

HOW THE GREEK LANGUAGE FERTILIZED THE LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

Knowing the history of words, we know the history of humanity. **Language** is the main human characteristic that separates men from animals. Scientists acknowledge that man is programmed to develop speech/language.

The physical environment where people live plays a major role in the development of their language. The influence of the clear blue Greek sky, the glaring sunlight, the variety of the physical environment (mountains, meadows, ravines and canyons, rivers, seas, beaches and coasts, and the moderate climate, all shaped the gentle, flexible, polymorphous, melodic, full of vowels and variety of expression Greek language.

The ancient Greek language was lively, good sounding, polytonal to the point that often sounded musical, able to mimic all kinds of sounds, something that does not happen with other languages. The Arabs, for example, do not have the sound “p”, the Chinese do not have “r” and the Russians do not have “th.”

The Mediterranean Languages, and specifically the Greek, are considered as “triumph of vowels”. As we travel north, however, the pronunciation in other languages changes. It becomes heavier, harder. The environment there is not friendly, cheerful and joyful. One needs to struggle to tame it, in order to survive. The vowels decline, and while some sounds descent to the larynx, others ascent to the nasal cavity. They become hard to the ears. In such cold environments, where loosing even the smallest amount of heat is crucial, it is necessary to open the mouth as less as possible. So, in the northern languages, there are

fewer vowels and more consonants. These are called “the languages of the closed mouth.”

Let’s take one Greek word, for example:

ελεημοσυνη

Let’s see how it progressively changed.

The Latin borrowed this word –just like they borrowed most of their vocabulary from the Greeks- and they pronounced it:

Alemosina

As the word traveled north, it changed ever more:

ITALIAN - **elemosina**

SPANISH - **limosna**

FRENCH - **aumone**

GERMAN - **almocen**

ENGLISH – **alms**

As we see, the vowels are thrown out. This results to a Greek word that has become unpleasantly unrecognizable.

A language, besides genealogy and history, reveals the idiosyncrasy (temperament), good taste, and the soul of the people who speak it.

It is well known now that the Greek language is the oldest language of those spoken in Europe.

From prehistoric times, Greeks who spoke Greek gave names to seas, cities and places that are still used today.

It has been calculated that Greeks today use in their every day Greek language 2.500 Homeric words. While many of those words are used in other languages in a recognizable form, some are not recognizable at all.

For example, the English word **coward**, comes from the Greek word **κοθουρος** and means exactly the same as “coward”.

The English word **after** comes from the Greek word **αυταρ**=right after.

The English word **kiss** also comes from the Greek word **κυνω, κυσω**= προσκυνω την εικονα , κυσω σε την χειρα (I kiss the icon, or I kiss your hand).

The Greek word has given, and continues to give, the material for the transformation of the international scientific vocabulary. Medicine, Athletics, Physics, Astronomy, Geography, Philosophy, Chemistry, Geometry, Geology, Politics, Democracy, Theology, Linguistics, all the Arts and Sciences were born, developed and are operating with a vocabulary clearly Greek. Everyone by now agrees that the Greek language contains words of higher thoughts, and verbally dresses abstract ideas. In a few words: **Greek is the Language of civilization!**

Furthermore, it is not just our Greek words and roots, prefixes and suffixes that enriched the Latin language and thought it the other western languages, but also our Mythology.

“...The Classical Greek language is one of the most important sources that influenced our every day language... When you refer to the **alphabet**, you pronounce exactly the first two Greek letters, Alpha and Beta... When you talk about **arithmetic**, You almost say the Greek word arithmos...

The New Webster Dictionary of the English Language
Edition GROULIER, N. York

ENGLISH

GREEK

Academy.....	Ακαδημία
Acanthus.....	ακανθος
Accord (to be in agreement or harmony).....	χορδη
Acoustics.....	ακουστικη
Agony (great pain in the body or mind).....	αγωνια
Agoraphobia (fear of public places).....	αγοραφοβια
Air.....	αηρ
Alabaster (a smooth white stone).....	αλαβαστρος
Allegory.....	αλληγορια
Allergy.....	αλλεργια
Amnesia.....	αμνησια
Amphitheater.....	αμφιθεατρον
Analogy.....	αναλογια
Analyze.....	αναλυσις
Anarchy.....	αναρχια
Anecdote.....	ανεκδοτο
Anemone.....	ανεμωνη
Angel.....	αγγελος
Anonymous.....	ανωνυμος

“...Our alphabet {English} came from Greece. Our language is full of Greek words. Our science created an international language through Greek terms. Our Grammar and our oratory, even the punctuation and the division in paragraphs are Greek discoveries.

