The Words of Greek and Latin 2: Greek and Latin Vocabulary

1 Borrowing

1.1 When does borrowing occur?

- Forms can be borrowed from another language (**interlingual**) or from other dialects or time periods of the same language (**intralingual**).

- Interlingual borrowing requires a **contact situation**.

- The type and extent of contact determines the type and extent of borrowing:

  Minimal contact leads to borrowing of peripheral or specialised vocabulary, e.g. names of trade goods in a trade contact situation.

  Examples of early trade-goods borrowings into Greek:

ϝοῖνος	←	Heb. *yayin*	'wine'
ϝρόδον	←	Iran. *wrda*	'rose'
σησάμη	←	Akkadian *šamaššammu*, Heb. *šumšōm* 'sesame'

  Prolonged or extensive contact leads to more extensive borrowing, perhaps of core vocabulary (e.g. Engl. *they*, *their*, *them* from Scandinavian, replacing *hie*, *hiera*, *hīm*), of cultural or religious vocabulary, morphology, or even (rarely) grammatical categories and other structures.

Βάκχος	?←	Lydian *Baki-*
Ἀπόλλων	?←	Hitt. *Appalunaš*
ecclesia	←	ἐκκλησία (in the sense 'church')
persona	←	πρόσωπον ('mask, character in a (Greek) play')
κυκλᾶτος	←	Lat. perf. pass. ppl. suffix *-ātus*.

Problems arise when the donor and receiving linguistic systems are different. These differences must be accommodated by **nativisation**

1.2 Phonological nativisation

- **Adaptation**—replace the foreign phoneme by the closest native phoneme.

  Engl. *Bach* with [k] rather than [x]. G. Φίλιππος → *Pilip(p)us*

- **Adoption** of a new phoneme, or of new environments for an existing phoneme

  Engl /ʒ/ word-finally only in French loan words, where also replaced by /ʤ/)

  Greek υ [y] initially adapted to Latin /u/ (e.g. Πύρρος → *Burrus*), then adopted as [y], written

  ⟨Y⟩, e.g. ὑμνός→ *hymnus*

1.3 Morphological nativisation

- Inflectional morphology in particular often needs to be **adapted**:

  Πλάτων, -ωνος is adapted to the L. third decl. as *Platō, -ōnis*;

  ποιητής 'poet' → *poeta*. Late L. loan into G. *classis* → κλάσση 'fleet'.

- Derived forms can be rebuilt according to native derivational patterns:

φιλοσοφ<u>εῖσθαι</u>	→	*philosoph<u>ari</u>*	'do philosophy'
patronus	→	πάτρων	'patron'
patrona	→	πατρωνίσσα	'patroness'

- Alternatively derivational affixes can be borrowed with whole lexical items

  E. *risible*, *legible*, *potable*

  then extracted and used with non-borrowed stems

  E. *laughable*, *readable*, *drinkable*

  This is **adoption**.

1.4 Lexical nativisation

- **Adaptation through false analysis**: *mariage de convenance → marriage of convenience*.

- **Semantic calque** ("loan shift"): an existing lexical item which shares some of the senses of the donor lexical item gains additional senses from the donor:

  L. *caelum* 'sky, abode of gods, <u>Christian paradise</u>' donates this last sense to O.E. *heofon* 'sky'.

  L. *infernum* 'abode of dead, <u>Christian Hell</u>' donates this last sense to O.E. *hel* 'abode of dead'.

  G. πτῶσις 'falling, <u>grammatical case</u>' donates this last sense to L. *casus* 'falling'

- **Calque** ("loan translation"): a new lexical item is created in the target language by translating the donor item morpheme-by-morpheme:

centurio	→	ἐκατοντ-άρχης 'commander of a century'
ἐξουσία	→	*licentia*	'permission'
ποιότης	→	*qualitas*	'quality'
ποσότης	→	*quantitas*	'quantity'
οὐσία	→	*essentia*	'essence, substance'

2   Derivational processes

2.1 ablaut and suffixation with -o- and -ā-

- Ablaut ("vowel gradation") = alternation of *e~o~ø* ("zero") in a root
- Important role in IE inflectional morphology:

  e-grade present λείπω, *o*-grade perfect λέλοιπα, ø-grade strong aorist ἔλιπον
- Also in derivation:

  Common pattern: *e*-grade in base verb, and *o*-grade in derived nouns.

