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THE GREEK LANGUAGE IMPACT ON THE MODERN WORLD LANGUAGES

Abstract. This article is devoted to the peculiarities of the Greek language influence on the modern languages such as Russian, English. The Greek language is considered to be a language of wisdom since the times of great philosophers and thinkers spread their thoughts to the world that had an impact on the modern languages. The Greek language impact is defined by the presence of specific vocabulary in modern languages that are characterized by Greek origin or mixed origin along with Latin. Medicine and science related vocabulary of Greek origin is of high importance and defined the way a modern European person thinks today. Such vocabulary is represented by a huge number of borrowed words, terms, suffixes and prefixes.

Keywords: wisdom, Greek, ancient Greek, Russian, English, borrowings, medicine.

Greek is the oldest language in the world, having an abundant history and cultural heritage that was nurtured by the ancient representatives of the Greek people. It is also considered as the language of one of the leading civilizations and one of the most important literatures of the world, has its own independent branch in the Indo-European language family. Among all the modern languages, it is most closely related to Armenian. It has been spoken in the southern Balkans since the first half of the second millennium BC, and its documented history dates back more than 3,500 years, which is the earliest evidence of the existence of an Indo-European language. The first written evidence of the Greek language is documents written in Mycenaean Greek found in Crete (The History of the Greek Language Throughout Time). Greek can be considered the language of wisdom, as it has a rich history, it was written and spoken by the great philosophers of antiquity. Philosophy is closely connected with the formation of the Greek language, as well as vice versa. The philosophers of that time transmitted their wisdom through the Greek language, which is why this language can be classified as the languages of wisdom. Accordingly, it is not for nothing that this language acquired a special status over the years and had a special impact on the development of modern languages that we speak. But how did such an ancient language as Greek influence the formation of today's languages? And what is the connection between them?

Firstly, when talking about languages of wisdom, there should be a definite understanding of what wisdom is. Wisdom is a broad term that a multitude of philosophers and other scientists have tried to grasp and give an explanation to. According to a definition

given by the philosophical encyclopedia, wisdom is “commonly used to describe the character of someone who is reasonable or to exercise moderation in desires” (The-Philosophy.com). Consequently, wisdom is usually concerned with a human being who is able to have a decent worldview on life and uses this knowledge to express his opinions and desires with humility. Thus, it is more about character and emotional intelligence of a person. The question may arise, what is the connection between wisdom as a character of a person and a language? First of all, wisdom is considered to be a primary issue of such a study as philosophy. Wisdom is the ability of a person to think and act in accordance with the highest goals of life, rising above the limitations of private and transitory interests, including his own; the initial impulse of the development of philosophy and the final synthesis of all its directions. Thus, it is certain that philosophy has been named as “the love of wisdom” for the period of time it had started to be an independent study. Nevertheless, it is known that for the last several centuries philosophy has been less concerned with wisdom, as a result, the ancient philosophy attempted to face the issues related to wisdom, while modern philosophy has become more versatile in this way and expanded its influence and a series of issues it is meant to discover. Thus, wisdom that languages carry is of high importance, since the important piece of knowledge is acquired through the language and it leads to grasping emotional intelligence. Greek is among those languages.

Greek is known for having a prestige status in modern times, it has history of oral communication of more than 3000 years, as well as the written sources are about 4000 years which makes Greek one of the oldest languages in the world (The History of the Greek Language Throughout Time).

Today Greek is not very popular since it is spoken by about 12 million people. Greek speaking population is mainly in Greece, about 99 percent and about 80 percent of the population of Cyprus (Greek language, Wikipedia). Even though, Greek cannot compete with other, more widespread languages in terms of the number of speakers, modern Western culture cannot be seen as it is today without the Greek influence throughout all these years. Since the Greek language was the reason for emergence of the earliest evidence of European literature and cultural heritage, it definitely laid the foundations of defining the way the modern European culture is established.

The Greek language influence could be seen in modern national languages to this date. For instance, it may be observed in heterogeneous languages that are quite distinct from each other. We will attempt to turn to Greek language impact on English, Russian and Spanish.

According to Garnik, the Greek language is considered to be the one of the most important and defining languages that contributed to the accumulation and addition of the Eastern-Slavic languages for a very long time (Гарник, 2009, с. 5-12). The majority of words and special terms were borrowed from Greek in terms of philosophical and religious sphere since Greece is known to have established Christian thought which was spread in this language, in particular the literal one, the teaching of Christ was transmitted in Greek throughout the world. However, Greek borrowings into Russian and other Slavic languages are not limited only to religious sphere, but also economic and political lives.

