> <u>την προστασία των νόμων.</u> (Art. 13, p. 2)	<u>Η εκτελεστική εξουσία διασφαλίζεται υπό</u> <u>του Προέδρου και του Αντιπροέδρου της</u> <u>Δημοκρατίας.</u> (Art. 46)
<p>Problem: The preposition <u>υπό</u> in NEK exists only in some phrases and in common Greek it can be expressed: κάτω από + accusative case. It means: <i>under, below</i> and it is used in that way in the Greek text. Consequently text shows the archaic, traditional way of expression which is very rare in NEK nowadays. The preposition <u>υπό</u> together with noun in Genitive case in the structure with verb in passive voice and with <i>has</i> in text following scheme subject + verb in passive voice + preposition <u>υπό</u> + noun in genitive case (genetivus auctoris). Currently, it is expressed in NEK as follows: subject + verb in passive voice + preposition <u>από</u> + noun in accusative case (accusativus auctoris)</p>	

²¹ Triantafyllidis

²² Mackridge: 319-320, Holton D., Mackridge P., Φιλίππη- Warburton E. 2006 do not enumerate the mentioned preposition in the group of preposition in NEK, 357-360.

The examples above – which are just samples of my research – show and underline the fact that NEK (Common Modern Greek Language) seems very archaic, especially when it is used in law. The language of statutory texts is made up with ancient grammar principles in the field of morphology and syntax. Presented parts of texts show that legal Modern Greek language still uses elements and structures which come from Ancient Greek and existed in NEK in official unitary phrases.

The archaic vocabulary still exists in lexicological areas of legal language of NEK. The rigid structures and still-alive words have survived for few thousand years. Probably they will be still present in legal Modern Greek Language in both countries (Greece and Cyprus) where NEK is official or one of the official languages (in Cyprus there are two official languages: Greek and Turkish).

Cypriot-Greek legal language is influenced by Ancient Greek even currently. Very complicated and very rapid historical circumstances²³ caused not well stabilized situation in law and consequently in the sources of law (statutory texts). According to my opinion this situation influenced the Cypriot legal language. To illustrate my opinion I will present below a significant example of still alive ancient Greek language in the Cypriot legal language.

Table 5. Presence of Ancient Greek language in Cypriot statutory texts – example

Constitution of Greece	Constitution of Cyprus
Οι Έλληνες έχουν <u>το δικαίωμα να συνέρχονται ήσυχα</u> και χωρίς όπλα. (art. 12, p.1)	Έκαστος έχει <u>το δικαίωμα του συνέρχεσθαι ειρηνικώς</u> . (art. 21, p. 1)
<p>Cypriot texts includes few Ancient Greek elements:</p> <p>Gerundium – it is exactly ifinitivus aoristii passivi <u>συνέρχεσθαι</u> which has not been used for a very long time in NEK and it is unknown completely for students who have not even basic knowledge of Ancient Greek grammar.</p> <p>Adverbium <u>ειρηνικώς</u> which comes from different adjective than tone used in Greek text (<u>ήσυχα</u>), both have meaning: <i>peaceful, calm</i>. The morphology present in Cypriot texts exist only in very rare, stylized traditional and old version of NEK full of “katharevousa” elements and it is rarely present even in legal Modern Greek language.</p>	

²³ http://www.parliament.cy/parliamentgr/002_01.htm

4. Conclusion

Legal translation is obviously working for legal and statutory texts, written and spoken. Proper and accurate expression of translated texts is essential for this professional activity. The indisputable fact is the presence and influence of Ancient Greek and the “katharevousa” language in legal Modern Greek language in Greek-spoken countries. “Katharevousa” and the Ancient Greek used in statutory acts and legal texts may have different features which are as follows:

1. The presence of the polytonic system in older publication which can be treated as a “technical” issue.
2. The presence of the “katharevousa” language (elements of morphology and syntax) in statutory texts being still in force published earlier or not after “metaglossy”²⁴ (not translated into NEK yet).
3. The presence of Ancient Greek vocabulary which has Modern Greek equivalents.