  Add a suffix, either -*o*- (2nd declension nouns) or -*ā*- (1st declension).
- Two types of 2nd decl: accent on suffix gives **agent noun**, accent on root gives **action noun**.
- First declension usually has accent on suffix and is action noun:

τρέχω 'run'	τροχός 'wheel'	τρόχος 'course'	
τρέφω 'feed'	τροφός 'nurse'		τροφή 'food'
φέρω 'bear'	φορός 'favourable'	φόρος 'tribute'	φορά 'crop'
τρέπω 'turn'	τροπός 'throng'	τρόπος 'turn'	τροπή 'turning'
ἀείδω 'sing'	ἀοιδός 'bard'		ἀοιδή 'song'
λέγω 'speak'		λόγος 'speech'	

- Some examples with different grades of the root:

  ζυγόν 'yoke' (ζεύγνυμι 'join'), στεγή 'roof' (στέγω 'cover'), φυγή 'flight' (φεύγω 'flee').
- No longer **productive** in Classical Greek
- L. has a small number of such formations:

  procus 'suitor' (*precor* 'beg'), *coquus* 'cook' (*coquo* 'cook'), *iugum* 'yoke' (*iungo* 'join'),

  toga 'covering' (*tego* 'cover'), *fuga* 'flight' (*fugio* 'flee').
- Also some 1st decl. agent nouns: *agri-cola* 'farmer' (*colo* 'cultivate'), *scriba* 'scribe' (*scribo* 'write').

2.2 *-mēn-*, *-mōn-* suffix

- Agent and action nouns, G. -μην, -μων, L. -*mō*, gen. -*mōnis*:

  ποιμήν 'shepherd', λιμήν 'harbour', ἡγέμων 'leader' ; *sermo* 'discourse', *pulmo* 'lung'.
- ø-grade: *-mna-* giving action nouns (mostly result-of-action): G. -μα,-ματος, L. -*men*, -*minis*:

  ὄνομα, *nomen* 'name', πρᾶγμα 'deed', ποίημα 'poem', μνῆμα 'monument' (cf. μνημή 'memory')

  flumen 'river', *fragmen* 'fragment'.
- This type is v. productive in G., but not in L. In L., -*men*- gets combined with the perf. pass. ppl.

  ending -*tum* to create the new productive type -*mentum*:

  fragmentum 'fragment', *alimentum* 'food', *ornamentum* 'decoration'.

2.3 *-yo-* suffix

- Very productive suffix forming adjectives of the most general type:

  ἅγιος 'holy' (ἅζομαι 'worship'), πάτριος, patrius 'paternal' (πατήρ, *pater* 'father'),

  φίλιος 'friendly' (φίλος 'dear'), τίμιος 'honoured' (τιμή 'honour'), *regius* 'royal' (*rex* 'king').
- Also some neuter and fem. abstract nouns:

  σφάγιον 'victim' (σφάζω 'slaughter'), σοφία 'wisdom' (σόφος 'wise'),

  gaudium 'joy' (*gaudeo* 'rejoice'), *studium* 'zeal' (*studeo* 'be eager'); *invidia* 'envy' (*invideo* 'envy').
- V. productive **diminutive** suffix in G.:

  παίδιον (παίς 'child'), ἀσπίδιον 'little shield' (ἀσπίς 'shield').
- From cases like this -ίδιον is **abstracted** as a diminutive formant:

  ξιφίδιον 'little sword' (ξίφος 'sword').
- The *e*-grade of this suffix, *-eyo-*, forms adjectives of material, G. -εος, L. -*eus*:

  χρύσεος 'golden' (χρυσός 'gold'), *aureus* 'golden' (*aurum* 'gold'), *ferreus* 'of iron' (*ferrum* 'iron').