W. Durant

Baptism.....	βαπτισμα
Bibliography.....	βιβλιο-γραφια
Blame, blaspheme.....	βλασφημω
Bowl, Ball.....	βωλος/βολος
Botanic.....	βοτανικη

Bulimia.....	βουλιμια
Bulb.....	βολβος
Catholic.....	καθολικος
Caustic.....	καυστικος
Center, Central.....	κεντρον
Sarcophagus.....	σαρκοφαγος
Chaos.....	χαος
Chlorophyll.....	χλωρος, χλωροφυλλη
Chromatic.....	χρωμα
Comic.....	κωμικος
Comet.....	κομητης
Cosmic.....	κοσμικος
Crisis.....	κρισις
Critique.....	κριτικος
Cube.....	κυβος
Cycle.....	κυκλος

“The Greeks understood the mysterious power of the hidden side of things. They gave us one of the most beautiful words of our language, the word **Enthusiasm** (Ενθουσιασμος), from the Greek words ενας θεος μεσα μας, (a god inside us)...”

Arthur Kisler

Dolphin.....	δελφινι
December.....	Δεκεμβριος
Demon.....	δαιμων
Democracy.....	Δημοκρατια
Dermatology.....	δερματολογια
Disk.....	δισκος
Dollar.....	ταλαρος
	διδω=I give,
Donor.....	δοτηρ=donor

Double.....	διπλους
Dragon.....	δρακων
Echo.....	ηχω
School.....	σχολη
Economy.....	οικονομια
Ecology.....	οικολογια
Egoism.....	εγω/εγωισμος
Elastic.....	ελαστικος
Electric.....	ηλεκτρικος
Emphasis.....	εμφασις
Enigma.....	αινιγμα

“Any other language is nothing else but a hypo dialect of the Greek language.”

A. Jacobs “THE NEW PENGUINNDICTIONARY OF MUSIC”

<u>English</u>	<u>Latin</u>	<u>Greek</u>
Famed/fame.....		φημη, φημισμενος
Infamous/infamy.....		αν(ευ)=without+φημη
Fantasy.....		φαντασια
Phantom.....		φαντασμα
Fault(y)/fake.....	fallo.....	σφαλλω=I make a mistake
Female/feminine.....	feo.....	φυω
Fire/focus/fusil.....		φως, πυρ,φυρ
Fierce.....		φηρ,θηρ,θηριο=wild
Fig.....	figus.....	συκον
Flower.....		φλοος=λουλουδι
Flora/floral/florist		
To float/fleet.....	fluo.....	φλυω=πλεω

Fort/force.....fortis=strong.....φορτιον=heavy load
Effort

Frenzy/frantic.....φρενιτις

I fry/frying.....φρυγω/φρυγανια=toast

Frigid/refrigerator/frost.....φριγος=cold

“Alexander, after choosing three thousand Persian youths, gave the order the Greek language to be taught.”

Plutarch

English Latin Greek

Gaiety=cheerfulness.....γαιω=I am happy

Galactic.....γαλα

Galaxy.....γαλαξιας

Gargle.....γαργαρα

Gastric=has to do with the stomach.....γαστρικος

Gastritis

Gastronomy=the art of good eating.....γαστρονομια

Giant.....γιγας(γιγαντας)

Genealogy=family tree/study of families....γενεαλογια

Gender..... γενος

Genesis=beginning, origin.....γενεσις, γενηση

Genetic

Γη=Earth

Geocentric.....γεωκεντρικος

Geography=the study of the earth.....γεωγραφια

Geology.....γεωλογια

Geometry.....γεωμετρια

Gloss/glossary.....	γλωσσα
Glue/gluten.....	γλοιος=sticky substance
Glucose=a kind of sugar.....	γλυκο=sweet
Govern=to rule/.....	guberno.....κυβερνω
Government.....	κυβερνηση
Governor.....	κυβερνητης
Grammar.....	γραμματικη
Gram.....	γραμμαριον
Graphic.....	γραφη=writing
Grass.....	γρασιδι
Gymnasium.....	γυμνασιον
Gymnast.....	γυμναστης
Gymnastics.....	γυμναστικη

Hero=ηρωας

Plato (Kratylos 398) says that “the name ηρωας states a birth out of love...don’t you know that the heroes are demigods? All of them came to being when gods loved mortals.”

The word “hero” exists in all languages and comes from the Greek word ηρωας. No other language has the equivalent. Heroism is internationally stated in Greek. Originally, the word ηρωας was a kind of a title, like “ser”=κυριος.

The German word for “ser” is HERR from the word “hero”. The Russians pronounce the same word gerroi, and the Japanese, hirosi.

The word ηρωας traveled long, long ago to Polynisia as well:
 In the Maori Dialect, “whiro” means the god of traveling.
 In the Hawaiian Dialect, “hilo” is the name for navigator.
 In the Tuamotus Dialect, “hiro” is the god of education.
 In the Rarotonga Dialect, “iro” means famous ancestor.