Fasmer also identifies different types of borrowings such as bookish and colloquial (Фасмер, 1909, с.5-6). Here we may talk about the bookish type, they include such words as “акмеизм”, “анапест”, “лимфостаз”, “лимфа”, “алломорф”, “алфавит”, “арха-

изм”, “анадиплозис”, “амфиболия”, “скелет” etc. Thus, we can see that bookish words and terms are mainly taken from medicine and linguistic/ literary sphere. Concerning the second type of borrowings – colloquial, they include words like “символ”, “идол”, “ска-мья”, “тетрадь”, “каталог”, “поэтишка”, “библиотека” etc. (Викисловарь).

Scientific terms and phrases are the most commonly used and borrowed from the Greek language to Russian, they are larger in amount than bookish or colloquial types of borrowings. These terms and phrases are of mixed character, they are universal since they contain Greek echoes and Latin signs, too. For instance, words like the following, “phenomena – феномен” from Greek, “speleology- спелеология”. In the course of development and emergence of scientific terms, words that have already been borrowed earlier to denote some realities are also present. For example, the word “kristallos” that directly has a meaning of “ice”, or “transparent stone” is used in chemistry to form the terms like crystallization, crystalline, differing in its phonetic design from the former borrowing crystal.

English and Spanish are also seen to have been influence by the Greek language. For instance, we may see echoes and traces of ancient Greek in the usage of prefixes, suffixes or some words in the both languages.

It is not a surprise that nowadays, when a person sets a goal to study science, whether it is physical science or chemistry, he/she should take Greek courses. Furthermore, the same applies to the medicine research, as medicine is abundant with a specific vocabulary that has Greek echoes. For example, there are prefixes, such as bio-, which means “life”, hemato- which means “blood” or neuro- which means “nerves” (Biology Prefixes and Suffixes: hem- or hemo- or hemato-). Greek is seen in the usage of numbers in Spanish, for instance, Greek numbers like mono, di, tri are corresponding for Spanish ones, such as uno, dos, tres.

Thus, Greek being the language of Homer, Socrates, Thucydides, the language of Sophocles and Aristotle and other scientists and great philosophers, determined the way today’s national languages have been developed since the great impact of the Greek culture. Today’s medicine and sciences would not be the same without the Greek influence, which definitely formed and developed a whole thinking, the whole world. The wisdom that Greek carries throughout these years is of high importance and significance, it carries not only knowledge, but forms people’s consciousness. In this way, we can safely say that Greek is the language of wisdom, by leaving its traces in world languages, with the help of which modern people can exchange the necessary information with each other.

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ГРЕК ТІЛІНІҢ ҚАЗІРГІ ӘЛЕМ ТІЛДЕРІНЕ ӘСЕРІ

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақала грек тілінің орыс және ағылшын сияқты қазіргі тілдерге әсер ету ерекшеліктеріне арналған. Грек тілі қазіргі тілдерге әсер етіп, өз ойларын бүкіл әлемге таратқан ұлы философтар мен ойшылдардың заманынан бері даналық тілі болып саналады. Грек тілінің әсері қазіргі тілдерде латынмен қатар грек шығу тегі немесе аралас шығу тегімен сипатталатын нақты лексиканың болуымен анықталады. Медицина мен ғылыммен байланысты грек тілінен шыққан лексика үлкен маңызға ие және қазіргі заманғы еуропалық адамның ойлау тәсілін анықтайды. Мұндай лексика көптеген кірме сөздермен, терминдермен, жұрнақтармен және префикстермен ұсынылған.

Түйінді сөздер: даналық, грек тілі, ежелгі грек тілі, орыс тілі, ағылшын тілі, кірме сөздер, медицина.

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ВЛИЯНИЕ ГРЕЧЕСКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ МИРОВЫЕ ЯЗЫКИ

Аннотация. Данная статья посвящена особенностям влияния греческого языка на современные языки, такие как русский и английский. Греческий язык считается языком мудрости со времен великих философов и мыслителей, распространявших свои мысли по всему миру, что оказало влияние на современные языки. Влияние греческого языка определяется наличием специфической лексики в современных языках, которые характеризуются греческим происхождением или смешанным происхождением наряду с латинским языком. Лексика греческого происхождения, связанная с медициной и наукой, имеет большое значение и определяет образ мышления современного европейского человека сегодня. Такая лексика представлена огромным числом заимствованных слов, терминов, суффиксов и префиксов.

Ключевые слова: мудрость, греческий язык, древнегреческий язык, русский язык, английский язык, заимствования, медицина.