2.4 *-ter-*, *-tor-* suffix

- Forms agent nouns and kinship terms:

  πατήρ, *pater* 'father', δοτήρ 'giver', σωτήρ 'saviour', ῥητώρ 'orator',

  orator, *amator*, *victor*, *defensor* (< **defend-tor*), *ianitor*, *gladiator*.
- Very productive in L., but not in G., where it is replaced by -της:

  κρίτης 'judge', ποίητης 'poet' etc.
- In combination with *-yo-*, *-teryo-* gives nouns of place or means:

  δικαστήριον 'courtroom', *auditorium*.
- Ø-grade with a further -*o*- suffix gives -*tro*-, forming action and instrument nouns (mostly

  neuter) and some masculine agent nouns:

  aratrum 'plough', λουτρόν 'bath' (λούω 'wash'), λύτρον 'ransom' (λύομαι 'ransom'), φέρετρον

  'quiver', *fenestra* 'window', ἰατρός 'doctor' (alongside ἰατήρ).

2.5 *-ti-* suffix

- Verbal abstract nouns (some agent nouns) in G. -τις, -σις (highly productive):

  βάσις 'step' (βαίνω 'go'), πίστις 'trust', θέσις 'placement'.

  L. *vestis* 'clothing'; but in many cases in L. the suffix undergoes syncope: *mens* 'mind' (< **mentis*),

  mors 'death' (< **mortis*), and it is not productive in L.
- L. has another non-productive suffix with similar function, -*iōn*-, forming agent nouns and

  feminine abstracts: *centurio* 'centurion', *legio* 'legion'.
- Blend of these two non-productive suffixes gives the very productive -*tiōn*-:

  actio, *lectio*, *accusatio* etc.

3 Compounds

3.1 **Descriptive-determinative** compounds (blackbird – endocentric):

- One member (**head**) is modified or described by the other. Typically **right-headed** in E, L, G:
  angi-portus 'narrow lane', *per-facilis* 'very easy', *in-gratus* 'unpleasant', ἀκρό-πολις 'high city → citadel'.

- Rarely left-headed, usually late univerbations:
  ἱππο+πόταμος 'river horse' from earlier ἵππος ποτάμιος.

3.2 **Verbal governing** or **object** compounds (dishwasher - endocentric):

- Head is verbal root, other member is object. Usually agent nouns. Typically R-headed in E, L, G:
  agri-cola 'field-inhabiter → farmer', στρατ-ηγός 'army-leader → general', νικη-φόρος 'victory-bringer'

- Some left-headed:
  φερέ-νικος = νικη-φόρος, φερέ-οικος 'house-carrier → snail'.

- In English, usually pejorative: *pick-pocket*.

- Typically left-headed in French: *gratte-ciel* 'sky-scraper'.

3.3 **Copulative** compounds (aka **Dvandva**) (washer-drier – exocentric):

- A combination of the two elements:
  δώ-δεκα 'two-and-ten = twelve', *quattuor-decim* 'four-and-ten = fourteen'.