These issues are difficult to recognize without sufficient knowledge of Ancient Greek language. Some experts may feel it is unnecessary to conduct the whole Ancient Greek course in the framework of the Modern Greek Language and Literature curriculum, and it would be adequate to prepare a kind of handbook or dictionary with the most fixed often linguistics situations connected with the Ancient Greek language. Although this kind of handbook/dictionary would not solve all the problems previously declared. Simultaneously, I must clear up that there is not any possibility to prepare this kind of assistance avoiding even basic elements of the Ancient Greek language. The legal translator and especially interpreter of Modern Greek must know the Ancient Greek system to be able to translate Greek texts into a second language and vice versa.

I mentioned above the so-called Ancient Greek course because various opinions exist among scholars²⁵ connected with the question: “Which Ancient Greek is the most useful for future translators?” Currently among Modern Greek Philologists, there are some options which can be discussed:

1. The Ancient Attic dialect which could be based on the text of the

²⁴ Greek: μεταγλώττιση – translation inside one language (aut.).

²⁵ Conference *Η Ελληνική Γλώσσα στα Πανεπιστήμια της Κεντρικής Ευρώπης. Προβλήματα και προοπτικές*, Prague 8 December 2006.

period IV-II BC, for instance the text of Pausanias, Thucydides. This dialect influenced the Greek language the most because later it became the base for “koine”: of epoch of Alexander the Great.

2. “Koine” of the epoch of Alexander the Great which later became the language of another “koine” in the first ages B.C. (Roman Empire). This language was official language of the Hellenistic administration and it is not as complicated as the classical Attic dialect.

3. “Koine” based on the Holy Bible, specially on the New Testament which was written in contemporary *lingua franca* – Greek language of that epoch: first ages A.D.

4. “Koine” of Byzantine times which was based on the “pure” classical Attic dialect and on the previously mentioned “koine” above.

According to my opinion, authentic texts from the historical periods mentioned above could be samples used to show linguistics rules like the system of verbs with its whole range of verbal themes used in some verbal types of NEK (for instance: less commonly used participles). The whole course can be based on two main themes: 1) comprehensive grammar, 2) some authentic texts from various periods to practice grammar and to teach vocabulary (another virtue of Ancient Greek is its universal vocabulary which is presented in several foreign languages). The legal Modern Greek language in comparison with other specialized professional languages seems to be the most traditional. This character influence the programme of Ancient Greek course and could become a criterion in the selection of authentic texts – material for linguistic exercises.

There are also opinions that “katharevousa” could be taught too²⁶. I must say it would be quite risky to replace Ancient Greek with only the “katharevousa” language because this type of the Greek language was originally an artificial language. Moreover, no grammar rules or principles were ever written or published. I believe “katharevousa” may be an additional course but not obligatory.

Discussion about the proper type of Ancient Greek language that is most useful for future translators and interpreters is very wide and popular. Undoubtedly, there is a common belief among Modern Greek Philologists and scholars that the Ancient Greek language is necessary in the curriculum

²⁶ Conference *Η Ελληνική Γλώσσα στα Πανεπιστήμια της Κεντρικής Ευρώπης. Προβλήματα και προοπτικές*, Prague 8 December 2006.

of Modern Greek Language and Literature studies. The role of the Ancient Greek course is vital for legal translators and interpreters just as the role of Latin in the education of lawyers.

In my paper, I wanted to analyze legal Modern Greek language which is used in two European Union Member States. I realize that Greek is a less-spoken language, even in Europe, but it is still an official language of the EU. That is the reason why teaching translators and interpreters of Modern Greek language is necessary. Organization of the curriculum must provide them accurate preparation to work and one element is the Ancient Greek course.

To summarize, I would underline that there is a lack of materials which could be used in teaching legal translators and interpreters. Some general publications about translation and interpretation may be used here, but unfortunately there are not exact monographs about the methodology of education of Modern Greek translation and interpretation. It is clearly seen in the Member States of the EU after 2004, that there is a necessity for Modern Greek translation and interpretation. In these circumstances both analysis legal texts and analysis of language of law (used in statutory texts) are necessary, because translators and interpreters need the knowledge about the legal text from lawyers and lawyers need the knowledge about the language from a translator or interpreter. This way only statutory acts and legal texts may be translated and interpreted correctly.

In these circumstances I do hope that some proposals to the curriculum of Modern Greek Language and Literature studies I presented above will be useful for both academic teachers and future legal translators and interpreters.

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