In the Taitian Dialect, **“hiro”** is the god of thieves.
 In the Mangain Dialect, **“iro”** is the protector of thieves.
 (The Greek god Hermes was also protector of thieves.)

It is evident that within all these meanings, the indigenous people keep memories from ancient times, of far away visitors, by whom they were impressed and never forgot them.

<u>English</u>	<u>Greek</u>
Harmony/harmonious.....	αρμονια
Harmonica/philharmonic	
Harpoon=a spear to catch whales.....	αρπαγη
Hemisphere=half globe.....	ημι(συ)=half
Herculean=strong, brave like Hercules.....	Ηρακλης
Hour.....	ωρα
Horoscope.....	ωροσκοπιο
Hexagon.....	εξαγωνο
Heptagon.....	επταγωνο
Chasm=deep crack in the earth.....	χασμα
Hierarchy=rank.....	ιεραρχια
Hieroglyphic.....	ιερογλυφικος
Hilarious.....	ιλαρος
Hippocampus.....	ιπποκαμπος
Hippodrome=horse race track.....	ιπποδρομος
Hippopotamus.....	ιπποποταμος
History, story.....	ιστορια
Historian/historic/historiography/prehistory	
Holocaust=great destruction of life by fire....	ολοκαυτωμα
Home.....	κωμη=σπιτι
Horizon.....	οριζων

Horizontal.....	οριζοντια
Oil.....(Latin: olium).....	ελαιον=λαδι
Eight.....(German: acht)...(Latin:octo).....	οκτω
Oyster.....	οστρεον=shell
Humble.....	χαμηλος= small, low
Humiliation/humiliate	
Hybrid.....	υβριδιον
Hydrate/hydraulic.....	υδωρ/υδρο...=water
Hydra.....	υδρα
Hydra is a tiny water animal. Any part of it that is cut off will grow to a whole new animal. In Greek myths, the Hydra was a serpent with nine heads. When a head was cut off, two others grew in its place. Hercules killed the Hydra by burning each neck after its head was cut off.	
Hydrogen.....	υδρογονο
Hydrophobia.....	υδροφοβια
Hydrotherapy.....	υδροθεραπεια
Hyena.....	υαινα
Hygiene/hygienic.....	υγεινη
Hymn.....	υμνος
Hyperbole=exaggeration.....	υπερβολη=throwing over, or beyond
Hypnosis.....	υπνωσις υπο...
Hypochondria.....	υποχονδρια
worry or anxiety about one's health	
Hypocrite.....	υποκριτης
Hypotenuse.....	υποτεινουσα
Hypothesis/hypothetical.....	υποθεσις
Hysteria/hysterical.....	υστερια/υστερικος

“Many the languages of the mortals, however, only one of those languages is immortal.”

LONDINI SUMPTIBUS SAMUELIS BAGSTER Publishing Company

Icon.....	εικονα
Iconography.....	εικονογραφια
Idea.....	ιδεα
Ideal/idealize/idealism/ideology/ideography	
Idiom.....	ιδιωμα
Idiot/idiocy... ιδιωτης=one who no longer is involved with politics... with underrated meaning= foolish or stupid person	
Idol/idolatry/doll.....	ειδωλον
Igneous/ignition/ignite.....	ικνυς=ash, dust
Impetuous/impetus.....	πετω, πιπτω
Impulse/impulsive.....	παλσις=pulse
Incline/inclination.....	εν+κλινω=γερνω
Indigenous.....	ενδογενης=native
Indication/indicative/indicate.....	ενδεικτης
Industry.....	εντος+στορνυμι=απλωνω, στρωνω
Inflation.....	φλεω=ειμαι γεματος
Install.....	εν+στελλω=στηνω=βαζω κατι ορθιο
Installation/stable	
Instinct/instinctive.....	ενστικτον
Iodine.....	ιωδιον
Iota.....	ιωτα (ι)
Iris.....	ιρις=rainbow
Irony/ironic.....	ειρωνεια
Ethos/ethics.....	ηθος
Juice/juicy.....	ζωμος, ζουμι

Kaleidoscope...καλειδοσκοπιον= καλον ειδος σκοπω
Kerosene.....Κηροζινη (κηρος= κερι)
Kilogram..... χιλιογραμμον
Kilometer.....χιλιομετρο
Cinema Κινησις
Kinetic
Klaxon.....κλαγη (sharp sound)
Kleptomania(c).....κλεπτομανης, κλεπτομανια
Cyst.....κυστις

L

Labyrinth.....λαβυρινθος
Lake.....λακκος=pool-lake
Lagoon.....Latin=lacuna...λακκος
Laconic=using few words.....λακωνικος
Laic.....λαικος
Lay, layman, laity
Language λαυχανη=tongue
Linguist (ics)
Lard.....λαρδος=the fat of pigs
Large.....λαρινος= well fed fat cow
Largeness
Largely
Larynx.....λαρυνηξ
Laryngeal
Laryngitis
Latitude.....Latin=latus.....πλατυς