3.4 **Mutated** or **posessive** compounds (aka **Bahuvrihi**) (big-nose – exocentric):

- Adjectives meaning 'possessing the thing denoted by the original compound':
  magn-animus 'great-heart → great-hearted', ῥοδο-δάκτυλος 'rose-finger → rosy-fingered'

3.5 **Prepositional** compounds:

- First member is a preposition qualifying the second. Usual way to form compound verbs:
  εἰσβαίνω, *indico*

3.6 Rules of compounding

- First element is usually a bare stem, not an inflected form (but cf: Διός-κουροι 'sons of Zeus').
- Compounds can be derived from, and derived words can be compounded.
- Verbs appearing to be compounds usually turn out to be verbs derived from compounds:
  νομο-θετέω from νομο-θέτης, not, notice, *νομο-τίθημι
- It matters what order these operations are applied in:
  [in-muta]+bili+s → immutabilis 'able-to-be-[changed-into], very changeable'
  in-[muta+bili+s] → immutabilis 'not-[able-to-be-changed], unchanging'

4 Morphological analysis DIY

(cf παιδᾰγωγ-εῖον, τό, room in a school-house in which the παιδαγωγοί waited for their boys, school; παιδᾰγωγ-έω, lead, manage like a child, educate; παιδᾰγώγ-ημα, ατος, τό, a plan of educating; παιδᾰγωγ-ία, ἡ, education; παιδᾰγωγ-ικός, ή, όν, suitable to a trainer; παιδᾰγωγ-ός, ὁ, child leader, leader)

πρῶτον μὲν οὖν, ὦ ἄνδρες, (δεῖ γὰρ καὶ ταῦθ' ὑμῖν διηγήσασθαι) οἰκίδιον ἔστι μοι διπλοῦν, ἴσα ἔχον τὰ ἄνω τοῖς κάτω κατὰ τὴν γυναικωνῖτιν καὶ κατὰ τὴν ἀνδρωνῖτιν.

First, then, gentlemen (since I must explain even this to you), I have a little house with two floors. The floors are equal with the women's quarters above and the men's quarters below.

Lysias 1.9

ὣς εἰποῦσ' ἀνέβαιν' ὑπερώϊα σιγαλόεντα,	*With this, she went up to her glorious room*
οὐκ οἴη, ἅμα τῇ γε καὶ ἀμφίπολοι κίον ἄλλαι.	*Not alone – with her went the other maidservants too.*
ἐς δ' ὑπερῷ' ἀναβᾶσα σὺν ἀμφιπόλοισι γυναιξὶ	*When she had reached the higher floor with her female attendants*
κλαῖεν ἔπειτ' Ὀδυσῆα, φίλον πόσιν, ὄφρα οἱ ὕπνον	*At that point she wept over Odysseus, her dear husband, until*
ἡδὺν ἐπὶ βλεφάροισι βάλε γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη.	*Grey-eyed Athena sent sweet sleep to her eylids.*

Homer *Odyssey* 19.600-604

Tum pater Aeneas puppi sic fatur ab alta	*Then Aeneas the leader spoke from the high stern,*
paciferaeque manu ramum praetendit olivae:	*holding out a branch of olive in peace:*
"Troiugenas ac tela vides inimica Latinis,	*'You are looking at men of Trojan birth, and spears hostile to the Latins,*
quos illi bello profugos egere superbo."	*men whom they force to flee through arrogant warfare.*

Virgil *Aeneid* 8.115-119

pro di immortales! tantamne unius hominis incredibilis ac divina virtus tam brevi tempore lucem adferre rei publicae potuit utvos, qui modo ante ostium Tiberinum classem hostium videbatis, ei nunc nullam intra Oceani ostium praedonum navem esse audiatis?

O ye immortal gods! could the incredible and godlike virtue of one man in so short a time bring so much light to the republic, that you who had lately been used to see a fleet of the enemy before the mouth of the Tiber, should now hear that there is not one ship belonging to the pirates on this side of the Atlantic?

Cicero *Pro Lege Manilia* 33

5 Further reading

G. C. Papanastassiou, 2007 'General characteristics of the ancient Greek vocabulary' in A. F. Christidis (ed.) *A History of Ancient Greek From the Beginnings to Late Antiquity* 654-666

M. Fruyt, 2011 'Word-formation in Classical Latin' in J. Clackson (ed.) *A Companion to the Latin Language* (ch. 11)