

Report from my experience at the 16th International Conference on Greek Linguistics (ICGL16).

Since the conference's inaugural day on December 14th, the atmosphere has been characterized by friendliness and a welcoming environment. The venue was easily accessible and provided a warm refuge from Thessaloniki's cold weather. The conference commenced with heartwarming greetings from the organizing committee, setting the tone for engaging discussions distributed in multiple parallel sessions. Two plenary talks, one by Giannis Veloudis (Negation and emotion) and one by Kiki Nikiforidou (A constructional approach to grammatical multifunctionality: Greek linguistics and the marker *pu*) completed the linguistic scene of the day.

On the second day of the conference (15th of December), I attended one of the two thematic sessions, opting for the one focused on the subjunctive in modern Greek (The subjunctive in Modern Greek: 40 years after Veloudis & Philippaki Warburton 1983). The session delved into a lively debate, and I actively engaged with the topic, mentally exploring its implications and intricacies. The day featured two plenary talks, one by Ianthi Tsimpli (Greek as a first or second language: Insights from and contributions to linguistic theory) and one which was conducted via Zoom by Anna Roussou ((Re)current themes in Greek syntax) but drew considerable attention and generated numerous questions, particularly related to the thematic session on the subjunctive in Greek.

Throughout the day, I had the opportunity to connect with a diverse array of individuals, fostering new connections with people who shared a passion for Greek linguistics. Additionally, I had the pleasure of reuniting with old friends, adding a personal touch to the academic experience. The conference offered a vibrant platform for networking and building meaningful connections within the linguistic community. Overall, it was a day filled with stimulating discussions, enriching presentations, and the joy of reconnecting with both new and familiar faces.

On the third day of the conference (16th of December), despite initial nerves surrounding my presentation (On non-coordinative *ke*-clauses in Greek), I found immense enjoyment in a diverse array of compelling talks. The day began with a special session dedicated to honoring the memory and work of Irene Philippaki-

Warburton, evoking a range of emotions and a sense of pride for the contributions of this esteemed linguist.

During my presentation on non-coordinative *ke*-clauses, I faced a series of four thought-provoking questions related to similar structures to mine and the presence or absence of negation. The questions not only enhanced my understanding but also prompted further reflection on my topic. The engaging discussions continued during the coffee break, where fellow linguists approached me to delve deeper into my presentation, fostering additional conversations and connections.

The day concluded with another impactful plenary session by Anthi Revithiadou (Exploring central themes in Greek phonology through the lens of Optimality Theory and other constraint-based models), followed by the conference's dinner that showcased the warm hospitality of Thessaloniki. The dinner provided an ideal setting to continue networking, and I was delighted to connect with more linguists, engaging in meaningful discussions about my topic and exchanging ideas that promised to be fruitful for future research. Overall, Day 3 was a blend of academic enrichment, personal connections, and the pleasure of being immersed in the vibrant linguistic community against the backdrop of Thessaloniki's welcoming atmosphere.

On the fourth and final day of the conference (17th of December), despite fatigue, I found renewed energy in attending insightful talks focused on the acquisition and teaching of Greek as a second or heritage language. The plenary talk delivered by Anna Iordanidou (Language as a course in the Greek school: teaching approaches and applications), captured the interest of Greek linguists and added depth to the discourse.

The day concluded with the business meeting where the location for the next International Conference on Greek Linguistics (ICGL17) was decided. In a tribute to Irene Philippaki-Warburton, two grants were awarded, further commemorating her impactful contributions to the field. The closing ceremony was a memorable affair, enriched by the musical performance of the Motettii Vocal Ensemble.

This final day provided yet another valuable opportunity to engage with fellow linguists, discussing our respective topics and sharing insights. Despite the tiredness, the day offered a sense of accomplishment and community as we celebrated the

conclusion of the conference, already looking forward to the next gathering and the continued exploration of Greek linguistics.