

## Lecture 2: The Dialects

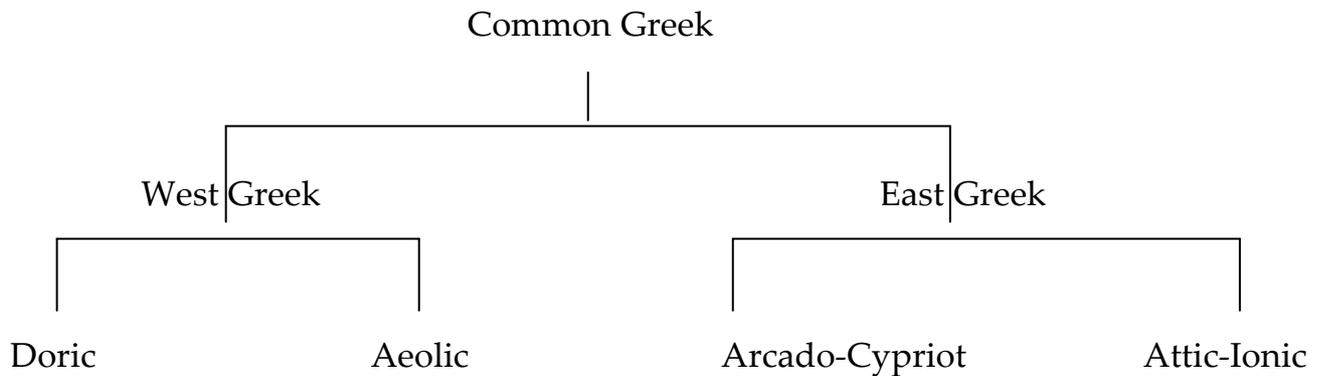
### 1. Introduction

- Homer's language a very odd mixture of dialects and time-periods
- Explanation given by Parry and Lord: he was an oral poet
- Oral poetry has different constraints from written poetry: poetry has to be comprehensible, but poet has to re-use material from the previous tradition
- Keeps traces of all the different dialects it has been performed in
- Elements of Arcado-Cypriot, Ionic, Aeolic and Attic in the poems
- Arcado-Cypriot could be more ancient ie Mycenaean
- Aeolic and Ionic elements are more recent
- Still debated whether there was a continuous Ionic tradition or one with a gap
- Attic elements = superficial – spelling added after the text was stabilised

### 2. Dialect map



### 3. Dialect relationship



### 4. Attic

- Previously many Atticisms claimed to be in the text
- Now reduced to a few, which do not affect the metre – aspiration and  $\bar{\alpha}$  for  $\eta$   
 ἀγξηράνη (cf Ionic ἀγξηρήνη)  
 ἔνταῦθα (cf Ionic ἐνθαῦτα)
- Some aspiration unetymological e.g. ἦμαρ, ἦμβροτε

### 5. Aeolic

- West Greek
- Usually have an Ionic equivalent  
 ἄμμες (ἡμεις)  
 ἔμμεν/ἔμμεναι (εἶναι)  
 πισυρες (τέσσαρες)  
 ὅππως, ὅποτερος (by analogy with ὅτι)  
 ζα- for δια in ζαθεος
- Dative plural in -εσσι
- Found on Aeolic stems but also Ionic stems (νέεσσι) and artificially lengthened stems (ἐπέεσσι) - mixture

## 6. Ionic

- Ionic = main ingredient in the Homeric language
- Ionic an East Greek dialect
- Differences between West Greek and East Greek

	West Greek	East Greek
3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular	keeps τι	τι > σι
plural article	τοι	οί
1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	μες	μεν
athematic infinitive	μεν	ναι, εναι

- Attic-Ionic features:
  1. Eta for original long alpha
  2. ν-mobile (ἔλυσεν)
  3. Quantitative metathesis  
e.g. gen. sg. of a-stems: Epic Μενέλαος, Attic Μενέλεως
  4. ἄν for κε
  5. ἡμεῖς
  6. Imperfect of verb to be: ἦν he was  
ἦσαν they were
- Ionic features
  1. Absence of Attic contraction
  2. Compensatory lengthening (e.g. ξεῖνος, κούρη)
  3. Psilotic – but this mainly corrected in text – see above
  4. σσ for ττ
  5. Diectasis  
Contract verbs show many peculiarities  
ἡγάασθε for ἡγάεσθε; μνᾶα for μνᾶη  
όρωω for όρωα; μνωοντο for μνᾶοντο; ἡβῶωσα for ἡβᾶουσα  
Variations not unusual eg όρωω  
Vowel assimilation – cf ἔτερος for ἄτερος?  
Would expect it to be more common  
Wackernagel's solution: diectasis  
Original form αἰταεσθαι develops to αἰτιᾶσθαι  
ᾱ covers 3 morae – needs to be stretched  
= Ionic: ἀστυβωτην > ἀστυβωτην  
Attic = ἀστυβοητην