Lavatory.....Latin=lavo and luo.....λουω
Lick (I).....λειχω
Lunch
Leech
Lecture.....λεγω
Lector
Lecture
Legend
Lepidoptera.....λεπιδοπτερα
Lethal.....ληθη
Lethargy.....ληθαργος
Lexicon.....λεξικον
Lexicography.....-γραφια
Lexicology.....-λογια
Liberal.....Latin=liber....ελευθερος
Liberty
Liberate
Locality.....λοχος=place of ambush
Location
Local
Localize
Line.....λινεος, λινον=a string made from the flax plant
Lineage
Linear
Lion (ness).....λεων
Lipoma.....λιπος=fat
Lipograph

Liquor.....γλυκοριζα
λιθος=stone

Lithology

Lithosphere

Lithograph (y)

Liturgy.....λειτουργια(λαος=εργον)

Logarithm (ic).....λογαριθμος(λογος=αριθμος)

Logic (al).....λογικη

Look.....λυκη(φως, λευκος)

Lucid (ity)

Luminous

Light (ing)

Lyre..... λυρα=instrument similar to guitar,
founded by Hermes)

Lyric (al)

Lyricism

M

Masticate (I)μαστιχαω (μασω=I chew)

Machine.....μηχανη

Mechanical

Machinery

μακρο.....

Macrocosm.....κοσμος

Master.....Latin= magister....μεγιστος-μεγας

Mastery majestic
 Mister major
 Mistress
 Magi.....μαγος
 Magic, magical, magician
 Magma.....μαγμα
 Magnet magnetic.....μαγνητης
 Magnetism
 Magnetize
 May From the mother of Hermes, Μαια
 Mal, malady.....Latin malus.....μελεος=αθλιος, κακος
 Μαμμαω=ζητω τον μαστον
 Mamma, mammy.....μαμμα, μαμμη
 Mania, maniac.....μανια
 March.....Latin- Ars, Mars.....Αρης
 Marsupial.....μασιπος=σακκος
 Mass.....Μαζα
 Massive.....
 Amass
 Mathematics.....Μαθηματικα
 Mausoleum.....μαυσωλειον
 Meander.....μαιανδρος
 Megaphone.....μεγα+φωνη
 Melancholy.....μελαγχολια
 Melancholic
 Melody.....μελωδια
 Melodious
 Melodrama.....μελοδραμα

Mother.....	Latin=mater.....	ματηρ-μητηρ
Maternal		
Matriarch		
Matrimony		
Metal.....		μεταλλον
Metallic		
Metaphor.....		μεταφορα
Meteor.....		μετεωρος
Meteoric		
Meteorite		μετεωριτης
Meteorology.....		μετεωρολογια
Meter.....		μετρον
Metrical		
Metropolis.....		μητροπολις=μητηρ πολις
Metropolitan		
		μικρος
Microcosm.....		κοσμος
Micrograph.....		γραφια
Microorganism.....		οργανισμος
Microphone.....		φωνο
Microscope.....		σκοπικος
Microbe.....		μικροβιον
Misery.....		μισος
Miserable.....	Lat. Miser	
Mnemonic.....		μνημη=memory
Monarch.....		μοναρχης (μονος αρχων)
Monarchy.....		μοναρχια
Monitor...Lat. Monitor		μηνυτω
		one who gives information

Organization

Organist

Orphan.....ορφανος

Oxygen.....οξυγονον

Paleolithic.....παλαιολιθικος

Paleontology.....Παλαιοντολογια

Palm.....παλαμη

Panacea.....πανακεια

Panic.....πανικος

Paradise.....παραδεισος

Paradox.....παραδοξο

Paragraph.....παραγραφος

Parallel.....παρλληλος

Parallelogram.....παρλληλογραμμον

Paralysis.....παραλυσις

Parenthesis.....παρενθεσις

Pause.....παυσις

Pharmacy.....φαρμακειο

Phenomenon.....φαινομενον

Philosophy.....φιλοσοφια

Phonograph.....φωνη+γραφω

Photo.....φως

Phrase.....φρασις

Pistachio.....πιστακιον

Planet, planetarium.....πλανητης

Plastic.....	πλαστικος
Poetry, poem.....	ποιηση, ποιημα
Pole.....	πολος
Polar, polarity, polarize, polarization	
Pepper	πιπερι
Police	πολις
Politics.....	πολιτικη
Pork.....	πορκος(pig)
Prism.....	πρισμα
Problem.....	προβλημα
Prophet.....	προφητης
Prophecy, prophetic	
Psyche.....	ψυχη
Psychic, psychology	
Psychotherapy.....	ψυχοθεραπεια
Pyramid.....	πυραμιδα