

ARABIC LOANWORDS IN GREEK

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Borrowing is a linguistic phenomenon that emerges in situations of linguistic interaction and language contact. The transfer of lexical elements between languages induces language changes and reveals the relations between people and their stereotypes (Anastassiadis 1994; Gavriilidou 2018). Borrowing can be found as a result of dominance of one language to another, immigration, etc. and it has been intensively studied throughout the last decades (Thomason/Kaufman 1992; Thomason 2001; Haspelmath 2008; Haspelmath/Tadmor 2009).

There is a large amount of previous research on lexical borrowing from English, French or Russian into Greek (Contossopoulos 1978; Apostolou-Panara 1991; Anastassiadis 1994; Gavriilidou 2018), however only few papers (Chatzisaavidis 2015) have occasionally studied borrowings from Arabic into Greek, even though Arabic is a language with an important cultural impact in languages such as Spanish, English, or French and despite its long historical relation with Greek.

Addressing this gap, the aim of this presentation is to investigate Arabic borrowings that entered the Greek lexicon by considering the factors involved in borrowing and accounting the reasons for social and attitudinal influence. Our purpose is also to investigate how these borrowings are included in two major dictionaries of Modern Greek (MG), the Dictionary of Standard Modern Greek (DSMG) (1998) and the User's Dictionary of the Academy of Greece (UD) (2014).

The study is based on 324 loanwords from Arabic into Greek extracted from the online version of DSMG (http://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/modern_greek/tools/lexica/trian_tafyllides/) through advanced searches, classified according to Haugen (1950) typology and further analyzed phonologically, morphologically and semantically.

It is shown that Arabic words have been introduced into Greek as direct loans mainly during the Byzantine period, e. g. βερίκοκο < berkuk 'apricot', γάιδαρος < gadar, gaidar 'donkey' (Browning 2008), many of which have not survived in Modern Greek (e. g. αζάπης 'Turkish soldier'), or as indirect loans with the intermediate of Latin, Turkish or French in later years (e. g. χαρέμι < 'harem' < 'haram', French e. g. γάζα < 'gaz(e)' < 'Gazza'). Fliatouras (2020) has shown that 5% of direct loans in Modern Greek are of Arabic origin and that Arabic is the most productive category of indirect loans, especially with the intermediate of Turkish. Moreover, many direct loans can be found in Modern Greek dialects, especially in Cretan, e. g. κερεβίζι 'celery'.

In the first part of the paper, we consider the contact situations that led to borrowing from Arabic into Greek and the reasons of borrowing. Then we critically compare how these borrowings are recorded in DSMG and UD for shedding light to the inconsistencies concerning the etymology of these entries and we discuss the important role of Greek dialects such as Cretan in Arabic loanword preservation in Greek. Next, we offer a morphophonological analysis of borrowings. The semantic fields in which the borrowings belong to are also studied. The semantic field list of Haspelmath/Tadmor (2009), used in the Loanword

Typology Project, including 24 fields (e. g. physical world, kinship, animals, food and drink, social and political relations, etc.) is adopted here, in order to provide data comparable with findings from other studies which used the same list. Finally, in the last section we offer a lexicographic proposal for the treatment of such lexical units in Greek dictionaries.

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