

Preface

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From 27 to 30 September, 2007, the 6th Mediterranean Morphology Meeting was held on the beautiful island of Ithaca, Greece. The MMM conferences are organized by the three of us (the MMM committee) together with local organizers, this time our colleagues of the Department of Philology of the University of Patras, Greece. Information on the MMM conferences and the proceedings can be found on the website <http://mmm.lingue.unibo.it/index.php> hosted by the University of Bologna.

Each meeting is partially devoted to a specific topic, in 2007 the relation between morphology and dialectology. The papers published here are a selection of the papers presented on this topic during the conference, except for the paper by Brian Joseph that could not be presented at the conference.

Dialects provide a wide array of evidence for testing morphological theories and the necessity of specific morphological concepts. This is clearly shown in the papers by Don & Aalberse, and Ralli. Don & Aalberse show how dialectal data throw light on the kind of feature structure that plays a role in syncretism, and Ralli argues for certain formal morphological constraints on the basis of dialectal data from Greek. Joseph shows the importance of the theoretical concept of intra-paradigmatic relationships for the analysis of Greek dialects.

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Dialectal data are also often quite relevant for analyzing morphological change. This is shown in Maiden's analysis of the emergence of heteroclisis in Romanian dialects, and in Iacobini's analysis of the rise of phrasal verbs in Italian.

In sum, these articles show how dialectal evidence may increase the range and wealth of morphological data, in particular on morphological variation and change, and forms an important testing ground for morphological concepts and theories.

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