In ancient Greek, short φ-vowels had one mora, and long φ-vowels two morae. In modern Greek, all φ-vowels have equal length.

In the 19th century, linguists amalgamated written language w/ purified language and speech w/ demotic language. They adopted Saussure’s phonocentric ideology as an additional argument in favor of demotic.

In 1941, Triantafyllidis standardized the grammar of demotic [6], and in 1982 γ-accentuation and γ-aspiration were abandoned by law.

In their efforts to solve the Greek Language Issue, Greek linguists adhered to a phonocentric ideology whose side effects are the current practices of φ-stress-based accentuation, φ-etymologically-based transcription of foreign words, and mechanistic hyphenation.

In the 19th and early 20th century, current practice denies γ-properties and relies solely on foreign φ-eties: 

1. γ-syllable length: <Καρπίτς> (Cambridge), <Βέρλε> (Verlaine), <Γκέτε> (Goethe), <Τσόπερ> (Chaucer), <Μήλε> (Miele);
2. foreign γ-morphology: <βολέ> (volley), <τρένο> (train), <μοτοκλέτα> (motocyclclette);
3. γ-aspiration: <Χρύλη> (Hamlet), <Ερικός> (Henri), <Αμβούργο> (Hamburg).

Cavafy’s proposal of writing <Υφρίκ> (York) with a smooth breathing [3] was thoroughly γ-autonomous.

Current practice is to use a single φ-stress accent: <γυνάκες>, <παλαιόνος>, <ητίκης>, <κάρπιτς>, <κόμμαν>, <γίληκη>, <ξηνάκη>, <παλαιό>, <ερωτά>, <ερώτη>, <τον ποιήτη>, <ηθικήν> του, <γιατί το είπε>, <γιατί το πίστευε>.

The Greek Language Issue

According to Anis [1], phonocentrism is the linguistic ideology claiming that written language is subordinated to speech, and autonoinism is the ideology where written and spoken language are considered as equally important interacting systems.

In the following we will prefix by a γ- “(resp. φ-)” linguistic sub-disciplines applied to written (resp. spoken) language, e.g., γ-emics (resp. φ-ology), γ-morphology (resp. φ-morphology), etc., and more generally γ-linguistics (resp. φ-linguistics) [2].

Definitions, phonocentrism, γ-/φ-linguistics

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