## 7. Development

- Aeolic and Ionic elements clearly organic: epics composed in both dialects
- Continuous Ionic tradition with borrowing versus the phase argument
- Evidence for phases:
  - Genitive of a-stem nouns.
    - Parry's theory: latest form which fits the metre will be used.
    - Ionic development of the genitive of a-stem nouns:  $-\alpha\omicron$ ,  $-\eta\omicron$ ,  $\epsilon\omega$ .
    - We find the  $-\alpha\omicron$  (the common Greek form)
    - and  $-\epsilon\omega$  (the Ionic form with quantitative metathesis).
    - If we had continuous tradition we would expect to find  $-\eta\omicron$ .
- Evidence against phases:
  - Heavy preponderance of Ionic elements suggests that the Ionic part of the development was very long.
  - Forms could have entered the language in various ways
- Conclusion: evidence on both sides – disagreement in the literature
  - Professor Horrocks against phases ( 'Homer's dialect' in Morris and Powell (edd.) *A new companion to Homer*)
  - See <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/1998/98.5.20.html> for the opposite view from Janko

### 8. Arcado-Cypriot/Mycenaean

- Earliest form of Greek = Mycenaean, from palaces destroyed about 1200 B.C.



- Many of the words claimed to be Arcado-Cypriot found on the Mycenaean tablets:
  - ἀμφιφορέυς a-pi-po-re-u
  - κόρυς ko-ru
  - ξίφος qi-si-pe-e
  - φάσγανον pa-ka-na

- Not all found (e.g. αἴσα, ἦπτω), but this could be due to the nature of the texts.
- Dialect knowledge of the time restricted – could be from another ancient dialect
- But Mycenaean elements appear in formulas:

φάσγανον ἀργυροήλον or	
ξίφος ἀργυροήλος	19 times
#ἀσπίδος ἀμφιβρότης	3 times
σάκος ἠϋτε πύργον#	3 times



- Dactylic formulae are as old as the weapons they describe?
- Also digamma – see next lecture

## 9. Pre-Mycenaean

- Clear linguistic evidence for elements earlier than Mycenaean.

### Tmesis

- In Homer ‘preverb’ is often separated from its verb  
e.g. Il. 6.496 θαλερόν κατὰ δάκρυ χέουσα ‘pouring down fruitful tears’
- In Classical Greek these are ‘univerbated’ e.g. καταβαινω
- In Homer, always in certain positions:  
e.g. first in clause  
Il. 12.335 ἐς δ' ἐνόησ' Αἴαντε δύω  
just before direct object as in Il. 6.496
- This pattern is seen also in Sanskrit  
e.g. 10, 34, 2d *ānuvratām āpa jāyām arodham*  
devoted away wife I-have-driven
- In Mycenaean the univerbation seen in Classical Greek has already happened  
e.g. PY Fr 1184 ko-ka-ro a-pe-do-ke e-ra3-wo (=ἀπεδωκε)  
PY Ad 686 ... ko-wo o-u-pa-ro-ke-ne-to (=παρογένετο)
- In some lines, the preverb and verb are written as separate words.  
e.g. PY Ta 641 ti-ri-po...a-pu ke-ka-u-me-no ke-re-a2 (= ἀπὸ κεκαυμένος)
- Mycenaean at the final stage of univerbation. Almost fully compounded
- Tmesis in Homer shows that tradition started pre-Mycenaean
- Not all formulas with tmesis are necessarily archaic – possibility could be exploited by bards

### Syllabic r –next lecture

#### Reading List

- Chantraine, 1974 *Grammaire Homérique* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) vol. 1 Introduction  
 J. Chadwick, 1990 ‘The descent of the Greek epic’ *JHS* 110, 175-177  
 Shipp, 1961 ‘Mycenaean evidence for the Homeric dialect?’ *Essays in Mycenaean and Homeric Greek*, 1-14  
 G. Horrocks, 1997 ‘Homer’s dialect’ in Morris and Powell (edd.) *A new companion to Homer*